

Non-event still aids charities

A pair of charities have received a pre-Christmas bonus from Greater Dandenong Council.

Kindness Community and Springvale Benevolent Society each received \$7000 on Tuesday 30 November.

The windfalls derived from the cancellation of the 2021 mayoral charity dinner function due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Cr Angela Long, who was the 2020-'21 mayor, said the \$14,000 of unspent funds for staging the dinner was diverted to the charities.

The funds will support Kindness Community's feeding of people who are homeless and in need, and the benevolent society's food parcels and voucher program.



Recent mayor Angela Long presents a cheque to Springvale Benevolent Society president Joe Rechichi.



Former Greater Dandenong mayor Angela Long presents a council donation to Kindness Community on 30 November.

Donation is a 'godsend'

By Gabriella Payne

After a tough year, one of our most charitable organisations - long a lifeline for the community - found itself in need of a helping hand.

The volunteer work of the Springvale Benevolent Society has helped people in need for years, but following 2020's difficulties and with its grant applications being refused by the council, times were looking tough for the organisation - until salvation appeared.

The Spring Vale Lodge, with the support of the South Eastern Masonic Social Club and Freemasons Foundation Victoria among others, donated \$10,000 to the Springvale Benevolent Society's to allow it to continue to support those in need.

Together with the Keysborough Lodge, Morton Ray Sovereign Chapter, Keysborough St. Andrews Daylight Lodge, the Freemasons Foundation and the South Eastern Masonic Social Club, the Spring Vale Lodge was able to raise these funds, hoping to ensure no local family is left without as the pandemic stretches on.

Teresa Rechichi, spokesperson for the Springvale Benevolent Society and wife of Joe Rechichi, the Society's president, said that this donation had come as a "godsend", especially after the organisation's grant application was refused by the City of Greater Dandenong Council recently.

"When our grant was refused and the Freemasons came up with that money it was a godsend - a true godsend," Mrs Rechichi said.

"They came to our aid when it was really desperately needed.

"I know that the council have done a great job in providing material aid to us, but it just doesn't cover the necessities [for families]," she said.

Giorgio Migliaccio, the worshipful master of the Spring Vale Lodge and secretary of the South Eastern Masonic Centre said that it was great to have worked together with other lodges and donate vital funds to a worthy cause.

"With the pandemic, we know that so many more people were suffering through lockdown and lost jobs and close of businesses, so we



The Springvale Benevolent Society's incredible work will continue thanks to the generous donation.

Mr Migliaccio said.

"So to be able to give a little bit extra and to be able to help Joe and the Springvale Benevolent Society to actually reach out and get to more people - it just makes it all worthwhile."

Mrs Rechichi said that this year alone the society had given out \$50,000 worth of vouchers to families in need and unfortunately material aid donated by the council didn't go towards covering this.

"We're very disappointed that the panel refused it because money is going out for festivals, dances, arts and yet not towards vouchers to put food on the table for vulnerable people," Mrs Rechichi said.

Despite this, Mrs Rechichi said that the society would be able to continue helping those in need, thanks to the generosity of organisations such as the Spring Vale Lodge and the Freemason Foundation.

"They've been absolutely marvellous in

cent voluntary and if we get \$10,000, you can guarantee that \$10,001 will go back to the clients," she said.

Mr Migliaccio said that the work the Springvale Benevolent Society did to help those less fortunate in the community was inspiring, especially after such a difficult year.

"I think the work that the Springvale Benevolent Society is doing is just typical of how people can get together and do good work and support each other," he said.

"If there's one thing that we've seen over the last 12 months or so is that not only have we seen the worst in people, but we've actually seen the best in a lot of people as well and I think this is an example of the best."

"You know, these people are going out and helping those who are more vulnerable and more susceptible than others and if we could all do that then I think we'd be a lot better off," Mr Migliaccio said.

Mrs Rechichi said that since the Covid outbreak, the society had been focusing on helping those who didn't receive any government benefits first, including asylum seekers, people who had lost their jobs and were receiving no income; but if anyone else was in need, their door is always open.

"We're still making sure that nobody is left without and everyone is getting food on the table," she said.

"If there are families that are in need and are finding it very hard, then please contact the Springvale Benevolent Society because we will try to help as best we can. We don't want to see anybody in the community, particularly the children, going without a meal."

Mrs Rechichi added that if anyone in the community found themselves in the position to donate to the Springvale Benevolent Society, it is "greatly needed" and would go a long way towards helping others.

Group rallies to show care

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

Without Covid-19 welfare support, many community members are in dire need of help, Springvale Benevolent Society president Joe Rechichi says.

Such as the unemployed who hadn't yet received Centrelink help, or asylum seekers and other new arrivals who were ineligible for any official help at all.

They were all at the mercy of charities to provide the basics such as food, Mr Rechichi said.

A Springvale primary school teacher recently forwarded him a list of 10 hungry families.

Among the list was a multi-family household of four adults and 10 children crammed in a three-bedroom home. Mr Rechichi duly left food at their doorstep - keeping a 'social distance' due to Covid-19 restrictions.

"It's sad to see people in that condition in this day and age.

"Organisations across the board are seeing the same thing. We're all doing what we can."

Refugee advocate Wicki Vikramasingham said many unsupported new arrivals had lost factory or restaurant work during the coronavirus lockdown.

"The Government should look at every human equally in this situation.

"This coronavirus is attacking every corner of the world. The Australian Government allow them to stay here so they should also help them live healthily."

Asylum seekers faced an unknown wait on their application for Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) payments, while their cases to

stay in Australia are before the courts.

Others suffering without help are unemployed international students, Mr Vikramasingham said.

"Some of them are really struggling to afford food - some mothers are working casual jobs in factories and can't get any income assistance at this stage."

Mr Rechichi was grateful to community support during the "critical time".

He thanked the owners of Sting Gym, the Rotary clubs of Dandenong and Dingley, Bendigo Bank's Dingley branch as well as "friends and residents" who had donated food parcels, supermarket vouchers and cash.

The charity also received some goods from Greater Dandenong Council's \$330,000 Covid-19 material aid package.

Recently, the Rotary Club of Dandenong has made sizeable cash donations to Springvale Benevolent Society and Dandenong-based charity Cornerstone.

Since responding to the Springvale charity's call for help in winter 2019, the Rotary club had regularly dropped off food packages, clothing and toys, including at Christmas.

The club's Leanne Byron said members had been collecting food items at Rotary meetings. But with social distancing, the meetings had gone on Zoom and so food collections became difficult.

"So the club provided a donation to Joe so he can do what he can do.

"He does such a valiant job, with his band of volunteers."

To help, call Mr Rechichi on 0409 249 881.



Joe Rechichi, second left, with Sting Gym representatives who donated food during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cash-strapped charity is battling on

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

Springvale Benevolent Society is locked a battle to meet requests to help homeless and battling families.

At its annual general meeting, it reported a 15 per cent rise in clients such as family violence victims and asylum seekers needing help.

Its donations, though a generous \$50,000, had dropped by 19 per cent. Its soaring expenses outstripped income by more than \$20,000.

