



In The Press

Macarthur Advertiser - February 8, 2006



Of Substance - vol 3, no 4, 2005



Macarthur Chronicle - February 7, 2006



Daily Telegraph - February 21, 2006



Sunday Telegraph - December 11, 2005

Odyssey Recognition

Support that Odyssey House has recently received from the following donors is greatly appreciated.

- Alafact Pty Ltd
- Australian Youth & Health Foundation
- R Brierley
- Corinthian Industries
- C Grubb
- M Hawker
- James N Kirby Foundation
- Liangrove Foundation
- A Love
- Mallesons Stephen Jaques
- P Philips
- The R.A. Gale Foundation
- J Rayner
- Sage Micropay
- United Way Sydney
- M Casey

Wish List

We require brush cutting equipment for our Ingleburn facility. If anyone can assist, please contact us.

Diary Dates

For further information on any of these events, please contact marketing on (02) 9820 9999 or email marketing@odysseyhouse.com.au

- Milton Luger One Day Forum - June 20, 2006
- McDonalds Helping Hands - June 14 - 24, 2006
- Real Men Cook - August 28, 2006
- Australian Funds Managers Awards - October 26, 2006
- Odyssey House Open Day - October 29, 2006

ODYSSEY HOUSE



'A Calm in the Sea of Addiction'



MC Sally Loane with rugby tragic Ray Meagher (Alf from the hit series Home and Away)

Rugby Tragic's Triumphant

Odyssey House held its annual rugby fundraising dinner on March 3 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney. The theme for this year's dinner was 'Rugby Tragic's'. "Rugby Tragic's come from all walks of life. Many are household names. When you meet them it is not always obvious but deep down they share a common love! They are all rugby tragic's." That quote was made by Sally Loane, who was MC on the night and is herself a self confessed Rugby Tragic.

House choir, made up of staff members and residents of the program. Their rendition of "We are Australian" brought tears to the eyes of many in the throng as they joined in with spirited hand clapping in time to the music.

Odyssey House CEO, James Pitts was interviewed by MC Sally Loane. He spoke of the many challenges facing the program due to under funding, a more challenging client profile which encompasses poly drug use and mental health issues, and a need for health officials to recognise the need for people to remain in treatment longer.

The evening's proceedings commenced with singer Eddie Muliaumaseali'i giving a rousing rendition of the rugby anthem "World In Union" followed by the rugby anthems of the international rugby playing nations. Following the entrée the 350 people in attendance to support Odyssey House were welcomed officially by Board Chariman Eric Dodd. As usual, one of the highlights of the evening was the performance of the Odyssey

The "Rugby Tragic's", John Fairfax CEO and former All Black David Kirk, ABC radio science journalist Robyn Williams, and "Home and Away" actor Ray Meagher, who briefly represented Queensland shared tales of their passion for rugby much to the amusement of the crowd. Surprise guest, Brian McKechnie, who represented New Zealand in the



Australian Rugby jersey signed by the Hon John Howard MP, donated by Rugbypassion.com

rugby and cricket; and was involved in the infamous 'under arm incident' was a stand in for restaurateur Guillaume Brahim who was ill.

The dinner raised over \$100,000 for Odyssey to assist in providing services to the 670 people annually who utilise its withdrawal, rehabilitation, counselling, and after care services.

PO Box 459
Campbelltown NSW 2560

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

www.odysseyhouse.org.au

YES! I would like to help Odyssey House assist residents 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: _____

I would like to pledge \$_____ per month to be deducted from my Credit Card until revoked in writing by me or Odyssey House.

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:
Odyssey House McGrath Foundation, PO Box 459, Campbelltown, NSW, 2560.



'A Calm in the Sea of Addiction'

A message from the Chairman



Eric R Dodd

Our annual Odyssey House Rugby Dinner was once again held in early March at the Four Seasons Hotel.

The evening combines fine dining with a love of rugby and has developed into one of the most keenly anticipated events on the Sydney corporate calendar. It provides a wonderful vehicle to showcase the work of Odyssey House.

