

## Ideas and Possibilities

On Saturday 19th April, 2008, the VWA held its Annual General Meeting at The Heights in Kerferd Road, Glen Iris. The chairman, Karl Berberich, welcomed members and visitors, and everyone joined in the singing of Hymn 190 from the Christian Science Hymnal.

The opening readings were read by Diana Colley who joined the VWA Board of Directors towards the end of 2007. The readings were taken from the Bible, Hymn 145 from the C.S. Hymnal, Miscellaneous Writings and Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy.

## Chairman's Report

Let me start this report by saying, what most chairmen begin with, when they say: "Friends it was a year of business as usual"

Well was it? I guess so. I can tell you that most of the time your Board has been back into its full strength of seven board members. We were pleased to welcome Diana Colley and Ellie Bruce to help us make decisions.

**SRS** As always our Supported Residential Service (SRS) is very close to our heart. We have currently two downstairs and four upstairs rooms available and believe this situation could improve. Let me at this point welcome Moureen Seldon and Mary Paton to our SRS.

Some two years ago we had the fresh idea of trying to make the facility financially more viable, in introducing a levy in line with what other retirement institutions are charging. But we had to learn that the move was not so popular within our CS community, and late in 2007 we reverted back to the original status of charging an ingoing contribution of \$5000. Any SRS is quite a high cost operation due to staffing and care demands, and so is ours.

**UNITS** Our self contained units here in Kerferd Road provide a tranquil and quiet atmosphere. At this moment let me welcome back Verna and Bryan Keaney to The Heights and also Annette and Ged Edwards. It is also my pleasure to welcome Liz and George Rindel and Mark Robinson, George and Mark are both valued members of our staff.

Let me suggest another "fresh idea", if you like, to be discussed under General, a thought vented during a board meeting, that members of the VWA could, if they wished to, purchase a life lease unit here at The Heights and have the unit leased out by us until they were ready to move in themselves.

**LESLIE HOUSE** is a place that fulfils its purpose providing low cost rental accommodation for Christian Scientists here in Melbourne. Currently 18 flats are occupied fulltime and two are for short-term rental.

**FINANCES** Let me briefly mention finance. The situation looked very good indeed until early December. We had consolidated and unified our investments with Goldman Sachs J.B.Were, quite

The Chairman's Report was given by Karl Berberich, the Financial Report by the Treasurer, Ed Henry, and this was followed by remarks from the Chairman of the VCSNSSI, Michael Hamer-Smith.

Andrew Clifton, C.S., was our guest speaker and his talk entitled "Things deemed impossible" gave reference to our opening hymn. Andrew drew on the words of the verses of Hymn 190 throughout his talk, giving tribute to the way in which The Heights started as an idea and became a possibility. A summary of this talk together with summaries of the annual reports are recorded in this newsletter.



*Diana Colley, John Callaway and Geoffrey Nodin are three of the VWA Board members. Geoff Nodin is the current chairman.*

some time ago. The last 4½ months are however not as brilliant, as you can imagine. Ed Henry our Treasurer and Secretary will bring you up to date following this report.

**VCSNSS** Our co-existence with the Victorian CS Nursing Support Service Inc. was discussed during the year and I know that, later on, the Chairman Michael Hamer-Smith wants to give you an update.

Mike will also provide you with information about the forthcoming Australia and New Zealand Nurses Conference being held with the nurses and their respective boards. This year the meeting will be held here in Melbourne with the venue being The Heights. We are delighted to host such an event.

# Financial Report Of The Victorian Welfare Association For The Year Ended 31st December 2007

## Chairman's Report cont.

**ENTERTAINMENT** With the retirement of Marj Rudolph last year, we had to think a "fresh idea" with regards to the entertainment program and can tell you that our Care Manager Danielle Deppeler has taken on this extra task and is handling it extremely well.

**STAFF** At this point let me as always, express the Board's appreciation of all our staff. Angie and Danielle are running a tight ship and all our staff are rowing with them in unison. A big thank you to each of them.

**INFORMATION** We have been able to run information sessions about the VWA in most of our churches here in Melbourne and hope that you are all well informed. If you need more information I suggest you contact Angie here at The Heights for a talk and/or a visit.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP** Another "fresh idea" you may have noticed is the offer of a Life Membership with the VWA as outlined on our application form, something you could explore.

