

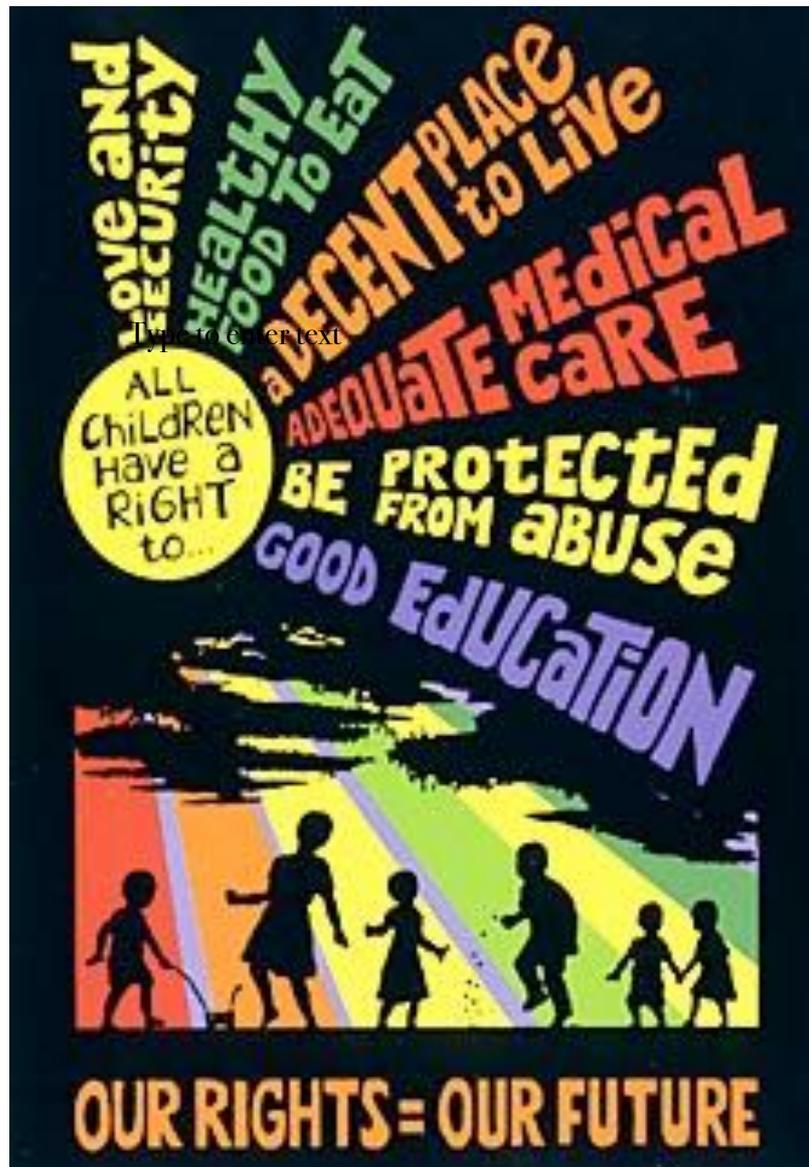
---

# LILLIAN'S 2008 - 2009

ANNUAL REPORT of the LILLIAN HOWELL PROJECT INC.

---

Lillian's acknowledges the prior ownership of this area by the Cadigal and Wangal people who were dispossessed by European invasion more than 200 years ago



We gratefully acknowledge funding from the NSW Department of Community Services and the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