The society receives no State or Federal funding.

President Joe Rechichi said despite the loss, the society was determined to help people in need.

In the past 12 months, the society made more than 1000 home visits. It distributed blankets, food parcels, food vouchers and clothing to about 430 families, including 350 children.

"The Society (ensures) that people in need have food on the table, blankets to keep them warm, beds to sleep in and even more importantly someone to be there to listen to their problems and help them where possible as they find it hard to make ends meet," president Joe Rechichi said.

The Society got a welcome boost ahead of its Christmas drive, with a \$5000 donation



The Spring Vale Lodge's Giorgio Migliaccio presents Joe Rechichi with a \$5000 helping hand ahead of Christmas. 198189
Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

from the Spring Vale Lodge and the Freemasons Foundation.

Mr Rechichi said the donation would cover nearly half of the food vouchers and Christmas groceries needed for 200 needy families.

The lodge's Worshipful Master Giorgio Migliaccio said the Freemasons wanted to help

a local charity helping others during what can be a tough festive season for many.

"We're always looking for good local projects to support."

To donate money or food to the Springvale Benevolent Society, call Mr Rechichi on 0409 249 881.

Out in the cold

P. 2nd July
2019.
JOURNAL

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

As winter tightens its grip, Greater Dandenong mayor Roz Blades has urged food donations for stretched charities that report a homeless and foodless "crisis".

"There's a crisis, there's a need and Council needs to be made aware of it," Cr Blades told a council meeting on 24 June.

"We need (donations) all year round. It used to be an occasional food drive and that would get us by.

"If anyone can help us out with food, we'd be very grateful."

The volunteer-run Springvale Benevolent Society, which delivers goods, vouchers and blankets across the municipality, was running short of food relief.

The Springvale-based charity Friends of Refugees faces a massive weekly demand for about 700 kilograms of food.

Homelessness agency WAYSS reports an 11 per cent rise in demand, supporting nearly 5000 people across the South East in 2018-19.

WAYSS chief executive Elizabeth Thomas said often they helped families in private rentals who lived week-to-week on wages and benefits and then fell on hard times.

"They could then lose their job, experience family breakdown, the car needs repairing or they require a new fridge, and they are unable to pay their rent.

"It could be their first time they are faced with homelessness. It's traumatic for them, particularly if children and pets are involved."

Ms Thomas said many were being "squeezed out" of the private rental market, on top of rising living costs.

Extensive public housing waiting lists and demand for social housing outstripped supply, she said.

"There are many people living with friends and family, staying in motels, caravan parks or



Joe Rechichi, facing an emptying food-relief pantry at Springvale Benevolent Society. 194969

Picture: GARY SISSONS

sleeping in their cars in our community."

Cr Blades told Star News of the simple need for embattled families to feed kids their breakfast.

There was also a growing list of working people living in cars as well as asylum seekers being cut from government income.

"There's an assumption that people are unemployed who are living in a car. But it also includes people who are employed," Cr Blades said.

"They don't earn enough."

Cr Blades suggested pull-ring cans of tuna, soup, fruit and spaghetti, hand wipes and plastic utensils for those who are homeless.

Staples such as sugar, tea, coffee and flour were needed for stricken residents.

Clothes, gloves, pillows and blankets were also required.

Springvale Benevolent Society president Joe Rechichi said new clients were coming in "every second day" - adding to a list of around 90 singles and families helped each month.

Up to 20 of them were homeless.

"There's not enough public housing. I see rooming houses with up to eight people in them, each paying \$180 a week rent.

"If they're on Newstart, they are left with about \$30 a week for food or utilities."

He recently paid a visit to a household of three women, all who had lost their jobs and had no food.

The Springvale Benevolent Society, wholly volunteer-run and without State or Federal funding, will help anyone - without any need for a referral, Mr Rechichi said.

"I always admire those people who have the courage to pick up their phone and say 'can you help me?'"

"We put food in their tummy."

To donate food, clothes, blankets and other items to the Springvale Benevolent Society, call Joe Rechichi on 0409 249 881.

Charity hero wins Solidarity Cup

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

Springvale charity stalwart Joe Rechichi has received lofty recognition from the Italian community for his immense efforts for the elderly, disabled, homeless and impoverished.

Mr Rechichi was proudly awarded the glorious 2018 Solidarity Cup, also known as the Coppa della Solidarieta.

The trophy is awarded annually to an Italian community member across Victoria for exceptional volunteer work.

Mr Rechichi was awarded for 20-plus years of tireless work as Springvale Benevolent Society's president and volunteer, as well as 30 years coordinating the Springvale Italian Senior Citizens Club.

Prior to his award, the surprised 72-year-old retiree hadn't heard of the Solidarity Cup, let alone that he had been nominated.

"You wonder what did I do to be nominated, and how can I fulfil the obligations of the award?"

"The recognition makes me want to do more for the community."

It's hard to think how Mr Rechichi can do more.

Seven days a week, he is helping collect and distribute donations, vouchers and food parcels for hundreds of families and individuals in Greater Dandenong.

Uniquely, he and the benevolent society volunteers make house visits, delivering goods and checking on their clients' welfare.

"It's probably more than a full-time job," he says of his entirely voluntary role.

"It's the sort of work where the more you do, you find there's more that needs to be done.

"I don't believe in doing half a job. If I take a role, it's 100 per cent."

The demand is ever-growing. About 15 new families a week are added to the benevolent society's 550-plus client list.

He's deeply troubled by a sharp rise in local homelessness.

One recent and typical case is a woman in her 40s evicted from her rental home to make way for a multi-dwelling development.

"It doesn't take long for a person to become homeless - just one little setback and they can't catch up."

After a total loss of federal funding, the benevolent society is totally dependent on donations.

Mr Rechichi says he's thankful for the help of schools, banks, RSL Clubs, as well as pokies venues Club Noble and Sandown Entertainment for filling the breach.

He defends the latter clubs for their somewhat controversial support.

"If they're prepared to put something in the community, there's nothing wrong with that.

"I know a lot of people disagree on it but in the long run, I can't go without them."



Joe Rechichi receiving food donations from a recent Springvale Neighbourhood House campaign. 186462 Picture: GARY SISSONS

He has no foreseeable plans to hand over the reins. Part of the problem is finding someone prepared to fill Mr Rechichi's considerable shoes.

"I will do it as long as I can.

"It's a very important job."

At 17, Mr Rechichi migrated from Italy in 1964.

He has previously won City of Greater Dandenong Citizen of the Year, the Premier's Community Volunteering Award, Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow Award and Sandown Community Superhero Award.

Solidarity Cup sponsor Frank Di Blasi said the judging panel was unanimous in its election of Mr Rechichi.

"Mr Rechichi is a most caring person and truly deserves the recognition as he typically represents a type of caring world we all would like to live in."



Joe Rechichi is awarded for his years of selfless service. 186462 Picture: GARY SISSONS

Breakfast is in the 'wall'

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

A massive outpouring of generosity has surprised organisers of a Food for 400 anti-poverty drive. Springvale Neighbourhood House had set a target of 400 non-perishable food items to be distributed to local people in need.

