



VWA Newsletter

October 2016

VICTORIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSES

The Victorian Welfare Association is pleased to announce the commencement in October of a pilot program at The Heights to train church members interested in becoming a Christian Science Nurse.

The training will be offered by the VWA, who will provide the necessary infrastructure and administrative services for the course. The course will be developed and presented by Kathryn Bouchard West, our Victorian Journal-listed Christian Science Nurse.

The one year program will be fully funded by the Victorian Christian Science Nurses Support Association, covering:

- An allowance to the trainee during the classroom training period
- Additional funding to the trainer
- Supervised work in The Residence
- Weekly monitored trainee nurse funding
- Supplies for the training course.

Our first Christian Science trainee nurse is class-taught student from Melbourne. We look forward to having her with us on the floor for this training program. This pilot course is the first stage of training to be followed by further courses and ongoing experience that could lead to Journal listing.

It is a great blessing to see this collaboration between the VWA and the VCSNSA in supporting and promoting the availability and the work of Christian Science nurses in Victoria.

Anyone who is interested in exploring this as an idea of progress for themselves, please contact XXXX.

Report of the AGM 2016

Chairman's Report p2

Treasurers Report p4

Metaphysical Address p8

by Kathryn Bouchard West titled 'The Effectiveness of Prayer in Christian Science Healing'



Just Joey: One of the beauties in our gardens



VWA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by John Bruce

John invited everyone to look at our web-site, www.vwa.net.au.

My report at last year's AGM was very extensive covering a broad spectrum of our work. In that report I was able to advise of major changes in our legal structure as Government Legislation enabled us to move out from under the jurisdiction of The Health Dept and to the more appropriate registration of the Residence as part of the Retirement Villages Act. While over the years a degree of respect developed with the Health Department as to the level of care we provided, the Health Department was most concerned with provision of medical and related matters. The main thrust of the Retirement Villages Act is to ensure residents are well informed as to their legal rights and responsibilities. This change has led to a total re-write of our contracts and guiding by-laws – many pages of detailed work often stating what we would consider the obvious, but for legal reasons need to be specifically defined in close detail.

I also reported last year that we now have a website that is readily available on line at www.vwa.net.au to give details of our facilities and services. As my report will be shorter, I had hoped to take a few moments to demonstrate this online facility on our TV screen at the end of this report, but unfortunately we are in the process of installing new equipment, and as yet have not linked the TV screen to the internet.

Firstly:

* A warm welcome to our new unit residents Shirley and Murray Paine who have joined us and are living in unit 10.

* We were saddened at the passing late last year of our friend Diana Colley. Diana was on the VWA Board for 8 years and in 2013 joined us as a resident in unit 19. She worked tirelessly for the VWA and made a great contribution including 3 years as chairman of this Board.

* We welcomed Leonie Tidd as a member of your Board in September. Leonie has worked with and at The Heights for many years in many capacities including as Minute Secretary for the Board and brings a wealth of experience to our deliberations.



John Bruce, VWA Chairman

Accommodation Available:

We have accommodation available **in the Residence** for both short term and long term residents. This year we introduced a new rate for residents on the first floor not requiring any support, and this has been useful in particular for short term visitors to Melbourne. We do also have accommodation available for residents desiring assistance or supportive care.

If you would be interested to have further information on accommodation available in the Residence and would like to inspect the facility, please speak with our manager Angie Parkyn. She would love to show you through the facility and give details of the services that are available.

We welcomed 15 short term guests to the residence this year including a number who needed supportive care.

Accommodation Available in Units and

Comparative costs: There has been a 6% price increase applied this year to our Life Lease Units. As noted last year we keep an eye on relative costs at other retirement Villages, and as previously reported we are well below the general market level. R.V. Units in Burwood and Glen Waverley range from 2 to 3

times and even more to the costs we apply to our Life Lease units, and our exit fees are also minimal compared to other villages. And yet, we still have 7 units available for life leasing to Christian Scientists now. If you would like to see over the type of units available, we can arrange for inspections after the meeting, or at any time by appointment.

