



The Hills Hoist

Newsletter – SEPTEMBER 2013

We would like to recognise some of those in our community who support us regularly or on an ongoing basis. We encourage you to support these businesses if you can.

Thank You to.....

*Belgrave Book Barn
Chocolate Sensation
Crunchy Nut Take Away
Harrison's Hairdressing
Jag Hair Design
Puffing Billy Cafe
Roller City Bayswater
Sushi Express
Tecoma Charcoal Chicken
Star Bakery Belgrave*

A big Thank You to the following Churches:

*Belgrave South Baptist
Thomas Kennon Memorial
Tecoma Uniting
Upwey Anglican
Upwey Baptist*

for helping to keep our grocery section stocked and for other donations.

Thou shalt not discriminate

On the morning of his welcome the new pastor of a large (1000+) wealthy inner city church decided to arrive unannounced, although the elders were aware of what he was going to do. He dressed in old grubby clothing, did not shave and looked rather down and out.

As he walked into the main foyer of the church people turned and stared at him, but taking no notice he proceeded to enter the main auditorium. Looking for where he could sit the new pastor found a place at the end of the centre aisle halfway down. No one greeted or even spoke to him so he sat quietly looking around at his new congregation.

Shortly one of the deacons, a well-dressed prosperous looking man approached, and suggested that maybe he would be more comfortable seated over the other side in one of the alcoves at the side of the room. Not wanting to be a nuisance the pastor agreed and spent the rest of the service out of the way.

It came the time in the service when the leading elder announced that they would now introduce the new pastor. Everyone looked around puzzled as there did not seem to be any evidence of him. The man sitting in the alcove rose and slowly walked to the front and mounted the stage to the audible gasps of the congregation. He looked out at them and then gave them a lesson in compassion, judging others, and caring for the marginalised.

We, in our taking care of those who are facing hardship, must never judge, discriminate, or marginalise any client. As a Christian pastor I am always reminded of the words of Jesus, "come unto me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest".

He did not judge, discriminate or turn any away, so we must never be guilty of doing that.

Belgrave Community Op Shop

Visit our fantastic volunteers to buy something, or donate when you spring clean your cupboards and help YOUR community at the same time. Our op shop is always in need of donations.

You can find it at 1708 Burwood Highway Belgrave, near the roundabout. Phone 9752 6069.

From The Manager's Desk

Mi Place

Mission Impossible wound down as an association late in 2012. DRERS then began to learn how to run the program of keeping the drop-in centre going. We were extremely fortunate to have all the volunteers from Mission Impossible stay on to keep delivering the wonderful service and impart their knowledge and expertise to us. Teena Lee started the drop in centre over 15 years ago and it has been a valuable service to our community. DRERS is very honoured to have Teena trust us to keep delivering the program. We are very grateful to Teena and all of the wonderful volunteers who have stayed, and to the new volunteers who have since joined us.

DRERS runs the program under the name 'Mi Place'. It is run from the Tin Shed 1623 Burwood Hwy Belgrave, near the library.

The drop in centre is now open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and keeps providing a welcoming place where everyone is able to have a free lunch with great company. It also provides a hot shower to those who want one, and small emergency food parcels.

Mi Place is costing DRERS over \$6000 per year to run. The majority of the cost is rent, with the rest being for food (especially coffee). It is a big cost to DRERS however it is really worth it, especially when you spend time there and meet the people who attend (both volunteers and patrons). To the volunteers who run it, DRERS thanks you so very much for doing a really wonderful job.

Vegan Hills

Our volunteer, John, has been banding together groups of people once a month to cook up very tasty vegan meals which are then frozen and given out to people seeking help to access food through our emergency relief program. Our thanks go to John and his team for their great culinary skills. They also provided hot vegan food for the 15 year birthday celebration of the drop in centre and received many compliments for doing so. John also sources vegan groceries from the public and businesses for our E/R program.

Emergency Relief

Our emergency relief (E/R) program is going strong. Our dedicated volunteers have helped so many people in the 2012/2013 financial year. They handed out over 2,562 bags of groceries and 654 food vouchers. We helped children 944 times.

Food Team

Our food team is working harder than ever to continue to keep the ordered stocks at a good level and also to manage the donations that we get. Belgrave South Baptist Church had a canned food drive in winter and donated over 400 cans! Amazing effort (thanks BSBC) and yet, all of the cans have since been handed out.

Did you know that our food team stocks so much more than just canned food, rice and pasta? They have on hand fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, frozen foods, milk, yogurt, toiletries and much more.

Christmas In The Hills Project

Christmas 2012 was fantastic. Once again our volunteers secured many donations of wonderful toys and gifts and put on a great Christmas morning. Upwey Anglican Church provided the venue and an awesome array of food. Many thanks to Upwey Anglican Church for hosting the event. It was a great atmosphere, with live music and the spirit of Christmas in the air. This year the event will be held at the Tin Shed in Belgrave in earlier December.

Hope Productions

Ross, one of our biggest supporters, and a group of caring people have formed a group, Hope Productions. They are putting on a production to benefit DRERS so help us out by going to see 'A Dickens Christmas' at Burringa on 13th-15th and 20th-22nd December 2013.

General News

Our beaut ute!

We have our vehicle. After nearly two years of fundraising we managed to buy a great ute. Our thanks go to the Bendigo Bank, Dandenong Ranges Branch but our biggest thanks go to Tecoma Uniting Church and the Treasure Shop in Upwey. We couldn't have done it without you.



Our fantastic fridge!



Earlier this year, one of our volunteers received a National Volunteering Award. Carol Smith received the award for long term volunteering. Congratulations, Carol.

This year we have had secondary students doing placements with us. Thanks to Eilish, Eric, Thomas and Wyatt for being such wonderful young volunteers.

Between our services of E/R, Mi Place and Christmas In the Hills, DRERS needs a lot of financing to keep helping those who need us in our community. Our fantastic volunteers give so much of their time and skills to our charity. It is however, a charity and if you are able to assist us in any way, please contact our office. We welcome your assistance in helping us to help others!

Tax Deductible Donations

You can make a tax deductible donation by cash, cheque, or directly into our bank account. Our thanks to you if you do! Whatever way you choose to donate to DRERS, please send us your details so that we can send you a receipt.

For bank deposits:

Account Name: Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service Inc.
BSB Number: 633-000
Account Number: 140850967

Your support is graciously appreciated.

Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service
1632 Burwood Hwy, Belgrave, VIC 3160

Emergency Relief Phone: 9754 7777

Fax: 9754 7522

Email: drers@optusnet.com.au

Website: www.drers.org.au

Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 12.30pm