



Butterfly Bulletin

Albany Community Hospice Newsletter - 2020
2nd Edition

Seasons Greetings!

As 2020, a year of unprecedented challenges, draws to a close I marvel at how much has been achieved at our Hospice and how well we all adapted.

Congratulations to all of the clinical and administrative teams for responding so resourcefully and proactively to ensure Hospice is in the best position possible to manage any future pandemic situation. To the credit of Clinical Hospice Manager, Fiona Jane and Support Services Manager, Sarah-Louise Collins, we have a range of new or updated policies, including a COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention and Management Plan and more stringent visitor hygiene practices – of course, we hope these are never needed.



We also have new volunteer policies, and long-term and newly inducted volunteers, alike, seem to have adapted really well. In all Hospice continues to feel calm and peaceful, filled with loving-kindness, a tribute to all who are working with diligence and dedication behind the scenes.

Appreciation is extended to the Community Partnerships and Marketing Committee that has fulfilled its strategic charter and recently dissolved. Chairperson Lisa-Maree Ellett and team have worked with marketing expertise to design a new sponsors and supporters program that we are excited to be launching early in 2021.

Finally, how outstanding the community's generosity has been this year! We have received inspirational support from individual donors and also from clubs, musicians, sportspeople, farmers, and many more. The recent Ray Normal Tribute cattle sale held at Mt Barker saw \$30,000 raised as a result of local cattle breeders donating their beautiful beasts. Special thanks to Mrs Wendy Norman and Elders Rural for this initiative.



The Board has had an enlightening year on many fronts too. We have successfully negotiated contracts, supported a community consultation research project into Voluntary Assisted Dying, and finalised and promoted a bequest brochure. The AGM, conducted recently, saw all board members chose to continue their volunteer commitment – a sure sign of a committed and effectively functioning team.

Best wishes to all for a very happy festive season and for a year of good health and well-being in 2021.

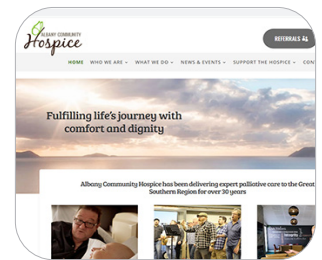
Yours in community spirit
Jane Mouritz

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT HOSPICE

NEW HOSPICE WEBSITE

The new Hospice website went live in August. The site created by Michael Dolphin from First Reef in Denmark, serves as an information hub for guests and families, health professionals and the wider community.

Visit www.albanyhospice.org.au for Hospice news and events, clinical resources, patient information and ways to donate and fundraise.



VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING RESEARCH PROJECT

The Hospice have partnered with the Rural Clinical School and UWA to undertake a research project focusing on Voluntary Assisted Dying and the Hospice. Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation was passed in Western Australia in December 2019 and will come into effect from 1 July 2021.

In August and September 2020, the research team held public consultation sessions for Hospice staff and volunteers and for the wider community to seek their input about the possible role of voluntary assisted dying at Hospice. The outcomes of these sessions have been analysed by the research team and a final report was presented to the Board in December. The findings from these sessions will provide a great resource to the Board in their decision-making about voluntary assisted dying at Hospice. If you would like more information about Voluntary Assisted Dying and the legislation head to <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddying>

2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2019-2020 Annual report is complete and is available to download on the Hospice website. The report highlights the achievements of the Hospice over the last financial year including the 30th Anniversary Celebrations from earlier this year.

<https://albanyhospice.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Annual-Report-Final.pdf>



PALLIATIVE CARE UPDATE SESSIONS

The Hospice held a Palliative Care Update Session hosted by Medical Advisory Committee Chairperson Associate Professor Kirsten Auret and Multi-Disciplinary Team Coordinator Dr Kristel Smit-Kroner, on November 1. The session featured updates from Regional Palliative Care specialist, Dr Sarah Pickstock, Palliative Care GP, Dr Jonathan Ramachenderan, and Psychiatrist, Dr Kelly Ridley. More sessions are being planned for 2021 so stay tuned for more info.

NEW SUPPORTER PROGRAM

In consultation with the Right Mix and the Community Partnerships and Marketing Committee, Hospice has developed a new Supporter Program to be rolled out in the new year.

Businesses and individuals can choose from a variety of supporter options from Bronze through to Platinum, to suit their budgets and philanthropic goals. More on the package will be announced in the new year so stay tuned or contact communications@albanyhospice.org.au to register your interest.

RECLINER CHAIR FUNDRAISER

This year the recliner chairs in each guests room reached the end of their serviceable life, no longer meeting safety and infection control standards. At a cost of \$2,650 each and needing over \$21,000 to replace 8 of them, the Hospice created an online fundraiser and immediately secured funding for two chairs - one from Great Southern Bingo and one from South Coast Insurance Brokers.