As you will know from previous reports, to assist in meeting our operating costs in the Residence, a number of the units awaiting Life Leasing have been furnished (with donated furniture) and are rented out for short term visitors to Melbourne. This year we have had over 40 short term rentals of furnished units.

A number of steps have been taken in regard to our financial management, in particular relating to Leslie House rentals, and details will be explained in our Treasurer's report.

Activities for residents this year have included outings to concerts at The Ashburton Support Service, sight-seeing tours to chosen destinations, concerts at Huntingtower School as well as to Church Services and Lectures and TMC meetings. There were also in-house monthly hymn sings as well as movies and travel talks.

Call system:

During the year we were able to introduce an emergency call system for unit residents. In earlier years we had an emergency call system to the Residence, but if there was only one person on duty during the week ends or at night time, it is not legal for that person to leave the residence to attend a call from a unit. The new system now provided gives direct call facility from the call button to any of 3 numbers (selected by the resident) and of course is operational 24/7.

Support in the residence:

We have been greatly blessed this year in working with the Victorian Christian Science Nurses Support Association, and with the Victorian Christian Science Nurse Kathryn Bouchard West as well as CS Nurses from interstate. Our treasurer will be giving you details of the tremendous financial support also given from the VCSNSA and the NSW Nurse Service, as well as donations from other CS groups and individuals that enable our work here to continue and provide such a blessing for our Australasia wide community.

I have previously reported that in the 1970s the then committee was advised that to operate with a balanced budget it would be necessary to provide for 30 residents to cover the cost of 24/7 care and support, and that was WITH Government support – to which we are not entitled without the Government dictates as to medical supervision. Last month we were told that the current advice would be for a minimum of 60 residents. The Board at that time decided that a facility of that size would not be appropriate for the CS community even Australasia wide, and chose to cater for up to 12 residents. We currently have 3 full time guests in our residence. It was known at the outset that the Residence, while being a much needed facility for our field, would need ongoing support from the wider CS community. And as the Treasurer's report will show, this has been forthcoming. But this must not be taken for granted, and is a constant matter for loving attention. The support just mentioned is part of the wonderful care that is given to this work.

A Business Matter:

Before we have a look at our website there is a matter of business that needs to be addressed. We have been reviewing our Constitution and Rules to be sure it is up to date. There are a number of minor matters mostly arising from the passage of time. For example, there is reference to membership fees of 5 pounds p.a. It could reasonably be changed to \$10. It declares 'The Association for the purpose of registration is declared to consist of one thousand members' Possibly 100 would be more appropriate. There are a number of such matters that should we feel be tidied up, but one clause also states that "No addition alteration or amendment shall be madeunless same has been previously submitted to and approved by the Attorney-General of the State of Victoria" We have discussed this with David Weil as a Lawyer as to the best approach for this matter.



VWA Members, David Weil and Peter Freeland at the meeting

To get bogged down in the minutia of these sort of details seems to be an invitation for an ongoing saga with Government bureaucracy. His recommendation was to first approach the A.G. Dept with the request to amend by removing this clause, and when that is sorted, to then bring to the members the minutia before returning to the A.G. Dept. to update our C & R. The membership would still be covered, in that until any amendment is officially registered it is not part of our constitution. So I would like to propose that arising from this report the following motion be put to this meeting:

Motion moved:

"That this meeting authorises the Board to seek approval of the Attorney General's Department for the removal of item 4 of the Memorandum of Association of The Victorian Welfare Association." Motion carried.

Thanks:

I would like to express our deep gratitude to everyone who has supported the work of the VWA and especially to our Manager and her dedicated staff for their untiring and dedicated work for our residents and for their work for the Victorian Welfare Association.

In welcoming you here today, we are very conscious of the thoughts expressed so beautifully in Hymn 53 from the CS Hymnal...

*'Everlasting arms of love,
He our ever-present guide
are beneath, around above;
Faithful is, what'er betide;*

*God it is who bears us on.
Gladly then we journey on,
His the arm we lean upon,
With His arm to lean upon.'*

Based on a hymn by John R. Macduff

John Bruce.

