

In The Press

Odyssey House regularly receives public recognition and support from the media in its commitment to helping people with drug, alcohol and gambling problems overcome their addictions. Here is a sample of news features that have appeared on Odyssey House over the last few months.



The Chronicle - 3rd April 2001

Lending hand buoys Judith

By ANASTASIA STRECH
 Judith Pitts, who has been in Odyssey House for 18 months, has been named as one of five Australia Day Medal recipients for her work at Odyssey House.

Journey from drugs to degrees and distinctions

One man's journey to conquer alcohol and drug addiction has led him to first books, Odyssey House and high distinctions. Bill O'Connell reports.

Bill O'Connell reports on the journey of a man who has overcome his addiction to drugs and alcohol. He mentions that the man has achieved high distinctions and is now a graduate of a university.



Wentworth Courier - 8th January 2001

'Hero' to addicts

IHF Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia announced James Pitts as one of five Australia Day Medal recipients for his work at Odyssey House.

James' work with the Odyssey Corporate Care Appeal was particularly commended.

The council said Mr Pitts had made a long-term contribution to the community. Council president Ian Webster said: "These people are unsung heroes."

The Chronicle 30th January 2001

Shoot for the Stars

Fifteen of the residents at Odyssey House have formed a basketball team and play in a weekly competition.

Pearl, a resident in the program and a member of the team, is thoroughly enjoying being involved in the team.

Pearl says the Odyssey House basketball team is a formidable force to be reckoned with. "We have improved our game throughout the season because of our ability to work well as a team. Our game score keeps improving and I think it's because we have lots of fun but are also competitive."

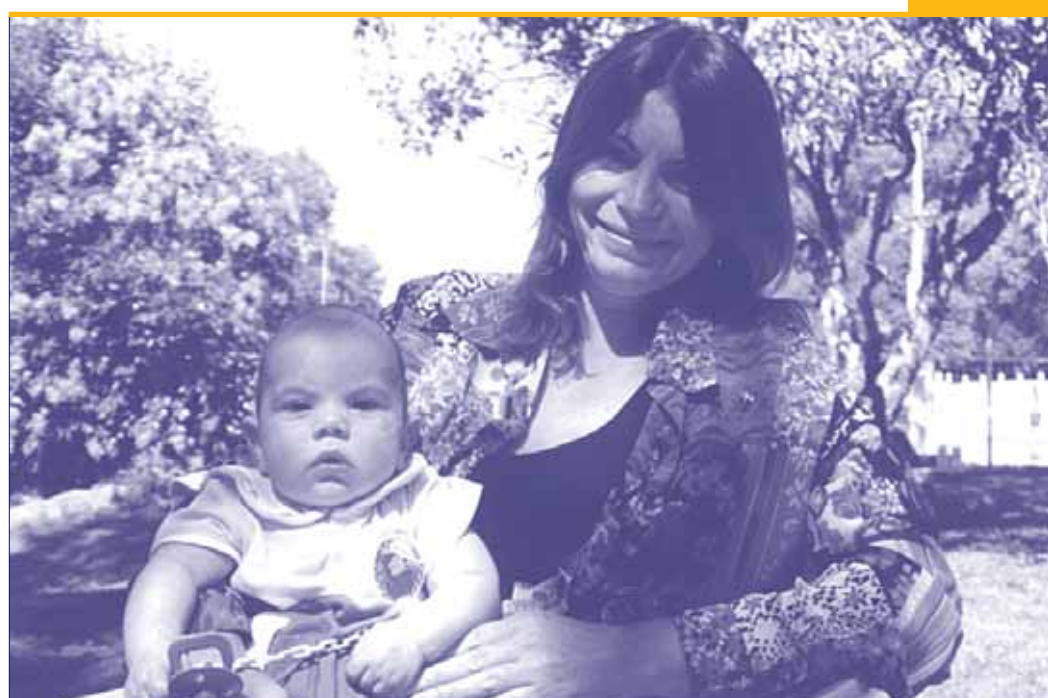


ODYSSEY HOUSE



'A Calm in the Sea of Addiction'

Newsletter



A little ray of sunshine

Kym & her son Luke

Kym has had what many people would consider a hard life – at the young age of nine she was taken from her parents due to their addiction to alcohol and subsequently spent most of her childhood in a variety of foster homes.

was six months pregnant with her son, Luke.