The evening serves to illustrate one of the important roles of the Board of Directors of Odyssey House in raising much needed funds to support the work of James Pitts and his team, bringing to life, in a very real way, the importance of Odyssey House for a wide section of Sydney and Australian business communities. It also provides a good opportunity to thank many individuals and corporations for their ongoing support of Odyssey House, particularly those introduced over the years through this very special evening.

I would like to thank all those involved in the organisation of the evening and also the original organiser of the event, Ross Grant, who was able to join us for the first time in many years.

As has been the case for many years, the highlight of the evening was the Odyssey House Choir and the inspirational words of James Pitts.

Eric R Dodd
Chairman

THE PERSONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM Preparing Residents to Return to Work

The Personal Support Program is an initiative of the Commonwealth Department of Education and Workplace Relations. The aim of the program is to assist people who have a functional disability that has prevented their participation in the workforce, either to enter, or return to it. This is an especially critical component of the rehabilitation at Odyssey House due to the high rates of unemployment of the people entering the program.

Pearl Clustre is the Co-ordinator of the Personal Support Program at Odyssey. She assists residents who participate in the program to identify barriers which prevent them from participating in the workforce. These barriers are compiled as an action plan that residents incorporate into their rehabilitation goals, and are



Pearl discussing work opportunities

combined with targeted return to work activities through their job assignments.

Pearl says, "I get real enjoyment from working with the residents as they struggle with their issues initially, only to see them succeed!" Pearl believes the Personal Support Program, that began in April 2004, has

assisted many residents to achieve social, personal, and vocational goals. This will enable the residents who participate in the program to become contributing members of society. To date there have been over 60 residents who have participated in the Personal Support Program.

Odyssey Arts & Craft Teacher WINS MANNING ART PRIZE

Clara Hali has been the Arts & Crafts Teacher at Odyssey House for 21 years. She works with residents one day per week assisting them to create sculptures, ceramic and leatherworks of art.

She recently won a 3D Award in the Manning Art Prize for 2005 with a bronze sculpture titled 'Landslide'. She also recently completed a commission for the Presbyterian Ladies College at

Croydon; a bronze sculpture of a nude female for the Performing Arts Centre.

We wish Clara all the best over the next couple of months as she recovers from major surgery.



Far Left: Award Winning 3D sculpture 'Landslide'



Left: Clara's recently completed bronze sculpture for the PLC

A Road to RECOVERY

To demonstrate the real work of Odyssey House, this column features an Odyssey House resident's story.

Hanh was born in the Southern NSW City of Wollongong. He was the youngest of several children born into a Vietnamese family. The family had moved to Australia in the late 1970's as refugees from Vietnam. Hanh's family emphasised to the children the need to gain a place in the community through hard work and educational endeavour. Hanh was very good in school, attaining his HSC as he was proficient in information technology. Consequently after graduating from high school he was able to gain a position with Telstra.

Hanh had met his girlfriend in high school and they had been going out together since that time. After Hanh had completed his probationary period at Telstra, and had been able to secure appropriate accommodation, he and his girlfriend moved out together. As in the lives of most young couples, they had aspirations to get married and raise a family. That dream was shattered one evening when a drunk driver collided with the vehicle they were in and his girlfriend was killed. He was devastated following this event. He felt he had nothing to live for, as well as the shame associated with the accident, he felt responsible for what had happened to his girlfriend, even though the accident was ruled as no fault of his, but subjectively, he felt he didn't take care of her. He had expected from a very early age to take on a great deal of responsibility for the welfare of others.

As a result of the accident, and the many conflicting feelings he had surrounding it, Hanh started to isolate and drift towards a drug using crowd. They convinced him he would be better off if he started to use heroin because it would assist him in overcoming his grief. Hanh started to use heroin and found it did ease the emotional conflict and pain that he was experiencing. He found it easier to cope, and consequently became more engrossed in the activity of injecting heroin. Unfortunately, most of the hard work he had put in to advancing



Hanh says "Now I have a passion for life, to live life to its fullest!"

his career at Telstra started to deteriorate as his heroin habit took on greater proportions. It reached a period where he had to spend \$300 / \$400 per day on his habit. He lost everything, including the unit he had secured, his job, all of his friends, and had become more and more disengaged from his family.

