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The Board of Directors is committed to a program which involves ongoing improvement of patient/resident/client care via the provision of adequate resources to achieve quality objectives as set out in our statement of mission.

MISSION STATEMENT

To achieve excellence in the provision of health services to the community within the Shire of Strathbogie and its surrounds.

Our goals will be achieved by:

- Providing a facility of excellence for acute medical care for privately insured patients
- Providing emergency and stabilisation service for uninsured patients.
- Providing effective quality health care within the community with the resources available.
- Providing a facility of excellence for:
 - Aged Care
 - Day Therapy
 - Palliative Care
- Offering paramedical and home based services to clients
- Co-ordinating with other health care providers to create an effective system of care.
- Extending services to the community as far as is compatible with the financial viability of the facility.
- Providing a safe and efficient working environment and promoting staff efficiency, flexibility and skills development through continual staff education in clinical and service roles.
- Provide an effective framework for communication.
- Undertaking and maintaining research and development of health services consistent with the facilities role.
- Forward planning to identify opportunities and challenges within the health care industry, and therefore maintaining long term economic viability.

PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Directors will respond to reasonable community needs and expectations and establish and maintain the necessary environment to:

- provide client care in a professional manner ensuring delivery of the highest quality
- maintain client dignity and the delivery of maximum support, using effective teamwork.

LIFE MEMBERS:

Mrs J McKernan

Mrs M C Esson

Mr J P Sullivan

Mrs B Webster

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Attendance

Mr Robin Morphet – Chairman
83.3%

Mrs Joan Megee – Deputy Chairman 90.9%

Mr Noel O'Meara – Chairman Finance Sub Committee 75%

Ms Diane Andary 87.5%

Miss Nola Dudley 91.6%

Mr John Greaves 91.6%

Mr Phillip Squires 75%

Mrs Sue Walker 91.6%

UNIT PERSONNEL

Chief Executive Officer/DON	Mr Kym Durance
Acute Services Co-Ordinator	Mrs Joy Hill
Nurse Unit Manager – Aged Care	Mrs Wendy Birch
Quality/Risk Manager	Mrs Bev McLaine
Gilburn Co-Ordinator	Ms Heather Houston
Catering Supervisor	Mrs Sue Chester
Maintenance Manager	Mr Alan Wakeling
Administration Manager	Mrs Jo Hoare

EXTERNAL SERVICES

Visiting Medical Officers	Dr Malcolm Alston Dr David Kelly Dr Jin Bing Li
Consultant Accountants	Smith Dossier
Bank	Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Auditors	Davidsons
Solicitors	Tehan George & Co

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is with pleasure that I present this annual report. The 2007-2008 year has been as difficult as those before it, however we remain committed to maintaining an active role of Acute Health delivery within our region.

I have been blessed with a diligent group of Board members who have overseen most challenges. I offer my sincere thanks to our staff who often under difficult circumstances, continue to deliver high quality care to our hospital, aged care and home and community care consumers. This staff efficiency has allowed us as a Board to concentrate more on “lateral thinking” and the “Big Picture” in an endeavour to stay in the health mix.

The year has been marked by a steady growth in our social programs. These include the establishment of the Senior Citizens Register and the beginnings of the Euroa Mens’ Shed. Those programs along with the work of the “Women of Euroa” form another large part of health promotion with in the region.

In the face of Medical, Nursing and Allied Health workforce issues, we are working cooperatively with the Department of Health looking for new opportunities to improve local health services. We were pleased to open our doors to Dr. Simon Permezel who now sees patients from rooms within our hospital. It is relationships like these that will assist us in playing a continued role in health in the Strathbogie region and we will be seeking out other similar arrangements.

In the same vein we have joined forces with the Benalla District Hospital in delivering Ante-Natal services to local women. We are working with Goulburn Valley Health in their “Healthy Heart Healthy Lung” program giving local people the opportunity to exercise and receive health education closer to home.

