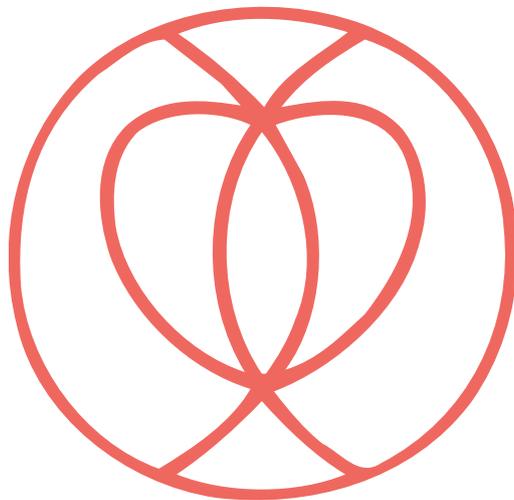
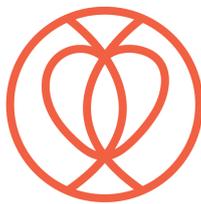


CANA COMMUNITIES

AGM REPORT

2020





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has been like no other and hopefully none of us will ever experience anything like it again in our lifetimes. After we all realised that the Covid-19 effect was not going to be short term, like business and households we had all to work out the “new normal”. In my first year as Chairman and 25th year involvement with Cana communities I had two initial priorities – firstly to finalize and implement the strategic plan that we had developed in 2018 but not fully implemented and secondly to more fully develop the board responsibilities and the relationship between directors and management team in a relational manner.

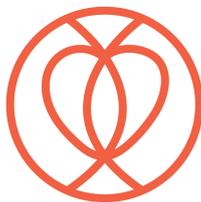
The virus initially caused us to close the overnight shelters as we, like most other shelter organizations, could not guarantee the safety of either the people or of volunteers. As the months rolled on the board concluded that we were unlikely to be able to re-open shelters in the same physical locations as we previously had. We then were able to move Nagle House, the women’s house into Teresa House and look for a more suitably sized location for Teresa House. I am pleased to say we have found one and are in the process of finalizing this. In a similar manner the Cana Farm team have been able to pivot to a Covid safe environment albeit smaller than it has been. On the positive side, we have maintained and developed the residential accommodation and looked after about 100 families around our residential places and our broader communities.

During the year Terry Cassidy resigned from the board in order to spend more time managing the residential accommodation and Danielle Seisun resigned recently to pursue other opportunities. Cana thanks them both for many tens of years of service with a dedication to the spirit of Cana.

We are pleased to welcome our newest director Ian Dardis to the board to fill the casual vacancy and to join the management team as Director of Organization following our recent split of the previous CEO role into Director of Mission and Director of Organization. Finally, we congratulate Tor and her team in WA who have pivoted Cana WA with the recent purchase of a food van and the opening of a new house kindly provided by the WA Presentation Sisters and which currently Tor has arranged to house a refugee family.

For 2021 our aim is to finalize and implement the rest of our strategic plan, to push forward with the re-opening of the shelters and of a new Sydney Cana Hub and to be innovative into many other areas identified by our strategic plan. Many thanks to all our volunteers, benefactors and all members of Cana Communities and we look forward to developing dreams and ideas of the Communities in 2021.

Rob Hartman



DIRECTOR OF MISSION

2020 has been a very challenging year for everyone. We have faced fires, floods, and of course, the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has threatened our health, our financial stability, our connection to our family and community, and our sense of certainty about the future.

Overnight, our style of connecting to each other was transformed, and in order to maintain our connections we needed to get creative and adapt to our new circumstances. Cana is not only a charity, it is a community, and we take our role of building positive relationships and providing connection for those experiencing isolation very seriously. This role has only become more important this year, as COVID-19 has caused us all to experience the anxiety of sudden change in circumstances of increased isolation.

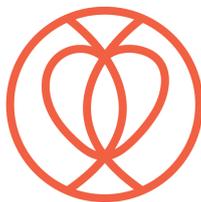
Through the support of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers, Cana was able to maintain our channels of communication and stay connected through technology like Zoom, and by organising gatherings of much smaller groups in parks and gardens.

The changes were challenging but this year also provided an opportunity for contemplation, and for reflection on what we have achieved and what we want to achieve moving forward. Cana must evolve and remain organic in its process, and for this reason it was important to listen to our community's needs and be open to change.

