



Macarthur Chronicle, Tuesday September 9, 2008

Record entries in 170km classic

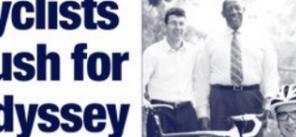
The District Reporter, Friday September 5, 2008

Peddle power for charity



James Pitts is grateful for the support of the Citi Corporate Charity Ride.

Dads' day out a great start



On Saturday will be the Lane Street Fair with cycling entertainment, amusement and much more. The event is a family friendly day out for all ages. The fair will be held on the Lane Street area from 10am to 4pm. The fair is a great opportunity for families to enjoy a day out together. The fair is a great opportunity for families to enjoy a day out together.

Cyclists push for Odyssey



Gifts and glory will be tested as 150 cyclists take to the road in the Goulburn to Citi Challenge corporate charity ride on Saturday, September 13.

Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser, Wednesday September 10, 2008

Smash!

On Wednesday 6 August 7 teams gathered at Tennis Cove to compete in the first Odyssey Smash Cup. Hosted by tennis greats Tony Roche and Evonne Cawley. Tony Roche treated guests to one-one-one court time providing hands on coaching which was certainly invaluable to the players. The event finished off with a social opportunity for players to converse with tennis greats and the official awards ceremony.

The Progressive Learning Centre's Annual Report and financials are available online or by request.

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

- Mr Mike Betar
- CAF Community Fund
- Mr Alan Cardy
- Mr Sam Chisholm
- CRC Civil & Drainage
- Custom House
- Ms Linda English
- Fernwood
- Sir John Fuller
- Mr Michael Hawker
- HMAS Kuttabul Scaf
- McDonald's Restaurant
- RA Gale Foundation
- Mr & Mrs John & Rebecca Sevier
- Mr Ezekiel Solomon
- The Kimberley Foundation
- Tyndall Investment Management
- Westfields Limited



'A Calm in the Sea of Addiction'

A Christmas WISH

Adele and her beautiful daughter Ashley have been part of the Parents and Children's program for the past nine months.

Adele came from a wealthy and supportive family, where she attended private schooling and wanted for nothing. With the influence of peer pressure at school Adele started using Speed at age 17 and became an every day user.

Continuing on with her Speed addiction Adele went on to have her first two children, Amy (15) and James (12).

Eight years ago, Ice entered the market, and this became Adele's new drug of choice.

"I initially liked the look and the taste, and then I couldn't stop. I had a passion and a love of it and before long started to use it three to four times a day" Adele said.

Adele tried numerous other private rehabs, who never resolved the real issues behind her addiction.

In 1999, Adele first entered Odyssey House with her two children Amy and James. After nine months she felt that she was okay to go, and left without completing the program to live



Adele and her daughter Ashley are looking forward to an Odyssey Christmas

with her family. It only took 6 months for her Ice addiction to take hold again.

In 2002, Adele was faced with the tragic loss of her father which escalated her Ice addiction. Her mother then took over the care of Amy and James while Adele's life continued to spiral out of control.

Adele entered into a relationship with an Ice dealer who did not provide a stable or positive relationship in regards to her drug use or prospect of rehabilitation.

When Adele fell pregnant with Ashley she raised concerns with hospital counsellors over the impact of her Ice addiction and the pregnancy, however, this did not prevent her continued daily use of the drug.

Now, Adele is thankful that

Ashley arrived safely "Now it brings me to tears and hurts at the thought of what could have been" Adele said.

It was just after Ashley's second Christmas that Adele realised that it was time to beat her addiction and reunite her family, and this is her Christmas wish for 2008.

"Odyssey House is the best rehab, it's hard, as it is confronting and works on the real issues behind your addiction" Adele said.

With a very supportive family, Adele is now on the 'Road to Recovery' in making her Christmas wish come true.

"I have the right determination, to get my life on track and bring all my family together as one" Adele said.

