

PRESENTATION FAMILY CENTRE NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates



Guests enjoying tomatoes from the veggie boxes

IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME

GUEST FEEDBACK

THANK YOU

THE MASTERPLAN

PFC TEAM NEWS

**SEEKING YOUR
FEEDBACK ON
THE DRAFT
MASTER PLAN
EMAIL TO REGISTER
INFO@PFC.ORG.AU
SEE PAGE 4 FOR
MORE INFO**

Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2021. We hope to share with you some of the exciting activities happening at Presentation Family Centre (PFC). Since reopening to short term stays in mid November, we have welcomed over 300 people for a holiday or respite. After such a challenging 2020, many families were desperate for some time away to reconnect in a peaceful, welcoming environment.

We are thankful for the support we received last year that enabled us to improve our site and houses and provide some longer term support to families. This year, we look forward to increasing our programs and offering more families, carers and individuals the opportunity to rest and renew in the peaceful surrounds of the Presentation Family Centre.

Warm regards,
Rachel Connor
manager@pfc.org.au



50% of guests are funded by a community service organisation or NDIS.

80% of guests have a family member with a Health Care Card.

Here's what guests told us a break at PFC means to them:

Our family has not been on a holiday together for many years. We have been through much stress and it was like a dream to have this special time out from the world in such a relaxing environment

It was so lovely because my friends work part time and live in regional Victoria and their kids hadn't been swimming in the sea for over a year. The kids just loved relaxing and swimming reading playing board games and cards and sleeping in. We loved how relaxed everyone is. I find going swimming in the sea very therapeutic as I have chronic health issues and love this place so much as it is both affordable., and not too far from Melbourne to drive to. My other friend with chronic health issues also finds it very renewing. Thanks so much.

A much needed break especially after being in Lock Down most of the year. It was a great way to self reflect and ground myself again after a long year of isolation. Needed this for my own mental health as this year has been extremely difficult financially, (due to reductions in salary) fewer hours of working hours, and other commitments and obligations which were difficult to maintain due to other issues arising as a result of Covid19.

Here's what guests told us they enjoyed about their stay at PFC:

The beautiful houses close to the beach.

The non stick pan and the playground

The peace and friendliness and proximity to beach and the lovely accommodation.

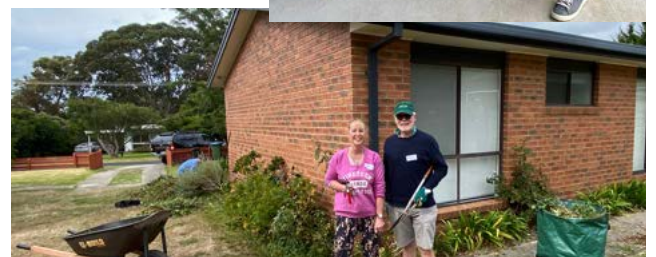
It's quiet, serene, close to beach, on a big property to wander around on and listen to birds and watch nature from our doorstep, I feel safe.

Thank You

We are pleased to have our new sign acknowledging the generous contribution made by the **Balnarring & District Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank** over many years to PFC. Most recently, they have funded new flooring in house 5, which is being installed this week!

Thank you to Volunteers at the Working Bee

We held a Working Bee on Saturday 27th February that was well attended by 21 dedicated volunteers, board members and staff. In four hours, volunteers cleaned and organised the cleaning shed, sorted art supplies in the Nanospace, pressure cleaned the exterior of the properties, weeded and mulched garden beds. Thank you to *Bill, Rod, Rex, Dani, Cassie, Mel, Adrian, Hugh, Betsy, Winnie, Marie, Peter, Merrin, Michelle, Mick, Phil, David, Joan, Lisa, and Jenny.*



Working Bees help us keep our costs down and improve the environment for guests. If you'd like to hear about the next one please get in touch - info@pfc.org.au.



Thanks Goran & Y9 students at Marian College, Sunshine West.

Sunshine West teacher, Goran Petrovski is pictured here having his beard shaved off in support of charities including PFC. Goran supported the fundraising efforts of his year nine students - offering to shave off his beard (which had not been shaved for 10 years!) if more than \$750 was raised. It was! Well done and thank you Marian College, Goran and the year nine students.



Goodie Bags!

This summer we provided over 50 goodie bags to guests stocked with food & toiletries. Thank you to our generous donors who made this possible - Wellsprings For Women, Clonard College, Balnarring Op Shop, and the Safety Beach Sailing Club.



Draft Master Plan Feedback Sessions

We have been lucky to receive the assistance of a Mornington Peninsula based urban designer who has developed a draft Master Plan for PFC. The purpose of a Master Plan is to help us develop the site in a cohesive, considered way that meets the needs of guests and other stakeholders.

We are seeking feedback on this first stage of the draft Master Plan from stakeholders. We intend to hold multiple one hour Zoom sessions in March and April to explain the draft Master Plan and seek feedback. If you are interested in participating, providing feedback or learning more about the draft Master Plan for PFC, [please email your details to info@pfc.org.au](mailto:info@pfc.org.au). We hope for a wide variety of stakeholders to provide feedback including guests, volunteers, donors, supporters, neighbours, community groups and founding Presentation Sisters.

The PFC Team

From Phillip Steele Board Chairperson

On behalf of the Presentation Family Centre Board of Management, I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and rewarding New Year and to thank you for your ongoing support of PFC.

I am pleased to advise that we remain a place of welcome and peace, where families and individuals can connect with self and others, so their own lives may be enriched by their involvement with us. Although the COVID-19 Pandemic greatly limited the number of vulnerable families and individuals that we could assist, we did make a positive difference to many people's lives during 2020. The Pandemic also limited how we could engage with our volunteers, schools and community groups.

I am hopeful that in 2021 PFC will be able to strengthen our spirit of welcome, hospitality and kindness that we show to all of our guests. I am also hopeful that we will be able to renew and rebuild PFC's connections with our volunteers, supporters, donors, schools and community groups who, together with our guests, make PFC the very special place that it is.

We have some exciting developments planned for 2021 and I look forward to working with you all during the year as stewards for a hopeful future.

Best wishes for 2021.
Phil

Congratulations Ian, Board Member and Treasurer

We congratulate Ian Urquhart on being nominated for the Commonwealth Bank Not-for-Profit Treasurer Award. The award represents the many years of dedicated work from Ian for Presentation Family Centre and speaks of the high esteem in which the Board hold Ian. Pictured here with his Certificate of Appreciation at the recent February Board meeting.



Good Bye & Good Luck

We have recently said farewell to our long serving cleaner, Tania who has worked at PFC for over seven years. During that time, Tan has been an important part of the PFC team serving families, and helping the place run smoothly. We wish her all the very best for her future plans including a little more time with her family.