

40
YEARS

ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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40 YEARS!



CEO's Report

Welcome to the June 2010 Moreland Hall Newsletter. We had a fantastic couple of days celebrating the 40th Anniversary of UnitingCare Moreland Hall in early May. On the Sunday (which was 40 years to the day we opened), we held a celebration, where we were lucky enough to have Reverend Alf Foote, who was the first director of Moreland Hall and whose vision the place was built on. The Reverend Alastair Martin was our guest speaker and we had a number of other speakers and our own Community Choir made their public debut. On the Monday we had further celebrations when we had Ms Colleen Pearce, Director (CMA) 1992-99, the Public Advocate speak to us on the importance of being a voice for those who so often are not able to speak for themselves and had the BiPolar Bears entertain us. We are now busy planning for the next 40 years.

On planning for the future, The Board undertook its annual planning day on March 22. One of the focuses of this day was reviewing the current Strategic plan 2008-2011. There will be opportunities for interested people to have input into the preparation of the next Strategic Plan 2011-2014 in the coming months.

While the Board is committed to providing AOD services at the site into the future, they would like to see the co-location of other services including mental health, family and children and medical support services, which would provide a single service location for many of the other services that clients are currently engaged in. This year will also see us planning for further expansions in new programs in the growing North West area of Melbourne and beyond.

I am also pleased to announce that our Bluebelly Website has been nominated as one of three finalists at the 2010 National Alcohol and Other Drugs Awards. We will find out on June 23 whether we have won the award, so fingers crossed! If you haven't already, check out the Bluebelly website at bluebelly.com.au

Laurence Aids

A REFLECTION ON 40 YEARS

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Every now and then something makes your heart sing!

Moreland Hall's 40th anniversary celebrations did this for me, and, I think, for many others who participated.

- There were great speeches, and highlight events – not least being our own signing voices and those of The 'BiPolar Bears', but my heart sang at some of the little things:
- The hands of two elderly men clasped across 40 years of dedicated commitment to people in need
- The words of a politician spoken from the heart
- The affection of family giving the wind up call to a long-retired preacher
- The voices of support cheering a fellow traveller as she shared a song from her heart, and tears of identification with the story told
- The hand on my back to keep me in rhythm! A little sign of the care this community of people creates in its core
- The affection and equality that staff and clients experienced
- The simple delight on the face when a person received the gift of a mug to take home
- The reminiscences shared as people looked at photos, recalled faces, names and identified the different uses of the building

When Ian Angus, deputy-chair of the board, paid tribute to Reverend Alf Foote as the founder of Moreland Hall, he reminded us all of the dedication and perseverance needed to develop a just society for people experiencing real difficulties. Not only did Alf develop and contribute to innovative programs himself, but called on church and state to account for the treatment of those on the edge.

The affirmations from representatives from federal, state and local governments identified the different and important ways in which our services fulfil commitments, care for people, enable change and build community. Our key note speakers reminded us of the agency's heritage and challenged us to persist in our concentration ethical practice. The participation of so many people – from churches, past staff, clients (current and former), different agencies, and community and health services – paid tribute to the lives touched and changed, the innovations, courage and quality of services delivered.

Moreland Hall's story is so much more than a list of services provided. It is people – dedicated, troubled, courageous, resilient, determined. 'A just and compassionate community where people are not disadvantaged by alcohol and other drug issues' is a vision, a dream, a longing and a call. My mind was inspired, passion reignited, resolve renewed. A great celebration. A great story. My heart sang.

Rosemary Carter-Chaplain





Mr Ian Angus - Deputy Chair of the Board & Laurence Alvis - CEO

"...through the amazing support and counselling of the staff, I have been able to a degree reclaim my life, and now cope better with the difficulties which still face my now recovering son and me. I would like to thank you for what was a truly wonderful, albeit emotional afternoon. The choir was great, the speakers compassionate, and the food yummy."



"We were thrilled as a family to have Dad celebrated and acknowledged for his founding of Moreland Hall. As you can imagine, the place loomed large in our lives too, and it was with pride and appreciation that we realised that the legacy of our father is still in exceptionally innovative and compassionate hands. With huge thanks for all involved in that marvellous day and for all the great service provided to the community." The Foote Family



Reverend Alf Foote

"I began writing this song, 'The Waiting Game', during a particularly difficult time with my son who has been suffering from a drug addiction/mental illness problem for the last few years. It was so painful to write that I nearly abandoned the project. However, thanks to Moreland Hall's Friends & Family support group, I somehow found the strength to resume and complete it. In fact, I decided to adapt it to become not just my song but our song – a voice for all carers of people with drug or alcohol problems. Moreland Hall's 40th anniversary celebrations then provided an opportunity to perform the song with its newly formed choir of staff and clients. If it were not for Moreland Hall, I doubt I would ever have completed or performed my song; long may its services, programmes and above all, its caring and compassionate staff continue to help those in need!"

