

VWA NEWSLETTER

The Victorian Welfare Association
Melbourne, Australia

AUGUST 2007

A Fresh Approach to the Idea of Home

The Annual General Meeting of the VWA was held at The Heights on Saturday 12th May. The meeting opened with the singing of Hymn 99 from the Christian Science Hymnal. Our retiring Board Member, Marj Rudolph read from the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy on the topic of spiritual progress. Members and visitors were warmly welcomed and thanked for attending the meeting.

The Chairman's Report was given by Karl Berberich, the Financial Report was read by John Callaway and the report from the VCSNSSI was given by Michael Hamer-Smith. Our guest speaker, Pauline Hutchinson shared a heartwarming account of her growing sense of 'home' over recent years. At the conclusion of the meeting visitors congregated on the lawn to enjoy afternoon tea and a friendly chat. Summaries of the reports and the guest speaker's talk follow.

Chairman's Report

Dear friends and supporters of the VWA,

It is again my pleasure to present to you the chairman's report of this organization. 2006-2007 has been an interesting year for us with many challenges. Challenges of occupancy, staffing, people willing to serve as board members and financial issues.

Occupancy

Our low cost and low rent facilities at Leslie House enjoy occupancy of 90%. Thank you to Geoff Hemsley our caretaker at Leslie House.

Here at The Heights we can report to you that our units are 70% occupied. We would like to see this improve. At this point I am pleased to welcome our most recent unit residents, Meg and Ken Jacobs.

In our Supported Residential Service (SRS) we have some delightful upstairs rooms ready to be occupied. We welcome guests from our local area, country, interstate and overseas, to avail themselves of the serene atmosphere, the security and hospitality of the house. Guests are welcome to come for a short rest and study stay or for a longer period.

Staffing

We have a very dedicated staff and we value them all.

Board members

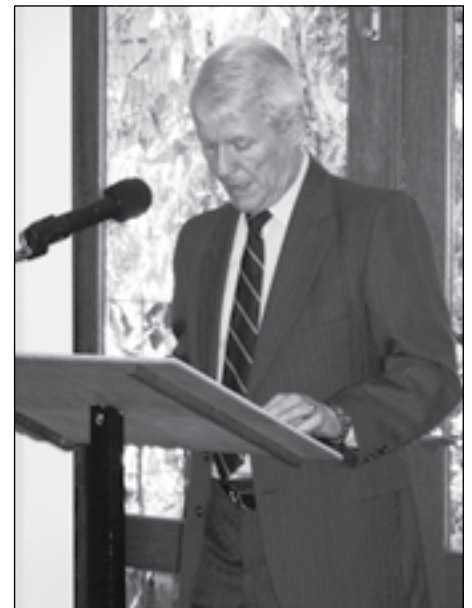
Under point 8 on the agenda "Election of the VWA Board", you will notice your board has been reduced to five members. We would like to bring this number back to seven in the not too distant future. This now gives me the opportunity to say thank you to our two retiring Board members, Loral Olley and Marj Rudolph.

Finance

The financial position of the VWA is always discussed and evaluated at our monthly board meetings. The Treasurer's report will give you full details of our financial position. Today the report will be presented by John Callaway as Ed Henry is unable to be here.

Promotion

Val Pilkington, a unit resident, suggested we publicize and promote the VWA to a wider Christian Science community. We are in the midst of establishing a VWA Web-site which we trust will be viewed by Christian Scientists around the world.



Karl Berberich, VWA Chairman

Contact has been made with Victorian churches and Information Sessions have been given by our General Manager and Treasurer at a number of churches. We are also keen to circulate our latest brochure. Copies can be obtained by phoning The Heights office.

Conclusion

We welcome your ideas, please feel free to share them with us - prayerful and practical. Thank you for your attendance today.

Financial Report Of The Victorian Welfare Association For The Year Ended 31st December 2006

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

Let us mark today with expressions of gratitude: for another year of being able to successfully continue the work of those early pioneers who set up this wonderful Victorian Welfare Association. Gratitude for being able to provide “shelter, housing, lodging, meals, protection or care” as outlined in our Memorandum of Association.

In line with legal requirements your directors report the following results of the activity for the year ended 31st December 2006 and the state of affairs as at that date.

