

PADDINGTON WOOLAHRA YOUTH SERVICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING....11.2.82.

Meeting opened at 8.00pm.

PRESENT: Margo Outridge, Martin Stockler, Peter Matthews, Lila Reed, Rex Matthews, Laurie Matthews, Joyce Cooper, June Dunn, Sue Webb, Michael Hohensee, Robert Meek, Danny Richardson, Gwen Matthews, Judy Bokor, Sara Matthews, Bonita Delillie, Michael Dunne, Catherine Reynolds, Dr M Marshall, Anita Barouche.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: All present were welcomed to the meeting, and the minutes of last year's A.G.M. were read and accepted. The Chairman's report was then presented (see report)

MOTION: Peter moved that the report be accepted. Joyce seconded the motion, and it was carried. Many thanks to Rex for his work as Chairman through the year, and for the report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (see report)

MOTION: Laurie moved that the expenditure summary be accepted subject to audit certificate along with the report. Seconded by Sara, and carried. Thanks to Martin for his work as treasurer through this difficulty.

CO-ORDINATORS' REPORT:(see report).

Thanks to the co-co-ordinators for their work and congratulations on the success of the system of running with dual co-ordinators. A question raised following the report was were there many kids who came back to the refuge in need of emergency help for a second time. The answer was encouraging. Very few do find themselves in similar crisis situations, and when they do come back for help, a suitable alternative is worked out rather than letting them stay again - another refuge being the last alternative.

Dr Marshall raised a comment in reference to an underlying common thread to all the reports. That of the need for money. He suggested that increased community awareness may be a possible solution. The answer to that is Youth Refuge Week which will be held in March. It is being organized by all the Refuges with the Youth Refuges Association as the central organizing body. It will be well covered by the mass media.

Another suggestion was personal petitioning of government ministers and this is already underway.

Also a special sub-committee will be delegated from the P.W.Y.S. management committee to help with the planning for Refuge Week. Michael, Rex and Judy have volunteered for this committee.

ELECTIONS:CHAIRMAN: Rex nominated and accepted. Seconded by Martin, and carried

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Michael nominated, but declined.

Laurie nominated and accepted.

Bert Ackland nominated but absent.

MOTION: Sue moved that we defer the election of vice-chairman until the March meeting of the Management Committee.

Seconded by Peter, and carried.

SECRETARY: Judy nominated, but declined.

Robert nominated and accepted. Seconded by Judy, and carried.

TREASURER: Martin nominated and accepted. Seconded by Laurie, and carried.

Assistant Treasurer: Sara nominated and accepted, seconded by Judy, and carried.

MOTION: It was moved by Martin that an assistant to the secretary be elected. He nominated Julia Baraclough. Peter seconded the motion and the nomination. Both the motion and the nomination were carried.

AUDITORS: Bentley & Co. were nominated by Rex, seconded by Martin, and carried.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Joyce Cooper, Michael Hohensee, Margo Outridge, Barbara Marr, Laurie Matthews, Bert Ackland, Nicky Udale, Judy Bokor. All accepted, seconded by Martin, and declared elected by Rex.

REPRESENTATIVE TO V.C.C.: Danny nominated and accepted, seconded by Sara, and carried. (Sue to attend if Danny can't).

MEETING CLOSED at 9.20p.m.

*Laurie Matthews*  
13/82

## CHAIRMANS REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PADDINGTON WOOLLAHRA Y/S

You will hear from our co-ordinators that Caretakers Cottage has been remarkably stable in its record of employment during the past year. Our staff are sticklers and for that we are grateful.

The names on our pay slips are among the few things that remain constant. Many other aspects of our life are characterised by change, ~~emotions of~~ confusion and often threats, narrowly averted, of chaos.

Your committee has met officially 14 times in the past 12 months and has given long and careful attention to matters great and small. Finance and the raising of funds has been prominent on the agenda, as prosperity (of a very mediocre level) and poverty have dogged us each quarter.

It has proved difficult for some committee members to keep up attendance, but we've had new people come along, and they have been valued and welcome. Sometimes we have made rash assumptions that assignments could be handed out easily, but they were not so easily fulfilled (eg. how's our record of lobbying local members, as we agreed to do last November?) I guess its a pointer to being more careful this year.