In light of this process of reflection, the board made the decision to close the Garden Shelter, Christchurch St. Lawrence, and Teresa House, as we did not feel that their structures allowed us to keep our volunteers and visitors COVID-safe. We were comforted by the fact that the government provided hotel accommodation for rough sleepers during that time. We are presently considering the new opportunities posed by 2021, and are hoping that we will be able to reopen in a safe way. We have found a premise which has a more appropriate floorplan, and while we have not received confirmation, we are hopeful to get DA approval.

For 40 plus years Cana has continued the precious ritual of sharing a meal together with the community, and this remains at the core of our mission. However, when COVID-19 hit we needed to revisit our methods of sharing meals, as we could no longer emulate the 'loaves and fishes' story. We managed to continue our tradition of sharing meals by meeting in parks in small groups, enjoying walks and picnics instead of a meal around a table. The outcome has been really positive - our connections are perhaps even more meaningful and the quality of conversation we have been able to have in smaller groups has created deeper friendships.

A couple of years ago we recognised Cana needed to develop a strategic plan around how to structure our organisation and how to define and deliver our mission. We identified the areas we wanted to focus on, and created small working groups, and throughout COVID these committees have been busy interviewing volunteers and residents, and hearing what our community thinks are the strengths and challenges of our organisation. Using this information we have developed key areas of focus, which include the need for educational training, more reflection times and a closer connection to our volunteers. We also used the



quieter few months to begin building new systems and organisational infrastructure. By building clear processes and procedures, and implementing risk management policies and direct lines of communication, we can deliver our mission more effectively.

Throughout this process the board agreed that the leadership role of Cana needed to be divided so that our mission remained our number one priority. The board decided to create a new role, the Director of Organisation, and I am grateful for the support in my role as Director of Mission. This will allow me the freedom to focus on mission activities and to provide support to our management team and volunteers, and to also explore how Cana can make more impact in our community. Both these positions, like our board and management roles, are voluntary.

As you will read, each area of Cana is represented in this report. I hope you enjoy reading their stories and what has been achieved throughout the year. We are grateful we have so many dedicated donors and volunteers who value our contribution and continue to support us, as without the ongoing financial and physical support we would not have been in a position to provide the extensive outreach support and to also maintain our care of our residents and our farm community. Everyone needs a positive group of people who can provide security, safety and positivity.

We are excited about 2021. Our focus will be on education, both for our volunteers and our community, and we will continue to build connections with services and organisations that can contribute meaningfully to our community members.

We have already started encouraging educational opportunities, and have begun providing computers and tuition for people at the farm. We have also purchased computers and provided tuition for the men and women in jail who are desperately trying to turn their lives around. This has been a humbling experience and a reminder to me that we have so many people living in our country who are experiencing serious problems and who have cycled in and out of detention centres because they have never had the opportunity to understand their trauma or focus on their education.

People have expressed an interest in finding a Cana Hub space. This facility would provide office space, training opportunities, and a space for sharing meals and other structured activities. It would also give a place for our community nurse Gretta to operate from, allowing her to be more accessible and increase our level of Outreach support. We are hoping to expand our medical Outreach support and we are meeting with St. Vincent's this month to discuss future opportunities.

As everyone is aware, Cana does not receive government funding. When I reflect on the care we have given to our community this year it has reinforced the real value this offers, as we were able to hear the immediate needs of our community and respond without having to complete endless forms and attend meetings before making a decision.

2020 has been difficult, however we are proud that we have made a difference, and we remain grateful for your support. We look forward to working together in 2021, which I hope will be a year of reconnection and an opportunity for Cana to continue to build our



community, connecting with and caring for those who deserve to live and work in a safe and welcoming space.

Julie Sneddon

CHAPLAINCY REPORT

Being part of Cana and in a relationship with people who have such different challenges in their lives takes us to the edge of our common humanity. It is both gift and challenge. This year we have been challenged to see many aspects of life in a very different light. Patterns of behaviour and response had developed over the years but this year offered us totally new insights. Change was forced upon us. The pandemic changed our relationship with self and others. We all came to new insights, and we were pushed to be more creative, but we also experienced deeper levels of isolation and loneliness.

Deprivation

Across the community many events and opportunities we had come to see as normal were no longer an option. Regular rituals, Easter celebrations, attendance at funerals, birthday parties and meals shared with whoever came all became casualties to the threat of the virus.