However donations tripled expectations - more than 1200 items have formed a momentous 'wall of food' at the neighbourhood house.

"We thought we could store the food under our desks or on top of our cupboards," manager Melanie Virtue said. "But the food kept rolling in." On 17 October, the tonnes of cans, grains, feminine hygiene products, pasta and sauce, coffee and tea, cooking oil and breakfast cereal were presented to stalwart charity Springvale Benevolent Society.

An overwhelmed president Joe Rechichi was grateful for the donation.

His charity provides \$50,000 of annual assistance without a cent of state and federal

funding. It delivers food vouchers, food, blankets and other essentials to the doorstep of single mums, single dads, bread-winners who lost their job, and asylum seekers battling on a fraction of the dole. Volunteers see for their own eyes what each household desperately needs.

Mr Rechichi told of how as a child, he sometimes went to bed without being fed. For decades, he'd strived to ensure no local child went without food.

"I know of children not going to school because they don't have food to fill a little lunch box. "It really hurts me when I have to attend these houses. I think why? What's wrong with us?" Greater Dandenong councillor Roz Blades, a volunteer with the charity, praised the kindness of the community.

"In our lives we all have been in a situation where we don't have much food.

"We know what it's like and we don't want other people to feel like that."

Greater Dandenong was among the most



Springvale Benevolent Society's Teresa Rechichi and Joe Rechichi and Springvale Neighbourhood House manager Melanie Virtue in front of the 'wall of food'. 186462

Picture: GARY SISSONS

disadvantaged areas in Australia but was a "place that has heart".

The benevolent society is preparing a drive for toys for 500 children and about 250 food hampers for families at Christmas.

To donate, call 9546 5558.

P3 - J
22nd OCT 2018



Mohammad Anas, Nurkahrem, and Mohammad Ayub with Greater Dandenong Mayor Youhorn Chea.

Little library's big on books

Springvale has a free pop-up library in Multi-cultural Place.

Greater Dandenong Council took inspiration for the book cupboard from the world-wide Little Library movement.

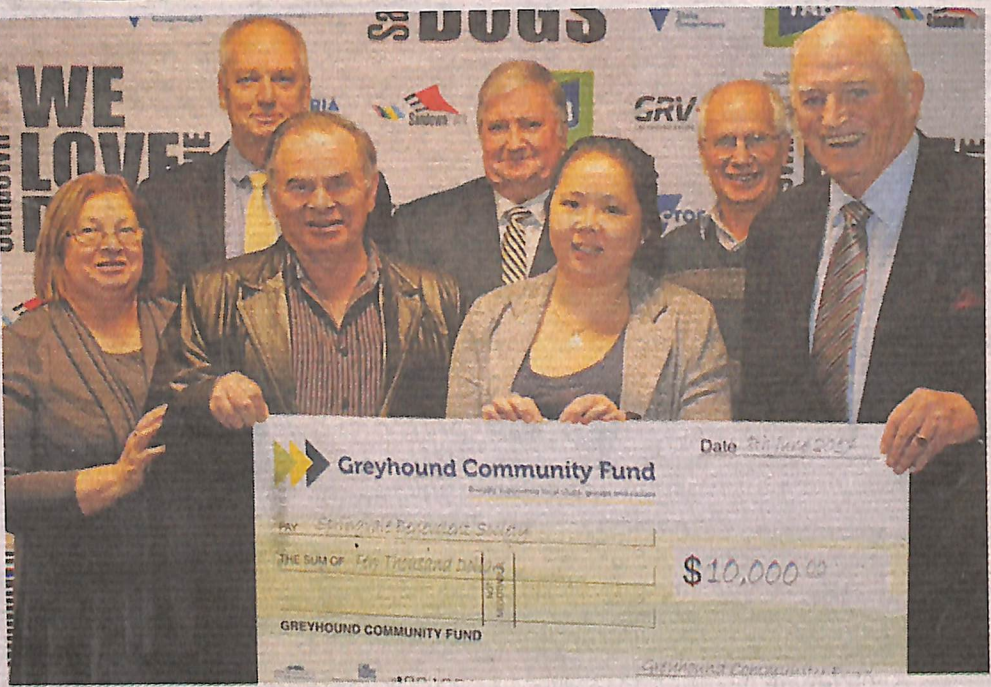
Visitors to the Buckingham Avenue space are encouraged to stay and share a story with their family and friends.

"Sharing books with your children is one of the best things you can do," Mayor Youhorn Chea said.

"These pre-loved books can be enjoyed and then left at the library for someone else to enjoy."



The Little Library.



Members of the Springvale Benevolent Society with their funding check.

Cash provides food support

The Springvale Benevolent Society is one of a number of groups to receive funding in the latest round of Greyhound Community Fund grants.

The \$10,000 grant will go towards the purchasing of food and food vouchers for some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

“At the time there was a lot of migration from different parts of Europe so it was felt there was a need to start something to help along their settlement in the community,” said society president Joe Rechichi.

“They probably didn’t think it would be something that would be going in the long term but, 55 years later, we’re still here.

“There’s a group of around 20 of us, all volunteers, and we do our very best to serve the community.

“It’s a tough job but I have a dedicated team of volunteers and we make a little bit of a difference.”

P33 4th SEPT 2017



South eastern metropolitan MP Lee Taramis congratulates Yvonne Herring on her award. Picture: ROB CAREW

117081

Heart of gold

By CAMERON LUCADOU-WELLS

THERE'S a long tradition of selfless helpers at Springvale Benevolent Society pitching in for people in desperate need.

Yvonne Herring last week was awarded the third annual Wes Egglestone community service award, adding her name to the roll-call of the benevolent society's lauded volunteers.

Ms Herring has served the wholly-voluntary benevolent society since 1997, making countless home visits at short notice seven days a week.

At those homes, Ms Herring - who also served

as a Greater Dandenong councillor for 13 years - would deliver referral advice and food vouchers and be there to listen.

Since moving to Pakenham, she has served as secretary of the benevolent society.

"There's some very sad stories, but there's good times. People are very grateful when you rock up to their door.

"You go home to your house and family and think about what people are going through.

"Some say why do you give them money when they're on drugs or drinking. But they have children who aren't being fed. You can't deny children because of their parents."

South-eastern metropolitan MP Lee Taramis, a long-time volunteer at the benevolent society, established the award to honour the late Mr Egglestone's service.

Mr Egglestone was a former Springvale Benevolent Society secretary for more than 40 years with "connections all over the place", Mr Taramis said.

Former colleagues at the benevolent society, John Beus and Max Anstis, are the two previous winners of the award.

"The thing that makes Springvale Benevolent Society different from other charities is the home visits," Mr Taramis said.

"They see people in their home environment - at their most vulnerable - and see what other services they need.

"It's fair to say I can't think of one person who's volunteered with Springvale Benevolent Society who has left."

The award recognises selfless community work characterised by "care, compassion, courage and leadership".