"Before I came to Odyssey, I had nearly given up on living – here I was pregnant again and still with the same alcohol problem. I knew I had to do something – my children had seen enough as it was.

near – so please help Odyssey House to save more lives and offer hope to others in need. Your donation, no matter how small, can make a difference. Just look at how Odyssey House has changed Kym's life.

Happiness eluded Kym as she went from one home to the next, trying to find her true self and some meaning in her life. After leaving school, she entered into a series of dysfunctional relationships and became a mother herself.

"Odyssey House has enabled me to learn to interact with people and more importantly, has taught me what I need to be a loving, caring and responsible parent.

Debbie's Poem

Here I am in Odyssey, trying to find my way
 And my thoughts, my prayers are with you every single day.
 I tried this once before and believe me I'm on guard
 And without you guys supporting me I'd trip and fall so hard.
 I don't know what my future holds but I know I'll see this through.
 The time is right and now I must
 This much I know is true.

Entering the same cycle of addiction as her parents, Kym found herself putting alcohol and drug use before her role as mother.

"I love my children and now have the determination to stay drug-free for their sake, as well as mine. My main goal is to be reunited with my other children and be a better mother to them and Luke.

"I had to hit rock bottom and lose my children. It was then that I realised I desperately wanted to stop the cycle of alcohol abuse that had plagued my own upbringing."

"There is hope in my life – if I can do this, imagine how many others Odyssey House could help. Odyssey House is the best thing that has ever happened in my life."

When Kym entered the Odyssey House program she

The end of the financial year is

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Campbelltown NSW 2560

Phone: (02) 9820 9999
Fax: (02) 9820 1796

www.odysseyhouse.org.au

YES! I would like to help Odyssey House assist young Australians to live a drug free life.

Please find enclosed my donation of: (please circle) **\$50.00** **\$100.00** **\$500.00** or \$_____

Enclosed is my cheque / money order made payable to the Odyssey House McGrath Foundation or charge my credit card.

Bankcard Visa Mastercard Amex Diners Club

Card number: _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on card: _____ Title: (Dr/ Mr/ Mrs/ Ms/ Miss): _____

Signature: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Facsimile: _____

DONATIONS OVER \$2.00 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

For more information on Odyssey House, visit www.odysseyhouse.org.au

Telephone: (02) 9820 9999 ~ Facsimile: (02) 9820 1796

Please return this coupon and your donation to:
 The Odyssey House McGrath Foundation, PO Box 459 Campbelltown NSW 2560

Special thanks to Maurice Green, Board Member, Odyssey House McGrath Foundation for donating funds to cover the cost of this newsletter.



'A Calm in the Sea of Addiction'

A message from the Chairman



Allan Rogers

Fundraising is part and parcel of all charities – without fundraising, Odyssey House could

not continue with its excellent work in drug, gambling and alcohol rehabilitation.

The financial needs of Odyssey House are two-fold – to augment the daily costs of running the facility and rehabilitation programs and to raise money for the refurbishment of the main building at Campbelltown.

The Odyssey House ball was held recently, with over 400 people enjoying great food and music. A highlight of the evening was the performance by the Odyssey House choir. The event raised \$120,000 towards the operating expenditure of Odyssey House.

Sincere thanks is extended from everyone involved in the Odyssey House program to the individuals and organisations that contributed to such a successful evening.

