



Who are we? What are we doing?

Hills Disability Housing is working very hard to establish a core and cluster accommodation complex in the Mt Barker district, for 20 people with intellectual disabilities.

Why have I decided to remind us all of that?

On Wednesday 20 February 2008 the Mt Barker Courier ran the headline "Father shoots disabled son". The Advertiser had also run the story a few days earlier.

Shock! Horror! How could anyone shoot his much loved son and friend?

The magistrate suggested that "[there are] a number of issues that relate to family dynamics here". How right he is.

The answer is simple really, the accused man and father of the 47 year old son, is quoted as saying "I've really been worried about him, thinking what's going to happen to him when I've gone."

The same emotions of despair, worry and concern are constantly in the minds of every parent who is still caring for their child when in 'normal' circumstances they would be enjoying the 'empty nest syndrome'.

Frequently aging parents of children with intellectual disabilities reflect that it might be a better scenario if their children died before they did.

Father shoots disabled son

By Genevieve Marston

Frank Harton, 75, shot his intellectually disabled son in the head as he lay sleeping in a caravan because he didn't want others to "bear the burden of looking after him", the Mt Barker Magistrates Court was told last week.

Prosecutor Brett Stokes said the son was ill but had the intellect of a 10-year-old, his father "surviving" the circumstances.

His lawyer, duty solicitor Bruce McCormack told the court his client had never been in custody and was "bewildered and confused". McCormack asked Magistrate Clynt Johansen to order bail assessment reports as well as psychological and psychiatric assessments. "That a father is accused of such serious offences against his own son, who is intellectually disabled, would suggest to me a number of issues that relate to family dynamics here," he said.

Mr Johansen said the court needed to see the son before the magistrate to set bail first.

The Courier reports the Father and Son tragedy in it's 20th Feb edition

Why would parents think that?

Because there is very little safe, secure suitable accommodation available with suitable carer support for their children to move in to.

Hills Disability Housing believes that if we can provide safe, secure, suitable accommodation, the government will have no choice but to provide the carer support – after all we are giving them plenty of warning that it will happen!

What are the benefits?

Twenty people will live independently of their parents or family carers.

Up to 40 parents/carers will have the freedom to get on with the rest of their lives, with peace of mind.

The community will know that they have in their midst, a happy, well cared for facility for 20 people who can join in the community life style with confidence.

I sincerely hope I will never hear of a parent so desperate that he would consider shooting his child because "he didn't want others to 'bear the burden of looking after him'" again.

Having gotten that off my chest, I would like to say Welcome! And a Happy New Year!

www.hdh.org.au

Our web site is now live and is a great way of keeping you up to date with our progress.

At this stage it's in its infancy but it is certain to grow into be a great asset and information source.

Please let us know if there is anything you think we should add to the current version.

As well as helping us to raise money, we would also like your help to make sure it saves money where possible.

This newsletter, and past editions will be recreated on the web site. If you could let us have your email address we can then let you know via email when a new issue is online.

This will save us the considerable cost of postage.

You can let us have your email address by emailing judy@hdh.org.au or by going to the subscription page on the web site and entering your details there.

Comedy at the Carlton Club, Hahndorf

Following his appearance at Adelaide's Fringe Festival Dave Flanagan will be appearing at the Carlton Club, Hahndorf.

Described in the Sunday Mail by Peter Goers as "the funniest man in SA and our greatest comedian since Mo – Roy Rene" We are fortunate to have such a talented performer.

Dave will be supported with a cameo role by one of Adelaide's most loved comedienne Phyl Skinner.

What a great opportunity for you all to come and enjoy a night with some of the best from the Adelaide comedy circuit plus a gourmet BBQ, wine from the Hahndorf Hill Winery, Cooper's beer and music from members of Holly and the Buddies.

Put the date in your diary now!

Saturday 5th April, 6.30pm.

Booking forms are enclosed, or book online!



Committee changes

It is with great pleasure that we welcome some new members to our fold who have agreed to serve us in an honorary capacity on our committee.

Emeritus Professor Derek Frewin AO (until recently Dean of the University of Adelaide's Medical School) and now Head of the Hypertension Clinic at the Royal Adelaide Hospital is concerned for the well-being of people with intellectual disabilities and agrees with our philosophies in the field of accommodation. Derek is also trying to set up a post graduate scholarship at the University of Adelaide for research and study in the field of intellectual disabilities.

Dr Susie Clarnette, a GP who does

understand the issues facing people with intellectual disabilities and has supported us for many years has agreed to support us further.

Harry Tillyer, a local man very involved in with the Lion's Club, and an engineer whose advice is going to be very helpful indeed has also agreed to support our cause.

Thank you to those very generous people.

Recently we were sad to lose **Kym Plunkett** who has had to resign as our secretary. Kym has done a wonderful job and we thank her for all her contributions. We are very grateful to **Marjorie Tillyer**

who joined the committee later last year and has agreed to take on the role of secretary. Thank you Marjorie.

Just this week, **Dave DeCaux**, one of our foundation members, has also resigned. We shall miss him and his wife **Mandy** who are moving out of the district. Their support has been quite incredible, thank you both.

We are still talking to those who we feel can help us to find suitable land. We are also talking to those who can help us establish our village.

Thank you to all those who listen and offer help.

We would like to thank our supporters

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