

# THE COLLINGWOOD COTTAGE INC.

## BOARD MEMBERS 2010

Standing

(Left to Right)

ROBYN ROLAND  
 TONY ELLUL  
 SISTER M. ZITA sgs  
 ROBERTA  
 HARDSTAFF  
 SISTER DIANE rsm  
 KAY PURCHES  
 SARA MOUNTFORD

Seated

JOSIE ELLUL  
 Sister HELEN sgs



FROM A SEED  
 OF HOPE  
 FROM A SEED  
 HAS GROWN  
 OF HOPE  
 HAS GROWN  
 A MIGHTY TREE,  
 WITH BRANCHES  
 EMBRACING  
 ALL PEOPLES,  
 ALL NATIONS,  
 ALL FAITH  
 FAITH TRADITIONS,  
 AND VARYING  
 FORMS OF  
 MARGINALISATION  
 MARGINALISATION

**D**uring 2010 we have heard an advertisement for superannuation, sung so often "from little things big things GROW!"



How true as we reflect on the work of **The Collingwood Cottage Inc.** Its vision, action and song, have vibrated loudly over the years for the support of the 'disadvantaged' throughout the neighbourhoods of Collingwood (1993) and Brunswick since (2001)

**A**ugust 24th was certainly an opportunity for the present Board of Management to celebrate the achievements of the past **seventeen** years of operation - the actual anniversary that registered The Collingwood Cottage as an Incorporated Body. With such recognition in **1993**, those initial Board Members gained the freedom to swing into action and **provide WEEKLY FOOD for the Disadvantaged!** Such a special occasion gave our present Board

Members an opportunity, to reflect once more on the beginnings of this organisation! The risks that were involved in dreaming up such a working environment that would depend solely on **VOLUNTEER** labour! **And what a DREAM!!** People working together week after week, to keep the wheels of The Collingwood Cottage turning, & turning - owning all the jobs required to keep the Cottage Doors open to all who come. **WHY? - ..seeking that basic right of all people FOOD!**

**I**ndeed a genuine reason for celebration when one considers today's **64+ VOLUNTEERS** throughout the suburbs of Melbourne prepared to join in and make a difference to the lives of the 'disadvantaged' in whatever way possible.

And what a contribution! Accepting all those extra tasks taken for granted, like Driving the Van, Dealing with Food Donors, Collecting Food, Delivering Bread, Preparing Food for Distribution, Serving the Food, Offering Hospitality, Preparing Morning Tea, Fundraising, Donating Money, or their 'Treasures' for Car Boot Sales etc.etc.

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All these forms of **Co-operative Management** enable The Collingwood Cottage at both venues to continue for **46** weeks of the year and distribute food to the **8000+** who pass through our doors each year.

Looking back as Coordinator, I have observed over the years, that people from all cultures, faith traditions, and varied forms of marginalisation who once arrived as 'strangers', now gather as friends, and they in turn reach out to the 'newcomer', with that same spirit of hospitality that once welcomed them. A spirit that has been caught' rather than taught!



Through such human interaction many barriers and divisions have been broken down. Together all present, have learnt to pause and listen to the stories of many – their homeland, the sufferings endured, their families left behind, their plight today and what dreams they hold for their future now, in Melbourne. What sensitive sharing has taken place within the walls of The Collingwood Cottage, and St Ambrose's Foodbank, Brunswick! And of course, what touching memories rest in the hearts and souls of all Volunteers who minister at either venue.

Thomas Merton once expressed such a discovery of people journeying together, and reaching out to one another without prejudice or judgement, as one of life's real challenges when he wrote.. **"If we can voyage to the end of the earth, and there find ourselves in the Aborigine who**



**differs from us, we have made a Fruitful Pilgrimage."**

Besides, the wealth of **giftedness** and **time**, freely shared by our **regular** Volunteers, we also receive **"hands on"** support, from time to time, by College Students around Melbourne. The following Colleges, offered their services during 2010!