It attracted "a number of deserving candidates" in Greater Dandenong, Mr Taramis said.

The award was judged by an independent panel across a number of charities.

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LOSS OF FUNDS \$70000 FROM DEPT OF SOCIAL SERVICE

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

NEWS

17

LEADER 21st SEPT 2015

SPRINGVALE



Springvale Benevolent Society president Joe Rechichi says its been a struggle keeping afloat since funding was cut earlier this year.

Picture: CHRISTOPHER CHAN

Kind helpers need a boost

SEARCH ON FOR CORPORATE SPONSORS

Geordie Cowan

AFTER giving others a helping hand for more than 50 years, Springvale Benevolent Society now needs your help.

The society lost \$70,000 in funding from the Department of Social Services earlier this year and it has been a struggle ever since.

But society president Joe Rechichi vows it will continue to help those in need.

"We are not going to shut the doors," Mr Rechichi said. "We do the best we can, but we need some sort of assistance.

"It's very stressful (for the volunteers) but I hope we're going to be here for a long time, so we are asking the

community to help us continue that to the best of our ability."

Mr Rechichi said the response was excellent when they first pleaded to the community, with churches, council and other organisations leading the charge. Most of the people the society helped were on benefits or other allowances, but "what they get is not enough".

"We feed the people who are hungry, we give blankets and clothes to people who are cold," Mr Rechichi said.

"We reach out to those who are sick. We lend an ear and listen to their problems.

"Our volunteers are very proud of what they do.

"It's an honour to be in the Springvale Benevolent Society and all it costs you is some time and a bit of pocket money."

Mr Rechichi said the society needed corporate sponsors to provide it with funds so it could buy more food. He also asked community members to think about buying one or two extra items when they went shopping to put aside and donate, especially with Christmas not too far off.

"There's a lot of ways you can reach out," he said.

"A little bit from everybody makes a difference."

To help or for information, phone 9546 5558 or email sbs@springvalebenevolent.com

Help us provide winter blanket coverage

OUR disadvantaged community in the Springvale area are going to do it a lot tougher this year.

Due to the Federal Government's funding cut to the Springvale Benevolent Society our clients are going to miss out on emergency funds.

With the extremely high cost of private rentals, many families will go without food, clothing, medicine, linen, furniture and other items that most of us take for granted.

If they are on a pension, once they pay the rent there is very little left to live on.

Some families will go without food because grocery vouchers cannot cover the cost of all essential food items.

If they spend extra money on food, it means they cannot afford to use their electricity and gas for heating because they cannot afford the higher bills.

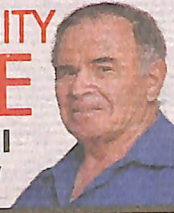
This results in a long, cold winter for them.

To find the warmth many of them frequent shopping centres or even worse hotels, clubs, etcetera where the

COMMUNITY VOICE

JOE RECHICHI

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
PRESIDENT



temptation of gaming machines or alcohol eat away the little money they have.

Many of the families cannot afford to give their children breakfast before they go to school – some children have to wait until evening for their only meal.

We at the society try to help these families as much as we possibly can, but with limited funds it is becoming much harder.

It is extremely hard on families who need baby formula and etcetera - the society would never say no to these innocent babies and toddlers.

Because of our limited budget, clients can no longer rely on getting extra blankets to keep warm.

Also many of them will have to go without some of their medications because our funds will no longer stretch to help them.

With the high cost of rent, we have come across some families who have a roof over their heads but their accommodation has no furniture whatsoever as they cannot afford any.

It can be a very cold night when all you have is one blanket to lie on and one to cover you.

If we can afford it, we will purchase mattresses so it is at least one comfort for them.

We rely on food and monetary donations from many wonderful community people, churches, schools, businesses, City of Greater Dandenong and more to help us put food on the tables and to pay for emergency medical items.

Without the help of all these kind donations our families would do it much harder.

The Springvale Benevolent Society is run by volunteers and has been helping families in the area for 53 years.



Cr Roz Blades and Joe Rechichi with blankets and food for the needy.

We are now appealing to all sections of the community to help us with any donations that they can afford so

that we can continue our assistance to all those who need us.

Call 9546 5558 to lend a hand.



Councillor Roz Blades, Harry Gunther, and Teresa and Joe Rechichi in the Benevolent Society storeroom. 137681

Picture: GARY SISSONS

Business call for support

By CASEY NEILL

SUPPORT for Springvale's most vulnerable will more than halve without help from the business community.

That was the warning from Springvale Benevolent Society president Joe Rechichi last week as he appealed for donations to cope with a \$70,000 cut in Federal Government funding.

"All we need is half a dozen companies to sponsor us a little bit.

"We will show the government that we can survive," he said.

In January the Journal reported that the society missed out on Department of Social Services (DSS) funding for the first time in 20 years.

"They never gave me a reason for it. Still to this day, I

don't know why," Mr Rechichi said.

"The last three months have been very sad. We've been agonising."

The group has been providing food vouchers, blankets and other assistance to the community for 53 years.

Mr Rechichi said committee members at a recent meeting decided to continue running - at 40 per cent strength.

"We have 600 clients on our books," he said.

"If we service them every four months, I don't have to make a decision personally who I'm going to assist and who I'm not."

He's been directing anyone he can't help to contact Assistant Social Services Minister Mitch Fifield.

"As of today, (Social Services Minister) Scott Morrison's department haven't sent me a proper succession agent to pass on our clients," he said.

But Mr Fifield said the DSS had encouraged the society to engage with providers in the area that did receive funding, to discuss transition arrangements.

"Last year the government undertook a competitive tender for organisations seeking funding under an \$800 million DSS grants round," he said.

"The DSS is assisting new and existing providers to ensure that clients are referred to new services where required, and will continue to monitor these arrangements to make sure any service gaps are addressed."

Call Springvale Benevolent Society on 9546 5558 to assist.

LEADER 2ND FEB 2015.

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOC

SPRINGVALE

Bid to save benevolent group

Michael Randall

SPRINGVALE Benevolent Society is at risk of disappearing, but its volunteers say they are not giving up without a fight.

A defiant president, Joe Rechichi, told the *Leader* last week the Federal Government's decision to withdraw funding for the service could be its death knell, but volunteers had met and were determined to keep the society functioning.

He has rallied Isaacs fed-

eral Labor MP Mark Dreyfus and Hotham federal Labor MP Clare O'Neil in a bid to get Canberra to listen to his plight.

The pair will hold a community forum on Friday, at the old Greater Dandenong Council offices in Springvale to tackle the society's issues.

Mr Rechichi said many sectors of the community were aware of the good work

the society had done for more than 50 years, but he hoped many more would sign a petition in support of the service.

He said he "would leave no stone unturned" in his bid to keep it afloat.

"The government has made a decision and that has now left us with an even tougher decision," Mr Rechichi said.

"We have to start deciding

who we help and who we turn away. It's heartbreaking. From March 1, we'll be operating at 30-35 per cent capacity. That means 60-65 per cent will miss out. It's not a good decision.