Across the community, no matter what our role, we experienced severe disruption to our lives, our awareness of our needs and how to have them met. We were confronted with isolation, fear of the unknown, risk and many different emotions as we faced the newness of lockdown, inability to touch or hug, shop, care for each other, make an appointment with professionals and so many other situations we had come to take for granted.

Creativity

Our inability to have large gatherings, invite people to meals, provide overnight shelters, attend funerals and many of the customary ways we met and nurtured our own spirit and the spirit of the Community meant finding other ways to express our connectedness, care and support for each other. It has also meant that some regulars to our community have not been able to make a connection for all this time. We feel that lack in our lives also.

Chaplaincy is about soul nurture and is always relational. Supporting people making efforts to explore 'the edge of our common humanity' has called for lots of creativity. I pay tribute to each volunteer and community member for the ways they have found and shared moments where the spirit of the community was named and nurtured. Amazing things have been achieved in simple and delightful ways. One example is the programme for companioning that was trialled this year with very positive results. The work of the education committee and re-structuring of the community have proven valuable. In the



coming year, we hope to initiate a creative work to which all can participate. There will be more details available as it develops.

Community gifts us with the need and the ability to keep on keeping on. Gatherings have necessarily become smaller and in different spaces. Outdoor gatherings have been more common and community rituals have been part of these gatherings. Zoom has become a delight and a dread. I have attended a number of Zoom birthday celebrations, prayer times, meetings and simple sharing times. Sometimes I delight in a Zoom session, and sometimes I find them touching and exacerbating my negative emotions around COVID.

We remember and acknowledge the community members who died this year: Br Bernard Murphy Fms, Lilith Jordan, Tony Hunt, Michelle Williams, Patrick Parker (Chantel's partner) and Gordon McMaugh (Jeff's brother). We acknowledge here the contribution they made to our lives and include those grieving at this time in our thoughts and prayers.

Awareness to carry into the future.

Cana is part of a global community. Global issues this year have emphasised this, and have linked us more closely to all people. Issues such as COVID, Black Lives Matter, and climate change have been raised to the global level in our media. There are many more.

Cana continues to respond to the people in front of us and journey together so that each of us experiences transformation in our way of thinking and responding. We link in this to the pattern within all creation.

Let us keep grateful hearts as we move into the future with our shared experience, hopes and dreams for the future of Cana and our individual and collective dreams for a more just world.

Anne Jordan PVBM

THE GARDEN SHELTER

Unfortunately when the pandemic took hold in NSW, the Cana board made the decision to close the shelters, as we were unable to adhere to the COVID-19 restrictions. We were pleased to hear many of the rough sleepers were relocated and were living in hotels during isolation.

We have missed the connections and we have recently been in consultation with the church committee in the hopes of making the necessary changes the Health Department require for us to be able to reopen in 2021.



Pre-COVID, the church submitted a DA asking for permission to serve meals and we were given approval earlier in the year, which will give us greater flexibility around the types of meals we can offer.

Many of the volunteers have stayed connected by phone and some have enjoyed volunteering in other areas. I bought a dog during COVID and she has companioned many of the men at de Porres during isolation and is in great demand. She is an example of the power of connection as she has touched the hearts of the men in a way we have not been able to.

Regina Madden

NAGLE HOUSE

The last year has been a momentous one for Nagle House as we have dealt with the changes forced by COVID-19 and made the decision to move location. There have been many stories shared, memories treasured and lives transformed at 257 Cleveland Street. We now look forward to moving Nagle House to 371 Cleveland Street, which was Teresa House, an overnight shelter, for many years.

On 16 March 2020, the Management Team met and decided that all Cana volunteers could no longer physically attend residential houses and shelters would close due to COVID-19.

During the lockdown we made regular phone calls to residents, and the Thursday lunch became a Thursday Zoom session. It was interesting as we were all experiencing our own trials, and we had to think about the best way to respond to each other and ourselves. As restrictions relaxed Anne Jordan was extremely supportive, two of our residents made regular 'COVID-19 acceptable distanced' visits in her backyard which is a short distance from Nagle House. Perhaps one of the positives was that there were no Poker Machines operating for the lockdown period.

Once government regulations permitted us to take limited steps out of lockdown the Nagle House lunches moved from Zoom to Redfern Park. It has been great to be able to see each other, while of course adhering to physical distancing. As a group who had always greeted each other warmly with a hug this is quite a change and one that will be with us for some time. Dinners continue to be suspended for the time being due to ongoing restrictions, as well as the fact that many volunteers are not in a position to return.