I should like to digress by mentioning Chris Dunn, whom we farewelled with our good wishes this time last year, and who succeeded at the HSC examination in obtaining entry to the University of New South Wales this year. Congratulations Chris, and keep it up.

Having thus digressed, let me say that many people associated with us have been students during 1981. Lila Reed topped her year in the Welfare Diploma Course. Bert Ackland, who by popular acclaim stayed on as a volunteer after a field-placement with us, completed the diploma course. Several committee members studied to great effect in university courses. We congratulate them all.

The staff have survived numerous tests, including an experiment in half time/full time employment (which was pronounced less than a success) and an experiment in sharing the role of co-ordinator (which was so successful that the two persons have decided to make it a lifetime partnership. Congratulations Sue and Danny, but honestly we didn't mean to push things so far.)

Staff members have become immersed in YRA, the Youth Refuge Association, and this has involved them in a great deal of time spent beyond their paid duties, in developing the youth refuge movement and promoting the care of young people through youth refuges as a cause.

All of our staff have shown skill and sympathy in working with young people. I leave it to the co-ordinators to tell you the details. What I want to mention is the considerable sacrifice involved in doing youth work. The wages are small compared with jobs where industrial awards are in force. It is possible that in 1982 we may face the situation of having to pay higher wages by law, instead of the present way of offering a pittance plus thanks. We will remain in the debt of those who have worked mainly for the love of those whom they serve.

A staff member whom I am sure does not wish to be named went on holiday volunteering to go without pay because there was no money in the till for holiday relief staff. We were forced to accept the offer, although I am glad to say the money was eventually paid.

The incident shows how difficult our financial position has been. Our treasurer will give you the details, but I am concerned with the general effect of living from hand to mouth as we have done.

As a result of an invitation to submit a proposed budget for 1981-1982, we did so in the terms given, namely to outline the costs of properly maintaining an adequate refuge and attendant services for homeless teenagers. The outcome was the offer of approximately one extra wage. (We were getting 3 wages but employing 4 persons already.)

The very valuable subsidy we are getting from the Youth Services Program almost exactly pays our wages bill, while all our other costs must come from other sources. That is, we have to find from 3 to 5 thousand dollars per quarter from non-government sources. Most of this comes from the Village Community Centre, but another contribution of the staff and volunteers has been in raising funds by stalls and cooking and catering - a great effort.

Your committee, with the agreement of staff, made a deliberate commitment to frugality last October. Minutes reveal a planned strategy to "put a brave front on in the face of adversity and run as normal on the shoestring budget we have as long as we can."

There is a surprising amount of administrative and secretarial work to be done in a refuge. Staff and committee members have put hundreds of person-hours into form-filling and information giving. The telephone rings constantly. Until a fateful fire on January 1 this year, calls were passed through the parish/VCC switchboard, but the Caretakers Cottage is now on its own, telephonically speaking.

Among the programs for young people undertaken last year, I select the medium-term accommodation project of Lila's as the bravest effort. Lessons learned will be valued by everyone concerned - I hope it's all well documented.

It has been a major concern to us that the short-term care of a refuge needs to be followed by lightly supervised but supportive housing for many young people. We have investigated several possibilities but have not produced a clear picture of how the need is to be met.

Caretakers Cottage has received material support in 1981 from several stallholders in the Village Bazaar. Alexandria Rotary Club collected blankets and linen for us. Members of Eastside Parish and the local community gave donations, and food gifts have come from many quarters.

We have been greatly encouraged by the interest of the parliamentarians John Barraclough and Fred Miller. Senators Don Grimes and Bruce Childs have visited and commended the refuge.

We have not yet met the new minister for Youth and Community Services, Mr Stewart, but officers of his department have constantly and courteously supported us.

Dr Marshall has always been a help with health problems, and a new and potentially valuable liason has been established with St Vincents Hospital Day Centre which is offering health education and advice. East Sydney Technical College is to send a remedial reading teacher to help young people in the refuge this term.