"We need these people making decisions from behind their desks to wake up and see what is happening in our community."

When the *Leader* spoke with longtime member Pat

Dillon at the office, she said Centrelink had just referred a woman to the society who had been forced to leave her home and live in her car.

"These are the sort of people we help every day, the most desperate," Mrs Dillon said.

"The government has cut our funding, yet their agencies are still sending people to us. It just doesn't make sense."

SOCIETY FIGHTS TO STAY AFLOAT DESPITE CUTS TO SERVICE

The *Leader* asked the department why the society's funding application was rejected and whether there was potential for review.

Minister for Social Services Scott Morrison did not answer the questions.

"Due to privacy reasons, we are unable to give details of an organisation's performance in the selection process," Mr Morrison said.

The forum will be held on Friday, February 6, from 1pm, at 397-405 Springvale Rd, Springvale.

Cash to help those who help others

A timely \$10,000 donation will help Springvale Benevolent Society to help those in need through winter.

The colder months are the busiest time for the volunteer group, which helps more than 600 people each year.

It's relying on donations more than ever following Federal Government cuts to emergency relief funding last year.

The society missed out on Department of Social Services (DSS) funding for the first time in 20 years, losing \$70,000 - 70 per cent of its annual budget.

President Joe Rechichi accepted two cheques for \$5000 from Club Noble and the Dingley Village Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank.

"Imagine having to make a decision whether to buy food for the family or put the heater on these days?" he said.

"Sadly, a growing number of families and single people face this decision every day in winter.

"These wonderful donations will be invaluable and will go towards direct aid to people in

extreme poverty and socially isolated."

The group has been providing food vouchers, blankets and other assistance to the community for 53 years.

Mr Rechichi became involved in 1986, assisting wife Teresa. He's worked there full-time since 2009 and 13 years ago took the leadership.

"Whatever we have, we do our very best to support those most in need," he said.

"With the extremely high cost of private rentals, many families will go without food, clothing, medicine, linen, furniture and other items that most of us take for granted.

"I know what it's like as a child to go without. I don't want people under my care to go without."

Dingley Village Community Bank chairman David Starvaggi and Club Noble president Barry Bradshaw said they were proud to partner to help the society support the community's most needy.

Call Springvale Benevolent Society on 9546 5558 to assist.

4th July 2016
Journal

P.32.

Starved society

By CASEY NEILL

"SOME of our clients will starve." This was the dire warning from Springvale Benevolent Society volunteer and councillor Roz Blades last week after the Federal Government withdrew its support for the group.

The society has been providing food vouchers, blankets and other assistance to the community for 53 years next month and received Department of Social Services (DSS) funding for the past 20 years.

But Cr Blades was devastated to receive an email addressed "dear applicant" stating that the department had rejected the society's recent grant application.

"Dear grant applicant, after 53 years? Come on," she said.

"It's a slap in the face.

"Centrelink refers to us. They're a Federal Government agency and they refer to us.

"But the Federal Government won't fund us.

"It's an inhumane decision. No one will look after the families we look after.

"They're struggling. Some are disabled. Some are refugees.

"People will starve and it will be on their heads."

The email said the grants round had been a highly competitive process and the society had not been selected as a preferred applicant.

The society last year received \$70,000 and spent almost \$100,000 in total.

"We've still got money coming from the council - there's a funding agreement - and we're still well-supported by churches and schools," Cr Blades said.

But making up the \$70,000 shortfall will be near-impossible and she's hoping the government will change its mind.

"We're hopeful that we can convince them by the weight of evidence," she said.



Springvale Benevolent Society president Joe Rechichi with volunteers, back, Harry Gunther, Priscilla Truong, Paddy Dillon, front, Marlene Lonergan, Councillor Roz Blades and Pat Dillon. 133284
Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

"We can actually prove what we've done."

Society president Joe Rechichi has nearly 650 people on his books, including 500 children.

"I've lost some sleep. I can't even sleep at night," he said.

"The unemployment rate is 20 per cent-plus and it's going to get worse.

"I know what it's like as a child to

go without. I don't want people under my care to go without.

"I feel terrible to have to make a decision - who's going to have food on the table and who's not going to have food on the table."

Mr Rechichi became involved with the society in 1986, assisting wife Teresa.

He's worked there full-time since

2009 and 12 years ago took the leadership.

"I hope the government can reverse their decision. Certainly it's not the way to run the country. It's not," he said.

"We provide a free service, and that's the part of it that really hurts.

"We open our hearts to assist people and they take the funds away."

Isaacs MP Mark Dreyfus said the

decision was cruel and damaging.

"The social dividend derived from this relatively modest amount of funding is enormous," he said.

"To cut this service will devastate some of the most vulnerable in our community."

The Journal contacted the Department of Social Services but did not receive a response.

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY INC.

AOO 383 55R ABN 71 4206 32776

50TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday – September 25th 2012

Chair – Mr J Rechichi

AGENDA

Welcome:	Mr Joe Rechichi
Treasurer Report	Ms Minh Luu
Chairman's Report	Mr Joe Rechichi
Secretary Report	Cr Yvonne Herring
Annual Election	
Guest Speaker	Mr Tito Pal – Consumer Affairs
Supper	Sandwich Platters -Courtesy of The Mayor - Cr Youhorn Chea Delicious Cakes and Cookies baked by Mrs Pat Dillon

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY INC.

AOO 383 55R

ABN 71 4206 32776

49TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27TH SEPTEMBER 2011

MINUTES

Venue: Civic Centre Meeting Room – Springvale

Chair: Mr Joe Rechichi

Present:

Mr Lee Tarlamis MP	Member for South Eastern Metro Prov.
Mr Mark Doubleday	Director of Community Services - COGD
Ms Vicki Mastini	Simon Creans's Office
Mr Ken Tonkin	Noble Park/Keysborough Lions Club
Mr Bill Warner OAM	Keysborough & Dandenong S.C.C.
Mrs M Ladner	Dandenong Benevolent Society
Ms B Siddall	Dandenong Benevolent Society
Mr Alan Henry	Mount Waverly
Mr Gerry Alles	St Vincent De Paul
Ms Anna Styk	SDA Church, Springvale
Mr Wesley Laughlin	SDA Church, Springvale
Mr Bob Grassby	Rotary Club Springvale
Ms Maureen Laidlaw	

Springvale Benevolent Society Members Present:

Mesdames: Pat Blashki OAM, Pat Dillon, Teresa Rechichi, Monique Chung, Lyn Skews, June Whitton, Minh Luu, Lil Mangoni, Cr Yvonne Herring JP.

Messrs: Albert Blashki OAM. JP, Joe Rechichi, Paddy Dillon, Francois Chung, Max Anstis, Harry Gunther, Ray Schenk, Alan Gordon, Alf Goldberg.