1. There was an operating profit for the year of \$78,836 compared to a profit of \$293,662 last year.
2. The income from interest and dividends increased by some \$150,000. This has been made possible because of the extremely buoyant economy and the very strong share market. However, this would not have been available to us were it not for the very professional management of our investments by Goldman Sachs JB Were. It is interesting to note that the head of Goldman Sachs in the US is himself a Christian Scientist. This fact is known and acknowledged by the people here in Australia that deal with the various Christian Science organisations that have funds managed by Goldman Sachs JB Were.
3. This year we again managed to decrease our overall expenses by some \$20,000 or nearly 2.5%. This is due in no small way to the vigilance of our General Manager, Angie Parkyn who has been going over our expenses with a fine tooth comb.

4. The income from Board and Rent has decreased by \$50,000 or nearly 20% which indicates that our facility has not been used to the same extent as last year. This level of income is down to approximately the levels of 2002.
5. The value of the funds of this Association as at 31st December 2006 stands at just over \$4.7 million, reflecting the profit from this year.

Mrs Eddy writes in Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, “God is not moved by the breath of praise to do more than He has already done, nor can the infinite do less than bestow all good, since He is unchanging wisdom and Love.” (S&H 2:8-11)

And Paul writes to the Romans “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen. (Rom 11: 33,36)

www.vwa.net.au

VCSNSSI report from Chairman

Christian Science nursing has its authority in the Church Manual where in Article VIII Section 31 our Leader wrote

“A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick.”

In this by-law Mrs. Eddy establishes the place of the nurse in the Christian Science movement. The significance of this activity as being Manual based should not be underestimated when we know that Mrs. Eddy wrote of the Manual, “Of this I am sure, that each Rule and By-law in the Manual will increase the spirituality of him who obeys it, invigorate his capacity to heal the sick, to comfort such as mourn, and to awaken the sinner.” (My 230:10)

Our Leader clearly saw the Manual as of primary importance to the student's growth in Christian Science for she states in Miscellany, “Adhere to the teaching of The Bible, Science and Health, and our Manual, and you will obey the law and the gospel.” (My 251:29)

We are very grateful to be able to fund the provision of a visiting nurse to this field thus enabling those who wish to rely on Christian Science for healing to have every support to do so and enabling us to be obedient to our Leader's inspired expectation that the Manual when understood and obeyed would make it's students better Christian healers. We would like everyone to be aware that there are very adequate benevolent funds available to ensure that those who wish to use the services of our nurse can do so without the worry of whether they can afford it.

The Victorian Christian Science Nursing Support Service is very pleased to work with and support the work of the Victorian Welfare Association. We maintain close contact and are working together wherever possible to support and further each other's activities. Both are involved in a ministry of Love.

Become a member of the VWA

The activities of the VWA need a base support of those who become members of the Victorian Welfare Association. You need to be a member of a Christian Science Church or Society or an adherent. A membership subscription is \$20.00 per annum and this entitles you to vote at VWA business meetings. If you have not already done so, please join us in the good work by becoming a member.

VWA Members, Residents and Friends



Danielle Deppeler and Leonie Tidd



Marj Rudolph



"He that hath God his guardian made" Hymn 99



Lauris Adeney



John Callaway

pictured at the Annual Meeting



Angie Parkyn and Liz Rindel



Daryl & Chris Francis with Geoff Wheeler and Courtenay Rule



Karl speaking with new resident Ken Jacobs



Mike Hamer-Smith and Linda Archbold



George Rindel

Home

The obvious purpose of the Victorian Welfare Association is to provide a sense of home, so today I'd like to talk about that.

What do we think of when we think of home? It could be a sense of belonging, of comfort, of safety, of peace, of being loved. These qualities all have their source in God. We all have these qualities of home within us.

I assume that many of you who live at The Heights or Leslie House, or like me, have had to come to terms with giving up precious previously held ideas of home and have had to find a fresh approach to the idea of home.

I'd like to share with you my growing sense of home.

By the time that I was ready to retire I had lived in 23 different homes. I learned early that home is where your heart is, but later, when I studied Christian Science that became – home is the house of the Lord, the consciousness of Love. Home is within each one of us when we trust God and feel the loving and nurturing care from our divine parent. The one Being who keeps us safe and feeling loved supplies all our needs and gives us peace. Divine love is the one Being to whom we all belong and in whom we live. This was my growing understanding of home. But a time came when I had to prove it.

