



Planting the orchard with our “working bee” stalwarts



A word from the CEO

I am pleased to report another quarter of solid growth at The Farm especially for the clients whose interests are the reason we are all working together here.

Our second graduate returned home in July to her son and family with full time employment. We wish her every blessing in the future.

The program has become further consolidated with the arrival of Fiona Etherington as our full-time Case Manager. Fiona comes with a wealth of experience in the Therapeutic Community model of addiction treatment having worked for seven years at Goldbridge Therapeutic Community in Queensland.

Our psychologist, Dr Lynne Magor-Blatch, has begun the parenting program, Parents under Pressure, with the clients. This comes in time for the restoration of one of the client’s children and the arrival of a newborn in September. Lynne’s work will be supplemented by assistance from The Farm’s children’s Program Co-ordinator Bernadette Rayner and an Emerging Minds representative who will train the women in identifying factors that support positive mental health in children. To prepare for the children’s arrival, building works have been completed in the family wing: each mother has a small unit – two rooms and a bathroom – sectioned off for safety and privacy. Our thanks to Ron Natoli and his team for the great job they have done in preparing the space to welcome the children.

This quarter we also welcomed Lynne Pezzullo here to encourage the women in fitness. Lynne is doing supervised exercise

classes with them which they really enjoy.

Our orchard has been planted with 23 trees – a great variety including cherries, walnuts, pears, oranges, apples, and olives. My thanks to the brave “working bee” stalwarts who, despite heavy rain, persevered until all the trees were securely in their holes and fenced.

Among the very kind and generous in-kind donors to The Farm I would like to particularly thank the team at Yass Valley Dental. They visited The Farm last year offering help and this year have been giving the clients free dental work. The women are always warmly welcomed by all the staff when they go to their appointments. Heartfelt thanks go out to the staff there.

My thanks go out to all who help to create the energetic village that The Farm has become. Thanks to the Board, the committees, the volunteers, and the staff. I give thanks especially to the dedicated staff here on the ground: the finance manager, the house care supervisor, the case workers and the groundsman. Their perseverance in this start-up phase is deeply appreciated. Being a work in progress, it is often necessary to re-do things, to start again and to fix mistakes. They co-operate in this with remarkable patience and dedication.

I am indebted to all who help in the different aspects of The Farm’s program, working to enrich the clients’ lives, and I keep you all in my prayers.

Kate Cleary



Testimony from our latest graduate

Firstly, I would like to thank the staff at The Farm for their persistence and most of all patience in assisting my recovery during my time at The Farm.

The journey hasn’t been easy but being at The Farm made it a lot more comfortable and effective with their program, case management, counselling and ongoing daily counselling through staff and the other participants in the program.

Being with other girls who have experienced the same sort of struggles as me made it a lot easier to heal and grow a stronger support network. This was also helped through classes like relapse prevention in the first six weeks, time for study and research for course work and for personal interest.

We were very lucky to have an environmental educator which would be my personal favourite part of the week. This gave us the chance to be educated about our environment and ourselves, assisting in teaching us to cook and clean effectively. Working out in the garden, growing our own veggies, learning to budget wisely and learning “to do what you can, with what you have.” This helped me to become simple and content, learning to not want material things and not to stress about things of no importance at all.

Being at The Farm was a time to heal and be clear of mind in order to self-regulate behaviours and adopt new positive routines for a healthier lifestyle. I was able to gain new employment for my return home.

Thank you to all the staff for their support.

Report from the Chairman

There has been considerable growth at The Farm over the last three months with a focus on improved governance, program evaluation and accreditation and communications.

In the governance space, I would like to thank Phil Meredith and Tyson Lange whose skill and diligence in the continued improvement of our risk management through the development of the risk register and risk report template are firmly consolidating full compliance with all our obligations. To Tyson as well, my thanks for the clear mapping of The Farm's strategic direction and the organisation of The Farm documents, including all policies and procedures, ensuring that we continue to look to the building and growth of the company, and that we do not lose sight of the big picture.

My thanks also go to the indefatigable Lynne Pezzullo who has begun the program evaluation process with the help of Dr Lynne Magor-Blatch and Professor Toni Makkai. This is an essential part of our work to become accredited and then to be eligible for government funding. Lynne has also made important connections in the AOD Mental Health Sector, including engaging the interest of Anita McCrae, Senior Manager of the mental health and drug and alcohol services of the Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network. Anita is an invaluable source of advice about available funding for the sector and how to leverage it.

In tandem with this, Hawari Badri and Kate Cleary are working on the first stages of achieving accreditation against the QIC health and community service standards.

David Pembroke and his team at contentgroup have developed a sound, targeted and creative communication strategy. We will be able to use this as a springboard for fundraising and generally raising The Farm's profile in the community. Our thanks to the team for the exceptionally professional job they have done, evincing an insightful grasp of the vision of The Farm and a sensitive understanding of the clients.

The building works have been ongoing with the North Wing upgrade now completed to provide very comfortable family accommodation for mothers and children. Our sincere thanks to Snow Foundation for their support in this most important part of the ongoing development of The Farm.

The positive outcomes being achieved for our clients would not be possible without the support and input of so many people. I would like to thank the Board for their support and input. Equally, thanks must go the Fundraising Committee, the Treatment and Ethics Committee and The Risk, Audit and Finance Committee, who do such painstaking work. To the donors, whether big or small, thank you again for your generosity and help. Finally, to the staff, who sometimes toil under challenging conditions, your hard work and enthusiasm are much appreciated.

Ron Natoli

Welcome Fiona!



Hi, I have been working in the AOD/Mental Health field for 7 years. I have spent most of my working career in a therapeutic community with some time spent working with corrective services in QLD prisons. I have recently returned from the Gold Coast to be closer to my family. I am extremely passionate about my work and I strongly hope my knowledge and experience will be a valuable asset to The Farm, especially working with vulnerable women and supporting them back to their families and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



Veggie patch – the last of the winter crop



Lime tree – stylish pots for the courtyard



Chooks – it's cold out here!



Fundraising update

The Farm relies on the generosity of our community supporters, through donations and private grants, to deliver our life-changing services. Please consider donating, organising a fundraiser in your local circles, or providing us with information on grants and philanthropy opportunities. All donations are tax-deductible and in time we will pursue government funding also. Please make any donations [here](#).