Apologies:

Hon. Simon Crean	Member for Hotham
Mr Alan Griffin MP	Member for Bruce
Mr Hong Lim MP	Member for Clayton
Ms Inga Peulick MLC	Southern Province
Mr Tim Holding MP	Member for Lyndhurst
Mr J Beus OAM. JP.	Springvale Benevolent Society
Cr Roz Blades - Mayor	COGD
Cr John Kelly	COGD
Cr Angela Long	COGD
Ms Leanne Malcolm	COGD
Ms Carol Curtis	Keysborough Noble Park Lions
Ms Karen	Springvale 3C Church

Welcome: Mr Joe Rechichi welcomed all in attendance. Joe announced that the advertised Guest Speaker - Constable Dani Lord rang through an apology today. Mr Mark Doubleday, Director of Community Services COGD was kind enough to take over as Guest Speaker.

Minutes: 48th Annual General Meeting – 28th September 2010

Circulated – taken as read

Received – Alf Goldberg / Ray Schenk

Treasurers Report: Presented by Treasurer – Monique Chung

Received - Pat Dillon / Alan Gordon

Presidents Report: Presented by Chairman - J Rechichi

Received - Bill Warner / Pat Blashki

Secretary Report: Presented by Secretary – Cr Yvonne Herring JP

Received - Teresa Rechichi / Paddy Dillon

General Election: Conducted by – Mr Mark Doubleday – Director of Community Services COGD

President Mr Joe Rechichi

Vice President Mr John Beus OAM. JP
Mr Albert Blashki OAM. JP
Mr Harry Gunther

Treasurer Ms Minh Luu

Auditor Mr J Wundersitz
FTMA. ACIS

Secretary Cr Yvonne Herring JP

Public Officer Mr Joe Rechichi

Social Co-Ordinator Mr Harry Gunther

Moved in a Block
By
Teresa Rechichi +
June Whitton

Committee: John Beus OAM. JP, Albert Blashki OAM JP, Patricia Blashki OAM, Max Anstis, Joe & Teresa Rechichi, Monique & Francois Chung, Paddy & Pat Dillon, Roz Blades, June Whitton, Alf Goldberg, Alan Gordon, Harry Gunther, Ray Schenk, Lyn Skews, Yvonne Herring JP. – **With Power to Add.**

Moved - F Chung / Alan Gordon

Guest Speaker: Mr Mark Doubleday – Director of Community Services COGD

Mr Doubleday gave a very informative and compassionate talk about his role as Director of Community Services and his love of Local Government. He explained the role of his Departments and how they work within the greater council, with residents, Local & Federal Govt departments and other local agencies.

Joe Rechichi thanked the speaker for his very informative and compassionate talk.

Joe Rechichi thanked Monique Chung for all the work she has done for the Society and for the wonderful job she has done as Treasurer over the past few years.

Supper: Joe Rechichi invited all to supper - sandwiches kindly provided by Mayor Cr Roz Blades. Cakes and Cookies made by Pat Dillon.

Next Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 25th September 2012

JOHN F. WUNDERSITZ

Building 119, 27 Second Avenue, Moorabbin Airport, Mentone Victoria 3194
Postal address: P O Box 82, Dingley Village Vic. 3172
Telephone: (03) 9580 0944 Facsimile: (03) 9587 4875 Email: john@wunder.com.au

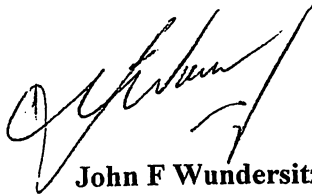
12 September 2012

The Committee
Springvale Benevolent Society Inc
P O Box 66
SPRINGVALE VIC 3171

To the Committee,

I have examined the records of the Springvale Benevolent Society Inc. for the period 1st August 2011 to 31st July 2012 and report that in my opinion the attached financial statements present a fair and accurate record of the state of affairs of the society.

Yours faithfully



John F Wundersitz FTMA CTA CFP
Honorary Auditor

Fellow of Association of Taxation and Management Accountants
Chartered Tax Adviser
Certified Financial Planner

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY INC
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 31 July 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Income		
Bendigo Bank Centre	2,750.00	0.00
Interest received	3,068.06	2,626.69
Commonwealth Govt	68,567.00	71,481.02
City of Dandenong	15,178.00	13,911.18
Attorney General Department	4,500.00	4,500.00
Schools & Service Clubs	1,810.00	1,270.00
Personal Donations	496.40	379.50
Outings	221.00	887.00
Other Donations	400.00	500.00
Business Donations	0.00	0.00
Staff Donations	1,137.00	1,504.00
Charity greeting cards	223.36	248.44
Mobile Phone Refund	105.50	0.00
Membership Fees	20.00	24.00
City of Dandenong		250.00
Total Income	<u>\$98,476.32</u>	<u>\$97,581.83</u>

Expenses

Food	101,137.00	87,970.00
Chemists	1,031.92	802.50
Clothing & Shoes	280.00	773.40
Transport	0.00	0.00
Postage, Stationery & Sundries	677.03	458.36
Hall Hire	0.00	34.50
Insurance	1,306.53	887.26
50 year celebration expenses-booklets trophies etc	1,625.45	0.00
Voucher Books	0.00	40.00
Incorporation Expenses	758.03	113.50
Post Office Box 66	93.00	79.50
Phone & Fax	1,865.24	1,802.57
Computer Expenses	0.00	4,665.54
Refund to FAHCSIA	23,327.13	0.00
Noble park RSL	55.00	0.00
Return Fee Conanners Affairs (annual)	42.80	0.00
Optical	120.00	0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$132,319.13</u>	<u>\$97,627.13</u>

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SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY INC
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 31 July 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Profit (Loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	-33842.81	-45.30
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	-33842.81	-45.30
Total changes in equity of the association	-33842.81	-45.30
Opening retained profits	191344.22	191389.52
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	-33842.81	-45.30
Closing retained profits	<u><u>\$157,501.41</u></u>	<u><u>\$191,344.22</u></u>

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY Inc.

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Current Assets		
Cash Assets		
Cash At Bank	107,501.41	141,344.22
Term Deposit - CBA	50,000.00	50,000.00
Total Current Assets	<u>157,501.41</u>	<u>191,344.22</u>
Total Assets	<u>157,501.41</u>	<u>191,344.22</u>
Net Assets	<u>157,501.41</u>	<u>191,344.22</u>
 Members' Funds		
Accumulated surplus (deficit)	<u>157,501.41</u>	<u>191,344.22</u>
Total Members' Funds	<u>157,501.41</u>	<u>191,344.22</u>

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011- 2012

Dear Fellow Members and Guests.

WELCOME TO OUR 50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Who would have believed that in 1962 when a group of people got together to set up the Springvale Benevolent Society to help the community, would still be around today. But here we are reporting on our 50th Annual General Meeting.

On a sad note, this year three members of the Society passed away.

Lynne Skews who was always fundraising for the Society, Joe Barberi one of the founders of the Society, who ceased to be involved due to illness, and of course, John Beaus the last of the original founders of the Society. John's knowledge of the Society and the community was of a great asset to all our members.

Also Albert and Pat Blashki have had a bad year due to ill health. We wish them well and a speedy recovery.

