



Rebuilding Lives, Strengthening Communities

GAZETTE  
JULY 2015

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## From the CEO



### Reasons to be Cheerful.

- a message from our CEO Charlie Blatch.

At *Goldbridge* we know the year ahead will continue to be challenging, with the ongoing uncertainty of public expenditure meaning there is less money around to fund services that are likely to see increased demand. And whilst it could be easy to get despondent about that, at *Goldbridge* we know that it is exactly times like this that charities need to stay optimistic. And whilst we have no illusion about the challenges ahead, we see many reasons to be cheerful.

Just recently, *Goldbridge* recently became the first Therapeutic Community (TC) in Australia to be reviewed against the ATCA Standard. While the official report is still outstanding, *Goldbridge* management and staff are confident in complying with the Expectations of the Standard. As well as being the subject of a review, *Goldbridge* also provided the opportunity for the Certifying Assessment Body IHCA (Institute of Healthy Communities Australia) to be assessed for accreditation by the Joint Assessment Service of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ). Once the accreditation is complete IHCA will then be registered and it will be able to audit other TCs in Australia. This development heralds a new phase for the TC movement in Australia, certification will provide all stakeholders the reassurance that the service is truly operating as a Therapeutic Community.

Another project about to come to fruition is in the area of Family Re-unification. The drive to be a better parent is a key reason for parents

to seek alcohol or other drug treatment, (about 70% of all admissions), therefore the *Goldbridge* residential program puts a major emphasis upon parenting and family strengthening support services. In recent times, *Goldbridge* has partnered with Housing Companies and Child Safety to provide housing, supervision, support and therapy to ex-residents whose children have been in the care of the Department of Communities and Child Safety. Children with substance dependent parents are at high risk of developing their own drug, alcohol, and other problems. These problems are largely associated with compromised parenting, lack of resources and a chaotic lifestyle. In the final analysis, there will always be a need to provide safe and secure accommodation, as well as support, to families that have been re-united, particularly so, for those parents who have overcome a range of personal problems, and are in the process of being reunified with their children – as we believe this is a very strong strategy in breaking the multi-generational cycle of addiction. *Goldbridge* is very proud, to have been the instigator of this project.

So, all in all – 2015 has become highly productively, and most importantly we hope the future of our Federal funding contracts will be resolved in the very near future, which will enable us to plan and deliver services with greater, brighter and renewed confidence.



Charlie Blatch - CEO Goldbridge  
Suzi Van Der Vinne - Improved Services, Goldbridge  
Carol Daws - Technical Expert for JAZ-ANZ Observer  
Bernice Smith - HR Advisor Goldbridge  
Toni Eachus - Operations Manager  
Jennifer Engels - JAS-ANZ Observer  
Margaret Robson - Auditor IHCA  
Barry Evans - Technical Expert IHCA & ATCA



## Goldbridge new team members



**Fiona**

Fiona is 'stoked' to have been given the opportunity to join the *Goldbridge* Team. She has been a Volunteer Supervisor at *Goldbridge* for the past 2 years and has now been given the chance to begin a career in the AOD Sector by accepting a traineeship with GRS. So while working full time, she will also be studying a Diploma in Community Services (AOD & Mental Health). Fiona has 3 teenage children who also keep her busy but believes she will be able to juggle all these responsibilities! We wish you the best!



**Linda**

Linda has trained as a nurse (EEN) and has specialised in detoxification and management of people with AOD/mental health issues. During her work/career she has spent 3 years as a nurse in a TC environment, done 3 years AOD counselling in remote settings and worked 1 year in a psychiatric setting dealing with dual diagnosis detoxification and mental health management. She is originally from NZ and now resides here with her husband and combined family of 4 children and after a full day's work at *Goldbridge*, likes to relax with music and her guitar.



**Josh**

"Originally from NZ I have lived in Oz for nearly half my life and totally love it! Since being in Oz I have made some awesome friends, done some fun and interesting things. I have been fortunate enough to attend a great school and further my learning through Uni studies. I am a foody at heart and am always up for trying weird and out there types of food, and I try to balance that with some Crossfit from time to time. I enjoy riding my motorbike up and through the hills, especially Springbrook because of the views, bends and awesome coffee house at the end! Coffee...don't get me started....couldn't live without it!"



**Amy**

Amy joins *Goldbridge* as an AOD case worker. Amy's specialization in drugs and alcohol, together with her in-depth knowledge of health and wellness provide a unique twist on today's work in the human services industry. Amy's work has been to bring awareness of being a healthy individual such as what you feed your mind and social environment; looking at the big picture of enhancing the quality of life. At university she studied social science and counselling and Amy's previous positions have included outreach for youth, psycho-education and individual counsellor for people experiencing AOD dependence.

## Flourish Arts Festival 2015

5th September 2015

*Goldbridge* was invited to participate in the Flourish Arts Festival 2015 by the Uniting Church at Southport. The theme this year was "Creating Flourishing and Inclusive Communities". The festival promoted everyone "to enjoy the Flourish experience and that together we will bring families and community together, and provide wholesome arts related activities and entertainment to the families of the Gold Coast."

The opening of Flourish Festival included a speech by Councillor Dawn Critchlow, who praised the Southport community in having such involvement in this annual festival. It is envisaged that Flourish Festival will be a week-long event in 2018 to coincide with

the Commonwealth Games. Throughout the day there were performances by local groups and there were many exciting activities on offer for children and adults. These included creative storytelling, drama, face painting, art and crafts. As well as various family information and support groups.

