



FRIENDS OF STEWART HOUSE, BULLETIN TWO 2020

Celebrating 82 Years of Support for
Stewart House



FOSH and Corona Virus (COVID 19)

Membership of FOSH is more important than ever.

This Bulletin is designed to give a brief update for the Friends of Stewart House. We are still active and keen to resume fund raising in 2021.

We have decided to go ahead with our Annual General Meeting in February and we have booked a conference room at the Department of Education's offices in Phillip Street Parramatta. This is a reasonably central location with good public transport. The date is 17 February for 11.00am. Detail is on the back page.

COVID has certainly impacted on us all, not the least Stewart House itself. The CEO, Graeme Philpotts has written a piece on current activities there. It is great to see children now being supported again and no doubt next year will see a growth in activities.

The committee wishes you all the very best for a joyous and safe Xmas and New Year. Please come to our AGM and let's start up again for the benefit of needy children in Public Education.

**Alan Laughlin
Bulletin Editor.**

Message from the CEO of Stewart House.

For the last 7 weeks of Term 4, we were able to re-open by:

1. Reducing the cohort size to 20 (10 boys, 10 girls)
2. Reducing the stay to 5 days (no weekends) thus enabling a greater number of schools to avail themselves of the service – delivering an engaging COVID19 informed, needs based program
3. Accepting placements from only metropolitan schools between the time of re-opening and the end of Term 4 thereby mitigating transport and transmission risks by using Stewart House buses to pick up and drop off students

I am very proud of and grateful for our workforce who have implemented the current AHCCP recommendations for physical distancing, as well as infection prevention and control, by focusing on:

- establishing appropriate processes to assess that students, staff and visitors are physically well and not symptomatic (including registration of any contact with known or suspected COVID-19 cases)
- reducing out of facility visits to reduce risk of virus introduction into the facility
- reducing risk of adult to adult transmission through all staff maintaining 1.5m physical distance from other adults (especially in common spaces)
- revising sleeping arrangements because dormitory accommodation raises concerns around infection prevention and increases the number of primary contacts should a case arise.
- minimising use of shared bathrooms
- staggering dining times in shared dining rooms to reduce group numbers, implement practical physical distancing and cleaning between dining sessions
- implementing measures to maximise physical and temporal distancing in shared recreation areas
- implementing appropriate infection prevention and control including normal PPE use as appropriate for tasks performed in Stewart House Health facilities (i.e. that are used in the normal conduct of performing regular duties)
- daily screening using temperature check after breakfast and dinner in the dining room by Student Wellbeing Managers and verbal/direct questioning to aid early identification of symptomatic students, staff and visitors
- establishing processes for pathology testing (swabs for PCR testing) of symptomatic students and staff through on site visits by Northern Sydney LHD staff;
- establishing processes and procedures for quarantining any cases that arise considering the practicality to return home for the quarantine period
- quarantining at Stewart House for limited time
- establishing process for ongoing notification from parents/caregivers/home school of COVID-19 suspected or confirmed cases or contacts

We survived with only having to return 3 children to their homes after administering COVID-19 tests that eventually proved negative. The response by Northern Sydney Health was phenomenal.

From Week 3, Term 1 2021, we will scale up our operation to accept 40 children from one area of the state. In keeping with promises made at the beginning of the crisis, I have invited children from those South Coast areas most affected by the bushfires of last summer (now almost a distant memory).e

Over the January vacation we will submit another COVIDSafe plan to Health – the last was some 75 pages of new policy and protocols but it served us well. 40 children staying for 2 weeks will be the norm – at least for Semester 1 until an ‘all clear’ is sounded. We will look at modifications to Sydney excursions and try as much as possible to contain children in and around Stewart House. We will also have to look at quarantining in Sydney should an outbreak occur and returning sick children to vulnerable country populations will not be an option.

Stewart House staff have been advised that influenza and eventual COVID-19 vaccinations will be mandatory – ‘no jab, no employment’.

Financially, we have only survived because we could qualify for both Jobkeeper incentive packages and through receipt of a number of bequests. We need to look further afield in 2021 for viable revenue streams.

Have a safe and happy festive season.



Graeme Philpotts
Chief Executive Officer
Stewart House



Friends of Stewart House

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCH REGISTRATION FORM

Date: Wednesday 17 February 2021

Time: 11.00 am -12.30 pm (Meet in foyer at 10.45 am)

Followed by the Annual FOSH Lunch at a local restaurant (at own cost)

Venue: Department of Education

105 Phillip Street

PARRAMATTA

RSVP: 29th January 2021

Please complete the details below and then forward to:

Assistant Treasurer, FOSH
Robyn Graham
PO Box 32
MILLER NSW 2168

Or via email: windswept2@bigpond.com

1. Your details

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

I will be attending the Annual General Meeting YES NO

I would like to go to lunch at my own cost YES NO

Morning Tea (pay on day if you wish). \$ 5.00

Donation to FOSH \$ _____

Raffle Tickets (\$2.00 each or 3 tickets for \$5)* \$ _____

(*Please note that raffle tickets will also be available at the AGM) TOTAL \$ _____

Payment details. Please tick method used.

Cheque Make cheques payable to “Friends of Stewart House” and attach to this form.

Direct Deposit to Teachers Mutual Bank

Name of Account: Friends of Stewart House

BSB No: 812-170

Account No 263444 (add **S1** after the bank account number when transferring money from another Teachers Mutual Bank account).

Please ensure that the following information appears on our part of the direct deposit:

- Your name
- Details of payment, eg: Morning Tea, Donation, Raffle Tickets (\$2 each or \$5 for 3 tickets).