We continue to invest in Aged Care with improvement to Air-conditioning in both units and new heating in the low care unit. The Federal Government helped us invest in water savings measures to both reduce the amount of water we use and recycle water from our laundry operations. We received funds from the State government for an upgrade of our drug trolleys and improvement within the kitchen. The availability of this money was advised in the 2007-08 year and will be expended in the very near future.

The community continues to support us with substantial and regular donations. We are grateful for the hundreds of voluntary hours given to us by the community. Our newest adventure was the recent opening of the “Bowerbird Boutique” Op shop in Binney Street. The “Friends of the Hospital” and the Euroaville and Amaroo auxiliaries continue to work tirelessly on our behalf, and there are countless volunteers who work along side our staff in other roles helping add to the quality of life of those who use our services. These people need a special thank you indeed.

Once again thankyou to my fellow directors, and the staff for their support throughout the year, and finally my sincere gratitude to CEO Kym for his continued vision, diligence and teamwork displayed during the year.

Robin M. Morphet
Chairman

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Euroa Health (EHI) continues to deliver more and diversified services to the community in response to community needs. An increased focus on local and regional partnerships is seen as one way forward for the organisation as we strive to cement our place as a health provider within the region.

Soft rates of private health insurance in rural areas and limited opportunities to engage in procedural work present unique challenges to the organisation. Higher costs of goods and service also challenge us to examine what role we should and could play in the health field in the future.

Acute Service occupancy fell by 9% to 52% in the 2007-08 year, the lowest in 5 years. Occupancy in our acute beds is supported by our relationship with Goulburn Valley Health. For the full year 07-08 GVH patients generated 27% of our bed days. In 06-07 they represented less than 13%. The arrangement with GVH has been pivotal to sustainability while admissions of fully insured clients falls or remains static.

To that end EHI is in increasingly close and frequent dialogue with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) together with our peak body Aged and Community Care Victoria (ACCV). These discussions examine ways our sector can work more productively with the public sector and maintain relevance to the community that we serve.

Similarly we are in close dialogue with other regional health agencies in exploring new and exciting partnerships that allow our resources to be exploited in the best interests of the local community. We are well placed to assist the public sector to deliver services closer to where people live offering the community better and more convenient access to services.

It is in this way, by forming closer and stronger inter regional partnerships and by looking to means to closer align ourselves with the public sector in the business of health provision that we can guarantee our future at the same time as offering private hospital services to those in our region. It is important however in order to meet the health needs of a region under resourced when it comes to public assets for us to adopt a multi focal approach in our strategic direction.

Equally, Residential Aged Care is a market more dynamic than many may think. A new funding approach adopted by the Commonwealth, the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) has seen many rural mixed facilities (those with both high and low care beds) such as ours lose revenue. The funding pool has in principle remained unchanged however the distribution of funds within the pool has been moved to favour those with higher needs from those with lower needs. A high number of low care residents therefore can be seen as an operational liability. At the same time, improved home and community care services, improved health outcomes, peoples active exercise of choice in the market place and the progressive shift in population cohorts mitigate and impact on occupancy. Average occupancy in metropolitan services is close to 90%, in rural Victoria it is closer to 95.5%; ours in this reporting period is down from 98% to 97%.

Residential Aged Care has seen a substantial coalescence of providers. Fewer providers are managing larger numbers of beds. The obvious economies of scale these larger operations can demonstrate will put downward pressure on costs that the Commonwealth will expect to pay for aged care services in the future. At the same time salary and wages pressure will continue along with other inflationary indices placing more pressure on agencies to look for savings and or other source of revenue.

EHI will continually examine its role and function within the community. EHI will continue to address its operations and structure. It is only in this way the organisation can remain one that is relevant to the region. Partnerships with other providers, both public and private, will continue to be explored and, where appropriate, exploited in the best interests of EHI, our partners and the community we serve.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Directors of the Board for their support and assistance over the past year.

