

FUNDRAISING FOR THE OTIS FOUNDATION

The Otis Foundation provides retreat accommodation at no cost to anyone dealing with the challenges of breast cancer and they currently provide properties in every state in Australia and make close to 3,500 nights' accommodation available to Otis guests.

Each stay provides a guest with time out to relax, reconnect and regroup along with friends, family and partners who are also welcomed, in a tranquil, natural environment in the Mandurang Valley.

The charity is the legacy of Judy Burley, a young woman who lived with breast cancer for seven years until her passing at 36 years of age in 2001. Based on her wishes, The Otis Foundation was established that year by her husband Dr Andrew Barling and many dedicated supporters. Andrew donated land from his existing property and, with the help of local tradespeople, purpose built two villas – St Jude's and St Hannah's - to provide the sanctuaries Judy had so wanted to offer.

Zonta Club of Bendigo, led by President Anne Young held numerous fundraisers including Open Gardens (organised by Gay Hanrahan and Zonta volunteers), the Australian Army Band concert at the Capital Theatre and raffles which raised almost \$11,000.

Anne Young, ZCB President recently wrote "At the time I was president of the Zonta Club of Bendigo in 2000 I was also on the board of the Otis Foundation. As a breast cancer survivor many years later I can now understand the passion Andrew Barling brought to this project after his wife Judy died of this cruel disease. I asked Zontians at one of our meetings if they would support this particular cause and they agreed wholeheartedly. We were so proud of the many fundraisers we held and were able to present Andrew with a cheque for nearly \$11,000 which went towards preparing a garden setting around the two units, including an Yvonne George fountain.

Congratulations to the Zonta Club of Bendigo on such a wonderful birthday celebration. I am so proud to say I was a Zontian member for 17 years."

A Message from Claire Culley, CEO, Otis Foundation.

"As Zonta Bendigo celebrates a 40th Birthday the Otis Foundation wishes to express their most sincere thanks for two decades of support, without you we wouldn't be where we are today. Happy birthday from the Otis Board and Staff to all Zontians and thank you for volunteering your time and energy for the Bendigo Community".

A Message from a grateful Otis Mandurang Recipient:

"Thank you to the Otis Foundation for the most serene, tranquil and relaxing time with my family here in Bendigo. Every single thing you could possibly want was taken care of. The generosity of others is overwhelming! I feel recharged and ready to tackle whatever the future has in stall for me. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart to everyone involved!"