

In The Press

Girlfriend Magazine - December 2007



Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser - 27th June 2007



The Daily Telegraph - 29th October 2007

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

- Mr John Grant
- Mr Peter Greentree
- Mr Chris Grubb
- Mr Michael Hawker
- McDonald's Australia
- Ms Martha Morrow
- Mr David Williams

Diary Dates

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

- 14th March 2008 - Odyssey House Rugby Dinner
- 24th June 2008 - Milton Luger One Day Forum
- 22nd - 28th June 2008 - On The Wagon Week

Wish List

- * Shade Cloth
- * Children's Books

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



ISSUE NUMBER 4

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Newsletter

ODYSSEY HOUSE



'A Calm in the Sea of Addiction'



Chris Hayes, Federal member for Werriwa acknowledging Odyssey House at our Open Day

IT'S A PEARLER! We Celebrate 30 Years!

The gemstone for 30 year anniversaries is the pearl. The stone's smooth symmetrical beauty of enhanced colour and consistency represent many of the attributes of Odyssey's 30 years. In the company of over 500 friends, guests, family members and supporters we celebrated our 30th Anniversary at this year's Open Day, held on October 28th at the Eagle Vale facility.

It was a day to honour and reflect upon the accomplishments of the past 30 years. Federal member for

Werriwa, Chris Hayes commented upon the tremendous contribution Odyssey had made to the alcohol and other drugs field locally, throughout the state, and nationally. Chief Executive Officer, James Pitts listed a number of milestones which marked Odyssey's humble beginnings through to its state of the art facilities today.

The carnival like atmosphere of the day of face painting, jumping castles for the multitude of children, and sweets were a harbinger of the most important aspect of the day. This was the

acknowledgement of supporters of the program, the issuance of graduation certificates and awards given to Odyssey staff for their tremendous commitment and contribution over the past year.

It was a great day. The Odyssey choir was fantastic and had all in attendance rocking in the isles to their rendition of "Crazy Little Thing Called Love"! It is perhaps that "crazy little thing called love" which has seen us assist over 25,000 people over the past 30 years. We look forward to a bright future.

Christmas at Odyssey House

Christmas is a very special time of the year for families all around the world. Odyssey attempts as much as possible to replicate the sense of family at its treatment programs.

Each year we seek the support of

individuals in the community to support our residents, especially the children. We welcome gifts of toys, and clothing for the children. We also gladly accept cash donations.

Please help us to make this one

special for all the residents at Odyssey House. If you are able to assist us to make this Christmas special for the children and residents at Odyssey contact Gavin Lo, Marketing co-ordinator on 02 9820 9999.

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 message from the Chairman



Eric R. Dodd

The Odyssey House McGrath Foundation Board of Directors is responsible for the governance of the organisation and its services. We must ensure that all statutory obligations imposed by state and federal governments are recognised and adhered to. This set of responsibilities covers a number of domains including: financial accountability; clinical responsibility and all legal stipulations as outlined as a Company Limited by Guarantee. In order to meet these obligations it is necessary to recruit people from the community at large willing to give their time and expertise to promote the mission of Odyssey House. The membership of the Board represents many areas of interest including the financial markets, banking, tertiary education, alcohol and other drugs research, computer services, public relations, corporate affairs and real estate interests and politics. This diversity of interests enhances the Board's ability to inform their colleagues and other interested parties of the work of Odyssey.

The Board employs a committee structure to meet the governance requirements of the organisation. The broad spectrum of areas covered are:

1. Occupational, Health and Safety
2. Fundraising
3. Staffing
4. Clinical Governance, and
5. Program operation

The Odyssey House Board is an active entity which has benefited through the expertise of its members. I have been privileged to act as Chairman for the past 2 years. I have been pleased with the developments of the Board during this time as we have been able to support CEO, James Pitts and his team grow the Odyssey House business. Our plan is to continue to refine the Board's processes to enable us to continue our support of what is truly a much needed and worthwhile cause.

Eric R. Dodd
Chairman

The Fundraising Cycle

One of the basic tenets of the rehabilitation program at Odyssey is to get residents to participate in healthy leisure time activities. So it was a natural fit when Simon Poidevin, former Wallaby great and current Managing Director, Equity Research Sales, Citigroup approached us with a fundraising opportunity.

The Goulburn to Citi cycling classic (as it is now known) is older than the Tour De France. The charity ride, held on 23rd September was organised to assist the fundraising efforts of Odyssey House and several other charities including the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation, Bear Cottage, the Starlight Foundation and the New South Wales Goulburn District Community Palliative Care and Oncology Unit.



The Citi team including Simon Poidevin and Pat Farmer with the team after the gruelling 170km ride.

The charity ride began at 5:50am in Goulburn with the teams from Citi, the Macquarie Bank and the Campbelltown Catholic Club setting a cracking pace. They made it to the rest station in Mittagong at approximately 8:30am, and completed the 170km journey arriving to the

festive atmosphere of Camden at about 10:30am. In addition to Simon Poidevin, Federal Member for Macarthur, Pat Farmer also participated in the ride. The total funds raised were \$150,000, \$70,000 of which went to Odyssey House as the major beneficiary.

