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Welcome to the world, baby chicks!



We've got our fingers crossed that our newborns are fluffy females to help increase our production of fresh farm eggs. On The Farm we're big believers in fresh produce and a protein filled diet so our eggs are a perfect way of achieving that.

A word from the CEO

This issue of the newsletter has been prepared by the clients in the final phase of the program who are now taking on more responsibility at The Farm. Our thanks to them for their industry and initiative.

Progress has been made this quarter in a number of areas. Firstly, we are delighted to welcome our first child onto the program. The transition has gone smoothly so far, and she seems to be settling in well, quickly adding egg collecting and goat feeding to her repertoire of skills. Our thanks to Bernadette Rayner for preparing the children's environment for us and for the ongoing work of Dr Lynne Magor-Blatch in the delivery of the parenting program to the clients. Thanks also to Lynne for her psychological and practical care of the clients and generous sharing of her wealth of knowledge with staff.

We have begun the process of accreditation with QIP against the QIC Health and Community Service Standards and with the Australasian Therapeutic Community Association. Our aim in this is to achieve both the main sets of community and health standards as well as the ATCA standard for Therapeutic Communities and Residential Rehabilitation Services.

Further development has occurred at The Farm through the recently acquired case management software, providing us with one central location to store and track client data. The software also facilitates the extraction of data for evaluation purposes so will add to The Farm's research and compliance capability. Our thanks to Kelly Rothschild our new caseworker who has done the tutorials for operating the system and is handing on the skills to other staff. Thanks also to Professor Toni Makkai, Ann Finlay and Dr Lynne Pezzullo for their assistance in sourcing the case management system and their ongoing work in the area of client clinical care.

Improvements to the grounds continue through the hard work of the clients under the skillful eye of Bev Wallace, our House Care Supervisor. The women have designed and planted roses around the statue of St Lawrence in the center of the garden making it now an attractive focal point. One client has begun a course in horticulture and will take on a supervisory role in the development of garden projects, specifically flower garden projects. Thanks also to David Phelps our Groundsman who has achieved so much in his time here, keeping the grass down and the trees pruned and healthy.

We have a group of volunteers making beautiful wreaths for the Farm. These are proving very popular and bringing in a steady trickle of funds. Thanks to Carmela, Teresa, Deb and Phil (pictured at the end of this newsletter) for this wonderful initiative.

As we wind up this rather interesting "lockdown" year we have so much to be grateful for, especially the life improvements for the people who come here. These achievements would not have been possible without the generous help of all our benefactors. I wish you all a happy, holy and safe Christmas.

Kate Cleary



A big thank you

An announcement of gratitude is in order as one of our clients has just been donated a stunning Honda Accord!

"A big thank you to the lovely people who gave me a car! It has helped me and my daughter so much. We are forever grateful, God bless you"

Chair's Report

I am happy to report that the process of accreditation has begun. This is a comprehensive process and will be an opportunity for us to go through all the quality, risk and compliance measures that we have developed to ensure we are operating at an acceptable level. My thanks to Declan Norrie and the team at Proximity for the generous and ongoing assistance they have provided over the last year through the review of governance documents, advice on privacy matters and recommendations to mitigate compliance risk issues. Thanks also to Tyson Lange and Phil Meredith for their diligent work developing the company's risk register and their careful oversight of compliance matters. The Treatment and Ethics Committee has also contributed to the development of processes that will assist in the accreditation review. Thanks are due also to Dr Lynne Magor-Blatch for her helpful advice based on exceptional experience and skill in the development of Therapeutic Communities. We are also grateful to Nyree Ashton our Finance Administrator for her maintenance of sound financial records and for putting in place systems for keeping track of all financial matters. This considerable groundwork will stand us in good stead during the process.

Thanks once again to the Snow Foundation for funds towards the final stages of the building refurbishment allowing us to complete the family pods and fit "crim safe" security screens to the sleeping quarters' windows. We have also completed work on the roofing – replaced guttering and painted the front of the convent.

I express my profound gratitude to all who have helped to build The Farm. After only one year in operation we are already seeing significant fruit. My thanks to all involved: to the Board, to the subcommittees, the staff and the kind donors to The Farm. May you have a happy and holy Christmas and a safe and productive 2021!

Ron Natoli



Harvesting time has come around for a lot of our homegrown veggies and herbs. Our garlic has turned out beautifully as well as our broad beans, cabbage, lettuce, chard, leek, spring onions, spinach, rosemary and mint. We've also recently planted potatoes, parsley, thyme, basil and dill thanks to Gary and Beverly Wallace, so hopefully they turn out just as well!



Restored and christened!

It is with great delight that we announce the restoration of one of the client's children. She was baptized in the church on 8 December.

This is the first child to be restored to her mother in the program and an important milestone for The Farm.

We also have another client with children on the way, so preparing the activity room for the kids to play in has been lots of fun and a nice reminder of what we can help women to achieve once they have recovered!

Spruiking for the Farm

Thanks to Camila and her team for spreading the Christmas spirit by making and selling these Christmas wreaths for us! These guys have raised over \$2000 for The Farm and we couldn't be more thankful for their kind generosity and creative initiative.



Happiest of birthdays to our Sister Kate!

The Farm never would have existed without you so thank you for all your hard work and devotion to this program! We are so very grateful to Kate and what she does for us here. Her time and care does not go unnoticed and today we celebrate her life. We can never repay you for all you have done but we hope things like our hard work in the gardens and maintenance of recovery will show our appreciation. We love you



We're very excited to share that The Farm is in the process of creating our very own cookbook! Thanks to the team at contentgroup and the women here at The Farm, we've managed to bring together delicious recipes and great photos in an attractive layout!

Our house care supervisor Beverly Wallace has been teaching us how to cook like master chefs and as a result there is never a dull meal here at The Farm. We couldn't bare letting all of these mouthwatering dishes go unknown to others, so this cookbook will be available for purchase after editing and printing is complete. It will be available in both digital and hard copy, so keep your eyes peeled for our announcement completion in our future newsletters.



Thank you to our generous donors for their contributions.

The Farm relies on the generosity of our community supporters, through donations and private grants, to deliver our life-changing services.

Donations can be made by direct debit to the Farm bank account and are tax deductible.
Account Name: The Farm in Galong Ltd
BSB: 633 000
Account Number: 165 751 173

With the break of the drought and the plentiful rain we have had lately the grass has sprung up considerably. We would welcome a whipper snipper if anyone has one they can donate.