**THE WAITING GAME ©
Maggie. A. Somerville 2010**

1) I've known you since the dawn of time, I've loved you down the years
I've shared your joy, I've felt your pain, I've seen your angry tears.
And when you slowly drifted off and seemed to lose your way
I waited for the tide to turn, for night to bring the day.

**CHORUS: (As) And the nights are long and lonely and the days are all the same
And my heart it sighs 'If only' as I play the waiting game.**

2) Each day became a mountain, each night I fought with sleep
The nightmares rolled in thick and fast, the waters so deep
I tried to talk, I did my best just to communicate
Let's talk it through, let's look for help, it never is too late.

CHORUS

3) Our family is all torn apart and friends no longer there,
Their judgements ring out like death knells – so easy not to care!
Now it's detox, rehab, off to court, police they come and go,
Each day can bring despair or hope - there is no way to know.

CHORUS

4) How can you get back what is gone? How can you count the cost?
The damage done, the violence, the friends and family lost
The stealing, shouting, swearing and the ultimatums too
The rollercoaster never ends for me, for us, for you.

CHORUS AND/OR INSTRUMENTAL

5) Perhaps the worst is over now, perhaps you're on the mend
For where there's life there's hope they say and nightmares have to end
So now I wait to see the day when laughter fills my heart
When smiles and hugs not shame and drugs can lead to a new start.
**CHORUS: When the nights are not so lonely and the days not all the same
And my heart will lift if only it's no more a waiting game
Yes, my heart will lift if only it's no more a waiting game.**



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UnitedCare Moreland Hall has been awarded a prestigious Gold award for our 2008/09 Annual Report. The Agency received the award at the 6th 2010 Australasian Reporting Awards, which were held in Sydney on Thursday 10 June 2010. Laurence Alvis, Lyndie Spurr (Chairperson Board of Governance), Jane Thomson & Paul Allen attended the awards night.

Over 600 companies from Australia and New Zealand entered the awards and honours were given in three categories: Gold, Silver and Bronze. 40 companies (including Moreland Hall) received the Gold award for their annual report, 84 companies received the Silver award and 70 companies received the Bronze award.

CEO Laurence Alvis said, "It is a great honour for a small organisation like Moreland Hall to be given this honour and be in the company of organisations such as BHP Billiton, Boral, Boroondara City Council and the Department of Health and Aging. We are very proud of our Annual Report and the information it provides about the important work that our staff at Moreland Hall undertake."

To receive the Gold Award, reports must achieve the following:

- Achieve overall excellence in annual reporting
- Provide high quality coverage of most aspects of the ARA Criteria
- Provide full disclosure of key aspects of its core business
- Address current legislative and regulatory requirements
- Be a model for other peer reports



2010 IHRA CONFERENCE

The 21st International Harm Reduction Association Conference was held in Liverpool, UK on 25th April for 5 days. Julie Bowen (Director Education, Communication & Workforce Development), Donna Ribton-Turner (Director Clinical Services) and Ray Stephens (ICT Project Leader, Senior Education & Training Officer) attended the Conference on behalf of Moreland Hall. Ray presented a poster about Moreland Hall's Bluebelly Project.

The Conference has been held around the world for two decades and is the main meeting point for all those interested in harm reduction. Key topics discussed this year included the drug decriminalisation debate, global HIV and hepatitis C rates, needle exchanges, access to opioid substitution therapy (e.g. methadone) and future trends for harm reduction practices.

The Conference was a wealth of information and networking opportunities with four streams running over four days and a separate film festival each evening. While returning with some new ideas to be considered by Moreland Hall, there were reminders of the many difficulties that continue to be faced by the harm reduction movement. These included:

- globally more IDUs are incarcerated rather than offered treatment services
- only three cents a day is spent on harm reduction per injecting drug user
- a large proportion of countries still have no access to methadone or needle exchange services, while others limit access

Attending International forums about drugs reminds us of how well Australia compares in reducing drug-related harm, and we are often included in lists of best practice. Local access to treatment and harm reduction in Australia has prevented a significant burden on our health system and has helped to promote the human rights of those who use drugs.

Ray Stephens - ICT Project Leader

EXPANDING SERVICES IN HUME

On March 25th, Moreland Hall commenced the provision of AOD and Family Counselling at the Broadmeadows Neighbourhood Renewal service. The addition of the new service is designed to help improve the accessibility of AOD services within Hume City and provides an important addition to the range of Moreland Hall services currently available to community members. These services include:

- Youth AOD counselling – Youth Central
- Hume Youth & Parents Drug Service (HYP-d) – Youth Central
- Playgroup – Broadmeadows Maternal & Child Health Service
- Koori Court Liaison – Broadmeadows Magistrates Court
- Supported Accommodation – various sites throughout Hume City and Moreland

Moreland Hall's partnership with the Broadmeadows Neighbourhood Renewal Service provides the agency with further opportunities to integrate its programs with those of other community services and improve the quality of support available to local community members. Volunteers at the Broadmeadows Neighbourhood Renewal Service have welcomed the addition of AOD and family counselling at the site. Local community members attending for Individual and Family Counselling have reported that reduced travel requirements have made it easier for them to participate in AOD treatment.