Fund Managers' Awards Equals Success!



The Odyssey House choir performing proudly in front of a full house

The annual Fund Managers' Awards were held at the Four Seasons Hotel on 18th October 2007. The Awards are held each year to benefit the two beneficiaries, Odyssey House and the Children's Hospital at Randwick.

The Odyssey House choir opened the proceedings with

their rendition of the ABBA cover, "Money, Money, Money" and followed it up with "I Am, You Are, We are Australian"! The choir received a standing ovation from the throng of money managers and this set the tone for the evening. Financial commentator, Paul Clitheroe was the MC for this year's proceedings. Entertainment

was provided by comedian Vince Sorrenti, a long time Odyssey supporter. Funds raised on the night totalled \$120,000 approximately. We thank the organising committee for their ongoing support as well as the generosity of those in attendance who made the evening successful!

A Road to RECOVERY

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

In this edition we feature a synopsis of three of our most recent graduates.

Daniel

Daniel became isolated and depressed after his father died when he was 16. He tried to assume much of the responsibility of the household without any role modelling. Daniel tried to be as much support to his mother and younger sister as possible. Due to the pressure these expectations caused Daniel to drink alcohol and smoke marijuana at age 18. Daniel stopped drinking, started to use marijuana exclusively as well as "Speed", Daniel developed a psychotic disorder as a result of his chronic heavy "Speed" use. He was hospitalised for this condition.

Daniel entered Odyssey after an existence of isolation, psychosis and depression in December, 2005. Daniel addressed the issues of communication, rebuilding his relationship with his family and making friends who would support him.

Daniel attends TAFE where he is doing a small business course and plans to become a car dealer. He works part time within the local area.

Lisa

Lisa's life was normal until age 10 when a cousin interfered with her

sexually. She became angry and hostile to all around her. She began to loathe herself, going to school and felt no one cared. Lisa felt alone! There was a lot of turmoil within the family home as her mother and father were in conflict due to her mother's drinking. Eventually Lisa's parents reconciled their differences and Lisa felt more secure until the family decided to move to Newcastle.

Lisa and her family moved to Newcastle eventually. Things got worse as Lisa's mother was diagnosed with cancer. Lisa had become involved in a drug dependent based relationship. Eventually Lisa's mother died and in order to cope Lisa's use of "speed" increased. She was pregnant with her first child and had to have it delivered at 7 months due to her "speed" use. Lisa gave birth to a second child and her relationship ended. Lisa received \$45,000 from the settlement of the sale of her house. Lisa spent all of the money within 2 months on drugs! Despondent, alone and suicidal Lisa contacted Odyssey with the help of her father. She entered the program in September, 2005.

Lisa had no goals, or self esteem from grief due to her mother's death, and had a poor relationship history. Lisa struggled in the program initially as she didn't feel she deserved help. She eventually shared her experience of being sexually abused by her cousin which opened up a whole new experience of being able to express herself.

Although Lisa suffered several setbacks, including having her two children placed in care, she eventually graduated.

Lisa is now working and attending TAFE and plans to complete her Diploma in Counselling. She is also a member of a theatre group and sees her children on weekends and school holidays.

Kane

Kane's life from the onset was unsettled as his mother and father had major conflicts in their relationship. Kane's father left when he was 6 years old. Kane's



James A. Pitts

Another year has just about been completed and its significance is not lost on us. You see it has been 30 years since Odyssey House first opened its doors to assist what is now over 30,000 people who had alcohol and other drugs problems. We celebrated this milestone recently along with 500 family members, friends and guests.

Upon reflection we have accomplished a great deal again this year as we have in the past. We were able to secure the funding to operate the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program at Waverley Court. We conducted all assessments for people eligible for the program. Due to our participation, over 67% of the people who entered the program have completed it, which is well over the average for programs of this type.

We have responded successfully to the growing number of residents who access our residential services with co-morbid conditions. In addition to a specially tailored group intervention, we were successful in tendering for additional resources from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The program, "Capacity Building for Non Government Organisations to Provide Services to People with Co-morbid Conditions" enabled us to receive \$499,600 in funding for a 3 year period to employ two specialist staff. They will start what we are calling our JANUS project. The name is after the Roman God of the New Year who is depicted as looking both ways. We were able to secure funding most recently from the Commonwealth Attorney General's "Proceeds of Crime Act" for \$655,000 over 3 years to fund our After Care program which provides much needed continuing care services for residents after their complete residential treatment.

We are proud of our achievements over the past year, one out of the 30 years we have been in existence. Our resolve is strong, our commitment unwavering, our vision encompassing. It can be encapsulated in the following; we call it the "Rule of Three"

By first doing I believe it could be done;
The second doing followed with ease;
The third slipped by unnoticed,
I had a habit of living!

Thank you for your support and have a safe and wonderful holiday period!

James A. Pitts
Chief Executive Officer