

# our house news

A project by Northern Rivers Community Cancer Foundation & Our Kids

## Honouring our first donor Helen Wynd

*Our House has just celebrated four years of hosting guests*

Recently one of our first donors who has been dear to the Our House family, Helen Wynd, passed away. The Board and staff of Our House wish to pay tribute to a magnificent lady who spent her life giving her time to the community and organisations such as the Red Cross, the Presbyterian Church and the Goonellabah Senior Citizens Centre.

Helen was instrumental in donating \$110,000 from the sale of the Goonellabah Senior Citizens Centre house to Our House to help finish the community kitchen. This important area of Our House allows guests to come together, cook meals and enjoy each



Helen Wynd, OAM.  
Photo: courtesy of  
The Northern Star.

**"Helen was the first lady who rang me to purchase appliances for the guest rooms"**

Church member who extended her caring nature through unparalleled service to many local charity groups. Her vast contribution will not only be missed but will also be difficult to match. It was a privilege to have known her," said the Reverend Glenn Samuel of the Presbyterian Church, Lismore.

And with Helen's passing she has left a legacy through a bequest which will continue to help those who stay at Our House. Our thoughts and blessings go out to Helen's family and friends who are many in our community.

other's company.

"Helen was the first lady who rang me to purchase equipment for Our House," Rebekka Battista, Fundraising Coordinator, said.

"Helen wanted to buy all the

jugs for each room, so we went shopping together as Helen felt it was important that guests had a quality jug to make a good cup of tea when they arrived," Rebekka recalls.

"Helen Wynd was a devoted

## Wining and Dining for charity

Our House was one of the recipients of funds raised from Ballina's Food and Wine Fair and what a wonderful event it was for residents and visitors of the Northern Rivers.

Held over three days, participants enjoyed fabulous wine, food and entertainment by local and interstate exhibitors, information sessions, and cooking

demonstrations. All of this added up to a great recipe for success and the Food and Wine Fair was named in the top 13 Food and Wine Festivals around Australia.

This wonderful event donates to local charities and recently Our House was the beneficiary of a tremendous donation of \$15,000.

Thank you to Col Lee who heads up the committee from



From left: Rebekka Battista, Wendy Marsh, Col Lee and Rebecca Zentveld

the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond. Club members work hard to host this

fabulous event for our region and also raise vital charity funds.



# Woolworths Wall 'Token off' for Our Kids

*Woolworths Wall Token campaign was a great success, raising an amazing \$54,772 for Our Kids.*

The funds will be used to help purchase vital paediatric equipment for Lismore Base Hospital like a monitor to read vital signs.

The token promotion ran for three weeks across 14 Northern NSW Woolworths stores. The tokens were sold for \$2 each and the funds raised due to the generosity of Woolworths' shoppers.

The 'token' promotion ran for three weeks and targeted a local charity in their particular region. This gave outstanding results with over 27,386 tokens sold across all stores.

Woolworths Queensland State Community Liaison Manager Michael Muller said staff welcomed the opportunity to fundraise, but that it was the everyday shoppers who gave



The Team from Woolworths who were part of raising \$54,722 for Our Kids

so generously who were the real heroes.

"The success of Woolworths Children's Hospital Fundraising year-on-year comes down to the incredible support of our customers who have shown that even a few dollars donated at the checkout can go a long way towards helping sick kids and their families," Michael said.

Woolworths has supported

Our Kids for 12 years and played a significant part in helping Our Kids to purchase items such as blood pressure monitors, breast pumps, baby weighing scales, humidicribs and providing free TV access in the children's ward. This significant donation will purchase much needed equipment for the Special Care Nursery.

"It is great to see our

*"It was the everyday shoppers who gave so generously who were the real heroes"*



community support this Woolies' promotion as it will have direct results, helping our kids who need medical care," said Rebekka Battista, Our Kids Fundraising Coordinator.

"Our Local Woolies has been so supportive over the years. Thank you to the staff involved and the customers who bought a token, this donation will make such a difference to Our Kids."

## Order Up!

The Tuesday and Thursday BBQ dinners at Our House have been amazing with more than 40 groups helping to make these evening events happen. When one guest was asked recently what they loved about Our House, the reply was: 'The kindness & hospitality of staff and those who come in to provide for the community BBQ dinner – absolutely amazing!!'

Thank you to all our BBQ Teams and those volunteers who shop, cook and organise the people on the ground. We could not do this without you and special thanks to Lords Taverners Australia who help each week with the administration of our volunteer teams.



Back Row: June Gilchrist, Warren Noble, Stan Gilchrist. Front: Heather Noble, Ruth Harrison

### Tuesday Night BBQ Teams


3x Lords Taverners teams, WCA Accountants, Goonellabah Rotary, Laser Plumbing, Ray White Lismore, CBA Business Banking, Goonellabah Medical Centre, Alstonville/Wollongbar Quota, QBE, Watts Group, Southern Cross Presbyterian Church, The Cherries team, Lily Friends and Woodlawn College.