Amongst the practical work of the Youth Service, there has been time to reflect on the needs of young people, and the interests of the community at large in relation to them. We saw that the initial phase of family crisis intervention has led us into concern about longer-term needs.

We are pressed beyond our capacities to do much about those needs, but if anyone wants to know the general dimensions of the problem of youth and housing, we have some useful information and some strong suggestions.

I know that by your attendance here tonight you are among those who care. On behalf of this organisation I thank you, and trust that you can enjoy helping young people here.

## TREASURERS REPORT

1981 has been a rewarding year for the Caretakers Cottage, largely because of the stability of our staff. This has allowed the staff to settle into their jobs and direct their energy into running the refuge. In many ways 1981 has been the most stable year in the refuges history.

However despite this stability in the running of the refuge, 1981 has been a very difficult year financially, and may portend an even more difficult future.

Expenditure in 1981 amounted to \$71,716.12, income was \$60,710.14, a deficit of \$11,005.08 for the year. Due to operation at reduced levels during a significant portion of 1980, there was a balance of \$20,632.88 in our accounts at the beginning of 1981. Thus we completed 1981 with a credit of \$9,626.90. It must be remembered that we have already received our January 1982 quarter cheque - the Caretakers Cottage must now fund till March 31 1982 with this \$9,626.90. Assuming expenditure of \$1,200 per week our predicted costs for this quarter amount to \$15,600. Therefore an accurate summary of our current financial situation is that we can expect a deficit of \$6,000 by March 31; continuing through till June 30 1982 our expected deficit is in the order of \$10,000. The Village Community Centre has agreed to lend us whatever money is required to see us through till June 1982.

1981 has seen many positive steps taken towards developing and improving the service we provide. Volunteers have played an increasingly important role, providing a very high quality of care and much commitment, without financial reward. Relief staff, if anything, have become more competent and more dedicated to their task, an ironic situation in view of steps to reduce the rate of pay of relief staff from \$4.81 per hour (standard youth worker rate) to \$3.21 per hour.

1981 saw the first call for submissions since 1979, and our submission was highly regarded by the relevant departments and was offered as a model, to demonstrate what was desired in such a submission to other refuges. It was also a success in that it helped to increase our funding allocation from \$36,000 PA to \$47,777 PA. However this was in answer to expected running costs of approx. \$63,000 PA. In effect this rise in funding acknowledges employment of 4 fulltime workers rather than the 3 that we had been previously funded for.

Fundraising has played an increasingly important role in providing income for the Caretakers Cottage and all concerned must be heartily thanked. Much gratitude must also be directed to VCC for providing loans throughout the year and a commitment to keep us buoyant over the following difficult months.

Unfortunately the financial environment must impinge on the way the refuge is run. Lack of security of tenure combined with obvious constant pressure on funds created added stress for youth workers, kids are unable to pay board or save money for a flat because of their desperate financial circumstances, having to work within a budget that will inevitably end in the red, all compromise the effective running of our service. In this light the staff of the Caretakers Cottage deserve much more than our deepest thanks and wishes for their future; their dedication, innovativeness and level of care, have been far in excess of what could be expected.

Finally, our future. The Youth Services Program under which we are funded, expires on June 30, 1982 - what happens after this date is open to conjecture. Current lobbying is aimed at obtaining interim funding for a period of one year during which time an evaluation of YSP is studied. Assuming we are funded at the same level as 1981-1982: \$47,777 PA we will again be faced with a potential deficit in the order of \$12,000 - within 1 year. It is likely that we will receive significantly more than this level (increased from \$36,000 in June 30 1981 after submissions were accepted); much work and careful deliberation is required to determine our path in the immediate, if not immediate future.

PADDINGTON WOOLLAHRA YOUTH SERVICE - CO-ORDINATORS' REPORT

TO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 11th February, 1982.

1981 has been a year of growth for Caretaker's Cottage. We have expanded and developed our service and despite an unstable funding situation, have provided an effective service for homeless teenagers. This report will outline our main areas of involvement and the ways in which the refuge has changed and developed.

STAFFING CHANGES

As compared to most refuges we have a very low staff turnover. In the past year there has been only one staff change. In March 1981, Gabrielle Carey resigned and Peter Matthews replaced her as a relief worker. Interviews were held and Peter was officially employed in April, 1981. The stability of our staff has contributed to smooth and effective running of the refuge.