Thanks also to the auxiliaries and volunteers for their loyalty and efforts to value add to our work. And finally thanks to the staff who undertake the challenging work and deliver the care and service. I look forward to another productive year.

Kym Durance
CEO/DON

ACUTE SERVICES REPORT

While the bed average in Acute Services has decreased slightly from last year, the challenges for nursing staff remain the same and staff continue to strive to provide quality care. Many have worked beyond their EFT to cover leave and have attended various seminars to maintain and update their skills. Education and training in First Line Emergency Management has been developed and implemented by a local paramedic who assists staff to update their skills in this area.

Training and placement opportunities have continued to be available to Division 2 trainee nurses and those completing Medication Endorsed registration through local TAFE institutes.

Acute Services also continues to accommodate consulting areas for community access – radiology, physiotherapy (3 days a week), dietetics and podiatry, Community Care councillors from Shepparton, and a visiting ophthalmologist once a month.

With the lack of availability of doctors in town, the majority of emergency presentations continue to be redirected to the appropriate health service.

Our alliance with Goulburn Valley Health has continued with the majority awaiting Aged Care placement, plus a few minor acute episodes. The agreement with Goulburn Valley Health – Hospital In The Home also continued and enabled community members to remain at home and visit us daily for their treatment, rather than be admitted.

Liaison with Hume Region Palliative Care and the Palliative Care Volunteer Service based at Euroa Health continued to have benefits for the patient and their families, and the commencement of ante-natal services in partnership with Benalla Hospital provides improved access to services.

Discharge Planning, with family consultation, continues to assist patients to remain in their home with ongoing referrals to Occupational Therapy, Community Services, ACAS and District Nurses.

Thanks to the Friends of Euroa Hospital who have purchased numerous items for Acute Services to assist patient care and improve the environment. The Friends have also commenced refurbishment in one room to provide an area for Palliative Care. This will provide terminally ill patients and their families with private and comfortable surroundings in a more home-like environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their ongoing commitment and support in quality improvement and the provision of high standards of care.

Joy Hill

Nurse Unit Manager – Acute Services

AMAROO LODGE HIGH AND LOW CARE

Amaroo Lodge continues to provide high standards of care to the residents. With diligent care planning, residents receive quality individualised care suited to high or low care needs.

This year has seen occupancy fluctuate in both high and low care, consistent with overall aged care trends contributed to by the increased number beds now available in metropolitan and regional areas. However, overall our occupancy has remained above the average. Allocated Respite days have continued to provide services and are useful until permanent residency is available. Fortunately, we can offer Low care and Nursing Home beds to our local community and surrounding areas from our Acute services department.

We are continually working to improve practices and environment. The introduction of new Quality Audits has enabled us to identify more specific and relevant areas related to delivery of care. We also had an unannounced visit from the Aged Care Standards Agency during the year with positive results. These visits from an external agency provide valuable information and endorse the quality of care and service against recognised industry standards.

Planning and staff education for the introduction of the computerised documentation system are ongoing with great progress entering resident data into the system.

The introduction of ACFI, the new Aged Care Funding Instrument introduced by the Department of Health and Ageing, has challenged staff in education and implementation. Awareness and education in Elder Abuse has provided greater insight to the rights of our elderly.

A number of our Division 2 nursing staff have undertaken the Medication Endorsement Course with two members of staff recently receiving their Registration. This allows a larger scope for administration of medication. We were also successful in allocation of a nursing Scholarship granted by the Better Skills Scheme and have facilitated a PCA to undertake nursing on a part time basis.

We have been very involved in Falls Prevention, being part of a committee that meets regularly to discuss strategies for reducing falls in the elderly. Staff continue to update on No Lift recommendations and the committee meets regularly.

The introduction of QPS Benchmarking and completion of the first quarter audits has provided invaluable information for a number of areas. Generally outcomes are favourable and allow us to develop strategies to work toward excellence in care.

