

Opportunity to Expand Our House

Our House opened its doors 12 years ago, and each year over 1,000 guests stay with us. These guests come from across the Northern Rivers, including the Clarence region, the Tablelands, and west of the Tablelands.

As the need for health services in Lismore continues to grow, Our House has seen an increase in demand for accommodation particularly from patients of Lismore Base and St. Vincent's Hospitals. In response, the Board at Our House has been exploring ways to meet these needs and expand our service.

Following the recent floods, an opportunity emerged to purchase the neighbouring property, formerly owned by Interrelate. Located at 143 Laurel Avenue, the site features a charming historic home and benefits from dual access via Laurel Avenue and Shepherds Lane.

The Our House Board would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the Board of Interrelate for agreeing to the sale, which creates the next chapter for Our House.

As part of this next stage, Ruth Harrison has been appointed as General Manager, overseeing operations and planning for Our House's exciting future developments. Tanya Harris-Bateman, who previously



served as Ruth's assistant manager, is now Our House's Operations Manager.

Together with the Board of Our House, our dedicated staff, volunteers, supporters, and much-loved guests, we are excited to

see Our House 2.0 develop.

If you would like to know more about the plans for Our House 2.0, please contact us at manager@ourhouse.org.au.



Thank you to the Quota Club

Our House would like to thank the wonderful ladies of the Quota Club of Alstonville, who sponsor Our House's orange shopping bags.

Pictured here with the bags are Robyn Powell and Diane Parker.

These bags are used by our guests when they stay at Our House. They are not only for shopping but also for carrying the gowns cancer patients need when they go to daily radiation.

We are proud to provide these bags to guests as a thoughtful and useful gift when they arrive at Our House. These small gestures mean so much to our guests.

Our wonderful community supports Our House in so many ways.

Thanks again to the Quota Club of Alstonville!





The Annual Mark McIntyre Memorial Day

Mark McIntyre from Grafton had a late cancer diagnosis in 2021, and during his hospitalisation, Lori, Mark's wife and other family members stayed at Our House.

Sadly, Mark passed away. He was an avid rugby league player and supporter and to honour Mark's memory, Lori and the family along with the South Grafton Rebels and

Lower Clarence Magpies host the Annual Mark McIntyre Memorial Day.

The funds raised from the Mark McIntyre Memorial Day will go to the Our House Financial Hardship Fund, which helps families who are undergoing hardship during medical treatment to stay at Our House.



Meet Baby Liam, Mum Charlene, and Dad Sheriton from Tenterfield

Arriving five weeks early, Baby Liam was transferred to the Special Care Nursery at Lismore Base Hospital.

Thanks to the generosity of the James Frizelle's Charitable Foundation and IPTAAS, Charlene and Sheriton were able to stay at Our House during Liam's time in the nursery.

Lismore Business Chamber After Hours event

Our House and Our Kids had the pleasure of hosting the Lismore Business Chamber After Hours event in February.

This event was well attended by many Lismore businesses, who also had the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of both charities.

It was also a great opportunity for the community to tour Our House, hear about Our Kids, and learn about what's next for both charities.

Below are Rebekka Battista and Dr. Chris Ingall from Our Kids and Our House with Kerry Harrison from Summerland Bank.





Recently, the Evans Head Men's Group visited Our House to learn more about what we do. Bruce Parry from Summerland Bank also joined us and gave a presentation on cybersecurity, sharing tips on how to protect against online scams.



On a recent visit the Directors of the Ballina Foundation generously gave \$9,000.



At a function to update the Honour Wall with donations received until September 2023, Directors from Ballina RSL found their 'Flower'.



Dr. Chris Ingall and Rebekka Battista had the privilege of attending a recent function that celebrated the Ballina RSL Club Ltd's 2024 Community Grants recipients. Ballina RSL has been a long-term Friend of Our House. Dr. Chris Ingall and Rebekka Battista are pictured with CEO Bill Coulter, who has recently retired. Bill, thank you for all your contributions to our community.



The Lords Taverners are tremendous supporters, including handling all the rostering for the Our House Social Dinners. At a function to update the Honour Wall, members of the Lords Taverners found their 'Flower'.



Our House won the Lismore Business, Outstanding Community Service Award. We were honoured by this recognition.



Here is Barry Hurren, one of Our House Champions, who has been collecting cans and bottles since 2018, raising over \$4,000 for Our House. Thank you, Barry, for championing Our House.



Visit from Garry and Jann Oberman of Tenterfield

Garry and Jann Oberman of Tenterfield recently stayed at Our House during Garry's treatment. Living so far away from treatment made it impossible for them to travel every day, so they were referred to Our House. They were thrilled to discover they could stay in comfort, with beautiful accommodation right next to the North Coast Cancer Institute and close to everything they needed.

Although Garry and Jann are now retired, they've had many different jobs over the years, including running a caravan park in Coffs Harbour, working as farmers with a large sheep farm, and operating a milk run in Tenterfield for 19 years. Garry's last job was as a driver, taking Tenterfield

patients to medical appointments in Lismore, Toowoomba, and Brisbane in a limousine—he loved chatting with the patients.

Garry and Jann have really enjoyed their time at Our House. "The staff are lovely, and the Tuesday and Thursday night dinners supported by the Lismore community are wonderful. "Staying here has reminded us that there are still good people in the world," they said. When it came time to leave, they were happy to see Garry's treatment come to an end, but they were also a little sad to leave their lovely room where they felt so safe and happy.

We wish Garry and Jann all the best.



Garry and Jann Oberman of Tenterfield

Leaving a Legacy to Our House

When you're considering your Will and how you want your estate to be distributed, you may like to include a bequest to Our House. A bequest can be a specific amount or a percentage of your estate. If you're considering a bequest, contact one of the team today and we'll discuss your unique options on 6629 4350.

If you're considering leaving a gift in your Will, there are a few options:

For simpler Wills, there is a free service with Our House partners - Gathered Here. Click here to proceed with your online Will.

www.wills.gatheredhere.com.au/c/ourhouse

For more complicated Wills we invite you to visit one of our local solicitors who are part of the Far North Coast Law Society and who support Our House.

www.farnorthcoastlaw.com.au/find-a-solicitor



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

My donation to go to: ☐ Our House Financial Hardship Fund
☐ Keep Our House Beautiful Projects

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.