The time came for ending a very interesting and stimulating career in education. My husband, Norm, and I had planned our retirement carefully by attending retirement seminars, learning about finance and providing for interesting future pursuits. We were well set up – a lovely home in the hills above Perth and investments to ensure future commitments. We were on many committees both community and educational. Although I spent a good deal of time studying Christian Science, church participation was down to

a minimum. Perhaps I'd get more involved when I retired.

Then, as I faced many life changes at the same time, I became quite ill and it seemed to last for months. With the help of Practitioners, I was able to keep working until retirement date and I really prayed and studied a lot. I learned to pray without ceasing.

The first lesson I learned was that communication is always from God to man. This healed several days of deafness. It alerted me to the fact that God is always speaking to me through the Christ and that I must be ready to listen to that message of my spiritual identity and perfection at all times.

I'd like to tell you how God cared for me at this time. I'd just moved from a school situation to an office in the city. My work at that time was to spend a week reading files and catching up on my new job. I had the office to myself so no one knew that I was facing this challenge. I could ring the Practitioner whenever I needed to. I could hear very little of what she said, but I did get the message, "The communication is always from God to man."

Then there was a recurring line from a hymn that was with me day and night – it was "no change my heart shall fear" from Hymn 148.

In heavenly Love abiding

No change my heart shall fear,

And safe is such confiding,

For nothing changes here.

The storm may roar without me,

My heart may low be laid,

But God is round about me

And can I be dismayed?

The illness began to lift as I felt closer and closer to God and became more and more conscious of Her tender loving care.

Our first grandchild arrived here, in Melbourne. Four flights over here in six months led my husband



*Pauline Hutchinson,
Guest Speaker*

most loving and harmonious way. Love would guide us. The selling up, breaking ties and moving was made very harmoniously within a few months.

Now, we were never going to live in a box in the suburbs ever again. Where do we live? - In a box in Box Hill.

We were going to spend most of our time in the country. What now? – I work in the city 3 or 4 days in the week.

I might get a little more involved in church. What now? – Complete involvement in the study and practice of Christian Science and church.

I have really come home!

I had proved.

That God knows our real need before we ask Her and supplies it.

To trust, listen and obey God brings more goodness into our lives than we could possibly imagine.

That God's plans for us are much better than our own.

That our sense of home – our consciousness of Love is unaffected by geography or circumstances or relationships.

Some of Guest Speakers in 2007

Home, this consciousness of divine Love, is our eternal unity with our divine parent, Father, Mother, God. Home is a sense of God's all-embracing goodness, forever sustaining, upholding, guiding and preserving us. When we know that we live in the consciousness of Love we find refuge, comfort, harmony, loving relationships, peace and a solid base for spiritual growth.

I'd like to end with some quotes.

Firstly from Psalms 27:4,5

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.

For in the time of trouble, he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.”

And from Hymn 278

“Pilgrim on earth, home and heaven are within thee.”

Pauline Hutchinson

May 2007



Eugene Veith, founder of Mission Enterprises, spoke to us in February and inspired us all.



Alan Rash gave us “A Grand Tour” with his automated slide show in May.



In April, Michael Tucker and his dog, Pippa, showed us dog-training in action.

Program For The Coming Months

Thursday August 16th At 2pm. Music & Theatre Medley

Julie Houghton, Kate Burns, Christine Smith and Kate Gould will entertain us with a mix of musical theatre, Australian Ballads and other surprises.

Please note the change of day to a THURSDAY for this month.

Friday September 21st At 2pm – Call To The Wild

Heather & Nick Safstroms' adventurous spirit has taken them to many exciting places in Outback Australia. They will share their photos on screen, show some of their wonderful paintings and tell of their experiences.

Friday October 19th At 2pm – My Life At Myer's

My store MYER. Everyone has shopped at Myer's. It is an icon of Melbourne which we all have enjoyed. Alison Watson worked at Myer's for 43 years as a Personnel Manager and in various areas of the store. She will tell us the history, how Sidney Myer started the store as well as many stories, serious and funny, to make a very enjoyable listening hour.

Friday November 16th At 2pm – Follies & Grottos

A previous speaker at The Heights, Elizabeth Venn, has had a long-standing interest in the arts and social history. Elizabeth has been a member of the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society and the National Trust of Australia for many years. Elizabeth's earlier visit was very popular so we are sure she will present an interesting and lively lecture on the topic of follies and grottos.

VWA Board - August 2007

Chairman	Karl Berberich
Secretary/Treasurer	Edward Henry
Members	John Callaway
	Geoff Nodin
	Lauris Adeney
	Ellie Bruce

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