Lifestyle for residents is continually reviewed and is of high priority. Fresh changes are constantly taking place to meet individual interests, maintain independence and continue community involvement, with many attending Gilburn Day Therapy on a regular basis and participating in community lunches and trips to the Theatre. The forming of a Men's group who meet weekly has been a very successful and interactive program for our gentlemen.

We are very grateful for the commitment of our volunteers who share their company and their creative skills and help to broaden the interest in lifestyle. The Centre's community visitors scheme also continues to provide volunteers to share interests and provide companionship to suitably matched residents.

We continue to provide placement for students who are undertaking Certificate 3 in Aged Care at our local education centre and have been able to provide permanent employment for some.

Maintenance continues in our buildings with ongoing painting and replacement of floor coverings. Installation of evaporative cooling and ducted heating to the Euroaville building has been completed and ensures the living environment is comfortable.

Ladies Auxiliaries for both Amaroo and Euroaville as always provide ongoing support to the residents and focus their energies into ensuring the residents benefit from the funds raised. Their commitment and assistance is invaluable and we appreciate and thank them for their efforts.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of Amaroo Lodge for their unfailing commitment to the residents and their families and for their support in ensuring we continue to meet resident needs.

Wendy Birch
Nurse Unit Manager

GILBURN DAY THERAPY CENTRE

Gilburn continues to provide day therapy three days per week to our local community. Clients attend Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and activities include lifestyle support, a dementia specific program, woodwork, creative art, dance, and regular bus outings to maintain social contact with the community. Gilburn also provides day respite for carers of people with high needs.

Kellie Hill, the Occupational Therapist, has now been appointed to this area. We look forward to her continued advice and support.

On the 7th of May, 11 Gilburn clients, 2 staff and 5 volunteers travelled to Echuca for a two-night stay. The itinerary included going out for dinner and a trip up the Murray on a paddle steamer “Emmylou”. This trip promoted reminiscence and provided an opportunity for a holiday that would not have been possible without the generous support of our wonderful volunteers. The clients expressed their thanks and praise to all who assisted to make their trip such an enjoyable one.

At Gilburn, we rely heavily on the many hours given by volunteers. These people continue to provide vital support for staff and clients. They are willing workers who provide a range of services from making cups of tea to creating a safe woodwork area, and providing assistance on the bus.

We have completed a joint project with the Shire of Strathbogie to build two raised beds in the back garden area. The occupational therapist has assisted with plans for wheelchair access, planting table and paving around the raised beds. I am currently trying to source funding to complete the project which will include a water tank and a guided walking/physio track.

We continue to be involved with the Euroa Secondary College through the Expedition program. This has been an interesting and worthwhile project where the students spend 5 weeks at Gilburn. Each student completes a wide range of activities before moving to another area of Euroa Health.

I would like to acknowledge the continued support from the ‘Friends of the Hospital’. We have been able to purchase many craft items and replace electrical equipment.

Through the generous support of ‘Thales Australia’ we received two computers with grant funding, and Euroa Health provided software and Internet connection. We now have a small but active group of older adults that are learning to use the internet. This has been an extremely worthwhile project that has been able to equip older Australians with new skills, such as connecting with other seniors’ online, creating stronger intergenerational connection through email and increased social interaction. We now have our own page on Facebook, under the name of Gilburn Day Therapy, which can be accessed by interested family and friends.

I would like to sincerely thank all staff and volunteers for their ongoing commitment and support.

Heather Houston
Gilburn Day Therapy Centre Coordinator

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Occupational Therapy service, based at Gilburn House, has had a period of tremendous demand over the past 12 months. The service continues to be operational two days weekly, providing full service to the Strathbogie Shire and Euroa Health patients.