Without volunteers visiting, the residents had to manage the house together by buying supplies for house and being each other's support network. Financially, the COVID-19 Jobseeker supplement and the bonus payment for DSP were of assistance for the increased costs they needed to cover. Cana established a savings account which residents were encouraged to deposit part of the supplement money.

The ongoing closure and possible relocation of the Teresa House Shelter created the



opportunity to move Nagle House to 371 Cleveland Street. Part of the reasons for this move was that the house where Nagle is currently situated at 257 Cleveland Street Redfern is poorly maintained by the Landlord and the rent is substantially higher.

Residents' length of stay at Nagle House has varied. Two current residents have been with us for over a year, and as we work with them to move out there are many challenges. Waiting lists for NSW Housing lists are long and the private rental market is difficult. Additionally, many of our residents face obstacles such as a poor credit rating, a criminal record and of course financial barriers to paying rent.

Jess moved out into NSW Housing after nine month of living with us. Her room at Nagle was still vacant so we could offer her the chance to stay over in her room so she could slowly adjust to her new home.

We actively keep in contact with several women who have moved on from Nagle House and offer support where appropriate. This is fundamental to our belief that Nagle House offers not just residency but also a chance to belong to a broader community.

Referrals for women seeking accommodation often come through crisis accommodation centers and Mental Health Facilities. We have built a good relationship with Jewish House, Vincentian House, Concord Mental Health Unit, Tierny House, St. Vincent's Homeless Health, and the RPA. Mission Australia Outreach have also referred to us. Women who have been in prison are referred directly from the prison or by their Parole officer. Other residents have come to us directly via the website or word of mouth.

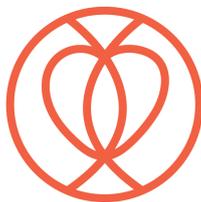
Residents continue to be encouraged to involve themselves in the Cana Community by working at the Farm (in a volunteering or paid capacity), and participating in other Cana community activities.

Volunteers

Anne Jordan often joins us at Nagle House, and the volunteer group and residents treasure her spiritual guidance and constant support. This year Julie Sneddon has increased her role with us, which has helped immensely by ensuring the residents and volunteers get the support they need, particularly with her counselling expertise.

The Occupancy Agreement includes a requirement for residents to attend Thursday lunch and Nagle house dinners, which are hosted by volunteers. This is part of the commitment made to building relationships and community at the house. Sixteen volunteers host a dinner each month. We have two volunteers at each dinner on alternate Monday and Wednesday nights. These roles are often filled by women who work full-time in the paid workforce. Feedback from the dinners is always very positive from the volunteers and residents.

Volunteers assist with residents' moves by sourcing furniture, organising removals and most importantly by helping residents make their new place a Home.



We are looking for more volunteers to make a commitment to companionship. Companionship is very rewarding and where we have had volunteers companion past residents the outcomes have been positive.

As in previous years, a major challenge we face is to offer a holistic care approach to each resident. In every case, we ask ourselves what are we doing to help each woman in her individual way to deal and how we can enable her to move forward to the next phase in her life.

Year after year we build on the story of Nagle House as part of the Cana Community. As always, we continue to hope to make a positive difference to each woman who walks through the door.

Lorraine Winterbottom



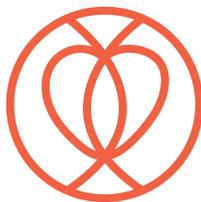
CANA FARM

The year has been one of great struggles but also one where resilience and great strength of community has been shown. More than any other year and time, we have had to rely on one another and rally to support others, beyond our immediate selves.

During the fires the farm extended our support to other charities and community groups, by sharing our fresh food with them. It was met with great delight and gave our farm team a wonderful sense of self worth in being able to assist in such a tangible, practical way. This same generosity of spirit and care continued thru the pandemic.

The farm was closed in March in terms of extended community, with only the core Enterprise team dependent on the income, permitted to be onsite. This was supported by both myself as Farm Leader and Martin O'Loughlin as supervisor.