Riding for a Cause



James Pitts and Simon Poidevin after the big race

The Goulburn to Citi cycling classic charity ride now in its second year was held on Saturday 13 September to assist the fundraising efforts of Odyssey House and several other charities including Kids of Macarthur, Goulburn's Palliative Care and Oncology Unit, Starlight Foundation and the Ben Mikic Foundation.

Beginning at 5.30 am in Goulburn, the charity cyclists not only had to battle the gruelling 170 kilometre race but also had to contend with unseasonably warm weather with temperatures soaring well into the thirties.

For the first time the race was

held in conjunction with the Camden Festival with the finish line amongst the festivities adding plenty of excitement.

Simon Poidevin, former Wallaby great and current Managing Director Equity Research Sales, Citigroup and long term supporter of Odyssey House is the driving force behind the charity ride with over \$90,000 being raised for Odyssey. Funding from this year's event is being allocated to the Parents and Children's Program, that has proved to be very successful in keeping families together whilst receiving treatment.

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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 message from the Chairman



Cathy Doyle

As I am writing this column we are in the midst of one of the most challenging and unprecedented fiscal times in our history. Well known financial brand names have fallen, governments around the world have stepped in to guarantee deposits or buy up financial stakes in previously listed companies. We have seen economies around the world shaken and billions of dollars wiped off in share markets around the world through this cycle. Confidence is shaky and many keep asking what is going to happen next?

Perhaps as I work in the finance industry I have been engulfed completely by the turn of the recent events and yet a direct impact has occurred on Odyssey - We were unable to sell enough tables for what was to be our 30th birthday event in September this year. I want to thank those who worked hard to try to get this event off the ground and all those who gave of their time and personal anecdotes for us to film as we try to capture memories of this milestone. We will celebrate our birthday with you all at the Rugby Dinner to be held March 20 next year at the Four Seasons.

I am therefore very delighted at both the attendance and fund raising at the recent Real Men Cook lunch (\$35,000) and the Citi to Goulburn Cycling Classic (\$90,000). A heart felt thank you to all those involved! We are also looking forward to the Australian Fund Managers Awards Dinner to be held October 22 at Star City. We share the proceeds of this event and are grateful to the industry for their support.

James Pitts and his team have also been working hard in lobbying for government grants and continuing to build on our services for those who need and rely on them. Our Campbelltown based After Care Program in new premises is open and supporting those who need practical support and general assistance as they continue to come to grips with their newly shaped lives. Well done and thank you to the staff at Odyssey.

As we head into Christmas please have a safe and happy time with your families - thank you for your continued support.

Cathy Doyle
Chairman

Location, Location, Location!

The Odyssey House After Care Program recently moved into a bigger and better location to support Macarthur residents in recovery from substance misuse. The new Odyssey House Macarthur Community Centre will provide information to the public on dealing with alcohol and other drug problems.

Odyssey was delighted when two very generous local identities - Tanyia Harris and Reg English - offered the Odyssey House Board the opportunity to purchase the facilities in Dumaresq Street on very favourable terms, which we accepted.

The new premises at 15-23 Dumaresq Street, Campbelltown, also house the first locally based admissions service for prospective Odyssey House clients. Previously our clients had to travel to our Surry Hills offices for an initial consultation.

The After Care facility can now provide a wider range of services and can assist around 70 people at any one time. The After Care program is designed for people



James Pitts with Reg English and Tanyia Harris

who have undertaken some form of rehabilitation. They can access a weekly group support meeting, counselling, social activities, practical help finding accommodation and employment, and assistance accessing other community services such as mental health and welfare organisations.

Separately, we were also granted \$655,000 by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department in the latest funding round from the Proceeds of Crime Act combined with

funding from the Henry Roth Foundation, ensured we could continue to provide quality After Care services.

The combination of government and private support has enabled us to expand the After Care Program, start a local admissions and intake service, and open a new street-front Community Centre to provide the general public with information on alcohol and other drugs and the comprehensive range of Odyssey House services.