Motion moved:

"That the Chairman's Report be accepted: Moved by Pauline Hutchinson and Seconded by Eva Allen." Motion carried.



VWA FINANCIAL REPORT

by John Callaway Treasurer



John Callaway, VWA Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER, 2016

John explained the term 'The Residence' being the Edwardian House and added care rooms. Previously known as The Hostel.

2015 FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE VICTORIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

In Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy wrote '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.' That quotation is very near the beginning of Science and Health on page 3 indicating Mrs. Eddy's recognition of gratitude as the key to healing and growth.

In challenging economic times for not-for-profit organizations I have tried, in my work as Treasurer of the VWA, to begin with gratitude rather than dwell on perceived financial constraints. I have found this perspective very liberating and a number of exciting outcomes have emerged.

Over the years, maintaining consistent cash flow for the VWA has been an area requiring continued monitoring. I see the operation of The Residence at The Heights as our primary work and especially as it is now the sole remaining facility in Australia enabling senior Christian Scientists to live in an environment where their choice of Christian Science for their health and well-being is fully supported in an atmosphere of love and co-operation and where Christian Science nursing care is immediately available if required. This work goes hand-in-hand with our provision of keenly priced Life Leased units at The Heights for independent living and rental flats at Leslie House.

Those who have been closely involved with care facilities are well aware of the large costs involved in this very labour-intensive sector. Many facilities operated by large companies are profit-making enterprises and have unit

DEVELOPING OUR SUPPORT BASE.

To this end, one of my main tasks in 2015 has been to focus on inviting financial support both locally and from beyond Melbourne and the results have been very encouraging. My prayerful emphasis on gratitude has seen generous donations flowing to the VWA from many sources in 2015.

We received a wonderful donation of \$65,000 from the VCSNSA last year. We have worked closely with VCSNSA over recent years as we have integrated Christian Science nursing more seamlessly into our daily work in The Residence. Our current Melbourne-based Journal-listed visiting nurse lives on site at The Heights and the VWA gives a generous subsidy towards her accommodation costs. We are very grateful that she will be our guest speaker today.

We are in regular contact with the Nursing Service in NSW (CSNSNSW) and are thrilled that their Board has made the decision to donate \$200,000 per year from the earnings from the invested capital received from the sale of Fair Havens in Sydney, a care facility that operated in a similar way to The Heights. This regular donation is a superb example of unity of purpose. In Mrs. Eddy's words on p518 of Science and Health... *'blessed is the man who seeth his brother's need and supplieth it, seeking his own in another's good.'* Thank you to all our friends in NSW and in particular to the Board of CSNSNSW.

Another wonderful donation of \$28,743 came from the winding up of the Sydney-based Christian Science Association of the Pupils of Leslie Bell CSB.

Yet another donation of \$50,000 was received from the winding up of the Christian Science Association of the Pupils of Mary Pratt CSB. (This amount will show in the 2016 annual figures.) You can see why **'our gratitude is riches'** (Hymn 249).

"Blessed is the man who seeth his brother's need and supplieth it, seeking his own in another's good."

complexes of hundreds of units and care wings providing hundreds of rooms. There are big financial advantages of economies of scale in such facilities, but also a more impersonal atmosphere for residents.

As John Bruce mentioned in his report, the break-even point in sheltered care is now regarded as 60 rooms. The capacity of The Residence is 12 rooms and the current occupancy is 3. This is a function of the small size of our Church community, even taken Australia-wide. So what to do?

The easy path would be to admit that, because the demand for sheltered care and unit Life Leases is low at present, we should close down. This is what has happened in all other Australian states, most recently in Sydney with the closure of Fair Havens.

This leaves The Heights as the only remaining care facility in Australia available to Christian Scientists where Christian Science based care and nursing are provided and cherished.

With full occupancy of The Residence and 7 more Life Leases in place, the VWA's operation would be close to self-funding without the need for external financial funding. This is our desire, but in the meantime, we need to maximise the flow of funds from organisations supportive of our operations.



