

# our house news

A project by Northern Rivers Community Cancer Foundation & Our Kids

## Navigating a challenging time

*2020 has certainly brought with it many trials, and, as in the wider community, this season of uncertainty has had an impact on Our House.*

The team at Our House, so capably led by Ruth, has navigated these difficult times incredibly well. Thank you to all who have helped Our House become prepared for the necessary changes and those who have helped to implement systems to help keep both guests and staff safe. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the team at Southern Cross Hygiene for their dedication and service to Our House.

Some of the changes put in place include social distancing, cleaning routines to help ensure all are safe, volunteer activities and the cessation of Community Dinners.

Ceasing the Community Dinners was a major change at Our House and had a great impact. These dinners are always a highlight for our guests and those who volunteer.

However, a suggestion from Craig Foster, Lismore's former Socceroo, meant that the Community Dinners were able to take on a new form. A call was sent out through the Lord's Taverners and the local community for people to consider donating \$200 to cover a \$10 takeaway meal from a local restaurant for our guests.

The response was amazing

with 14 teams or organisations taking up the opportunity. Now every Wednesday, due to this generosity, guests staying at Our House receive a takeaway dinner from La Barraca.

A huge thanks to: Lord's Taverners, Clunes Fire Brigade, St Mary's School, Summerland Sunrise Rotary, Southern Cross Presbyterian Church, Lismore City Lions, Quota Club of Alstonville/Wollongbar, NAB, Jayne and Bill Hoffman, Chris and Cathy Ingall, Austin and Annie Curtin, Michael and Jan Dent, Margaret and Dennis Byrne, Don and Betty Whitelaw, Jenny Cook, Keith

and Chris Miller, Karen, Jake and Steve Campbell, Warren and Heather Noble and Far North Coast Football, Lismore Lions, Rotary Club of Lismore the Rotary Club of Goonellabah, Denis and Margaret Byrne, Betty and Don Whitelaw, Jenny Cook, Chris and Dusty Miller, Stan and June Gilchrist, Brian and Sue Hancock, Lyndal Onslow,

Marion Johnston, Peter and Libby Saunders, John and Jenny Noble, Commonwealth Business Banking.



La Baracca prepares takeaway meals

## Local Gifts of Kindness Project

Our House, along with her sister charity Our Kids, have always championed those who support us. Understanding that this pandemic had also severely impacted on our local businesses who support us, another small initiative was born. The new Local Gifts of Kindness project supports both local business and lets our guests know the community cares.

Each week since social distancing restrictions came into force, small token gifts have been left in our guests' rooms. These

included chocolate-coated macadamias, local pecan nuts, puzzle books, local jams and relishes, hot cross buns, friands and apples.

These have been gratefully received and it has been wonderful to support those who have championed both Our House and Our Kids over the years.



# Our House is going Dry in July

Since 2010 Our House has been going Dry in July. That's right, no alcohol for the whole month of July and this year is no exception.

Directors Dr Chris Ingall and Rebekka Battista have led this charge, giving their livers a break and are once again rallying the community to join with them and raise funds for cancer.

Dry July has become an institution at Our House. ABC North Coast first introduced the Our House project to the team at Dry July in 2010 and from there Our House became an active supporter and beneficiary. And in just three years through Dry in July, \$250,000 was raised to help build Our House.

Ten years on and the connection between Dry July and Our House remains strong. Recently we received a \$25,000 grant from the Dry July Foundation to help refurbish the bathrooms in Our House.

"This was an incredible grant



*Brian Henry, Dr Chris Ingall, and Ruth Harrison put a lid on it for a month for Our House*

to receive. We noticed with more than 7,000 guests coming through in seven years there was significant wear and tear in the bathrooms. This was a huge job to tackle and finance, so receiving this grant was a huge help to us. Thank you to Dry July and all involved," said Rebekka Battista, Our House Director.

This year Our House has now become a Guaranteed Beneficiary of Dry July, meaning the money raised by the Dry July Our House team

## Go Dry in July and help Our House raise funds!

goes straight to Our House.

We also acknowledge that 2020 has been a tough year, and that for some, the last thing they'll want to be doing is giving up drinking for a month. So, instead Dry July are encouraging people to have a Dry-ish July.

"You can now choose to go dry for 7 days, 14 days, 21 days or the whole 31! We would love the community to join us or sponsor us going Dry," Rebekka said.

This year funds raised during Dry July will go to refurbishing the sofa beds in our 20 rooms as part of the Keep Our House Beautiful Project. Each sofa bed will cost \$2000 to re-cover.

To join the Our House Team and or support their efforts, head to: [www.dryjuly.com/users/sign\\_up](http://www.dryjuly.com/users/sign_up)

Or donate at: [www.dryjuly.com/teams/our-house-3](http://www.dryjuly.com/teams/our-house-3)



## Keeping our House Beautiful

A huge thanks to the the team from Scott Gibson Painting who have been helping to refresh Our House on the inside and Colin Rae with a load of mulch donated from Richmond Sand and Gravel has been refreshing all the gardens. Thank you to all.

## Yes I want to help our House

I enclose cheque/money order for \$

made payable to: **Our House**, or please charge my credit card.

Bankcard  Visa  Mastercard

Card No.

Expiry date / Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Our House

145 Laurel Avenue, Lismore, NSW 2480

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

We will post a receipt to you.