Occupational Therapy services clients in a setting that is largely community-based, often in the home. Service often includes assessment of the home environment, and making modification or equipment recommendations accordingly. Also assessed are one's skills (both cognitive and physical) in managing their daily activities, while scooter assessments and training are also frequent. We also provide some centre-based therapy and treatment, such as hand-therapy and splinting, and general support and advice to Gilburn clients. An in-patient service is also provided to Euroa Hospital, Euroaville and Amaroo, whereby one's needs to maximise their set-up at home prior to discharge is a priority.

Referrals to Occupational Therapy have been extremely constant over the past 12 months, with some occasions being extremely busy. Many months have seen new referrals in excess of 20 for the month. Nonetheless, most new referrals are able to be assessed within 1-2 weeks. Urgent referrals are prioritised and seen as soon as possible. At present, there is a minimal waiting list.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 12 months as Euroa Health OT – it is a sensational work environment with wonderful people to work with, both at Gilburn and the wider Euroa Health community. I look forward to many more years of continued work at Euroa Health Inc.

Kelly McIntyre
Occupational Therapist

QUALITY REPORT

Euroa Health continues to maintain full accreditation status with all external agencies who measure performance, care and service against recognised industry standards, guidelines and legislative requirements.

In April 2008 the Australian Council on Health Care Standards (ACHS) conducted a Periodic Review with successful outcomes ensuring accreditation remains in place until the next review in 2010. The Agency congratulated the organisation for its continuing efforts to engage the community and to promote health and wellbeing through introduction of many new initiatives. The commitment of the organisation, and enthusiasm of staff to maintain standards and accreditation was also commended.

ACHS also reviewed HACC services provided by Gilburn Day Therapy and the unit achieved an excellent rating with an excellent level of compliance against the Department of Human Services HACC requirements.

In November 2007 a further unannounced visit from the Aged care Standards Agency (ACSA) again endorsed the ongoing quality of practices and systems in Aged Care. Other external reviews and audits were also successful with positive outcomes, and included Food Safety Audit, Worksafe Review, Infection Control Audit and the annual audit by the Department of Human Services' Private Hospital Unit.

In May we received notification that we are now required to participate in a compulsory accreditation system for our Diagnostic Imaging Services.

Accreditation is successful only with the commitment and support of the Board of Directors and staff and a strong, effective Quality Program. The Program has undertaken a full evaluation this year and developed Key Performance Indicators to ensure ongoing monitoring and evaluation. The Board and each Department is represented and all staff assist in the implementation of quality improvement activities in all areas of the organisation.

At the end of the 2007-2008 financial year, 92% of quality activities had been completed with positive outcomes and improvements in patient/resident care.

Quality focus areas for the year included:

- Risk Management Review
- Credentialling and registration procedures for clinical staff
- Full review and further development of External Contracts and service providers
- Human Resource Planning
- Implementation of QPS Benchmarking system for Aged Care
- Commencement of interactive Aged Care education for staff
- Development and implementation of the Metsyn Program and further enhancement of the Women of Euroa Group
- Complaints and Comments Review
- Staff Orientation and Training
- Patient, Resident and Staff Satisfaction Surveys
- Review of Discharge Planning

Education and Training

As well as providing many in-house training sessions, Euroa Health Inc. has a commitment to ensure all staff have access to external education opportunities. Over the past 12 months, 3 staff in Hotel Services have completed their Certificate 111 in Health Support (Food and Cleaning Services). We have also supported and provided access and resources to staff to complete their RN Division 2 Medication Endorsed qualifications as well as providing a venue for external training organisations to place students during their training.

Many staff have also attended ongoing training in the newly introduced Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) and continue to improve their skills in electronic documentation systems.

Compulsory education for all staff also continues to be well attended with improved compliance during this year.

The commitment of all staff to continually improve and update their knowledge and skills reflects their dedication and commitment to quality care.