Hanh's family thought he was grieving over the loss of his girlfriend, but as he had reached the depths of despair, he decided to tell them what actually had happened. This was a big step for him because it was totally counter to the Vietnamese culture. However, the family, who had been close knit since they had been in Australia, came together to help. They were able to obtain the contact details of the Odyssey House Withdrawal Unit from the internet, and the next day Hanh was admitted.

Hanh felt out of place initially due to his Vietnamese culture, but quickly settled in well due to a lot of encouragement from the senior residents and staff. Odyssey is cognisant of the cultural differences of many of the residents who utilise our services, but we do not feel pity for anyone as a result. After Hanh had completed his detoxification, he started to feel that he wanted to live again. He started doing little things around the facility in his job function in House Operations, and engaged in the educational program at the Progressive Learning Centre. His job gave him time to reflect and eventually he was able to write a letter to his girlfriend posthumously. According to Hanh this was a big breakthrough, as it afforded him an opportunity to say things to his girlfriend that he had not had an opportunity to say due to her sudden death.

Hanh says during his progress in the program that he learnt from everyone he came in contact with. He gained more motivation to complete the program as he progressed through the various levels. He felt level three was a turning point for him as he had the task of taking on much more responsibility for the welfare of others. This task allowed him to share his own experiences, and also in a reciprocal way to find out more about the people he was responsible for.

Hanh is the House Supervisor at the main facility currently, which is the most senior position a resident can hold at Odyssey House. He has a great deal of responsibility for ensuring that all aspects of the daily schedule are adhered to and projects are carried out. Hanh now says that as he is nearing the end of his Odyssey he is very interested in a position within the social welfare field. He feels strongly he would like to help other people. However, he is also conscious that is a long term goal and plans to seek work within the IT field, which he is already competent in.

His immediate plans are to move out with one of his peers, Peter, as they have gone through the program together, and have been very supportive of one another due to many common issues they have.

Hanh now says that even though he is feeling somewhat uncomfortable, unsure and afraid, those feelings are overtaken by his feeling that he is in a position where he can live, where previous to Odyssey House his life had stopped. Hanh says "Now I have a passion for life, to live life to its fullest!"

A message from the Chief Executive Officer



James A. Pitts

Each year our organisation takes the opportunity to review its goals of the previous year, and to set new ones for the year ahead. We do this at our Staff Retreat, which is held over a 3 day period and involves all staff (65 in total) from each of our program components. This process affords us time to make strategic planning decisions which enhance our service delivery.

Our goals for this year are aligned to opportunities and resource availability which has been identified through consultations with New South Wales Health's Centre for Drugs and Alcohol. These are:

1. Operate assessment and referral services at a designated local court as part of the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) scheme.
2. Provide residential services for people with alcohol, other drugs and mental health problems (co-morbidity) that are low prevalence (depression and anxiety related), and high prevalence (psychosis and major depression).
3. Counselling support for people with co-morbid conditions who live in supported accommodation in the community.
4. Support for family members and carers of those who are alcohol and other drug affected.
5. Provision of After Care Services.
6. Support for pharmacotherapy (methadone, buprenorphine) clients who wish to access rehabilitation services.

In each of the areas outlined by the CDA and supported by our staff, we are well placed to take advantage of these initiatives. We have made a submission to the CDA to conduct the assessment and referral process at Waverley Local Court. A decision is pending. Our infrastructure is able to assist more residents who have co-morbid issues if additional resources are provided. Our Better Relationships In Every Family (BRIEF) program can support more families and carers, and our After Care program, though well established, is in need of a certainty of funding for the next 3 years. We provide services, on a limited basis, to pharmacotherapy clients already, but need additional resources to expand this type of intervention.

Our goals are clear due to our ability to plan strategically in order to fulfil our mission!

We look forward to the year ahead!

James A. Pitts
Chief Executive Officer