STATISTICS FROM JAN 1981 - JAN 1982

TOTAL NUMBER ACCOMMODATED	142
MALES	70
FEMALES	72
AVERAGE AGE	16 yrs, 1 mth
AVERAGE STAY	3.14 weeks
Not including overnight stays which totalled	41
AVERAGE NO. OF RESIDENTS PER WEEK (ie 1 or 2 nights)	7

We also provided emergency accommodation for various people under special circumstances who did not fall under our standard criteria and are not included in the above statistics.

- E.G. a 20 year old girl with a young baby  
a couple in their 20's with a baby  
a middle aged woman and her 10 year old son  
a woman in her late 20's (emotionally unstable)  
a girl in her 20's with a heroin addiction

SOURCE OF REFERRAL

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	24
WAYSIDE CHAPEL	27
SELF REFERRED	39
FRIENDS	16
LIFE LINE	4
HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES	4
ACCOMMODATION SERVICES	16
C.Y.S.S.	9
POLICE	3

OUTCOME

FLAT	22
RETURNED TO FAMILY	25
HOSTEL	3
INSTITUTION	7
OTHER REFUGE	22
FOSTER FAMILY	4
FRIENDS/RELATIVES	36
MEDIUM TERM ACCOMMODATION	4
NO DETAILS	19

Much of our work with the residents during 1981 involved family counselling: We have concentrated on reconciling young people with their families where appropriate, but usually only with the younger residents.

With older residents we have emphasized independence, encouraging residents to find jobs and permanent accommodation rather than drifting from one refuge to another. This means that some residents are staying longer (i.e. up to 2 or 3 months) but it's worthwhile to see them become independent.

At present, seven out of our eight residents are working, and a few now are ready to move on to their own places. This is what we are aiming for - constructive youth work with the residents, not just a bed and a meal.

Our programme with ex-residents has continued as many of them need to keep coming to the refuge for support. This was obvious at Christmas when we invited ex-residents to join us for Christmas Dinner and ended up with 26 people at the table.

#### YOUTH REFUGE ASSOCIATION

Our involvement in the Youth Refuge Association increased considerably during 1981.

Peter was elected to the media sub-committee at the Association's A.G.M. in August and has been an active member of it since then.

In July, Danny and Sue, along with two other members were asked to present the Association's submission on youth homelessness to the Senate Standing Committee. This gave us the opportunity to voice our opinions on Youth Homelessness to the Senators and also to make Caretaker's Cottage known to them. Senator Grimes visited the refuge along with two other members of the Committee.

Danny and Sue were also part of the Y.R.A.'s sub-committee on Youth Worker Training which advised Seamus O'Brien on training needs of youth workers and devised the programme for Youth Worker Training for 1982. Seamus O'Brien was recently elected as chairperson of Y.R.A. and has brought a lot of energy to the Association. Cathy Mackenzie resigned as Executive Officer and was replaced by Paul Van Reyk.

Our staff are also on the Youth Refuge Week Organising Committee. Youth Refuge Week will be held from 15th to the 21st of March and will be a week of publicity and activities.

Movements are being made towards an award for Youth Refuge Workers. The award has been presented to the Industrial Court and negotiations are in progress.

### MEDIUM-TERM ACCOMMODATION

In February, 1981, Lila asked one of the refuge residents to move into her flat. This began the refuge's medium-term. In April, Lila moved to a three bedroom house in Darlington and Peter moved in to help Lila run the medium-term, now called Falmouth. The number of residents then increased to three and in the time the medium-term was operating there was always two or three residents.

In June Peter moved out and Lila continued to run Falmouth on her own. Falmouth proved to be a valuable support service for the refuge and an effective service in itself. It gave several young people the opportunity to save enough money to move into their own flats and served as a stop-gap measure for others who needed a bed just for a short time. Falmouth closed as a medium-term accommodation in December, 1981 due to the high cost of rent and to the high pressures on Lila caused by working full-time at the refuge and running Falmouth.