Gratitude is also extended to Odyssey House Board member, Maurice Green for enlisting the support of members of the Australian Hotel Association. Members have pledged to make a donation of \$20,000 towards the Odyssey House refurbishment program.

We look forward to a long association with the members of the Australian Hotel Association and sincerely thank them for their outstanding contribution to Odyssey House.

With a little help from OUR FRIENDS

The Coca-Cola Amatil *A Water Odyssey* event was held recently and thanks to the wonderful support of some of Australia's leading businesses,

\$120,000 was raised for Odyssey House.

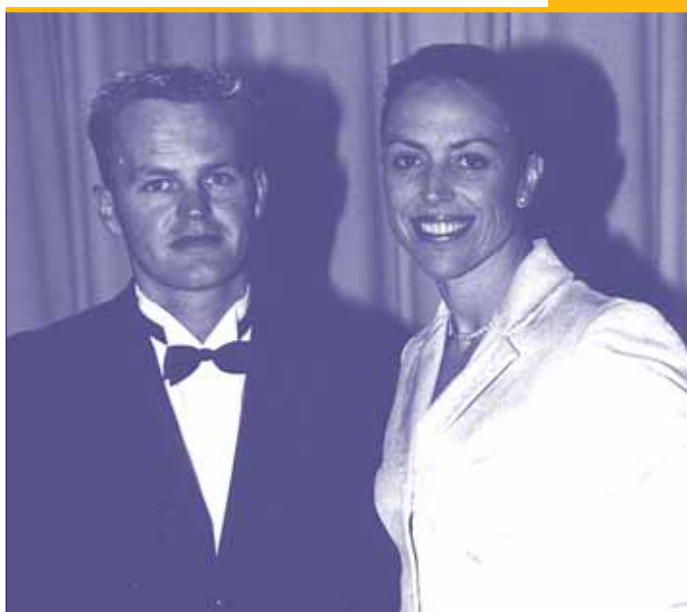
Over 400 supporters of Odyssey House attended the evening and

dined on delights from the ocean and discovered hidden treasure in seashells.

Former swimming Olympian and media personality, Lisa Forrest did a wonderful job as Master of Ceremonies and one of the highlights of the evening for all guests was the performance of the Odyssey House choir singing *Here Comes the Sun* and *Living La Vida Loca*.

Stuart, a graduate of the Odyssey House program, inspired guests with the story of his journey to become drug-free.

Sincere gratitude is extended to the following organisations and people for their astounding generosity and support. Your assistance has made a difference to the lives of many people.



Master of Ceremonies, Lisa Forrest with Odyssey House graduate, Stuart.