The team was focused and the garden blossomed in response to a need expressed by locals – people wanting to buy directly from local farms during the pandemic. Whilst obviously in modest proportions, the farm team swung into action to meet the need and started extra plantings. With dedication, and hard work we were able to increase our volumes and provide the 'local produce' to people not wanting to go near the supermarkets in the height



of the pandemic. We had quite a system in operation at the farm gate, keeping everybody safe and knowing our nutrient dense food was contributing to people's immunities and wellness in general. This gave our Enterprise staff great joy, with people increasingly sharing their delight in the wholesome food grown, and acknowledging our small communities achievements. Penrith Council requested that we participate in a 'Local Growers video' as their chosen local producer which also gave the team some acknowledgement for their learnings and work.

The Enterprise has continued to grow, with the focus being to support our community members with an employment model, providing a strong sense of self. A continued focus of the employment model is education and providing skill development opportunities, where relevant.

Wellness Programme / Community Days

The renovation of the gym was a sizeable project that had the team at the farm fully engaged and involved in such a positive way. With that we hope that they will equally engage in using it with the Sydney Uni Wellness Project. Components of the project have started with a dietician visiting to have cook-ups and facilitate discussions. The farm team has also independently organised fitness programs.

An old, dirty shed converted to a high functioning gym with all the bells and whistles, required many hours of discussion, searching for recyclable / re-usable materials, design and fit out. Huge dedication from a core team, and such generosity from Sydney Uni, F45 and a group of very energetic gym owners who rallied behind the project. And of course, the many hours of companionship of volunteers working alongside our team in learning new skills of construction.

During Covid, our way of connecting with others was 'nature walks'. Extraordinary community days, enjoying good company and re-connecting to nature. This evolved into a new team of organisers – a Cana Farm Rec Team, who are now organising once a month walks.

The farm's open days are highly regarded and lovely days where the staff can celebrate and show off their hard work with their friends, family and extended community. This year it was extra special given we held the Art Exhibition from the Art Therapy sessions held at the CDTCC. Our affiliation with Rhonda's Animal Nursery brings an added delight.

Once a month community dinners are held on the last Thursday of the month, and are proving to be very popular.

Collaborations

Dr Paul Brogan - it has been quite a year for dental support and Paul Brogan and his team continue to be very generous.

University of Western Sydney – Medical students for the first half of the year attended, however during Covid the programme ceased. There is discussion around the likelihood of the programme restarting in 2021.



Beekeeping - Bruce White (OAM) - Bruce White continues to provide educational support around Bee Keeping as required, on a pro bono basis. **Jean-Claude Guillaume**, also a highly regarded beekeeper has provided field trips for added exposure and experience for interested beekeepers.

Living Earth Farm (Olivier Sofo) – Olivier has been committed over the last few years in providing us with the education required in developing an Organic Farm. We have been fortunate to have a man of such high calibre, to share his knowledge and expertise with us. The education provided has enabled us to sharpen our observation skills and have the more informative discussions between ourselves which has enabled us to grow as a team, and develop the farm.

Schools – The farm has strong relationships with the following schools in either supporting social justice programs, providing a service to their teachers for farm deliveries, or having them join us at the farm for educational days both in regard to Social Justice / Outreach and farming practices – Monte Sant Angelo, St Ignatius, St Aloysius, St Marks Drummoyne, St Joan of Arc Haberfield, Corpus Christi St Ives, Villa Maria Hunters Hill, Sacred Heart Mosman, Holy Innocents Croydon,

Corporates – we had yet again another very successful Blackmores Running Festival in collaboration with *Macquarie Bank*. Gratitude to the Macquarie team who make this a wonderful fundraiser for us. A wonderful community event that provides much needed funds for the Enterprise. We also give thanks to *Commonwealth Bank* who provide us with both unskilled and skilled support as required. *DXC Technology* who have sold more of our products in a one day stall in their offices than we thought possible, due to their excitement and internal marketing. *Peter Warren* for their ongoing interest in the farm and financial support. *Endeavour Energy* for your sizeable Christmas order that provided a real buzz and a return order, that has grown yet gain. *Payce Foundation* donated a mobile fridge, enabling us to build capacity in the garden. *MetLife* continue to support both in Corporate Volunteering and holding of stalls to sell products.

Other Communities – Arch Micheal Egyptian Coptic Church for their regular visits and support.

Rotary – we manned barbecues with Rotary in supporting their cause and also with the aim of having the gym defibrillator purchased for us. The start of a positive local relationship with Rotary supporting our Open Day and an open relationship for many occasions to come.