**Antonine College, Brunswick, (Weekly)** Brunswick  
**St Monica's College, Epping, (Monthly)** Collingwood  
**Avila College, Mt Waverley, (Yearly)** C'wood  
**Sydenham Catholic Regional College (Yearly)** at Brunswick & Collingwood  
**Salesian Seminariany, Clifton Hill. (Weekly)** Collingwood  
and **St Damien's Youth Group Holidays** C'wood

All these students bring their own sense of youthful fun, and joy to the many 'disadvantaged' who gather---the Elderly, Retrenched, the Single Parents, Migrants with very little English, Mums with children, the Struggling **TAFE** student, the Unemployed, and the Disabled!

I do believe, by observing many of these people who come to us, they have somehow learnt to look at life through the lens of joy, amidst their pain and sometimes anxious moments.

As **Andre Lorde teaches;**

**"The sharing of joy whether physical, emotional, psychic, or intellectual, forms a BRIDGE between the SHARERS, which can be the basis, of understanding much of what is not shared between them. It lessens the threat of their difference."**

How true as we observe the delight, the smiles, and the "thank-you's seeping out of the very skins of all who gather to receive their weekly food and experience such a

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joy filled service from these young students



Our sincere thanks to all Colleges & Staff Members involved, who have taken the time, the care, (sometimes during the holidays) to open the hearts, the eyes, the ears of their students to the pockets of poverty, in and around 'Melbourne's most liveable City'. Memorable lessons for life have surely been learned by these enthusiastic students through their visits to The Collingwood Cottage & St Ambrose's Foodbank, Brunswick.

On the theme of thanks our thoughts must surely turn to all our Benefactors viz. those who donate money during the year, to purchase food for the needy, and others who have contributed to our special yearly project.....

**A Nutritious Supplement to the Diet of the 'Poor'** funded mainly this year through the **GIFT of PHILANTHROPY**. And what a gift to marvel at! Many people who once worked amongst us chose to leave portion of their legacy in **TRUST** for Australia's 'needy'! A continuing gift benefiting so many in need, for years to come!

During 2010 we have received funding for this project which provides the weekly purchase of fresh fruit & Vegetables for approximately 200 needy families.



Our thanks to all of this year's Contributors to this special Nutrition Project, listed here below:

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation	\$2000
The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation	\$5000
City of Yarra	\$1915.80
The Collier Foundation...	\$5000
The Sidney Myer Foundation	\$5000
The William Angliss Charitable Fund	\$2000

We are indeed very grateful to all these Trusts who contributed so generously to our request—As I write this report a total of **\$23,812** has been spent on this project alone! A truly worthy outlay when one considers that our organization is the **ONLY LOCAL CHARITY THAT CAN PROVIDE THIS WEEKLY SOURCE OF NATURAL FIBRE TO ALL WHO COME!** Due to increased numbers and rising costs in this produce our organisation did suffer a shortfall for this project, but generous donations from other avenues e.g. Raffles, Car Boot Sales, '45' Club and **faithful Donors in general**, have easily made up the difference. And fortunately, our project is set in place for yet another year with donations already received from

**The Annie Danks Trust \$5000,**  
**The Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund \$5000,**  
**The City of Yarra Nutrition Grant \$3946.55** and others that usually follow in December.

So it gives me great pleasure now to list the following persons, and organizations, that have been responsible for this added financial assistance, and **thank them most sincerely, on behalf of the Board of Management**, for their gracious support, over this past year.

**THANK YOU TO**

**ALL OUR DONORS!**

Jan Coleman  
 Kerrin Considine  
 Rev M. Kalka  
 Bruce Maher  
 Judy Mataer  
 Sisters of Mercy (Belmont)  
 St Vincent de Paul (Fitzroy)  
 St Vincent de Paul (Mt Waverley)  
 St Vincent de Paul (Parkville)

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**A**nd how could The Collingwood Cottage manage to be such a successful **Voluntary** organization without the **Food Outlets** published here!

Twice each week our Van travels to **Vic Relief Foodbank** where tons of processed food, as well as refrigerated and frozen food, are **freely** available. Occasionally, we collect loads of pumpkins, cabbages, onions, potatoes, broccoli, etc all freely given, which lessens the expenditure of our **NUTRITION** Project.