The Golden Bull Rides Again

2008 represents the 'Tenth Annual Australian Fund Managers Awards'. Due to increasing popularity a new larger venue was selected for this year's event, the Ballroom at Star City on Wednesday 22 October.

The event is the leading awards night for the industry as well as a major fundraiser for its two beneficiaries, Odyssey House and Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick.

Award-winning television journalist Helen Dalley hosted the evening with grace and style. The Fund Managers were entertained by one of Australia's most nationally recognised entertainers, comedic magician Matt Hollywood to much applause and laughter.

Aside from the official awards on the evening, the big winners are the charities. We thank the organising committee for their ongoing support as well as the generosity of those in attendance who made the evening a success!



Television journalist Helen Dalley with James Pitts

Cooking Up a Storm

The annual fundraising luncheon 'Real Men Cook' hosted by Sally Loane was recently held at the bel mondo restaurant at The Rocks, on Monday 28 July. Now in its eighth year the event was an immediate sell out of 140 guests to be entertained by some of Sydney's most familiar male celebrities.

Celebrities showcasing their culinary expertise included actor Rhys Muldoon, chefs Ed Halmagyi and Ben O'Donoghue, swimming legend Kieren Perkins, surfing great Tom Carroll, comedian Vince Sorrenti, media personalities Mark Ferguson, and David Koch, Rugby great

Nick Farr Jones and financial guru Chris Gray.

A highlight of the luncheon was the personal story of Odyssey House Graduate Matt who reflected upon his Odyssey experience. Matt suffered from a heroin addiction after descending into a life of crime to pay for his drug habit. Matt felt his life had become worthless, ashamed he attempted suicide. After three attempts at a prescription overdose he was inducted into Odyssey in 1999 and graduated the following year.

Unfortunately, Matt entered into a period of depression and

began to withdraw, and after a period of time started to drink and use heroin again.

Fortunately, Matt recognised the pattern of self defeating behaviours he was engaging in and re-entered Odyssey House in November, 2007. Matt has completed the program again, is living in the community and has commenced work with his former employer (who supported him while he was in rehabilitation).

The event concluded with a live auction conducted by Channel Seven's David Koch, which contributed to raising over \$35,000 a wonderful result!



Real Men 'Celebrity' chefs of 2008!

PEDAL POWER

Odyssey would like to thank the Campbelltown Femwood Fitness Club members who jumped on a bike for a three hour marathon cycle on Sunday 17 August in support of Odyssey House. Championed by Femwood Campbelltown business owner Sue Palleschi, over \$1800 was raised, with some participants playing tag team to get through it!



Femwood fitness members prepare to pedal!

A message from the Chief Executive Officer



James A. Pitts

The activities which have taken place in the global financial and Australian markets this year have not effected the operations of Odyssey House significantly. This has been due primarily to our ability to secure government funding prior to the financial crisis and the generous support of members of the general community.

We were able to move into our new premises which will house our After Care program and newly established Macarthur Community Centre. The acquisition of the premises was made possible due to the generosity of two Campbelltown residents (see article 'Location, Location, Location!').

We benefited this year again from the Goulburn to Citi Charity Cycling Classic. The event had over 100 cyclists participate this year in helping to raise much needed funds for several charities including Odyssey House.

Our annual 'Real Men Cook' fundraiser was held at bel mondo restaurant, The Rocks. Male celebrities combined to make the 140 guests feel at home as they served them a sumptuous lunch. Other events included the annual 'Fund Managers Awards' and the 'Odyssey Smash Cup'.

This edition of the newsletter emphasizes the support we receive from the community through our fundraising efforts for good reason. We wish to highlight the extent to which we are required to raise funds to carry on our work despite government funding. The initiatives ensure we are able to continue to provide the best programs possible to assist those most in need!

We appreciate greatly the support from all of you as it will be needed now more than ever as we prepare to ride out the financial crisis. It is expected the crisis will have a negative impact on many charitable organisations abilities to raise funds, including Odyssey. However, we remain optimistic!

James A. Pitts, MA
Chief Executive Officer