

In The Press

Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser
- September 6 2006



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Doing it for Odyssey

FOURTEEN Sydney celebrities and top chefs have helped raise \$50,000 for the local Odyssey House drug and alcohol rehabilitation program.

The annual Real Men Cook for Odyssey lunch and fundraising event was held at Bel Mondo at The Rocks last week.

Children donating their time for water duty included Nova 96.9's Merrick and Ross, comedian Mikey Robins, rugby union great Phil Kearns and Nick Farr-Jones and newsmen Mark Ferguson and Tim Webster. Channelling the kitchen's creative side, chefs such as Ben Fordham, Josh, James Roberts, and Grant Lawrence.

Odyssey House needs more people to help in her journey to overcome

Self-raising stars

It's fundraising by the sexes in the next few weeks with a Great Women Chefs gala dinner boosting the coffers to fight Parkinson's disease, and Real Men Cooking for Odyssey cutting the can for a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program.

The women, including Asian food expert Charmaine Solomon and Carol Selva Rajah, Dark St Depot's Penny Williams, and Simone Logan, will prepare a six-course menu with wines on September 14 at the Sofitel Hotel, Macquarie.

Nova's Merrick and Ross, Mikey Robins, Sunrise's David Koch and rugby greats Phil Kearns and Nick Farr-Jones will cook lunch at Bel Mondo on August 28. It's \$150 a head. 9820 9999.

Wish List

We require turf for our Parents and Childrens Cottages. If anyone can assist, please contact us.

Diary Dates

- Australian Funds Managers Awards - October 26, 2006
- Odyssey House Open Day - October 29, 2006
- Odyssey Olympics - October 9, 2006
- Rugby Dinner - February 23, 2007

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

The Weekend Australian - August 12-13 2006



The Sydney Morning Herald - August 26-27 2006



REAL MEN
Real Men Cook for Odyssey hosts the kitchen skills of chefs including Merrick and Ross, David Koch, Grant and Mikey Robins. Fortunately for paying chefs, all food will be prepared under the watchful eye of top Sydney chef Mark Best.

Also, James Roberts and Grant Lawrence. Proceeds go to Odyssey House. Mon 12-20 2.00pm, Bel Mondo restaurant, Gloucester Road, The Rocks, \$150, 9820 9999.

SCIENCE IN THE SUBURBS
The Children's Medical Research Institute opens its doors to the public this week as part of an Australian Men's program to show what really goes on in the lab. Dr. Harry Bryant will speak about his experiences with brain research, followed by a behind-the-scenes tour (booking available, Tue 6-30pm, the Children's Medical Research Institute, 2nd Havelock Road, Westmead, NSW, 9687 2000).

The Sydney Morning Herald - August 26-27 2006

ODYSSEY HOUSE



'A Calm in the Sea of Addiction'



Back line: Phil Kearns, Grant Lawrence, James Pitts, Merrick Watts, Jason Roberts, Rodney Overby, Mikey Robins, Tim Webster, Nick Farr-Jones. Front Line: Ajoy Joshi, Mark Best, Tim Ross, Ben Fodham, and Mark Ferguson.

Real Men Cook

Odyssey House held its annual "Real Men Cook" fund raising luncheon at bel mondo restaurant, The Rocks, on 28th August. It was the fifth year of the fun filled event which featured celebrity chefs from the sports, entertainment and culinary industries. The event was compered ever so ably by Sally Loane, Director of Media and Public Affairs, Coca-Cola Amatil.

It was the third year Sally has handled the position and her ability to impart so fluidly the purpose of the afternoon was evident and appreciated by all.

Celebrity "chefs" included Channel 10 sports caster Ryan Phelan; Nova FM's Merrick and Ross; Restaurateur Mark Best of Marquee; Ajoy Joshi of Nilgiri's; Phil Kearns, former Wallaby Captain and rugby commentator; Jason Roberts TV cooking personality; Nick Farr-Jones, former Wallaby captain; Rodney (The Voice) Overby, sports announcer and

event promoter; Ben Fordham, Channel 9 reporter; Channel 10 sports caster, Tim Webster; Radio personality and fitness guru, Mikey Robins; and Channel Nine news anchor, Mark Ferguson.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the appearance of Odyssey House resident, Michelle. Michelle addressed the sold out crowd of 140 guests about her experience as a young mother who was the victim of emotional abuse. She related the horrors of her descent into alcohol and other drugs as a way of coping with her chronically low self esteem which led her eventually to Odyssey House. Her tale of the courage it took for her to overcome the horrible life she had led prior to Odyssey and the effects it had on her two young children moved the crowd to tears. Michelle's victory and reclamation of her life is what Odyssey is all about.