Coca-Cola Amatil Pty Ltd	David Aspden	James Kemsley	Nokia	Star City
2DAY FM	David Jones	Joh Bailey	Optus Television	Steve Waugh
393 Medical Centre	Davidoff – Coolwater Fragrances	Just Cuts	Oxford University Press	Stuart Diver
ANA Hotel	Dean Turner	Ken Done	P&O Cruises	Summit
Allan Rogers, Chairman, Odyssey House McGrath Foundation	Design Landscapes	Kevin Jacobsen Productions	Pacific Publications	Sunbeam
Allen & Unwin	Dick Smith Electronics	Le Meridien Piccadilly	Pacific Sailing School - Cruising Yacht Club of Australia	Sydney Aquarium
Andreasens Green Wholesale Nurseries	Dive 2000 Australia	LinFox	Palsonic	Sydney Kings
Audrey Page & Associates	Doltone House	Lone Star Steakhouse & Salon	Pan Macmillan Australia	Sydney Seafood School
Australian Catholic University	Douwe Egberts	Lorraine Merritt – Voice, Communication & Presentation Training	Panasonic	Sydney Water
Australian High Commission	Doyles Restaurant	Lydia Jordane	Panasonic Imax Theatre	Tandy
Australian Grand Prix Corporation	Dymocks	Macarthur District Rabbits South Sydney Support Group	Penrith White Water	Taronga Zoo
Australia Post	Energy Australia	Manly Surf School	Peter Brock	The Heat Group – Caboodle's Cosmetics
Bayswater Brasserie	Elite Sports Properties	Mardi Stewart Public Relations	Philips	Thredbo Alpine Village
Bills Restaurant	Festival Mushroom Records	Matilda Cruises	Polaroid	Tiger Lily
Bondi Junction Float & Massage Centre	Flavour of India	Mattel	Positive Response Marketing	Time Life
BridgeClimb	Florade	McCann-Erickson	Pro Hart	TLC Dry Cleaners
British Tourist Authority	Gilian Adams Day Spa	McGraw Hill Book Company	Quay Restaurant	Tooheys
Bruce McAvaney	Global Brands Division, Tirmex	Michael Chelham Photography	Quicksilver Productions	Tomy
Bryce Courtenay	Glorious Gardens	Mike & Jack	Radio 2UE	Tom Vogel
Canturi Jewellers	Greg Norman	Moose Toys	Readers Digest	Tom Carroll and Quicksilver
Catherine Freeman Enterprises	Guinness	Mr Frame	Revlon	Tucker Seabrook
Channel Nine	Hanimex	Mt Stromlo Observatory	R.M Williams	Twinnings
Cleopatra, Blue Mountains	Hasbro	My House	Roadshow Home Entertainment	Universal Press
Clock Hotel	Hasbro Interactive	NSW Cricket	Roses Only	Video Ezy
Cook+Philip Park	Haven Licensing	NSW Police	Ruth Cracknell	Waterford Wedgwood
Colgate Palmolive	HMAS Watson, Royal Australian Navy	National Gallery of Australia	Ruth Oldfield	Water Rats
Coty Fragrances & Cosmetics	Hogan Printing	National Rugby League	Sea World	Wiggles
Corporate Communications & Counsel	Huntington Wines	National Science & Technology Centre	Sea World Nara Resort	Wonderland Sydney
Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach	Hyatt Hotel Canberra	Netanya Noosa	Sebel Melbourne	Woolworths
Cricketers Brett Lee & Shane Lee	Ideal Networks	NewsSource	Seven Network	Yor Gojops
Cypress Lakes Resort	Impulse Airlines	News Custom Publishing	Sky Channel	Yoram Gross Productions
Darren Beadman	Inter-Continental	Nielson Park Kiosk	Slim Dusty	
	International Management Group	Nine Network	Sony Music	
			Sony Computer Entertainment	
			Speedo	

Odyssey House receives H-E-L-P from NRMA



Eric Dodd, formerly of NRMA hands over \$50,000 to James Pitts. The money will go towards the Odyssey House refurbishment program.

NRMA Insurance Limited and NRMA Member Services recently announced they would continue to help Odyssey House in its mission to break the cycle of crime and drug addiction in the community.

Former NRMA Insurance Limited Chief Executive Officer, Eric Dodd, said NRMA was delighted to support such a worthwhile community organisation.

"NRMA has continued its four year association with Odyssey House by recently presenting \$50,000.

"The Odyssey House program helps drug-affected people to realise their worth and become productive members of the community.

"NRMA recognises that drugs are a serious problem in the wider community.

"We are proud to be extending our help to an organisation as worthy as Odyssey House," Mr Dodd said.

A message from the Chief Executive Officer

Time passes so rapidly; we are already five months into 2001! We have been extremely busy pursuing the goals we established at the beginning of the year.



James A. Pitts

Various fundraising activities have been underway. The Corporate Care Appeal, a series of luncheons for the corporate community, have raised \$150,000 to date. This money will be used to refurbish our main facility, located at Eagle Vale. We have also recently received generous support from Toohey's Pty Ltd with a donation of \$60,000, a donation of \$50,000 from the NRMA and money from the Andrew Thyne Reid Trust.