**WEB-SITE** Finally let me once again mention our website for all the computer buffs. You find us under [www.vwa.net.au](http://www.vwa.net.au) or if you like you can correspond with us by e-mail. The address is [heights@bigpond.net.au](mailto:heights@bigpond.net.au)

*Thank you.*

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

Let us mark today with thoughts of gratitude for the Victorian Welfare Association as expressed in Hymn 249 from the Christian Science Hymnal:

*Our gratitude is riches,  
Complaint is poverty,  
Our trials bloom in blessings,  
They test our constancy.  
O, life from joy is minted,  
An everlasting gold,  
True gladness is the treasure  
That grateful hearts will hold.*

In line with legal requirements your directors report the following results of the activity for the year ended 31st December 2007 and the state of affairs as at that date.

1. We can gratefully report that there was an operating profit for the year of \$331,970 compared to a profit of \$78,836 last year.
2. We are grateful to have received bequests this year of \$64,000, to report our level of donations has remained constant, and that the Future Fund received an additional \$2,000. We wish to thank all those who have donated to the VWA.
3. What joy to report that the income from investments, interest and dividends increased by some \$164,000. Our total income from this area was some \$658,000. This was helped by the extremely buoyant economy and the very strong share market, but thanks has to go to Goldman Sachs JB Were for their management of our funds.



*Ed Henry, Treasurer*

4. This year our overall expenses remained at the same figure as last year. Thank you in no small way to the vigilance of our General Manager, Angie Parkyn who must be congratulated on running a very well managed operation.
5. Last year we reported that the income from board, rent and meals had decreased by \$50,000 on the previous year. This year we can report that this income has increased by \$30,000 which has given us renewed hope that we are indeed filling a need in the Christian Science community.
6. The value of the funds of this Association as at 31st December 2007 stands at just over \$5 million, reflecting the profit from this year.

Mary Baker Eddy writes in Science & Health: "Are we really grateful for the good already received? Then we shall avail ourselves of the blessings we have, and thus be fitted to receive more. Gratitude is much more than a verbal expression of thanks. Action expresses more gratitude than speech." (S&H 3:21-26). Let our actions express our gratitude.

[www.vwa.net.au](http://www.vwa.net.au)

# VCSNSSI Inc Report

## REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE VICTORIAN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING SUPPORT SERVICE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VICTORIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION. Saturday, April 19th 2008

Realising that divine Principle constantly holds supply and demand in perfect balance we read in 2 Corinthians 8:13,14.

*“For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened:*

*But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:”*

At it's Annual General Meeting last October the members of the Victorian Christian Science Nursing Support Service voted that the Service may provide financial support for the Christian Science nursing activities of the Victorian Welfare Association. We are very pleased to be able to support the VWA in it's work of providing nursing care for those wishing to rely on Christian Science for healing. The Nursing Service has recently received an application from the VWA for funding for nursing activities in the 2006/7 year and has agreed to that application.

The Nursing Service and the VWA are working together to help organise a Christian Science Nursing conference to be held here at “the Heights” on the weekend of 15th -17th of August this year. This conference is the initiative of the Queensland

Nursing Service who organised the last conference in Brisbane two years ago. The conference will be attended by Christian Science nurses, representatives of nursing services and others with an interest in Christian Science nursing.

We, on the Board of the Victorian Christian Science Nursing Support Service, are very pleased to see our two organisations being able to work together for the benefit, not only of the Victorian field but for the benefit of other Christian Scientists throughout Australia.

*Michael Hamer-Smith, Chairman.*



*John Callaway introduces guest speaker Andrew Clifton*

## Are you a Financial Member of the VWA?

Thank you to all supporters who renewed their subscriptions for 2008.

We are grateful to those of you who chose to take out Life Memberships, these members will no longer need to return the renewal form each year. For those of you who have not renewed for 2008, it is not too late. If you are unable to find your form you can download one from the internet at [www.vwa.net.au](http://www.vwa.net.au). New members are most welcome to join by completing an application too. If you prefer to receive a form by mail, please phone the General Manager, Angela Parkyn on 9889 0366.

# The Heights

The House and unit residents are invited to join several group outings throughout the year. Each month a speaker or entertainer is invited to take part in our Entertainment Program, which is held in the Activities Room at The Heights in Kerferd Road.

A list of forthcoming topics is printed on the back page of this newsletter. VWA members, their friends and families are always welcome to attend these events.