The event raised over \$50,000 due to the enthusiasm engendered by Tim Webster's



Merrick Watts (of Merrick & Ross, Nova 96.9) looking at this dish thinking where he can leave his thumbprint in the sauce!

handling of the live auction and the generosity of those in attendance. Lastly, we could not have held the luncheon without the beneficence of bel mondo owner, Michael Lloyd who donated all costs involved in hosting the event! We are extremely grateful to him!

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.

PO Box 459
Campbelltown NSW 2560

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

www.odysseyhouse.org.au

A message from the Chairman



Eric R Dodd

Good Corporate governance dictates that a Board of Directors needs to be "refreshed" periodically to ensure that new skills and different attitudes and approaches are injected into the workings of the important role that the Board plays.

After nearly 13 years of superb effort and support of the Board of Odyssey House, former Chairmen, Maurice Green and Allan Rogers have indicated that they will both be stepping down from the Board at the completion of this year's annual accounts.

Whilst we are sad to lose the services of both Maurice and Allan (and we will detail appropriate tributes to them in subsequent editions of this newsletter) it has provided us with the opportunity to bring onto the Board 4 new individuals in Susan Bennett, Cathy Doyle, Stuart Grimshaw and Craig Knowles. All 4 have significant achievements and business and political connections in the community and I am looking forward to the contributions they will make to Odyssey House over the coming years.

By way of introduction, Susan Bennett is an Executive Consultant for Audrey Page and Associate, Cathy Doyle is Head of People at Qantas Airlines, Stuart Grimshaw is the Group Executive of Premium Business Services at Commonwealth Bank and Craig Knowles is a former health minister with the NSW Government.

They have thrown themselves into their roles as Directors with a great deal of enthusiasm and have some excellent ideas to assist James and the management team to take Odyssey House forward in the years ahead.

Please join me in welcoming Susan, Cathy, Stuart and Craig.

Eric R Dodd
Chairman

One Day Forum ATTRACT EXPERTS

The "Milton Luger One Day Forum" hosted by Odyssey House was a resounding success. Held as part of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia's "Drug Action Week" the Forum attracted some of Australia's top experts in the field of alcohol and other drugs. The Forum's theme this year was on co-morbidity (alcohol and other drugs and mental health problems).

Over 100 guests were in attendance to hear presentations from Dr Ian Webster, Professor Emeritus, President of the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation address the global issues of co-morbidity. Dr John Howard, Clinical Director, Ted Noffs Foundation, discussed the issue as it relates to populations of youth. Jo Lunn, Psychologist, Clinical Director, Kedesh House, presented a pilot training program for staff in the field

who have the responsibility for front line services to this challenging population. Odyssey CEO, James Pitts presented a residential rehabilitation model of intervention.

The presentations were well received by all in attendance. Odyssey continues its efforts to promote information sharing and topical discussion of relevant issues in our field.

ODYSSEY GOES TO COURT

Odyssey House has been granted the rights to conduct all assessments for the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program at Waverley Local Court. It's the first time a non-government organisation has been awarded such an opportunity. The MERIT program is part of the

National Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative which was launched at Odyssey House's Admission and Intake Centre (AIC) in July, 2001.

MERIT seeks to give people with significant alcohol and other drugs problems an opportunity to access appropriate treatment interventions. Participants in the

program are legally stipulated to undergo treatment for a period of 3 months minimally. The program is a joint initiative of the state Attorney's-General department; the Centre for Drugs and Alcohol (CDA) and the Southeast Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service. We are glad to be afforded this opportunity!

Odyssey Recognition

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

Albert, Robert
AMP Foundation
Aust Youth & Health Fdn
Austen, Dick
Cairns, Gordon
Camden Rotary Club
David, John
English, L
Fairfax, J

Ferris, William
Fesq, G
Green, Antony
Green, Maurice
Hawker, Michael
John Lamble Foundation
Kingston, Jeff
Kingston, Marion
Liangrove Foundation
Loewenthal, W & S
Macquarie Bank Fdn
Mallesons Stephen Jaques
McDonalds
McGovern, Peter

Mitchell, Jack
Moore Family Philanthropic
Paddington Smash Repairs
RA Gale Fdn
Reid, Ian
Ritchie, Peter
Rodney & Judith O'Neil
Foundation
Rogers, Allan
Rumore, Anthony
Space Furniture
Victor Smorgon Charitable Fund