Thanks must go to Lila for running the medium-term in her own time and on her own resources. Her dedication and hard work resulted in an effective associated service of Caretaker's Cottage.

### TRAINING

The staff have been involved in both formal training and in-service training during 1981. Lila has completed one year of the Welfare Diploma and all the staff have been involved in training courses provided by the Youth Worker Training Service. (Y.W.T.S.)

These courses have been in the form of three day residential courses which we have all attended, a series of group sessions with just our staff and day seminars on such topics as legal training for youth workers. All of these courses have been efficiently run by Seamus O'Brien of the Y.W.T.S. and have benefitted us. We have also run several of our own staff development workshops and have recently introduced a new system whereby we set aside three hours for a staff

The coming year promises to be a good year for training with the Y.W.T.S. providing courses on training of volunteers, submission writing, fundraising and a special course for Management Committees. Also, Lila is starting her second year of the Diploma Course, Danny is beginning the Welfare Certificate Course and three of our volunteers are beginning welfare courses at Sydney Technical College.

### VOLUNTEERS

Over the past year the role of volunteers in the refuge has changed as has their numbers. At present there are twelve people attending at least one night per week. Whereas once volunteers were made up of friends of the staff and of ex-residents wanting to put some energy back into the refuge, they are now also being referred to us by other organizations in the area. These organisations include: The Holdsworth St. Centre, E.C.H.O. Community Centre, Village Healing and Growth Centre and local C.Y.S.S. centres.

Volunteers have gone from being evening support for the staff to being actively involved in fund raising and instigating programmes such as the setting up and maintaining of the vegetable garden in the back yard. They have made it possible for us to plan activities outside of the refuge e.g. trips to concerts, movies, camping trips etc. All of this would not be possible given our limited staff numbers. Early in the year volunteers expressed concern that they didn't get a chance to meet other volunteers and felt a lack of continuity because of their short, once a week, shifts. It was decided to hold monthly meetings. These meetings progressed from informal gettogethers to the point where, in conjunction with paid staff, they share experiences, plan new projects, discuss fund raising and most importantly, fulfill a training role for new volunteers.

We would like to extend our personal thanks to Joye, Bert, Alan, Anita, Robert, Vanessa, Martin, Natalie, Kathy, Nicki, Mark and Kathy who have volunteered over the past year. Their assistance and support has been invaluable.

## STUDENTS

For the first time, last year, the refuge took on students on placement from Colleges of Advanced Education. The first was Bert Ackland from Milperra College who was on placement for 6 weeks and became an active volunteer following his placement. The second was Lyn Gerkin from Mitchell College at Bathurst who was with us for two weeks.

At present we have three students on placement: Cathryn Raynolds and Bonita De Lillie from Mitchell College and Michael Dunn from Milperra College. All three are progressing well with their pracs and we hope that their association with the refuge continues after their placements.

Student placements have proved to be a good learning experience for staff as well as for the students.

## FUND RAISING

Towards the end of the year it was decided that, if we were to survive, we firstly, had to make the local community more aware of youth refuges and the plight they face because of inadequate funding and secondly, if we had to raise additional funds to stave off our ever increasing deficit.

The staff decided to take on this responsibility. In October, we arranged our first Open Day. This consisted of opening the doors of the Refuge to the public and inviting them to come and talk about what the Refuge was doing. From the sale of second-hand clothes, home-made food and from donations we raised \$208. The benefits in terms of the goodwill and publicity which was fostered, were immeasurable. Since then, we have had one more Open Day, at Christmas, which raised a similar amount of money.

For a period of about 3 months, the staff and volunteers also ran a stall at the Paddington Markets, selling home-made food, second-hand clothes and articles made by the residents of the refuge. We also held a Walkathon in which staff and residents walked 22km from Manly to Paddington and raised over \$200 in the process. In all, the staff and volunteers of the refuge have raised over \$1,000 during the past year.

In conclusion, we would like to say, that the staff are committed to keeping Caretaker's Cottage open in 1982 and we hope for more support and involvement from our Committee and the general community to achieve this aim. We would also like to thank the Committee, everyone who has contributed to the running of the Refuge last year, and especially Lila and Peter.

Danny Richardson and Sue Webb  
Co-Ordinators