Macquarie Hospital and NADO – disability group homes continue to visit the farm each week, and enjoy the sensory garden.

CDTCC – Ongoing support of the men from CDTCC, and sponsorship of a cooking program where the farm provides several boxes of food weekly providing the men a healthier diet than they would otherwise receive.

Richmond TAFE – our partnership with TAFE provided us with some 30 sheep this past year, which enabled us to support many struggling families as well as our own community with high grade food at minimal cost.



In March 2020 the Cana Farm regulars had a 'Dreaming Session'. Of course two weeks later the pandemic took us by storm. Therefore, many of the 'Dreams' were not possible, some were and the spirit remains to achieve many in whatever modified form that now may be. We have some very exciting new collaborations post Covid organised with Wayback rehabilitation programme and refugee groups, to take us into 2021 with a focus of strong, diversified communities respecting difference. The Enterprise model is positioned well to grow from strength to strength.

Daniel Seisun

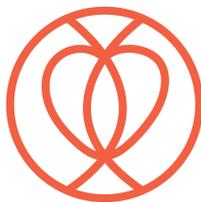


CANA WA

During this year it has been evident that Cana has been able to continue mission and breathe Cana's spirituality despite the impact of COVID-19. This report includes pre-, during and post-COVID responses we have initiated and actioned.

WA had fewer cases so we were in a more fortunate situation than other states in Australia, easing some restrictions before the Eastern states. In response, Cana WA was able to reconnect and recommence our mission delivering hospitality from early to mid-June. We adopted, learned and practised all COVID-19 guidelines and procedures for maintaining a low risk environment and following the distancing rules for wellness.

Aimee, our Notre Dame student and volunteer, worked hard and consulted with Gretta, our community nurse in Sydney, and she developed our posters and guidelines, procedures for us as a community group to follow.



We reconnected with the volunteer group through Zoom and initiated some novel and meaningful ways of maintaining connection with community members who were all feeling as disconnected as we were.

Emmaus House

- Pre-COVID, our community lunches, BBQs and gatherings continued to be healthy and harmonious; each week sharing meals with 60 people. The group was a mix of 80% people we know and see regularly, and 20% new faces. We offered a truly peaceful, outdoor space which provided a serene setting for people to enjoy and foster relationships.
- When COVID hit, lunches were cancelled from mid-March.
- We reopened Emmaus House in June with strict conditions – hand sanitiser, hygiene protocols, lists of attendees and physical distancing. Food became picnic packs provided by Andy, and when this could not continue, we opened up barbecues with donated sausages. We started slowly, with a carefully measured gathering of up to 15 people.

Anstead

Anstead has definitely established itself as a place of belonging, and not just for residents.

- We had 8 women call us home this financial period. Supporting women from jail, reconnecting people with family in other states and caring for people with significant health issues.
- During COVID, Anstead has become Cana WA's place to belong, our Hub for the volunteer group and partners too. It has been the homespace where all our COVID outreach has taken place and the garden has offered a wholesome groundedness for all.
- When COVID hit we were able to successfully relocate the residents to better supported, more suitable or own new housing.
- Our partners from St. Luke's were generously willing to accept our proposal for a rent-free period for 3 months, between April and July 2020, while the house was closed to residents.

Volunteers

- We established an executive group to support the initiatives to deliver in areas of expansion of our mission. Maureen and Eve travelled to Sydney in February to meet the board and see the wonderful ways the different parts of Cana share and live our mission. They returned to WA inspired.
- Our group met regularly during COVID via Zoom and was able to reflect and create ways to reconnect with our volunteers and to action new ways of connecting to our community group. The quieter, less active times during COVID allowed us to reflect and learn from our community and each other about what was valued and what our

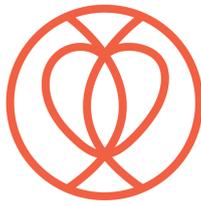


priorities should be. The need has been satisfied with the smaller gatherings and engaged companionship is a better received model. For this to be work properly, we have found we need a larger ratio of volunteers to community folk.

- We held 4 New Volunteer Information Evenings pre- and post-COVID; these were successful as we managed to reach 60 people and onboard 7 new volunteers.
- As a group we were invited to, and 6 of us attended, the Enneagram training led by Anna Warlow, Loretta and the Good Samaritan Outreach Group. This was a two and a half day workshop held at St. Catherine's House of Hospitality, which gave us all greater insight, understanding and curiosity about how we can know ourselves and draw on the strengths and weaknesses of self and others.