McDonalds Helping Hands Day

Saturday June 24, 2006 was McDonalds Helping Hands Day. A number of Odyssey House staff and senior residents volunteered their time at many of the local McDonalds stores around Macarthur to help raise funds for 'McDonalds Helping Hands' which support charities in the local

community. Odyssey House and the Kids of Macarthur Foundation were chosen as the beneficiaries of this fundraising activity. The Odyssey House residents and staff worked alongside the McDonalds crew serving the variety of McDonalds burgers and beverages behind the counters. Over \$9,000

was raised from the sale of 'little hands' and was shared between Odyssey and Kids of Macarthur. Odyssey House would like to thank McDonalds Australia and particularly the local Macarthur region McDonalds stores for their ongoing support and letting us be a part of that fantastic day.

Thank you Odyssey House

To the staff at Odyssey House,

I would like to thank you for the care you have given to my sons, Jesse and Alexander, since they entered the program in February 2005.

Like them, I initially saw their participation in the program as a way of both relieving them of months on remand in maximum security, and improving their chances of avoiding a long prison sentence later on. I was, of course, also relieved that they were going to receive professional help for their drug use.

It did not take long for me to realise that much more fundamental and sometimes overwhelming processes and changes were involved in their journey through the program.

It can be very difficult, as a parent, to watch your children struggle to learn lessons. I had to develop trust in your decisions and actions regarding my sons. I can see now that this trust was well placed.

Both Jesse and Alexander have benefited from the program in a number of ways. I witness their self-confidence, optimism and ability to take responsibility for their actions. I also see them both display high levels of

consideration, empathy and respect for other people. They also both show how much they appreciate their family and the support they have received from us. Apart from all this, they are also very good company and fun to spend time with.

Jesse is managing his prison sentence with incredible acceptance. He does not seem to be angry at the court, the police or the prison system. He takes each day as it comes and appreciates that his low classification allows him to be at Glen Innes as it is fairly humane compared to other prisons. While there are plenty of drugs available, he says he is not interested and that seems to be a good sign for the future. He is enjoying working out for hours each day and watching movies on Austar. He is also charming his unit-mates with exotic cooking a couple of nights a week. His father visits every second weekend and my parents and I will get there about once a month each.

Alex has yet to be sentenced but will most likely also go to prison. We hope that he too gets to go to a prison farm but he may be sent to the young offenders prison at Windsor due to his age. Meanwhile, he is trying to manage his anxiety about the

case and is working hard and living with his girlfriend Kylie. They have a lovely relationship and take great care of each other in a way that is quite unusual in people so young. He misses Jesse a lot though they write and speak by phone as much as possible.

I cannot find the words to express the gratitude we feel for the efforts you have all taken with our lovely boys. While sometimes tough, your work with them was always carried out with love and respect and faith that they could live up to the standards required. We so very much want you to feel appreciated and please be assured that we will not forget the role Odyssey House played in helping Jesse and Alexander find a healthier and happier path.

Please do not hesitate to ask if my experiences can be of any help to your organisation. While I cannot, at this time donate money, I would be happy to write or speak about my perceptions of how the program has helped me, my children and my wider family.

Yours sincerely, Kerren.

A message from the Chief Executive Officer



James A. Pitts

We continue to build upon our success in being a provider of quality treatment services. Our family intervention, "Better Relationships In Every Family" was voted runner up in this year's National Drug and Alcohol Awards "Excellence in Treatment" category. We have been invited to do a presentation of this intervention at the prestigious World Federation of Therapeutic Communities conference in New York City this September. Our expertise in working with potential clients within the criminal justice system has been recognised and rewarded. Odyssey House has been awarded the contract to operate the referral system for clients at Waverley Local Court as part of the Magistrate's Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program. It is the first time a non-government agency has been awarded such a contract. This is one of the goals we identified earlier in the year during our Staff Retreat.

The success of our "Real Men Cook" fund raising luncheon attests to the support Odyssey has in the community at large. In our local community we have been asked to be represented on the Community Consultation Committee for the establishment of the Medical School at the University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown. In addition we are represented on the Campbelltown Council's "Youth Forum" which identifies and plans for resources to be utilised by youth in the local area.

We continue to be heartened by the recognition of the general public, state and federal governments and public institutions to the worthiness of Odyssey House and its provision of services to young men, women and their dependent children.

James A. Pitts
Chief Executive Officer