

21 September 2016

Presidents Report

It's almost five years since Pymont Cares was established by 2 people with the desire to assist those people in need. With the wonderful assistance of 60 plus volunteers today, it's hard to believe we have moved to be a great force in the Community.

Unfortunately one of our founding members has retired from the organisation. John Hoff has now moved to the Barossa Valley in South Australia where most of his family live. We will miss John and his great wit, and we acknowledge all of the work he has done in helping establish Pymont Cares. John will stay as a member in an advisory role.

The financial year 2015-2016 has been very active for our organisation.

Our organisation continues to grow and today we have around 60 volunteers together with 50 Agencies looking for assistance. What is still unclear is, to what extent Pymont Cares' footprint and impact has to grow further given the expansion of services over the past year.

During the financial year, Pymont Cares volunteers have worked a combined 3,660 hours and delivered 635 pieces of furniture and in addition, have fully furnished 40 apartments in the City of Sydney. We have saved 120 cubic metres of furniture and white goods to landfill a saving of \$36,000 at commercial disposal rates. We continue to collect blankets and deliver them to those in need.

A lot of pressure is being placed on our volunteers, particularly the administration staff however we have managed to streamline the operation in an effort to reduce the workload of the pivotal key members who give their time and expertise to the organisation.

With the assistance of our secretary Jon Simpson and other volunteers, we have successfully introduced more positions on the committee to spread the workload and defined each position and recruited more people to make us more effective in the day to day running of the organisation.

More emphasis is now put on the furniture/white goods donors and request for furniture by way of self activated forms which are sourced from our webpage. This allows donors to make offers of good quality furniture they would like to recycle and provides the agencies, a convenient way to order items for their clients. Rosie Birch and Brooke Twyford has been the moving force in implementing this system.

Our Roster Clerk, Ivor Epstein, has been kept busy with the quarterly roster and juggling volunteers to fill vacancies.

The service of our old trusty truck has now come to an end after travelling almost 500,000kms. We have recently purchased a new 4½ tonne truck together with a pneumatic rear lift mechanism.

This was achieved by a wonderful donation from Morton Real Estate of \$100,000 made up of monthly contributions over 3 years and instigated by Ian Qiu, who is our local Morton Sales Consultant. Furthermore, if it was not for the financial assistance of our volunteers, Paul and Carol Limmer, we would not be in a position to purchase the truck at this early stage and we thank them immensely.

We have finally acquired a parking sticker for our truck and we acknowledge the City of Sydney for allowing us the facility.

Our local supermarket, Supa IGA, have provided us an ongoing parking facility for our van free of charge. IGA also sponsors us by way of provisions for our Christmas Party and food for the BBQ held for the homeless people in Pymont.

Our wonderful sponsor and donor, Muriel Chan of Blue Eye Dragon, contributed another \$10k to our organisation. Pymont Cares acknowledges all of the work she does for the community.

I would also like to acknowledge the kind donation of \$14k from Christmas in Pymont. The organisation works tirelessly to provide funding for worthy organisation in our community

During the year we had a charity function in a private box at Royal Randwick organised by Chris Downy (General Manager, The Star in Pymont) . They also have been generous in supplying good used furniture which is no longer required in their hotel facility.

All of the hard work by Jon Simpson has paid off. We have now achieved Deductable Gift Receipt status with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission. We acknowledge Jon`s persistence in achieving this status and in particular the driving force in our organisation.

I also wish to thank the Committee who work tirelessly through the year.

In closing, I cannot thank our volunteers enough who donate their time and effort in collecting and providing furniture for those who have been fortunate enough to be placed in accommodation. I must acknowledge the dedicated work that Rosie, Beverly and Helen undertake in the administration role and David Rice`s role as Treasurer in ensuring we comply with the various regulations.

Peter Devoy
President