VWA AGM 2016

I would like to list the major donations the VWA received in 2015 and early 2016 and equally recognise the many highly valued smaller gifts which we also treasure.

February 2015	First Church of Christ, Scientist, Hobart	\$4,000
April 2015	Brighton Group of Christian Scientists in South Australia	\$1,000
May 2015	Ken Jacobs Estate	\$2,266
June 2015	VCSNSA	\$65,000
August 2015	First Church of Christ, Scientist, Sydney	\$1,000
September 2015	CSNSNSW	\$100,000
November 2015	Leslie Bell Association	\$28,743
December 2015	CSNSNSW	\$100,000
January 2016	Mary Pratt Association	\$50,000

Donations from individuals are just over \$11,000.

We have also received funds on loan to invest and accumulate interest.

The VCSNSA reimburses the VWA when we employ Journal-listed Christian Science nurses from interstate on short-term appointments in The Residence.

What generosity is evident in those gifts and we are so grateful for them.

LESLIE HOUSE

I would like to speak about Leslie House for a moment. You may remember that I gave a great deal of information at last year's AGM on the history of the inception of Leslie House which remains an important part of our accommodation offerings.

Leslie House is the two storey building at 148 Power St. Hawthorn providing rental accommodation in 20 bedsitter or one bedroom apartments for those with an affiliation with Christian Science, with rent subsidised by the VWA at a level of about 30%. Late last year we were in the position where only 12 of the 20 flats were occupied. One option was to leave the 8 unoccupied flats vacant awaiting applications from Church-affiliated people, but this seemed a questionable financial option as we were foregoing substantial potential rental income.

I did a great deal of research into the rental potential of these flats, consulting 4 of the major real estate companies in the Hawthorn area. It was clear that \$200 per week was an easily achievable rent level for the bedsits in the Hawthorn area and that there would be a strong demand for them. I negotiated with a property management company that I deal with in my business and I know as highly ethical and trustworthy. They agreed to market and manage the rental of initially 6 of the flats. The Board set down very specific guidelines as to the tenant profile we required i.e. quiet, considerate people who understood our current tenant profile and expectations.

The agency very quickly filled the vacant flats with a group of new tenants either working in the city or studying for post-graduate qualifications. The new commercial tenants pay \$200 per week and the move has provided \$1,200 per week (or \$62,400 in a full year) additional income to the VWA.

The operation of this trial is under constant review and at this stage it is a wonderful success. The 6 new tenants are on 12 month leases and if there is a sudden requirement for flats for Christian Science affiliated people, these can be provided at the termination of the leases. Prior to introducing these proposed changes, 3 Board members gave an information session for the current Leslie House residents and the plan received strong endorsement.

Our hope throughout this trial letting was that there would be an easy compatibility between the long-standing and the new tenants. This has been the case as evidenced by this letter to Angie from one of our Christian Science affiliated tenants on January 28, 2016. The writer says in part "I'm glad Roger Davis Real Estate will be getting a new tenant for flat 5. The tenants they have found for Leslie House so far are all fabulous in my view. It's wonderful that the VWA can receive rent and income from folks who make such lovely neighbours here."

THE 2015 AUDIT

Now to the 2015 Audit Report.

This year, I have asked the Auditors to provide our report with a focus on our operating result.

In the past we have stated 'write down' or 'write back' figures for our share portfolio as part of our annual income. In a year of weak performance of the share market, we may have a 'write down' of \$300,000, which has shown as a large loss in our accounts. In a year of strong share market gains, we may have a 'write back' of \$300,000 which is shown as a large income to the VWA in the profit and loss.

But these 'write down/write back' figures are not really a function of income at all, but a statement of the VWA's equity position. In 2015, the unrealised 'loss' on our equities portfolio was \$280,775.60 which you see in our accounts. This is a snapshot of our portfolio on a specific date in the financial year, in fact the last day, 31 December 2015.

Our share portfolio valuation fluctuates with market volatility, e.g.:

On 5 August 2015 our portfolio valuation was \$3,421,430.34.

On 31 December 2015 (our audit date) it was \$3,335,788.28.