Our feature fundraising event for the first half of this year was the Odyssey House black tie ball *A Water Odyssey*, held at Doltone House on 11 May. It was a great success (see story opposite) thanks to the continued support of Coca-Cola Amatil.

We need to raise a great deal of money each year to keep pace with the growing needs of the population for whom we provide. These young men and women, some with dependent children, have shown tremendous courage through their commitment to change the course of their lives by undergoing rehabilitation. Reciprocally, we as an organisation are committed to ensure we offer the best services possible to support them in their endeavour. To do so requires both human and monetary resources in order to maintain "best practice".

We have not only been devoted to the arduous task of raising much-needed funds - we also strive to replicate activities engaged by the general public, such as the "family vacation". We were recently able to send the majority of the staff and residents away for a well-deserved respite at the Central Coast in March of this year. Everyone had a great time. As if that wasn't enough, the father of one of our graduates made his family's lodge, located at Perisher Smiggins in the Snowy Mountains, available for use by the young adults (aged 18-24) in the program. Almost too much fun to have in one year!

A philosophy behind the programs at Odyssey House is that each individual earns what he or she gets. In this way, whatever is achieved has value, worth, and merit to the individual. We are proud of the standing we have achieved within the community. It ensures individuals and corporations have the confidence that their support of Odyssey will be directed towards the purpose for which they gave. We are lucky to have such staunch supporters. The harder we work, the luckier we get!

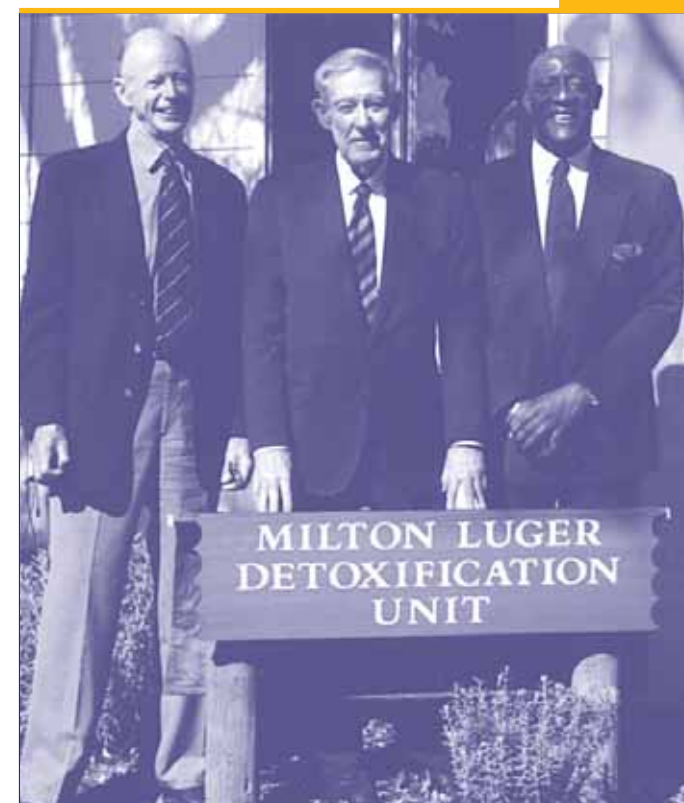
Milton is honoured

Milton Luger is a man who has dedicated his life to helping others in need, especially troubled youth. So it was only fitting that Odyssey House recently honored Milton for his lifetime of commitment to the Odyssey program by officially naming the new state of the art Detoxification Unit in his name.

The official naming ceremony was attended by Milton's family and friends and current staff and residents involved in the program.

Milton started his career as the founding General Manager of the Sydney Odyssey House in 1977 after leaving America for "something different".

"The detoxification unit was a dream for Milton. We are so happy that dream has been realised and we can honor him in this way," said James Pitts.



Allan Rogers, Milton Luger and James Pitts at the Detoxification Unit dedication ceremony.