*Goldbridge* provided an Information booth at the festival. It was a great place for *Goldbridge* to answer questions and give information about the services we provide to Gold Coast families as they come to join in the fun that is the Flourish Arts Festival.



## Hello My Name Is Drugs



I destroy homes, tear families apart, take your children and that's just the start.

I'm more costly than diamonds, more costly than gold, the sorrow I bring is a sight to behold. And if you need me, remember I'm easily found. I live all around you, in schools and in town.

I live with the rich, I live with the poor. I live down the road, maybe even next door. My power is awesome, try me you'll see, but if you do, you may NEVER break free. Just try me once and I might let you go, but try me twice and I'll own your soul.

When I possess you, you'll steal and lie, you will do what you have to just to get high. The crimes you will commit for my narcotic charming, will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in my arm.

You lie to your mother and you will steal from your dad, when you see the tears you should feel sad. But you'll forget your morals and how you were raised.

I'll be your conscience I'll teach you my ways.

I take kids from parents and parents from their kids. I turn people from good, separate friends. I'll take everything from you, your looks and your pride, I'll be with you always right by your side. You will give up everything your family,

your friends your home and your money until you're left alone.

I'll take and take till you have nothing left to give when I'm finished with you, you will be lucky to live. If you try me, be warned this is not game, if given the chance I will drive you insane.

I'll ravish your body I'll control your mind, I'll own you completely your soul will be mine, the nightmares I'll give you while laying in bed, the voices you hear from inside your head— you will have the shakes, the visions. You'll see: I want you to know they are all from me, but it's too late. You will know in your heart that you are mine and that we shall never part—you will regret you tried me they always do, but you came to me not me to not me to you. You knew this would happen many times, you were told, you could have said NO and just walk

Away, if you live that day again what would you say?

I'll be your master you will be my slave and I'll even go with you to your grave. Now that you have met me what will you do? Will you try me or not, it's all up to you.

I can bring you more misery than words can tell. Come take my hand and let me lead you to hell. That's my story about my experience with drugs.

## Zdenko Derma (Robert)

04/09/1954 - 25/03/2015

Sadly we said goodbye to Zdenko who we otherwise knew just as Robert. Robert had been part of the Goldbridge family for over 20 years and contributed to much of the renovations and maintenance completed over this time. Robert moved back to Victoria in 2013 and is survived by his wife and son and he will be greatly missed.



Meet Rocky 1—  
created by Jared  
and Erwan.  
—Thanks guys

## Gold Coast Glow Festival

On Saturday 11th April, Goldbridge staff and residents participated at the annual Glow Festival. The project is a new endeavor by The Arts Centre Gold Coast, and its purpose is to provide an opportunity for a number of community groups to come together and represent themselves as part of the Glow Festival which this year, was facilitated by Laurinda Janlewicz. Pictured (left) are some of the bright and creative lanterns made by Goldbridge residents. We're looking forward to next year's fun!



# Lions Club



In November 2014, our TC Coordinator, Toni Eachus, was approached by Lion Jill to see what support Robina Lions could offer *Goldbridge*. Lions Club member Jill Allport decided to take our request to the Lions Group and it was agreed to donate food hampers for Christmas and toys for the children of our clients. Since Christmas our partnership has grown and grown through the hard work and avocation of Lion Club members and Jill. The following May, Toni attended a Lions Club meeting as a guest speaker to inform members of the work that *Goldbridge* does.

The Lions now regularly donate furniture and household items for use in our facility and for use by clients returning to independent living. They have also just donated almost \$500 to allow us to purchase a brand new Sofa Bed in order that we can better accommodate wheelchair users. Jill was so determined to organise this for us she spent her 'free time' in furniture shops with husband Brian as bed tester!! They have also just confirmed that Lions Club members will again be donating Christmas hampers and toys to make Christmas 2015 an enjoyable one for our clients and their children.

*Goldbridge* is pleased to report that Jill has been recognised for all of her hard work, particularly with *Goldbridge* and for collecting spectacles to be sent to third World Countries and has received a community award from Councillor Jan Grew. On behalf of all *Goldbridge* Management, Staff and Residents, congratulation and a big thank you to Jill and ALL the hard working Lions Club members! *Goldbridge* would also like to acknowledge and thank Lions Club member Jeanette, (who is currently unwell), for her support and hard work and send love and best wishes to her and her family.



Jeanette, Jill, Brian and Charlie



Jill accepting her award from Councillor Jan Grew



Some of the gifts donated at Christmas

# International Family Week 2015

As part of celebrating International Family Week ( 15th-21st May 2015 ), with the theme of "stronger families, stronger communities", *Goldbridge* held a Family Day on Sunday the 17th May. The residents invited their families and some 14 children attended to share a magnificent chicken luncheon and ice cream cones, which were enjoyed by all - including the poppa's and nanna's!

Beginning with a presentation by the CEO on 'Families in Recovery' and followed with a close explanation of the Therapeutic Community approach to drug-free treatment. The overall aim of the day was to promote healthy

and happy playtimes with close interactions with the children.

Some of the activities were painting, colouring-in, but by far the hit of the day was the Sand Play, with even residents with no children joining in. Over sixty (60) people attended, and so many families requested that we do it more often, however this is dependent on fiscal capabilities.

A heartfelt thank you to the work of the residents who decorated, cooked lunch and produced such a beautiful colourful cake, all in all it was a memorable and happy day.