On 31 March 2016 it was \$3,006,269.15.

This shows a difference in valuation between August 2015 and last month of \$415,163.24. Even though our 'write down' in this period was large, we haven't lost anything, because we haven't sold the shares. It is a 'fictional' loss and doesn't represent any aspect of our day-to-day operation.

The change in accounting policy to focus on operating results is defined on page 10 of the Financial Statements you have received today. Section (d) of note 1 says in part 'Previously financial instruments were classified at fair value through profit and loss. These equities are now being held for long-term gains and as such are now classified as available for sale instruments.' In plain English that means that variations in the valuation of our share portfolio, will from now on appear in the section of the audit headed Statement of Changes in Equity. In this audit that is on page 7. The Detailed Profit and Loss on page 18 thus now more accurately shows our operational result.

As you can see from the audit papers, the dividends received from our share investments were \$270,334.34 in 2015 and \$275,917.77 in 2014, i.e. they remained fairly constant. This emphasises the unrealised nature of the gains or losses in our share portfolio valuation. Our concern is to maintain our income in volatile markets, which we have done. The 'write down' figure is irrelevant to our ability to operate.

With these comments in mind, I am so grateful to report that we had an operating surplus for 2015.

A brief analysis of the 2015 profit and loss and a comparison with 2014 shows a decrease in residents' board and rent of \$56,137.74 reflecting reduced numbers in The Residence but an increase in Leslie House rental income of \$76,799.97 reflecting full occupancy, even though this only occurred towards the end of the 2015 financial year.

Share dividends have been maintained and most other items in 2015 were similar to the 2014 figures.

However, the big difference of \$332,252.43 in total income in 2015 over that in 2014 is in the area of donations, which I have dealt with already in some detail.

In the expenses area the two main areas of increase have been firstly staff costs (up \$62,176.98) due to award increases and the need for increased carer hours for higher care residents last year. Secondly council rates (up \$22,232.29) have increased due to property revaluations but principally the charging of the Fire Services Levy now on council rates. The overall increase in operating expenses is \$88,371.46.

However, I am pleased to be able to report an operating surplus in 2015 of \$94,128.12 which is cause for great gratitude.

An important component in this result is the wonderfully dedicated service given by our General Manager, Angela Parkyn, and her staff.

Our total assets in 2015 were \$5,722,474 including financial assets of \$3,524,677. About one third of these financial assets are Life Lease monies held in trust on behalf of the unit holders.

The valuation of our properties at Glen Iris and Hawthorn is given at cost as \$2,197,797. I remark each year that the market value of these 2 properties would currently be (conservatively) \$7,000,000 at Glen Iris and \$5,000,000 at Hawthorn.

Our total members' equity at 31 December, 2015 was \$4,462,231.

In summary, although the occupancy rate in The Heights Residence is currently low and there are units available for Life Leasing, we have recorded an operating surplus in 2015. The main reason for this is the wonderful financial support we have received from Christian Science groups and individuals from far and wide who value what the VWA is doing for our Australia-wide Church community.

Mrs. Eddy wrote on page 469:30-5 of Science and Health *'With one Father, even God, the whole family of man would be brethren; and with one Mind and that God, or good, the brotherhood of man would consist of Love and Truth, and have unity of Principle and spiritual power which constitute divine Science.'* I am grateful that the 'whole family' of the VWA is supporting our work and that we express *'unity of Principle and spiritual power which constitute divine Science.'*

Thank you for your interest and support.

John Callaway.
Treasurer and Secretary. 16 April 2016.

*A motion was moved by David Weil and seconded by Betty Walters that the Financial Report be accepted.
Motion carried.*



The Effectiveness Of Prayer In Christian Science Healing

by Kathryn Bouchard West, Christian Science Nurse



Good Afternoon Everyone and thank you for being here showing your interest and support of our only Australian CS Nursing Facility The Heights and the Activity of CS Nursing, and Visiting CS nursing, here in Victoria.