Bev McLaine
Quality/Risk Manager

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

In addition to providing administration support to all departments within the organisation, the Administration Department plays an integral part in the co-ordination of the many services provided by Euroa Health including allied health services such as Physiotherapy, Goulburn Valley Community Health Counselling Services, Reflexology, and community based groups such as The Women of Euroa and the Euroa Senior Citizen Register.

This year there was a change in our reception staff with Lauren Bjorksten leaving and Marg Watters being welcomed to the fold. The X-Ray department was re-opened in February and is now located in the old theatre area of the hospital with its own dedicated reception which is attended to by Marg on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

There have been some very challenging moments during the year, with several new software packages being implemented simultaneously throughout the organisation. Administration staff have worked well together and with the care staff, to ensure a smooth transition from the old systems. A wireless network has also been installed so that bedside computer input is now an important improvement in the Aged Care areas.

Thank you to Lois, Alison and Margaret for their dedicated support during the year.

Jo Hoare

Administration Manager.

HOTEL SERVICES REPORT

The work of Food and Domestic Services is constant through out the year. Even with fluctuations in occupancy, the floor space to be cleaned remains the same and as new and varied services are introduced our work varies as well. The numbers of meals to be plated day to day does not vary a great deal so Food and Domestic Service are kept constantly busy.

This department is proud of our product and the fact that our efforts, along with the clinical and Administrative staff, help contribute to the maintenance of our Accreditation. Patient and resident satisfaction surveys reflect that we provide a good product in food and cleaning standards also meet all requirements.

Turnover of staff has presented problems through out the year but many of our staff are multiskilled and this has helped offset some of the difficulties experienced.

Further staff completed the Certificate 111 in Health Support Services in both cleaning and catering along with other internal education in Fire Safety, Manual Handling and Infection Control.

We are looking forward to another busy year with the continued support and commitment of all staff.

Sue Chester

Supervisor

MAINTENANCE REPORT 2007-2008

2007-2008 has seen a lot of improvements and upgrades throughout the complex.

- The new gas heating was installed in Amaroo Low Care and Special Wing.
- External damaged timber has been replaced in Special Wing and the exterior painted.
- The outdoor pergolas were re-roofed with laser-lite and color bond in Low Care and Special Wing, creating a comfortable environment during the wetter months for the residents and providing a sheltered area for scooter parking.

These repairs and renovations have improved the look of the buildings considerably.

The ongoing painting program has also seen several more rooms in Low Care, Special Wing & High Care completed. This program ensures repairs are carried out to any damaged walls and ceiling and rooms are repainted for the next resident.

We have had more floor coverings replaced including the staff tearoom in High Care, the main kitchens staff tearoom and Reception area of the Hospital.

An average of 114 work request requisitions were received per month with a completion rate of 91.81% with the remainder requiring parts, ongoing repairs or capex work.

There were 9 after hours call outs for the 2007-2008 financial year:

- 4 - plumbing related
- 1 - coordinated services
- 1 - Edac auto dialer
- 1 - medical gases,
- 1 - electrical
- 1 - Kitchen equipment (cool room).

This is a 44% decrease (7 calls) from the previous financial year.

ESIS (Essential Services Improvement Systems) manuals have been updated as equipment/machinery changes to ensure all servicing and repairs are carried out and the equipment is performing to maximum efficiency and legislative requirements. The software is also updated annually to ensure current standards apply and that all safety equipment is maintained under the Building Code of Australia.

Water saving improvements have also commenced with toilets and shower heads being replaced to reduce water usage considerably in the future.

Thank you to Gordon for his assistance, enthusiasm and support throughout the year.

Alan Wakeling
Maintenance Supervisor

AMAROO AUXILIARY PRESIDENT’S REPORT

As I prepared my final report for the Amaroo Auxiliary, I felt I must first thank my small group of members who have faithfully provided their ongoing support and generosity at meetings and freely given their time to assist. Thank you also to past member, Noel, for her continued generous donations and Gwenda Watkins (Our Emporium) for giving her time to ensure wonderful displays at our fundraisers as well as her very generous donations.