On a brighter note, the celebration for the 50th Anniversary was very successful. I am very proud and grateful to all the members of the Springvale Benevolent Society.

The celebration would not have been a success if it was for the hard work and long hours put in by Ray Schenk researching the Dandenong Journal Archives and copying articles of the past years. To Francois Chung, the Editor of the Booklet who put in many long hours collating the research, members reports and liaising with the Village Graphics and completing the booklet in record time.

Thank you to Lee Tarlamis initiating the Wes Eggleston Award, and the first inaugural award could not have gone to a better recipient, - John Beus.

The Society has had to refuse many donations of household furniture etc., as the Society no longer has a large storage shed. The Society only has a small shed which enables us to store blankets, mattresses and small items. There has been a great demand for furniture, unfortunately, we are unable to meet this demand.

The Society has a new Treasurer Minh Luu. Minh is doing a great job and we thank her for taking on the task.

This year I personally believe that the Society has been busier as it has averaged approximately 140 home visits per month of food vouchers (30 more per month than last year) , plus pick up and deliver blankets, mattresses, and pharmaceuticals prescriptions.

This year the Society assisted approximately 1613 families and individuals, plus food parcels.

At Christmas the Springvale Benevolent Society distributed over 90 Hampers (put together by the Anglican Church from food donations) and 196 Christmas Food Vouchers.

Overall this is an increase of over 400 calls more than last year.

The Society also provided the following:

- Southern Health with Christmas Vouchers totaling \$1,320.00
- City of Greater Dandenong Family and Children Support Christmas Vouchers totaling \$2,400.00

The Society continues to liaise with

- City of Greater Dandenong,
- Centrelink,
- Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau
- Members of Parliament
- Various organizations in the City of Greater Dandenong

I would also like to thank the following organizations for the funds received:

- Commonwealth Government - DFACS
- City of Greater Dandenong
- Department of Justice – Magistrates' Court of Victoria – Dandenong Court Fund

Each year it is my pleasure to record our deep appreciation for the tremendous contributions to the Society, and I especially want to thank:

- Noble Park RSL,
- Lions Club of Noble Park/Keysborough,
- Springvale City Rotary Club
- City of Greater Dandenong from the Staff Giving Program,
- Charity Greeting Cards Pty Ltd /City of Greater Dandenong
- Centrelink Staff,
- Seventh Day Adventist Church Springvale
- Tinys Total Tour,
- Keysborough Primary School
- The Country Womens Association

- Other private individuals in the community for their donations of food , blankets and financial assistance.

This year I would also like to welcome and note the appreciate of The Bendigo & Adelaide Bank, Dingley Village and Dingley Village Rotary Club for their generous donations and hope that they will continue to support the good work of The Springvale Benevolent Society.

It is with their help that we are able to help the many families in need. I hope I have not missed any person or organization, if so I apologise.

Also thanks to the following for their donations and support during the Christmas hamper drive (food and toys)

- Coomoora High School,
- Springvale Heights Primary School,
- Centrelink
- 3C Church (Karen & Jo)
- Springvale Anglican Church of the Ascension, who organized and put together the Christmas Hampers.

The Springvale Anglican Church still continues to be very valuable to the society for it support on a weekly basis providing grocery items and help with the hampers at Christmas.

Centrelink has been very supportive, the staff have organized fund raising to raise funds for the Society and have also provided toys and food.

We extend our thanks to our honorable Auditor, John Wundersitz for his continued support to the society and his time in examining the Society's financial statements

Last but not least I thank all the members of the Springvale Benevolent Society for their total support, dedication and time – it is because of your commitment, the Society is what it is today. YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED NOT ONLY BY ME, BUT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

We thank all who have been so supportive for the work of the Society – we hope we continue to maintain that support.

Regards



Joe Rechichi - President

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY INC.

AOO 383 55R ABN 71 4206 32776

P.O. Box 66

Springvale

AGM - 25th September 2012

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Cr Yvonne Herring JP

Welcome everyone – and thank you for coming along tonight.

Firstly I would like to mention the passing of our dear friend John Beus – who was a founding member of the Society 50 years ago. We all miss John he was a great community gentleman and I know the clients he called on would also be missing him.

I haven't read Joe's report so I apologise if I am covering the same 'ground' as Joe. (but then again two great minds think alike !!)

Once again the past year has been very busy for the Society – which puts a lot of pressure on our volunteers.

Calling on clients in their own homes can be very rewarding work but it can also be very sad when you see the conditions some of our residents have to live with/in. The cost of rental properties in our area is extremely expensive for low income families. Sometimes it comes down to either paying the rent or eating ! And that is where we often come in. But it is not only money for food our clients have to find it's for the everyday items that we all sometimes take for granted - an unexpected medical prescription, a new pair of shoes for the children, school uniforms, electricity, gas, water bills, and the list goes on.

A very special thank you to ALL our members and volunteers on all the hours, mileage, phone calls and the great work they have done during the year.

Minh Luu has been our Treasurer for the past year and she has done a wonderful job taking over from Monique Chung.

Pat & Paddy Dillon go beyond 'the call of duty' looking after the office and monitoring and organising incoming calls. And Leliana Mangoni and Francois Chung who are a whizz at keeping the computer and data files up to date.

Last, but certainly not least an enormous thankyou to Joe and Teresa for all the 'up front and behind the scenes' work they do for the Society – without all the work they put in I'm sure the Society wouldn't survive.

Our very grateful thanks go to the Commonwealth Government, City of Greater Dandenong, numerous Agencies, Community Groups, Schools, Churches, Courts, Service Clubs, Lions, Rotary, the RSL's, the City of Greater Dandenong 'Staff Giving Program' & Centrelink staff.

We also thank our very generous residents for the donations of money, blankets and food.

Bunnings, RACV, and many of our local shop keepers are also very generous with their donations to the Society.

My thanks also to our local members of Parliament for their support.

Once again all the above mentioned agencies etc not only donate money but are very generous in donating food items throughout the year – but, especially near Christmas. All of which are made into hampers for our residents. At Christmas the ladies from the Springvale Anglican Church are very active in helping to make up food hampers for distribution to our families.

We certainly live in a great caring community.

Our guest speaker tonight is from Consumer Affairs and we hope he may be able to give us a few hints on how to handle the 'rental problems' that our clients face.

Once again a big thank you to everyone.

Regards,

Yvonne



Our saint

Pallbearers bring the coffin of legendary Springvale community worker John Beus to the hearse outside St Joseph's Catholic Church last Monday week. The packed church heard Mr Beus's son Alf compare his father's generous deeds to those of Australia's only canonised saint, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mr Beus tirelessly lobbied governments to help the underprivileged and bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots — and he more than backed up his words with deeds. "It was his greatest passion," his son said. More information: greaterdandenongweekly.com.au.

Springvale Benevolent Society Inc.

