

## **SOCIAL GROUP REPORT 1998**

The social group of the OCAD Foundation has enjoyed an interesting and varied social calendar, which has included a few novel activities, over the past 12 months.

As customary we have had a number of dine-outs, starting off with the Vic Av Pasta and Wine Restaurant in Albert Park, followed by the Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon in Chadstone and the Prospect Hill Hotel Bistro in Kew. Members may be aware that The Prospect Hill Hotel function was advertised as The Keg Restaurant and Bar but at the last minute we discovered that The Keg had closed and been revamped as The Prospect Hill Hotel; we apologise for any confusion on the night. With regard to The Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon, this was a very interesting place, which featured all you can eat peanuts (complete with shells), hearty portions of meat and intermittent bouts of line dancing by the waiting staff. As customers are given the liberty of discarding their peanut shells onto the floor, the restaurant was literally littered with thousands of shells and we wondered whether our freshly chewed steak bones belonged amongst the rubble as well.

Soaking up nature, we gathered at the Fairfield Boathouse by the Yarra in Fairfield and we met at the Royal Botanic Gardens for afternoon tea in the months of November and February respectively. The Fairfield Boathouse is a delightful old boathouse offering its visitors the hire of some old style rowboats complete with oars, parasols for the ladies if desired, and a picturesque view of the Yarra river, with its inhabiting waterbirds comfortably nestled amongst the trees lining the banks. We were fortunate to have our rowing team with us on the day - comprised of our primary oarsman Tasman and oarswomen Suzanne aided by Roisin, when a brave few decided to hire a boat to explore the water life further down the stream. Most of our crew however, preferred to have a leisurely rest along the safety of the shore absorbing the glorious sunshine, the beautiful surroundings or engaging in conversation.

Our Bowling nights continue to be a popular event, especially with the boys, who get all revved up with the spirit of competition.

On the passive side of activities we attended the presentation of a murder mystery play by Agatha Christie - The Unexpected Guest - performed by the Mitcham Repertoire Company at the White Friars College Theatre, in Donvale. On the movie front, we attended screenings of As Good As It Gets and Sliding Doors. The romantic comedy As Good As It Gets, which starred Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt, revolved around the life of a man with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and succeeded in giving us a good laugh. A highlight of the movie was the portrayal of some humorous aspects of OCD. However, the disorder was used not as the focus of the story but as an aspect of the main character's interesting and unique personality. Although the movie was not an attempt to provide a realistic view of the impact of this condition it did help raise awareness of the existence of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder among the general population and resulted in an influx of calls coming through to the OCD & Anxiety HelpLine.

Thank you to everyone who has attended the social events which have been organised in different areas around Melbourne, in an attempt to make them accessible to most people. We hope you have enjoyed this year's variety of activities, and we extend an invitation to sufferers, carers and friends to join us for upcoming events.

***John Geros & Jessica Bernales***