We have this year had our Mothers Day and Christmas raffles and also a Morning Coffee – “Garden Advice” which was well supported by the community.

Celebrating 25 years of service to our aged community at Amaroo was a pleasure with Madonna and staff decorating the dining area and Inday doing a wonderful job with the afternoon teas. Ewen and Alison Cameron were present as they were at the original opening and Ewen cut the cake. Win Nolan who was the 1st President then presented paintings to Amaroo which had been purchased by the Auxiliary to commemorate the occasion.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Auxiliary during 2007-2008 particularly the members who are always ready to assist on special occasions. Thank you to Rae for her ongoing contributions to our Mothers Day, Fathers day and Christmas cards. Thank you also to Daphne for taking the chair during my illness and to the very capable and competent Rae and Diana.

As the residents enjoy the aviary and activity items that have been purchased, I know that they can look forward to further donations and support provided by this willing band of workers who continue to show a strong commitment to the residents of Amaroo.

Lauraine Deans

President – Amaroo Auxiliary.

EUROAVILLE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present my report for the year 2007 – 2008.

Again this year, for a small Committee, we have done very well. Great credit must go to all members who are always ready to help whenever needed.

The attendance at our monthly meetings has been good even when the weather has not been good.

We have conducted our usual Father's Day and St. Patrick's raffles both of which were very successful. We also held our two Blume's Clothing days which are looked forward to by the older ladies. These are quite profitable and do not require a lot of effort on our part.

We finally had our special chairs and tables delivered to the Shovelton Wing. After paying \$5,000 for these, our funds were low but the St. Pat's raffle has helped to top them up again.

On Mother's and Father's Days we presented all residents with lovely cards made by Heather Jarvis. We thank Heather very much for these.

For Christmas we held a barbeque for the residents and everyone was presented with a gift from Santa. We would like to thank Bob Bullock and Harold Megee for their help with this day.

We received generous donations from both the Lions Ladies and the Garden Club for which we are very grateful.

Also a big thank you to Euroaville staff for their help with raffles, barbeques etc.

Again I would like to thank all Committee Members for their support this year and really special thanks to Rae Wight for all her help.

Valerie Barker
President

FRIENDS OF EUROA HOSPITAL REPORT

It has been a successful year in that we have been able to provide many useful and expensive items for the Hospital.

There were three fundraising events during the year – a Fashion Parade, a Christmas raffle and a wood raffle. The fashion parade was held in Gilburn and grossed \$533.69. The raffle of a Christmas hamper made \$1,280.70 while the wood raffle brought in \$1,022.

Collection tins in the BP and Caltex service stations and in Burtons Stores also made a total of \$906.16 while Patsy's marmalade stall at the "Show & Shine" made \$54.

These earnings continue to show the measurement of our support within the community.

The items purchased for the Hospital have been requested through consultation with the staff and have been purchased locally wherever possible. They include:

- DVD/Video player for the lounge \$149
- Bed Overlay \$1,640
- Shower chair \$799
- 2 over toilet seats \$104
- Paris recliner chair \$699
- Pots for Kitchen \$129.51
- Cake boards for Kitchen 23.83
- Portable TV set for hire to rooms.

The main objective at this time is to continue to furnish a Palliative Care room. Donations have been received of a doona cover and 2 paintings from members of the community for this project.

Members also continue to make the trolley rounds in the hospital on Mondays and Thursdays.

There continues to be some problems with a stable meeting place due to other commitments for meeting rooms. This can be disconcerting for the members who like to attend meetings when they have time.

Patsy Ryan
Honorary Secretary

COMMUNITY REPORTS

WOMEN OF EUROA

In the twelve months from July 2007 to June 2008 the Women of Euroa have held four dinners and 2 morning teas. The speakers have been varied to cater for the interests of the wider community. All events have been well attended, with an average of 85 attending the dinners, and an average of 25 attending the morning teas.