A0038355R ABN 71 4206 32776

Invite you to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Tuesday, September 28th 2010

Time: 7.30pm

Where: Civic Centre Meeting Room
Springvale

Why: Annual Reports
Annual Elections
Annual Chit Chat

Who: Guest Speaker –
Mr Gerard Koe
Counsellor
Cyrene Centre
Noble Park

Whoopee: Supper will be served!!!

RSVP: Joe - 9546 5558

\$	102.00
\$	500.00
\$	105.19
\$	120.00
\$	618.53
\$	500.00
\$	60.00
\$	134,468.97
<hr/>	
\$	136,474.69
<hr/>	

Monique Chung
(Hon. Treasurer)

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

A0038355R; ABN 71 420 632 776

Statement of accounts for June 2010

Expenditure		Income	
Telstra - phone calls/line rental	\$ 45.94	COGD Staff giving	\$ 102.00
-services provided May - Jun		Court Fund	\$ 500.00
Telstra - mobile charges	\$ 48.99	Bank interest	\$ 105.19
Jun - Jul 2010		Donations	
Reimbursement - J Rechichi	\$ 83.00	Keysborough College	\$ 120.00
(printing ink and pasta sauce)		Neighbourhood Watch	\$ 618.53
		Lions Club	\$ 500.00
		Trips	\$ 60.00
Carry forward	\$ 136,296.76	Previous balance	\$ 134,468.97
Total	<u>\$ 136,474.69</u>		<u>\$ 136,474.69</u>

Accounts for payment July 2010

Telstra - phone calls/line rental	\$ 45.94
- services provided in Jun - Jul 2010	
Telstra - mobile charges (4 July - 3 Aug)	\$ 48.98
Terry White Chemists	\$ 60.83
Woolworths Limited (grocery cards)	\$ 8,075.00

Monique Chung
(Hon. Treasurer)

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY INC.

AOO 383 55R ABN 71 4206 32776

MINUTES

- Date:** Tuesday, 22nd June 2010 - 7.30pm
- Place:** Meeting Room
Civic Centre - Springvale
- Chair:** Mr J Rechichi
- Present:** Mesdames - Cr R Blades, Cr Y Herring JP, P Blashki OAM, T Rechichi, M Chung.
Messrs - A Blashki OAM. JP, J Beus OAM. JP. M Anstis, A Gordon, R Schenk, F Chung, H Gunther, A Goldberg, J Rechichi.
- Apologies:** Mesdames - J Whitton, Pat Dillon.
Messrs - L Tarlamis JP, Paddy Dillon,
- Minutes of Meeting:** Tuesday 25th May 2010, as circulated, taken as read.
Received – H Gunther / T Rechichi
- Business Arising** J Rechichi attended Noble Park-Keysborough Lions 39th Changeover Dinner and presented the Club with a Thankyou Certificate from the Society. Donation of \$500. received.
- Y Herring reported she spoke to Aldi Supermarket but they do not have Voucher/Gift Cards nor do they give credit.
- Harry and Margaret Gunther arranged for Xmas in July at Sandown Dogs on the 7th July.
- Y Herring to send out thank you letters for donations received, letter to Gerard Koe for accepting to be Speaker at AGM. Also Invitation to Mayor & Councillors for AGM.
- Correspondence:** *Received –*
- Forms for Funding & Service Agreement received – due after the AGM.
Donation received from Springvale Secondary College fundraising - \$120.
Received from the Department of Justice - \$500.
Donation received from Ian Langdon, Neighbourhood Watch - Dan 20 Area - \$618.53. (Dan 20 Area closing down).
- Received - T Rechichi / P Blashki**

Financial Statement:

As prepared by Treasurer – M Chung

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
A0038355R; ABN 71 420 632 776

Statement of accounts for May 2010

Expenditure		Income	
Terry White Chemists	\$ 79.44	COGD Staff giving	\$ 255.00
Telstra - phone calls/line rental	\$ 47.73	Court Fund	\$ 500.00
-services provided Apr-May 2010		Bank interest	\$ 297.53
Telstra - mobile charges	\$ 49.00		
May-Jun 2010			
Woolworths Ltd – Grocery cards	\$ 8,075.00		
Civic Centre hire June-Dec 2010	\$ 198.00		
Wreath – Anzac	\$ 50.00		
Reimbursement – Chung	\$ 20.38		
(printing paper)			
Carry forward	\$ 134,468.97	Previous balance	\$ 141,935.99
Total	<u>\$ 142,988.52</u>		<u>\$ 142,988.52</u>

Accounts for payment June 2010

Telstra - phone calls/line rental	\$ 45.94
- services provided in May - Jun 2010	
Telstra - mobile charges	\$
Terry White Chemists	\$
Woolworths Limited (grocery cards)	\$

Monique Chung
(Hon. Treasurer)

**That the Financial Statement be received and Accounts passed for payment -
Received – R Blades / M Anstis**

Case Reports:

P Blashki	4	=	\$ 180.	
M Anstis	5	=	\$ 300.	
R Blades	9	=	\$ 570.	
A Gordon	7	=	\$ 350.	
F Chung	4	=	\$ 170.	
H Gunther	2	=	\$ 110.	
J Beus	3	=	\$ 120.	
J Whitton	1	=	\$ 50.	
J Rechichi	15	=	\$ 860.	
Paddy Dillon	6	=	\$ 340.	
Total	56	=	\$ 3050.	Average = \$ 54.46

R Schenk & H Gunther arranged pickups and delivery of furniture.
J Rechichi delivered furniture to Springvale Families.
53 Calls received this month.

General Business:

J Rechichi reported residents ringing but not leaving message on phone. Need new welcome message on phone. Telstra charge \$6.00 a month to record ID Phone number on message machine.

H Gunther & F Chung to follow up on Stove for resident.

P & A Blashki received donations of food from Springvale Anglican Church.

J Rechichi purchased 4 cases of Spaghetti Sauce on special for \$1.00 bottle.

J Rechichi received 6 boxes of Blankets from Salvation Army.

J & T Rechichi apologies for next meeting.

Next Meeting - 27th July 2010



New president: *Max Anstis with society stalwarts Pat and Albert Blashki.*

Benevolence chief bows out

JOHN Beus has stepped down after 21 years as president of the Springvale Benevolent Society.

Mr Beus did not seek re-election at the society's annual general meeting last Tuesday and was replaced by another long-serving member of the committee, Max Anstis.

Society secretary Wes Eggleton paid tribute to Mr Beus's contribution to the organisation.

"He's served the Springvale Be-

nevolent Society since it re-formed in 1962 and he's been absolutely tireless," he said.

"He's deserving of a break."

Mayor Greg Harris, who attended the meeting, said he would arrange for Mr Beus to receive council recognition.

"He deserves a big pat on the back," Cr Harris said.

Mr Anstis, a long-time Springvale resident, said the recruitment

of more volunteers was one of his aims as the new president.

"We don't have enough of them, unfortunately, and we ask an awful lot of those we do have," he said.

The society had another busy year, receiving 1621 enquiries for emergency relief.

Almost \$48,000 worth of food vouchers were distributed to families and individuals in Springvale, Noble Park, Keysborough, South Clayton and Dingley.