The title of my address this afternoon is **The effectiveness of prayer in CS Healing**. Mary Baker Eddy states in the chapter on prayer in S&H. *'The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God, - a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love.'*

My own experience of Healing prayer is brought to my thought by the following psalm, to paraphrase from Psalm 40:1-3,5

'I waited a long time for the Lord, finally He heard my cry, and He established my goings and put a NEW Song in my Mouth'

...here I would like to tell you of the greatest adventure of my life—finding Christian Science.

I am a comparatively new CS. All my life I was a seeker and believed in God, depending only on homeopathy and natural remedies for the health of my family and myself...however after becoming seriously challenged and diagnosed by the medical and told there wasn't a lot that could be done, through a friend I was introduced to CS healing.

This friend gave me copies of the healings in CS Journals and I saw quite clearly that in my situation according to the medical verdict

there was only one way out and it was through prayer.

I decided that if the people I was reading about had had these healings I could too. My friend told me that there were people that prayed for others and that was their work. I was amazed. I then contacted a practitioner in the CS Journal to ask her to pray for me and she sent me a Science & Health and told me she would pray for me.

Following many conversations with my friend about CS Healing we decided to go to the nearest CS Church. After attending for the first time I knew I had found my spiritual home.

At this time, I was still on medication. I had a practitioner praying for me. Joining this church and the Mother Church became increasingly important to me, I was able to stop all medication and give testimony to this. The practitioner was then able to give me treatment.

My healing was revealed to me.

As I saw in my own healing the effect of prayer was a manifestation of unconditional love and this power of love regenerated thought and vision.

I continued to study CS and took class and shortly after this it was revealed to me very clearly that I should become a CS nurse... training in a facility and becoming Journal Listed.

Before coming to Australia I worked in Europe where I was witness as a CS nurse to

the Activity of the Christ on an almost daily basis. I would like to share with you further proof of the activity of the Christ in the following experience

At the time I was living and working in England. While telephoning a friend in France, her husband answered the phone and we chatted.

We have known each other's families and situations a long time. He began telling me of his recent adventure at sea. His boat sank and he was rescued by a Russian cargo boat, but he wasn't in the least daunted by the apparent seriousness of the situation as he was a retired Captain in the Royal Marines. We both laughed about his adventure and we shared ideas about the power of thought in general. He knows I am a CS Nurse and he knows that I help people through prayer, so he understood the idea of the power of prayer very well.

He then told me he would be visiting a friend, another sailor, at 3pm that afternoon in the hospital who was in dire straits with a tumour of the brain the doctors had given him only a few days to live, and he was not responding to the treatment they were giving him. He and his wife were desperate. My friend asked if I would pray for his friend. I said I would be happy to do so if his friend agreed. He got his permission. I had said that at 3pm that day I would be visiting a patient in a hospice here in England with her family members. We had planned to read the lesson and pray together so we would include this man in our prayer.

A few days later I received news of this man from my friend in France. Apparently he had started to feel better at that very moment we were praying. His immune system suddenly started to function again, and he left the Hospital with his wife that afternoon. He was home feeling better but still very frightened. I later received an email from the man thanking me for the prayer, but saying the doctors were insisting he come back into hospital to undergo chemotherapy. He asked if I would continue to pray for him, and I assured him I would... Several months later he sent more details and asked for continued prayerful thoughts, which I was happy to give.

Later that year I returned to France and stayed with my friends. They invited the man and his wife to come for afternoon tea. They were both in a state because he had been called in by the medical and was about to undergo chemotherapy and there was a great fear of the effects of medication. We spoke about prayer and the Wonderful power of the Christ. Even if he felt he should follow the doctor's advice at that moment, there was no need to be fearful as there was nothing greater than the power of the Christ.

I was on this trip with a fellow CS who was there and actively participating in prayer. I also phoned a friend who is a practitioner to ask for her support.

Later that day when alone with the couple I was able to assure them that we were in the presence of God, Divine Love, therefore there could be NO CANCER HERE. The wife broke down in tears and I saw the fear dissolve in front of my eyes.

In that moment her husband was relieved of the fear too, and they both cried. We talked of the great LOVE that our Father has for us, and they began to smile and laugh. Their thankfulness was great.

