

Tenterfield traveller

Meet Christine Wells. Christine is one of Our House's most frequent guests, staying at Our House 32 times during its 11-year existence.

Christine's first visit was with her husband, John. Christine and John live in Tenterfield; when a doctor diagnosed John in Tugun, he was sent to Lismore for treatment in 2009. Our House wasn't built when John's first treatment started; he was housed in Hospital accommodation on Laurel Ave. They watched Our House being built.

Christine and John's first visit was in 2013, and they have stayed 32 times since then during John's treatment and through his many operations.

Sadly, John passed last year from pneumonia.

"We named Our House our second home", Christine said.

"We have stayed in every room except room 1. It's a fantastic place, and we felt so welcomed when we first arrived," Christine said.

On one visit, Christine and John's son



Narell Deardon and Christine Wells

stayed. They mentioned that the time he spent with his Dad at Our House was one of the most memorable times because after his daily treatment, they would take John on a 'northern rivers excursion' for the rest of the day and then 'come home' to Our House.

Once John had passed, Christine thought she would sadly no longer visit Our House; however, this wasn't the case.

Her dear friend of 50 years, Narelle Deardon, also from Tenterfield, was recently diagnosed with cancer and needed treatment in Lismore.

Narelle thought one option was to travel back and forth each day, which would be doable until Christine shared about Our House and offered to accompany her.

"Our House has been a fabulous place to stay; it is close to the hospital, the place is beautiful, and the community dinners have been incredible," Narelle said.

Treatment isn't new to Narelle, this is her third treatment, and having Christine with her and staying at Our House has made this journey so much better.

Narelle, Christine and John were also able to apply to IPTAAS, the government scheme that helps pay for accommodation and travel costs if you need to travel for treatment. This was a great help financially.

If you have family and friends, like Christine and Narelle, who need to travel to Our House for medical treatment, Our House may be your accommodation solution. Please get in touch with the team at reception on 6629 4350.

Ballina RSL's tremendous donation

Our House was floored by Ballina RSL's tremendous donation of \$20,000.

Thanks to the generosity of the Ballina RSL Club, Guests staying at Our House in Lismore will now have access to brand-new, renovated bathrooms.

With more than 1000 guests staying at the facility each year over the past 11 years, the refurbishment is now providing comfortable and modern bathroom amenities for patients and their loved ones.

More than \$66,000 worth of repairs have been carried out, thanks to two large donations

and supplementary funding from Our House.

Ballina RSL has been involved with Our House since the beginning, together with the Ballina Community Service Clubs, they helped raise over \$200,000 to build and furnish Our House. In recognition of this generosity, the rooms facing east are called 'The Ballina Wing'.

"The Ballina RSL Club is deeply honoured to have a long-standing relationship with Our House," Bill Coulter, Chief Executive Officer of Ballina RSL, said.

"Having a room named after

our club in the Ballina Wing is a tangible symbol of the positive impact we aim to bring to the community. We recognise the enormous effort it takes to operate such an essential service, and we're committed to continue our support."

"We're not just proud, but also humbled, to be part of the incredible work done by Our House. Providing a home away from home for families undergoing medical treatment in Lismore is no small feat. The Ballina RSL Club looks forward to further strengthening this meaningful partnership in the years to come."

Bill Coulter, Chief Executive Officer of Ballina RSL



Our House Family

Meet Hayley and Dale and baby Oaklen Rusty from Yamba.

Hayley, pregnant with their first child, was having a routine check in Ballina in her third trimester. There was concern with the reduced movement of the bub. Immediately, Hayley and Dale were sent straight to Lismore for observations. Within hours, little Oaklen was born at 34 weeks by emergency caesarean section.

The delivery was so quick that Hayley rang family as she was being wheeled into theatre. Oaklen arrived well; however, being a premature baby spent two weeks in Lismore Base Hospital's Special Care Nursery.

Due to the generosity of the James Frizelle Charitable Foundation, mums who have bubs in the Special Care Nursery can stay at no cost at Our House.

This funding made a tremendous difference for Hayley and Dale as a family. With Our House being close to the hospital, Hayley could continue to feed through day and night.