*In May this year, John and Ellie Bruce gave a very interesting power point presentation of their Trans Siberian Railway trip. They will continue their talk in January next year.*



*Peter and Val Freeland spoke enthusiastically about their trip circumnavigating Australia by cruise ship. The power point presentation showed highlights of their trip.*



*Lawrie and Peg Safstrom hosted an afternoon tea for our Heights residents at their lovely property in Warrandyte.*



*In June, Don Chitts spoke about various aspects of Scottish culture and played the bagpipes with ease.*



*Chris Francis, a Heights Supervisor, with residents Mary Paton, Roslyn Cooke and Moureen Seldon.*



*Unit residents, Meg Jacobs, Yvonne Cole and Ken Jacobs at Jells Park Lake.*

# The Christian Science Nurses & Delegates Conference - August 2008



*Julie Sharpe, Vic., Pam Stowell, WA, Karen Bartley, Qld,  
Danielle Deppeler, Vic*

**A dinner was held on the evening  
before the conference so that everyone  
could get to know each other.**



*David Bell, SA, Margaret Clarke, Fed. CoP,  
Laurel Ferris, Qld, Gaye Bell, SA and Gloria Adam, Tas.*



*Linda Kohler, TMC, Christine Shai-Hee, NSW  
and Moira Marabeas, Vic*



*Peter Julian, CoP Vic., Joan Nelson, Tas. and Elia Schulz, Vic*

# “THINGS DEEMED IMPOSSIBLE...”

This talk by Andrew L. Clifton CS refers to Hymn 190 from the Christian Science Hymnal

Noah was our first model in the Bible to attempt the impossible.

*“Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord”. Gen 6:8*

But the legendary Noah was given a huge job to do, when God told him to build an ark.

He was obedient...

*“Thine is the call and Thine the care,”*

Why? (to translate the symbolism into modern parlance) he was to care for “dependent entities”, to provide safety for all life that came within the range of his thought.

*“Thy wisdom shall the way prepare; Thy will be done.”*

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The Victorian Welfare Association was well established with Leslie House when I came on the scene, but a new move was developing. A new God-inspired activity was being contemplated.

I watched the establishment of the Heights, as the faithful workers faced things deemed impossible. But they dared, and they set out to build an ark for our dependents.

With confidence they finished the construction phase.

*“With confident and humble mind,  
My joy in service I would find,*

*My prayer through every task assigned,  
Thy will be done.”*

And today’s VWA workers also face things deemed impossible. But the work has gone forward and it continues to this day.

How did Noah cope with the task? It was God that inspired him to take steps to care for all life as he knew it.

So he kept in touch with that directive and it sustained him through criticism and derision of his neighbours.

*“My God, my Father, make me strong,  
When tasks of life seem hard and long,  
To greet them with this triumph song,  
Thy will be done.”*

And that’s just what this body has done, in the face of criticism and derision from many quarters including some church folk.

Yes, there was a lot of opposition in the early stages of the building of this village and in more recent times it has come from the heavy hand of a medically minded bureaucracy.

Noah had to find materials. He had to put them together and to seal his structure against the threat of “waters”. Gen 6:14-19,22

These demands continue today. The workers have to find the inspiration to meet every challenge. The early builders had to find the means to get the materials, property and money needed to build this beautiful little communal retreat, and to staff it with skilled and willing workers.

And they still have to “pitch it within and without”.

Yes, they had to maintain the seaworthiness of a system that must withstand the buffeting waters of world beliefs about our activities.

They have done well, all the legalisms things demanded of them. Even as Paul admonished the early Christians: Titus 2:15;3:1

*“ Let no man despise thee. ..  
Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work”*

And so heeding that demand they have pressed on to a caring that transcends mere social expectations.

They remind their clients that life is an on-going experience and immortality is the objective of all our endeavours.

There is no final end to being.

The work of the VWA is far from being a rear-guard action to a losing struggle with inevitable mortality!

It is the on-going effort of the demonstration of our one-ness with Spirit, God.

This system (including Leslie House) is an ark that demonstrates that caring, nurturing, cherishing is an ever present reminder of Spirit unfolding our lives.

It proves that progressive steps can be taken, no matter where we find ourselves.

It is finding Christ at work to lift our thoughts above what the secular world would call **biological imperatives!**

Biological imperatives?

Yes, the anti-Christ of world beliefs is constantly contradicting the Christ message of immortality. Conservatism, voicing anti-Christ says that in encouraging positive expectations, we undertake tasks impossible to us.

Remember Nehemiah who undertook to restore the security of Jerusalem? Neh 2:19,20

*“But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?[medical authorities]*

*Then answered I them, and said unto them, the God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.”*

So like Nehemiah, the VWA presses on with its mission and through patient encouragement of our clientele, we denounce negative expectation, and turn to a progressive outlook.