Community, Hospitality, Celebrations, Fundraising

- Rob Hartman paid us a visit during his other business dealings. He is always a great addition to our lunch scene and slotted right in to chatting to many people with ease, and everyone welcomed the cross-country connection.
- Anne and Julie came over for the Christmas party week and attended 2 lunches, and our volunteer Christmas party. It is always so valuable for our group to experience and listen to more than just "our little corner" and to see the bigger picture.
- We had 3 excursions this year. The last of these was in March just before lockdown, when we took a group to Sculptures by the Sea at Cottesloe beach and had fish and chips on the rugs, before wandering looking at the amazing art pieces.
- Sadly we lost 3 members of our community this year. All passed away unexpectedly and too soon. However, joyously, we were able to be a part of their celebrated lives and reflect on how each had touched our lives.
- During COVID, connecting was done through a number of house/street "doorstep drops". Fortnightly we would send a care pack: an Anzac candle and biscuits, Easter packs, mental health packs - anything that would connect with people. Maureen started writing her weekly reflections which were sent through to those who had phones. We texted and called weekly to see what support we could offer and we would follow up and respond to those needs. People were just grateful for the contact and to know they weren't alone. The aftermath of the isolation is still being felt and many are still struggling from it.
- As a group, we have learned much, and lived the reality of our government refugee and asylum seeker policies and hardline systems through our support of Col. Thankfully after 2 years her Permanent Residency, she has been granted a Visa. A very generous person donated a car to allow her independence and ease to go between hospitals and courts interpreting for people in need. She has her own accommodation near her friends and has worked as first aid respondent at amateur football matches with the junior women's AFL state team, and has been employed briefly in aged care. She will sit her medical examinations at the end of 2020.
- We had 3 expectant mums live with us this year. We were able to support them during their final stages of pregnancy and have developed an even stronger



relationship with the social workers at the women's hospital, King Edwards. Two of the three were reconnected with their own mothers and families for support.

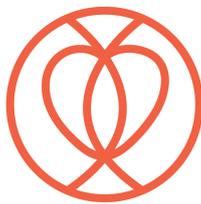
- We have had two boys from Aquinas College complete their community service with us. They have been engaged with the community through our Monday lunches and have worked tirelessly to enlarge our kitchen garden at Anstead. They were involved with our soft opening on June 1, where we invited people to come to one of 2 barbeques and we COVID-cleaned between each event. This was a wonderful opportunity to see if we could handle the new regime of deep cleaning and practise a gathering where 15 people were distancing appropriately but also connecting with each other.
- Continuing our connection with Notre Dame University, we offered 3 placements to students in Term 3 of 2019. The girls were great and very involved. They built strong relationships with everyone and were valued immensely. Aimee has continued to volunteer with us and set up our COVID guidelines and procedures.
- We held a wonderful smoking ceremony on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. The garden at Anstead held 40 people seated at 1.5m distances. Jack Walley performed the ceremony, Ivy our Elder planted our Sheoak tree for healing. A meaningful sharing of Aboriginal spirituality for us to learn from.

Fundraising

- WAPPA Fundraiser: Poppy Lynch and her year group from WAAPA's acting arm put on a "Step up to the Mike" session to raise funds for Cana. This was a wonderful evening of generosity and story sharing amongst some of our future leading actors, who understand vulnerability.
- Melbourne Cup Lunch in Bunbury: 5 of us went to Bunbury for the night to attend a Melbourne Cup fundraiser organised by Sr Roberta Dillon, Mercy sister. The funds raised were distributed between Cana and Sr Anna Warlow, Good Samaritan Outreach group. We are very fortunate to have the connection to and the support of the religious orders.
- I was one of three women invited to make a presentation at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Subiaco, about our Faith Life Journey; the proceeds of the evening were donated to Cana.