"Our House is not just a hotel. It is so much more", Dale said.



"The BBQ night and home-cooked meals were incredible, as they helped us to meet other guests, and the community groups were so supportive," Dale said.

"Thank you to all who are involved at Our House for helping to create a beautiful place for our family to stay," Hayley said.

Building into Our House



Our House has impacted many locals, and many have hosted functions to raise funds for Our House.

Shout out to Joel and Brittany Jensen, whose families stayed at Our House during treatment and have come on board to host a function and be part of the Community Dinners teams.

Joel Jensen Constructions with OCP Construction Services from Yamba hosted a golf day to raise funds for Our House. Together, they raised \$11,500.

Thank you to all who played on the day and congratulations to all involved.

Welcome, Tanya

Meet Tanya Harris-Bateman, who recently joined the team as Assistant Manager.

Tanya, an accountant who worked locally, joined the Our House team last year. She is a Lismore girl who studied Business, majoring in Hospitality and Tourism and later accounting at Southern Cross University. Tanya's heart has always been for the community, volunteering for Westpac Helicopter and leading one of the Community Dinners at Our House for over ten years.

Tanya loves sports, and you will often find her running in the morning with the Lismore Runners.

Married to Craig with three girls, together they love to travel and have recently returned from Bali.

Welcome, Tanya. We love having you as a part of the Our House team.





The Tenterfield Rotarians recently visited Our House and learned about how the facility supports people who come to Lismore for medical treatment. They were particularly interested in the fact that 21% of the guests at Our House come from the Tenterfield area, while 5% are from the Moree and the Tablelands regions (excluding Tenterfield).



Meet Anthony and Jason. These two have struck up a friendship while staying at Our House. Anthony is a piano teacher and plays guitar and Jason his keen student. Here they are having a lesson on how to play Imagine by John Lennon.



Our House had the privilege of meeting with Year 5 students from St Carthage's Primary School, Lismore. The students did the \$20 Boss Project, which involved launching and operating a business venture with a budget of only \$20. As a part of social entrepreneurship, the students chose a local charity to donate the funds they earned from the sale of their project. One of the charities supported during their stall day was Our House.

Pictured is Rebekka from Our House with Year 5 from St Carthage's Primary School.



Thank you to Kerry Walker for hosting the Line Dancing Social Fundraiser to raise funds for the Hardship Fund. What a tremendous time we had learning to Line Dance. ... thank you to all who came and supported the day and Our House



Tracey Maisey, the new CE of NNSWLHD, paid a visit to the Our House complex. During her visit, Dr. Chris Ingall, the Chair of Our House, had the opportunity to show her around the complex and discuss how Our House and the LHD work together to benefit the community.



The ladies of Innerwheel of Alstonville and Wollongbar presented a \$1000 donation to Our House's "Help Keep Our House Beautiful" campaign at a recent morning tea. They have been long-time supporters and have been great champions of Our House.



Meet one of our dear guests, Anne. On booking out, Anne presented a \$1,000 donation to Our House on behalf of herself and her husband, Gregory, in appreciation of their stay over the past few months.



Richmond on Ballina doing swimmingly

Rotary Club of Ballina On Richmond has been incredibly active in our local community, including leading the charge in bringing all the community clubs together in the Ballina Shire to raise funds to help build Our House.

Ballina on Richmond continues to support Our House through their annual Duck Race, held on the Richmond River, they raised \$4,000 for us this year.

At their recent Change Over Dinner, Our House had a great night and witnessed two wonderful Our House moments.

Firstly, one of our dear Our House Directors, Donella Kinnish, who is also part of the Rotary Club Ballina On Richmond, received her second Paul Harris Fellow Award. This award was given to her for her incredible leadership in the Flood housing projects she led in her area.



Congratulations, Donella, for consistently contributing to the community and Our House.

Secondly, Our House also received \$10,000 from Ballina on Richmond.

This will be dedicated to the Hardship Fund, which will help the premature mums and bubs from Ballina staying at Our House.

This assists the incredible contribution also received

from the James Frizelles Charitable Foundation, which contributes \$19,000 a year to help pay for mums whose premature babies are still in Lismore Bases Hospital's Special Care Nursery.

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.