Thank you to all those who have donated so far. The campaign is still running online at www.albanyhospice.org.au/current-campaigns.

SOUTHERN PORTS SPONSORSHIP

The Hospice was fortunate to be the recipient of a Southern Ports Sponsorship grant for a Tilting Shower Chair and Sara Stedy which were received in November. The valuable new equipment assists in mobility and safety for both patient and carers.

Southern Ports Maintenance Crew member, Matty visited the Hospice for a Tilting Chair demonstration and a tour of the Hospice to showcase how their support benefits the local community.



RETRAVISION SUPPLIES NEW FRIDGE

Our Hospice kitchen crew were delighted to receive this new double door fridge from Retravisation. The new fridge which accommodates for the increasing demand for Hospice meals, was heavily discounted by the team at Retravisation who responded gallantly to our call for help.

A huge heartfelt thank you to all the businesses that have provided in-kind or discounted good and services to Hospice in 2020.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

Our amazing volunteers are the pillars that keep our Hospice strong and flourishing. The volunteers have continued to deliver in the areas of guest and family support, catering, administration, Butterflies Op Shop, gardening, fundraising and Board and committee membership.

International Thank-a-Volunteer Day, though officially on the December 5, was celebrated early by inviting a handful of volunteers from Hospice, Butterflies and the Gardening Group to enjoy a light luncheon on December 4.

Food was generously donated by the Well Bean Cafe who kindly matched the amount donated by the family of a hospice guest.



GUEST & FAMILY SUPPORT

Patient centred care continues to be our focus as we serve the unique needs of each of our guests and their families along their end-of-life journey.

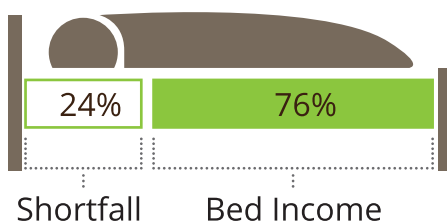


This year we were able to host a romantic dinner in the Good Spirit Room, family barbecues in the courtyard, special visits from furry friends and spiritual healing ceremonies.

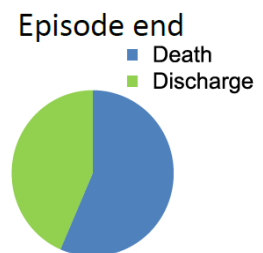
Hospice was delighted to welcome Solaris Cancer Care who now provide free Complimentary Therapies for Hospice guests and their families weekly.

Did You Know?

From January - December 2020 the Hospice had over 146 patients . Of these patients 44% returned home after their stay with us.



The cost of a Hospice bed per day is \$1016 with a shortfall of over \$239 per bed per day resulting in the need to fundraise over \$200,000 per year.



FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

The effect of the COVID-19 restrictions initially presented problems to our fundraising schedule, however activities were kick-started in October with tremendous success. Once again the community rallied around us, displaying enormous generosity towards our cause, reminding us of the power of human kindness,

Some of the fundraising activities included:



Authors in the Soup

Soup Luncheon event featuring 3 prominent local authors as guest speakers. Raised nearly \$4,000



Annual Footy Stars Weekend

Dinner and Sport Memorabilia Auction and Charity Golf event. Raised over \$25,000.



Great Southern Bingo

Community bingo at the Beryl Grant Community Centre every Wednesday night. Raised over \$2,000 for Hospice since July.



Rock on the River

A great night of music at the King River Tavern. Ticket & food sales as well as fundraising activities throughout the year raised over \$4,300.



The Albany Spring Fair

Our Hamburger stall at the Albany Spring Fair raised nearly \$500 for Hospice.



Elders Ray Norman Memorial Breeder Sale

Auction of 16 donated heifers in memory of Ray Norman. Raised \$30,000



Containers for Change

In October this the statewide containers for change scheme commenced and since its inception Hospice has managed to pocket over \$1500 from donated cans and bottles. That's over 15,000 containers saved from landfill.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2021

- **February 13-14** - Spinathon.
- **July 9-11** - The International Folk n' Shanty Festival
- **November** - The Spring Garden Festival

Plus many more to be announced! Stay tuned or check out the events calendar our website for more!



Thank you

We are once again truly humbled by community initiatives that have raised substantial funds on behalf of Hospice. A couple of notable fundraisers held recently have been the Birthdays for all the Lost Birthday's expertly coordinated by Baden Cummins-Green and Brent Offers Hike for Hospice with his sons. It is with the support of the community that we are able to continue to provide expert palliative care services.