Despite the challenges COVID-19 has posed, this year has brought with it a new connectedness between us, and an honest reflection of what we need. Amongst the new learnings, we have been allowed to be creative and supportive in less conventional ways. *"We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre corona existence was not normal other than we normalised greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding hate and lack. We should NOT long to return my friends, we are being given an opportunity to stitch a new garment; one that fits all of humanity and nature."* Sonya Renee Taylor

Tor Taranto



DE PORRES AND ST FRANCIS HOUSE

The year ending June 30, 2000 has certainly been a year like no other with the impact of the virus still being felt at the time of writing. All 13 bedrooms of the houses were occupied for a substantial part of the year which meant that on occasions the Prayer Room had to be used for emergency short stays. Accommodation was provided for 20 different people over the 12 months with 7 of those in residency for the full year. Most of the new arrivals were referrals from Julie through the gaol drug programmes. Of the 9 residents who left, 2 were the result of house rule breaches, with all bar one managing to find their own accommodation. Unfortunately 2 of these were subsequently returned to gaol.

In the lead up to the onset of the virus in March 2000, it was largely business as usual at the two houses, that period being characterised by relatively stable behaviour on the part of residents and good support from community members attending open house activities. There were also promising signs that the resident employment programmes were working effectively with instances of wages being put to good effect through loan repayments, savings for car, etc.

When the virus struck and parts of Cana were forced to close, residents were advised that all community activities would cease at the houses and the ongoing support from volunteers would have to be through remote means of communication. While our inability to physically connect was always going to be a challenge to the effectiveness of the Cana relational model, our duty of care to volunteers had to take precedence in such challenging times. At the outset, large supplies of food were delivered from the farm and residents were encouraged to replenish supplies as they passed shops. James Griffiths and John Cobden responded by assuming full-time cooking duties, while jobs were assigned to other residents to ensure the proper functioning of both houses. The response from residents was encouraging and to some extent unexpected.

In some respects however, the experience became more difficult for those community members living in more isolated conditions and used to the community appeal at the houses. Signs placed at the rear gates advising visitors about the closure of the houses and the many phone enquiries that followed have been and continue to be, a source of acute frustration and disappointment for volunteers.



However, as volunteers began returning to the houses in late June, it became apparent that the Government-funded COVID financial supplements were increasingly being used by some to increase their drug intake. To some extent this had been anticipated by leaders, with residents encouraged to undertake more saving plans and with reminders that the allowances were only temporary. When this failed to have the desired effect we had no option but to increase rents to levels closer to market rates. Employment programmes were also scaled back whenever work standards began to deteriorate.

In recent months there has been an even more concerted effort to understand our residents and community members' medical and mental health needs and to ensure any appropriate treatment is followed up. Fridays have become the designated days for Julie and Gretta, our community nurse, to review progress in this regard. The impact on most has been extremely positive. Support also continues to be offered by volunteers to assist residents with their housing applications, as well as the provision of much needed financial and general legal advice. There has also been a core of volunteers continuing to deliver evening meals to the houses for which the residents are thankful. The Monday picnics at Green Park have resumed after a short break and are being well supported by the park community. And we are about to trial Tuesday evening barbecues at the houses for residents and volunteers, provided this can be undertaken in a COVID-safe way.

We are also fortunate that as part of a pilot volunteer programme initiated by Cana Communities, three university students have recently moved into the houses for a period of 4 to 6 months. The students are already known to most through their involvement at the Two Wolves Cantina at Broadway, where for some years now our community members have been invited to Sunday meals. The objectives of the programme are to build a community through a sharing of lives and an adherence to the Cana Objectives. Hopefully, this is the start of a Cana supported Young Adult Community Programme.

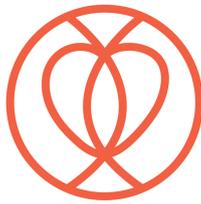
Terry Cassidy- House Leader

TERESA HOUSE

Unfortunately due to mandatory government physical distancing requirements, Teresa House closed in March. Until then we provided up to ten meals and beds a night, up to seven nights a week to Sydney's most vulnerable. The existing venue on Cleveland Street, Redfern was deemed unsuitable in a new COVID world, and we exited the premises.

Recently we have secured a new venue and hope to open in the next few months, subject to council approvals. Many thanks to all our generous volunteers and Management Team who have served the community so well, both with their generosity before the closure and their patience since. Onwards!

Frank Fields



CHRISTCHURCH ST LAURENCE SHELTER

CANA at Christ Church St Laurence was running well until March. We were thinking about how we can recruit more volunteers and how we can share the knowledge embedded in our existing volunteer teams with new teams.

Since COVID forced us to close there has been a pause and now we are exploring ways we can develop and integrate the CANA community at CCSL with other CCSL activities and new opportunities to make our community more visible, regular, holistic and resilient.