



June 2011
Volume 3 Issue 2

Spirit of Shekinah

Shekinah Homeless Services
38 Willoughby Street
Reservoir Vic 3073

Tel: 9462 3933
Fax: 9462 4980
Mob: 0448 211 225
Email: shekinah@shekinah.org.au
www.shekinah.org.au

Shekinah News for June

Hello and welcome to winter!

With the colder weather fast approaching perhaps it's timely to think about those who are sleeping rough and just how fortunate we are to have a roof over our head. It is also timely to acknowledge the work done by our Shekinah member organisations that, along with the help of our wonderfully generous volunteers, provide quality services and programs for those on the margins.

That co-operation was most evident at the Shekinah Ball which was held at the Collingwood Town Hall on Friday 13th May. Approximately 170 people from our member organisations and a few other organisations that work closely with our members danced and dined the night away. We were very fortunate this year to have been funded to provide food for the evening. Normally, we would be reliant on our member organisations to provide the bulk of the food, but this year with thanks to StreetSmart, we were able to have the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre cater for the Ball. Needless to say that the food was a little more exotic than what we are used to having at the Ball and some was received very well, whilst some foods were considered a bit too spicy for many.

I have put some photos on the back page for those who were not there to get an idea of what the night was like.

Shekinah provides training for staff and volunteers which is free - it is tied to our funding. Details of what's on offer are available from the organisation with which you volunteer. I would encourage you to take advantage of this training, as some of the courses are very beneficial to your volunteering experience.

In coming weeks I will be sending out a survey for several organisations which are designed to give volunteers a vehicle by which you can offer your feedback, suggestions etc. on many aspects of your volunteering which will be of great assistance to us for planning for the future. Watch your inbox for more details!

Volunteers are still coming through thick and fast, mostly via word of mouth, which is always the best way - recommendation is much better than advertising. Keep up the good work by spreading the word. We rely on volunteers to provide significant input to our programs and want you to know just how valued you all are. The time and effort that goes into committing to a regular shift is sometimes hard, especially in winter, but the people who benefit from your commitment are truly grateful. People you see on a regular basis really look forward to seeing you.

Until next time, stay warm and safe.

Marg Casey

Volunteer Program Co-ordinator



Around the Network

Bethlehem Community

Bethlehem's fundraiser **Homework** held at Crown in April was a huge success [see photo below]. The room was packed with 500 people who were treated to first class entertainment, food and fun. The evening consisted of live entertainment from the original cast of the Rocky Horror Show, along with bands and singers, and much dancing. A silent auction kept people entertained as they kept tabs on their bids and deciding whether to place a higher bid. The main auction of the evening was conducted by Shawn Cosgrove in a truly entertaining fashion with some fabulous items going under the hammer.

But the best part was the amount raised – over \$50,000, which will be put to great use by Bethlehem.

A great big thank you to all who supported the night either by attending or donating goods to be auctioned.

Sophia, as the new studio apartment development at Thomastown is named, will be officially opened by Government representatives sometime in August. It has been a long time coming, but the complex is now officially up and running and the women living there are thoroughly enjoying their new home.



Homework crowd



Briar Terrace

Briar Terrace had a table at the Shekinah Ball and all those attending had a great night. On behalf of Briar Terrace Bill, one of the volunteers, accepted a prize, a digital photo frame which can provide a continual show of photos of the Ball and other outings the friends go on.

Several new volunteers have offered their services to Briar Terrace which will make a huge difference to those who come for friendship and a cuppa. We wish them well as they get to know some of the regulars and enjoy the time they will be spending with them.



Corpus Christi Community

In early June a new fire panel was installed at Corpus Christi Community (CCC) as the old unit had reached the end of its useful life.

Installation works took five days and pleasingly were not that disruptive to CCC daily routines apart from some congestion in the main foyer where both the old and the new panels were operating side by side for three days. The smoke detectors

in each resident room were changed with the number of smoke alarm incidents declining quite significantly with the new system.

Works are now to be undertaken to connect the new fire panel to the CCC telephone system so that, particularly at night, whenever the panel is activated a message will be sent to the telephone handset advising staff of the room that triggered the alarm.

Good Samaritan Inn

The Good Samaritan Inn has launched its new website <http://goodsamaritaninn.com.au/>

It is a very user-friendly site and explains in great detail just what they do. Congratulations to all involved.

Please make a note of Friday 26th August. This is the night of the Good Samaritan Dinner Dance to be held at L'Unica Reception Centre, Parkville. Cost is \$65 per person which includes a 3 course meal, wine, beer and soft drink along with

live entertainment. It is always a great evening and the money goes to a very worthy cause – assisting women and children in need of crisis accommodation.

The Inn is in need of volunteers to help out on a Monday morning cleaning in preparation for the guests who will arrive that day and during the rest of the week. If you are interested and have a couple of hours to spare on a Monday, please give Marg Casey a call on 9462 3933.

McAuley Community Services for Women

The Age had an article about the cessation of funding for McAuley Community Services for Women's project **McAuleyWorks**. This program was set up as a means of connecting women in crisis to opportunities to enable them to live productively and independently by gaining employment.

Mercy Care Program has had success from two information sessions run in conjunction with Shekinah, with a couple of new volunteers joining their ranks to help out. More volunteers are always needed. The next information evening will be held in August. If you know anyone who would like to volunteer, please contact Marg Casey on 9462 3933.



Shekinah



Once again we held the Shekinah Ball at the Collingwood Town Hall on Friday 13th May. And it was indeed a ball! Those who braved the cold night came out in their finest clothes and partied and danced the night away to the Trio + One band – and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as the photos below hopefully will show.



Clockwise from top left
 1. Clients and staff enjoying the meal;
 2. Happy volunteers manning the front door;
 3. Happy volunteers in the kitchen;
 4. Trio + One Band;
 5. Moving and shaking on the dance floor.