We are particularly grateful for the variety of food items available and the 'spirit of industry' throughout the work place that breathes welcome assistance to all who come. Always a rewarding experience to visit and receive !

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Y**et again we have been able to 'tap' into **Fare Share** – just round the corner so to speak, in **Abbotsford!** Each Friday we have been the happy benefactors, of so much cooked food like quiches, casseroles, pasta meals, which have benefited both venues and brought beautifully prepared dishes to so many.

**B**esides, we have also received so much **extra processed and frozen food** that has enabled us to cope with the crowds at either venue each week and provide many more food items to each family

Working with Fare Share in this way so constantly, certainly illustrates perfectly to our organization, the **value of what working in partnership** really means and what a fine contribution this organization achieves throughout our neighborhood and beyond.

**WELL DONE FARE SHARE!!**

Locally, we have other food outlets that come to our aid from time to time, and share their surplus with The Collingwood Cottage and bring smiles galore to our recipients.

We are indeed very grateful for the support they offer to our main cause **FOOD!** And what an appetising variety of Pasta dishes, Ice cream, Sweets and Chocolate, they share with our many 'disadvantaged' people. A **BIG THANK-YOU!**

**Maria's Pasta**

&

**Brunswick Industries**

**BREAD .. the staff of life!**



A **weekly** run to The Collingwood Cottage organised by **the faithful members of St Vincent de Paul Society in Greythorn Parish**, has made **BREAD** available to the **100+** who gather each Friday at Collingwood. Our sincere thanks to the

**Hot Bread Shop Nth Balwyn**

&

**Greythorn Bakery**

for their valuable support!

For the people attending St Ambrose's Foodbank

↳ **K&H Bakery<sup>®</sup> Sydney Road Brunswick**

Another local bakery

makes this service possible, by a daily donation of their freshly baked bread for the benefit of many.

Our thanks to all involved – especially that constant task of **the daily 'pickup'!** – yet another

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example of healthy partnerships – **various people working together to make a difference to lives of others.**

**B**efore concluding, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the **Principal, Trish Taylor and all the Staff at St Joseph's School Collingwood, for their continual support and informed vision re The Collingwood Cottage.** Their co-operation, respect, and compassionate attitude to all aspects of The Collingwood Cottage have been very encouraging and greatly appreciated. Their generous sharing of resources and facilities, over the years has certainly led us to achieve this present success story, of maintaining our simple vision and purpose.

### THANK-YOU!

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From the Constitution of  
The Collingwood Cottage Inc. established  
24<sup>th</sup> August 1993)  
The Collingwood Cottage is an organisation  
Formed for the purposes set out below:

1. To relieve poverty, destitution, hunger, suffering or helplessness experienced by any person, by the provision of food or such other form of assistance as the association deems appropriate
2. To develop the Association's role as a distributor to poor, needy or disadvantaged persons of food made available by or through Victoria Relief & Food Bank Pty Ltd or any other entity or organisation:
3. To do, carry out or engage in any act, matter or thing, in furtherance of any of the paragraphs 1 or 2 of which is incidental or ancillary to paragraphs 1 or 2.

**F**inally, a story to help us sum up the spirit of participation, as I have seen it over the past seventeen years and a big thank you to all of you, who have continued to plant so many seeds of hope and encouragement in numerous ways over that time.

There was once an old Jewish man. All he ever did in his spare time was to go to the edge of the Village and plant fig trees.

People would ask him

“Why are you planting fig trees?  
You are going to die before you can eat any of the

fruit that they can produce”

But he said

“I have spent so many happy hours sitting under fig trees and eating their fruit. Those trees were planted by others. Why shouldn't I make sure that others know the enjoyment of the fruit that I have had?”

**A**s I quoted in song, in the beginning “**from little things big things GROW!**” may we like the Jewish man, continue to plant and produce the fruits of care and compassion for others less fortunate, and so nurture all families, with the enjoyment of that basic right of all people **FOOD.**