Jenny Jackson from the Jean Hailes Foundation for Women's Health was the speaker at the August 2007 dinner and morning tea. A number of local women have since made contact with the Foundation to follow up health needs.

At a morning tea held in November, Pam Wippell, Rural Access Officer for the Strathbogie Shire, outlined her role within the community, and some of the projects being undertaken within the Shire.

The November dinner was kept as a light-hearted event, with Jan Nugent and some of the Euroa Golf Club ladies entertaining those in attendance with clever skits and jokes.

Kerrin Shortis was the guest speaker at the February dinner, and spoke on her experience and the challenges of coping with an Acquired Brain Injury. Kerrin and her sister both have acquired brain injuries resulting from accidents involving horses. Kerrin's family have strong Euroa ties, with her grandmother and auntie living here.

Maree Welsh addressed the May meeting detailing the mission and role of Vision Australia. Maree has regular contact with vision impaired people in Euroa, and her office services the Strathbogie Shire.

The Women of Euroa Group gratefully acknowledges the generous support given by Euroa Health Inc by auspicing this group; the Strathbogie Shire for their support and generous grant for two of the programs; and numerous Euroa businesses for their continuing support.

Through funding grants and "in house" fundraising, this group is able to function at no cost to Euroa Health Inc.

Nola Dudley

Convenor

Women of Euroa Group

EUROA SENIOR CITIZEN REGISTER

In February 2007 discussions were held with the Officer in Charge of the Euroa Police and the Chief Executive Officer of Euroa Health Inc about forming the Euroa Senior Citizens Register.

With full support from both parties, and after a lot of research and hard work, a management team was formed in December 2007. The management team, consisting of Sgt. Ash Mason, Mr Kym Durance and myself, John Arandall worked towards establishing a program but a lot of work still had to be done. With the help of Alison Hermiston of Euroa Health Inc., the program was launched in February 2008.

We now have over 50 members and with 7 volunteers working towards providing a much needed service to our members, we are growing rapidly. A Police Security Audit was recently conducted for any of our members who requested one, and early in October we are proposing to conduct a smoke alarm testing and battery replacement program in conjunction with the Euroa CFA. These services are provided free of charge to our members.

As with any community group, funding is an important issue. I would like to thank North East Country Real Estate and Bea Anderson's Violet Town Gift Shop for their ongoing support, and thank you also to those members and volunteers who have made a donation.

Finally I would like to thank all our volunteers, sponsors and the management team for their help and support, and I look forward to the program continuing and expanding in the future.

John Arandall
Program Coordinator

METSYN PROGRAM

Following on from a pilot program run in December 2007, 3 “MetSyn” Metabolic Syndrome exercise programs have been run in the old operating theatre complex in 2008. The aim of the programs is to introduce or re-introduce people to the benefits and practicalities of structured exercise as a way of reducing their risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes (T@D) and/or Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), or reducing the impact of these conditions if they already have it. About 50 people have been through the programs.

A substantial amount and variety of gym equipment has been acquired by Euroa Health through generous funding by the Foundation of Rural and Regional renewal (FRRR). This equipment can be used for a variety of exercise programs and Goulburn Valley Health conducting a “Healthy Hearts & Lungs” program for people with chronic heart disease and respiratory diseases. There are also a couple of groups of people who have been through the MetSyn Program who continue to use the facility on a regular basis.

A protocol has been developed for use of the facility by the public on a casual basis. This protocol includes an instruction session by the physiotherapist, requires the user to become a member of Euroa Health Inc. and give a gold coin donation each time they use the facility.

There are a couple of government-subsidised preventative health programs involving exercise that are expected to operate out of the complex in 2009.

Tony Schneider
North East Physiotherapy

DONATIONS

The Board Members and Staff of Euroa Health Inc would like to acknowledge with sincere thanks and appreciation all those who have in any way made a donation to the organisation throughout the year.

Major donors are listed below:

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