



Welcome

Well, I can hardly believe it's almost Christmas! Everyone I speak to is saying that the year has gone by so quickly. That brought me to the thought of how we measure time – not by minutes, hours and days, but by what we achieve.

About 5-6 years ago this group, made up mostly of parents of children with intellectual disabilities were asked to come up with a solution for their concerns for the future accommodation for their children in their adult life. For some, their children were already adults and in dire need of accommodation, for others there was more time.

Well, we did come up with a solution. We met at the Mt Barker office of the Intellectually Disabled Services Council and with their encouragement came up with what seemed to be a very straightforward and simple plan – a core and cluster village (not unlike a retirement village) for 20 residents who were living in the Adelaide hills districts, who wanted and needed independent supported accommodation.

We were delighted with the idea! We had no idea that it would be so difficult to sell to the government, to the local government, to the community as a whole.



Three of us delivered a very well prepared mission statement to a Parliamentary committee – no response.

We approached IDSC for their support for the residents - none until the complex is built! We approached the local council for some land – a flat no!

All of this took significant amounts of time – mission statements, plans, etc.

Conversations with other suggested bodies have taken place but they want to do it their way, not ours so...

Eventually it became obvious that we would just have to do this ourselves. We are no longer a lobby group, but a group with a burning ambition.

What have we achieved?

We have had a number of successful fundraisers and raised a good amount of money. We have made our cause known amongst the community, and raised awareness for a much hidden problem.

We are now at the point where (providing land prices don't go much higher) we can approach a bank for the loan to start our project.

Goodness me! To reach this point we have spent so much time!

Our committee is now a healthy mix of parents and supporters of our cause. We have our goal, we are persistent and we have a plan that will help people with intellectual disabilities move on to independence.

We believe that no one helps anyone unless they help themselves – we believe that help is happening.

I hope you all have a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Regards,

Judy

The Next Step

Our next step is to purchase enough land on which to build our village, and build the first house – a group home.

We now have 3 of the 4 families involved.

At this stage we have a verbal commitment from them to be part of our scheme and

this involvement is essential to our plans. We are excited about this because it makes more tangible.

We are looking for a fourth family to come on board, if there is a young woman out there looking for independence please give us a call.



Hills Variety Music Hall

A great success story!

Producer Liz Hirstle worked extremely hard to gather every one together and Barry Wilkins and the Mt Lofty singers sang beautifully, accompanied by Ros Keynes.

Our other performers, Robyn Hill accompanied by Barry Hall, Margaret Philpott, Joyce Campbell, Hannah Robinson, Bette Taylor, Bob Black and Bryan Young, James McLean and Josh Saunders from the Stirling Young Players and the Annette Langham Dancers all ensured good evening and afternoon performances.

Our Master of Ceremonies, Mr Rick Sarre, made sure it all stayed together and Miss Phyl Skinner's direction, as always was on the ball.

We would also like to thank the Mt Barker Council for their contribution.

We raised over \$3,000 and we would like to sincerely thank all those people for their time and talent, we would also like to thank our supporters who donated valuable gifts for our lucky seat winners. Without all of you we would have no hope at all of achieving our goal.

Thank You!



The Mount Lofty Singers



Phyl Skinner & Liz Hirstle



Rick Sarre & Judy Francis

Planned Fundraisers

A **quiz night** is planned for next June. A **Barbeque and night of fun** and entertainment is on the books for April.

Entertainment books

We have a few Entertainment Books left! The price for these books is only \$60 – use your copy three times and it has paid for itself – any discounts you receive after that are a bonus!

There are no more available so be quick and call Judy on 8391 6672 for your copy! Visa card available.

A good Christmas Present



CONGRATULATIONS to Natalie Web who ran – yes ran – the City-Bay Fun Run, in a great time of 1hr 13min, a personal best. Sponsors donated \$325 dollars towards her great effort. We thank them and especially Natalie.

Perhaps next year we can get some more runners and walkers

We would like to thank our supporters and sponsors:

Vern Schuppan	Stirling Fruit Mart	Sally Cook	Sip 'n Save Mt Barker
Nepenthe Wines	Aish Data & Design	Isobel Redmond MP	Tuscan Touch
Santos	Cambridge Gas	Mark Goldsworthy MP	Café Alto
Canon Aust. Pty. Ltd.	bb's Cafe	Michelle Lensink MLC	Raine & Horne Mt Barker
ANZ Banking Group Mt Barker	Bags Direct	The Hon. Alexander Downer MP	Hahndorf Hill Winery
Banksia Research & Marketing	Wallis Cinema Complex	R Bruggemann	
Cooper's Beer	Mt Barker District Hospital	Lasscocks Garden Shop Mt Barker	
SextonGlover REMAX	Sue Tweddell		
The Marketing Shop	Ruth Hemmerling		
Hahndorf Vegetable Garden	Carrie Gilbert	Valley Nursery	