When we returned to the living room the others were taken aback by the change, and saw the couple happy and smiling and full of talk about God and prayer.

Every now and again I would receive an email from them telling me how well he was and that he was off all the drugs. The doctors would test him periodically, but all the symptoms were diminishing. Some-time later I received the news that he had been given the all clear, and that he was living his life again without fear. He was sailing again. He expressed the greatest gratitude to God.

This man and his wife are not CS but they are Christians and I felt their love of God to be True. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to pray with them, and to know that as a CS nurse and good Samaritan I was able to answer "Present" when called.

This is a quote from an article written by Allison Phinney, in the June 2014 CS Journal...*'Every degree of awakening to this vast spiritual reality is enough to bring CS Healing in the midst of medical scenarios.'*

The harvest truly is great, but

the labourers are few (Luke 10) pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest. we would send forth labourers into His harvest.



GUEST SPEAKER: Kathryn Bouchard West

The Harvest truly is great Jesus said. Gather by mental not material process (Mrs Eddy states in Unity of Good).

During the 8 months that I have been living and working here in Australia in the capacity of the CS Visiting Nurse for Victoria and at The Heights I have been witness to much regenerative thought. Prayer at work. Nursing is nurturing and cherishing, we all do it. Each time I walk into The Heights the lifting of thought is apparent and it is marvellous to sense this working together.

When we study the lesson sermon on a daily basis we also pray the daily prayer ... which begins *'Thy Kingdom come...'* by acknowledging this we know that the Father is ever present. This can be clearly evident in the eyes of the patient, the shift of thought, the small healings that are seen every day.

We are so fortunate to have The Heights a Christian Science facility which includes residential units for C Scientists. A wondrous Spiritual Idea. We are all here to express unconditional love and support, we are all working for the Father/Mother God...good, discovering how we all work together here, the staff, the supervisors, the patients, the CS practitioners, the CS nurse ... and everyone who supports the prayerful activity of healing.

The supervisors on the nursing floor maintaining an orderly atmosphere taking care of the Patient's daily needs, and working to their schedule allows the VCS nurse to give her time to share truths and supply some of the more individual needs that makes a difference to the patient's recuperation and for the practitioner's prayerful treatment.

Sometimes there can be resistance or reluctance to rely on prayerful treatment.

What would try to resist this healing prayer? The thought that I don't need any help there is something more powerful than God Good. On P. 420 of S&H Mrs. Eddy says...

'If students do not readily heal themselves, they should early call an experienced CS to aid them.

If they are unwilling to do this for themselves, they need only to know that error cannot produce this unnatural reluctance.'

Materia Medica would suggest that it alone is all powerful. IT IS NOT. This suggestion can and should be refuted whenever it comes to thought. We can be tempted to test our bodies to see if it has full freedom of movement or not. But quickly we must turn away from this thought since we don't test matter in CS Practice. We recognise God as the only power... and supply and strength.

Sometimes we can doubt that our healing actually happened or was incomplete... P450:17 says 'unless this admission is made, evil will boast itself above good.' We must always acknowledge healing.

Progress is always there. Progress is the Law of God as stated in S & H P.233:6.

In CS there is never a retrograde step, never a return to positions outgrown P.74:29

The resulting healing effect is felt by all who live and work here. In the hymnal '*In atmosphere of Love Divine We live and move and breathe*'...this prayerful, healing atmosphere is felt by visitors to The Heights. I was in

conversation with a doctor who was visiting. She understood that the mental prayerful support given to the patient by the CS

Practitioner was the equivalent to what she was doing as a doctor and that it was a choice.

We don't have to plan or think how when and where. God takes care of details. Our business is to carefully reflect, listen and obey His call. By doing so we are supporting this prayerful healing activity.

Based on letters from MBE to Adam Dickey ... which were published after he wrote Gods Law of Adjustment....it is stated, '*God will tell you what to do about your work. He will unfold each step. So don't get worried, anxious or impatient. He has infinite good instore for you. Work to know Divine Mind builds up, unifies, holds together and prospers.'*

Mrs. Eddy tells us that we cannot change our environment we can only change our sense of environment and we can never do this in any way other but through the elevation of our own thought about things...God is the only environment.