### Thursday Night BBQ Teams


6 x Lords Taverners teams, 4 x Trinity College teams, Summerland Sunrise Rotary, Sommerville Laundry Lomax, Clunes RFB, Wyrallah Road RFB, Lismore Lions, Lismore City Lions, The Happy Cooks, Southern Cross Presbyterian Church, Casino Cavaliers, Professional Real Estate and Mahjong Mafia.

# Snapshots of community




 Each year the Sanctuary Village in Lennox host a Christmas Spectacular and recently they also organised an Art Show for Our House. Once again they have donated the proceeds to help those who are undergoing hardship to stay at Our House. To John, to those who lit up their homes, to the great artists among you and to those who went along and enjoyed the event, thank you!




 The community of Kyogle are great supporters of Our House. The Kyogle Quota Club regularly donate to us. The Kyogle Bowling Club raised funds by holding a bowls day, including a huge raffle and fun for all attending. Pictured at the yearly Kyogle Quota Club Friendship Dinner – Rhonda Watts, President Kyogle Quota, Margaret Ellis, O.A.M, Director of Kyogle Bowling Club





 One of our favourite guests blessed Our House with an incredible donation after her family story was told in a national magazine. Marg Simmons, thank you for your great donation, the team misses your laughter and stories.



 While in Port Macquarie for a conference, Our House Manager Ruth took the opportunity to pop in to see one of our wonderful donors who has been supporting us ever since we started to build... it was such a joy to meet Janette Burge.



 At the recent Friendship Dinner hosted by the Quota Club of Casino, ladies gathered from across the region. Rebekka Battista was the guest speaker and Quota generously donated \$1000 to Our House and another \$500 to Our Kids. Thank you ladies for your amazing efforts in the community and helping us continue to do what we do.

 At the Classics for Cancer event, more than \$8,500 was raised for both Our House and Crankin' Cancer. A huge thanks to the musicians who gave up their time to perform, it was magical.

To Helen Spurgeon who hosted and managed the event, thank you so much, you are a joy to work with and we hope this turns into an annual event.

To North Coast Radiology, thank you for donating \$5000, this is such a fabulous gift and much appreciated. To those who attended, thank you for coming and being a part of such a great event and being so generous. We look forward to next year.



# A Continual Ray of Sunshine

*Our House is a place where many stories come to light and intertwine.*

Our House is the purpose built accommodation for patients coming to Lismore for medical treatment. Since its opening it has accommodated more than 3000 guests from across the region – from Ballina to Glen Innes, from Coffs Harbour to Tweed Heads.

The story of Ray Hayes, a resident of Grafton, has been one of many Our House stories that encourage people to be proactive about their health. Ray's story also highlights how much our community is connected.

The Northern Co-operative Meat Company Ltd (NMC) is a local meat company with a long tradition in quality manufacture, marketing and distribution of the finest meat products to the world. It's also a very community minded company. Our House has just received the last of the \$110,000 pledge that NMC generously gave. This latest donation happened to arrive during Ray's stay.

Ray told us that he couldn't



Ray Hayes, Our House guest with John Seccombe Chairman of NCMC

believe the generosity of the people in this area.

"I'm staying in the Casino Meat Works (NMC) room, and knowing one of the Directors of the company I feel so proud. The Casino Meat Works donation enabled a lift to be installed for guests. Then when I learnt they also gave the seed funding to this project I was just beside myself, particularly as I work with stock feed and know the farmers who are part of the Meat Works," said Ray.

NCMC Chairman John Seccombe said meeting Ray and hearing his story was uplifting.

"We have 1300 members like Ray based in rural communities and supporting Our House has been a great opportunity to give back to them," said John.

Ray, who has been a guest at Our House for nine weeks, is an

absolute salt of the earth person and has an attitude second to none.

"I found out about Our House through the hospital. It just seemed so logical to stay at Our House for treatment instead of doing a four hour round trip each day," Ray said.

"I thought Our House was a motel, but it is so much more. The facility and all that happens here nearly blew me clear off the perch."

Ray was diagnosed with early stage prostate cancer through a routine B double licence medical test. The blood test showed an elevated PSA and it was confirmed that he needed treatment.

"Radiation worried me the most, but now I understand the process and understand how it all works, and it is all good," said Ray.

Staying at Our House has been one of the highlights during Ray's period of treatment.

## 3,000 and counting...

Now in its fifth year, Our House has just checked out their 3000th guest: Chris and Lesley Bennett. After staying for seven weeks the Bennetts head home to Ashby Heights, but have vowed to return to Lismore.

"We were blown away by how much this community cares for those undergoing treatment. It is outstanding. Our House links the hospital to the community which helped me through my treatment," Chris said.



Chris and Lesley Bennett

Our House loved having you stay with us, Lesley and Chris, and congratulations on being our 3000th guest.

## 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.