All our best endeavours are toward the things of God. This is seen in progress, learning, unselfishness, wisdom, adventure, aspiration, inspiration, confident living.

But anti-Christ suggests

*caution in place of wisdom,  
self ahead of fellows, inertia instead  
of get-up-and-go,  
holding to status-quo instead  
of progress,  
negativity instead of expansiveness,  
criticism, instead of encouragement,  
domination instead of walking together..*

These persistent elements of anti-Christ, are just inversions of what is really going on.

*“Eternal Truth is changing the universe.  
...the perpetual demand of Truth and Love,  
changing chaos into order  
and discord into the music of the spheres.” S&H 255:1-6*

So, since the **“big bang”** of time it has been Christ, the Word of God which has moved disorder back towards all-inclusive perfection. And it is Christ which is with us to day.

We are at the front-line of evolution! Heady stuff!

But back to the ark. Humanly speaking, VWA has provided a safe place to work out the issues of life.

Our commitment to creating an atmosphere of expectancy of good is the reason for the VWA’s existence. And it is that commitment which all that dwell here are expected to live up to.

*“When the destination is desirable, expectation speeds our progress”.*  
S&H 426:8-9

our leader reminds us, and she tells us that progress is the law of God, a goal we can all achieve.

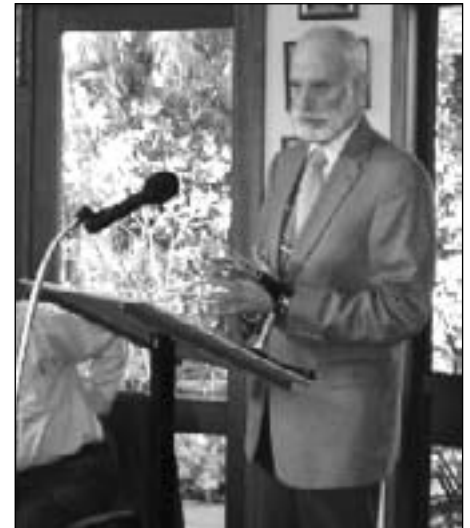
S&H 233:1

So no matter where we find ourselves, always, the next step, should be one in the right direction, and that demonstrates progress.

AND that progressive step should be painless, because we have committed to finding life, and preserving peace in this setting.  
S&H 224:8

*“There should be painless progress, attended by life and peace instead of discord and death”.*

These individual, progressive footsteps, measured against our own achievements, (not someone else’s), are evidence of Christ at work denying the accuser’s mocking voices.



*Andrew Clifton, C.S.*

Whittier reminds us in the familiar hymn Hymn 238:2 (to 1st ,)

*[That:] “all of good the past hath had  
Remains to make our own time glad”*

So let us claim that latent obedience of Noah, that present wisdom of Nehemiah and the perpetual vision of our Leader to press this body forward with joy.

*“Heaven’s music chimes the glad days in,  
Hope soars beyond death, pain and sin,  
Faith sings in triumph, Love doth win;  
Thy will is done.”*

**Forward the VWA!!**

# Program For The Coming Months

## **FRIDAY OCTOBER 10 at 2.00 pm - Ballet, Theatre & Music**

Lorna Osborne (Axon) is a professional singer and dancer. She will speak to us of her involvement with the Tivoli, Ballet and J.C. Williamson's Musical shows.

## **FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14 at 2.00 pm - Banjo, Henry & C.J.**

Barrie Sheppard is back to visit, this time reading and speaking about the lives of Australia's Banjo Patterson, Henry Lawson and C.J. Denis.

## **FRIDAY DECEMBER 19 at 2.00 pm - Margaret Christensen OAM**

Margaret, or Peg as many of us know her, will speak to us about her days working in the entertainment industry.

## **FRIDAY JANUARY 16 at 2.00 pm - Travel part two - Trans Siberian Odyssey**

John & Ellie Bruce continue their train journey. The cities visited include Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and then home through Singapore.

## **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20 at 2.00 pm - The Great Songs of the 30's & 40's**

Dave Richard and Lynne Gough of "Blue Tango" will entertain us with their nostalgic repertoire.

## **FRIDAY MARCH 20 at 2.00 pm - The History of Tea and Tea Cosies**

Wanda McPherson returns to The Heights, this time to speak to us on the history of tea, and to show us some very unusual tea cosies.

## **VWA Board - August 2008**

<b>Chairman</b>	Geoff Nodin
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	Edward Henry
<b>Members</b>	Karl Berberich
	John Callaway
	Lauris Adeney
	Ellie Bruce
	Diana Colley

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