We must clear our own vision, sweep away fear, impatience, false estimates of our fellow man and know that One Mind shines thru and governs all.

So let us all maintain the right standard of thought, in living and nursing, 'THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF.' As we do this more people will be open to the idea of receiving CS nursing help and coming to the Heights.

Praying daily,

This facility that is set on a hill cannot be hid.



VWA Treasurer John Callaway and VCSNSA Chairman Betty Walters





Outings and Activities at The Heights

At The Heights we provide weekly transport to First Church Waverley for both Wednesday and Sunday church services. We also take residents to Christian Science lectures and the Annual Meeting of the Victorian Christian Science Nurses' Support Association.

Most Monday mornings we drive residents to Ashburton so that they can visit the bank, library or local shops and supermarket.

Depending on the weather and interest, we organise outings to various locations in the Melbourne area, attend concerts and exhibitions at local and further away destinations.

Some of our successful outings this year include going to Mt Waverley to view Nick and Heather Safstrom's Art Exhibition, and to Huntingtower to see 'On the Wallaby' performed by HOSA. We went to a Christian Science Lecture given by Stormy Falso CS at The Clayton Community Centre, enjoyed a drive to Lysterfield Lake, an outing to Jells Park and Monash Art Gallery and one to Williamstown.

Locally in Ashburton, we have been to an Australia Day concert, the Anzac Ceremony, the Ashburton Cultural Diversity Celebration and a concert in featuring 'The Cool Cats'.

At the Samarinda Centre in Ashburton, we have enjoyed many events including 'Slides of a holiday in Greece', a concert featuring the Marbray Players, a Screening of Andre Rieu in concert, and 'Christmas in July'!

In house, we have screened Christian Science lectures such as 'Counteracting Terrorism' given by Kari Marshos CS at Huntingtower and 'Angry No More by Michelle Nanouche CS. We have even had a screening of the Annual Meeting at The Mother Church.

VWA Members: Marg Rudolf, John Bruce, Ellie Bruce, Judy Warrell at the AGM

Some of the movies we've enjoyed at the Heights this year have been 'Woman in Gold', 'The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', 'The Dressmaker' and 'Suffragette'. 'A Bumpy Journey into Arnhemland' was a talk and slide show given by Nick and Heather Safstrom.

In January Rob Simpson joined us for our monthly hymn sing, and throughout the year, trivia quizzes and games have been a regular feature.

TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR CARERS

Our Journal-listed Christian Science Nurse Kathryn Bouchard West has recently conducted an inspiring one-day workshop for the staff and carers at The Heights. The topic Kathryn explored was "Ethics", and it was a very relevant, helpful and practical experience for them, in raising the human visual presentation of a situation to the metaphysical spiritual view of the patient. This workshop was greatly appreciated by all and helped to bring our team of staff closer together.





A view of the Heights garden

Are you a Financial Member of the VWA?

Thank you to all supporters who renewed their subscriptions for 2016.

We are grateful to those of you who chose to take out Life Memberships. These members do not need to return the renewal form each year.

Annual Membership is \$20 and Life Membership is \$300.

Renewal forms for 2016 will be sent out in March next year with the invitation to the 2016 AGM. If you would like to subscribe sooner or would like a copy of our new brochure, please email us at the address below, or phone to speak to the General Manager, Angela Parkyn, or one of our administration staff members.

Current Board Members as at October 2016

Chairman/Director
John Bruce

Treasurer/Secretary
John Callaway

Karl Berberich

Ellie Bruce

Leonie Tidd

June Buck

David Fletcher

CB

Administration Staff

General Manager
Angela Parkyn

Jaci Todd

Jane Keogh

Registered Office: 15 Kerferd Road, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146

Tel: 03 9885 2202 | Fax: 03 9885 0344 | Email: heights@bigpod.net.au | Website: vwa.net.au