# Table of Contents

Minutes of 2007 -2008 Annual General Meeting

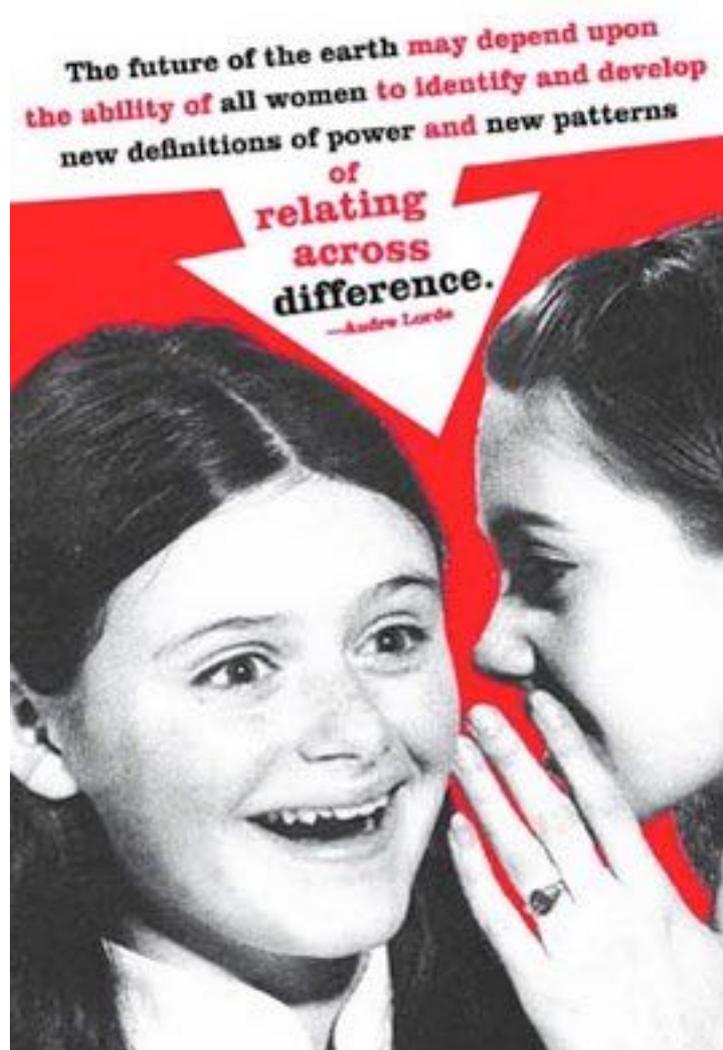
President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Auditor's Report

Co-ordinator's Report

Resident Report



---

# Minutes of A.G.M. '07-'08

Meeting held 6th December, 2008

---

LILLIAN HOWELL PROJECT INC.  
Annual General Meeting '07-'08  
6/12/08 at 1.30 pm

## Minutes

Present :

Lin Cooper, Tracey Crawcour, Baykali Ganambarr, Wakara Gondarra, Rarriwuy Hicks, Chalali Holness, Barbara Kernick, Athena Mumbulla, Maawa Mumbulla, Nyarn Mumbulla, Bora Munyarryun, Patti Nicholson, Cindy Ryan.

Apologies:

Sally Fitzpatrick, Kylie Hoy, Helen McCutcheon, Farah Mokdad, Ann Wachirs.

The minutes of the previous AGM (2006-2007) held 17-12-07 were presented by Lin Cooper and accepted.

New Member: Rarriwuy Hicks (nominated by Athena Mumbulla and seconded by Barbara Kernick) was unanimously welcomed as a member of the Association

Reports presented :

President's report: presented by Athena Mumbulla

Treasurer's report: presented by Barabara Kernick

Staff report: presented by Cindy Ryan

Co-ordinators report: presented by Lin Cooper

All reports unanimously accepted

## Election of Office Bearers :

All nominations were unanimously elected

**President : Patti Nicholson**

Nominated: Barbara Kernick. Seconded: Rurriwuy Hicks

**Vice-president : Athena Mumbulla**

Nominated: Barbara Kernick. Seconded: Patti Nicholson

**Secretary : Sally Fitzpatrick**

Nominated: Athena Mumbulla. Seconded: Barbara Kernick

**Treasurer : Barbara Kernick**

Nominated: Patti Nicholson. Seconded: Athena Mumbulla

All office-bearers unanimously elected.

## Appointment of Auditor

**Cheryl G. Hastie appointed as Lillian's auditor for  
2008-2009**

Proposed : Barbara Kernick. Seconded: Patti Nicholson

Unanimously endorsed.

## Other Business

Patti proposed thanks to staff for providing lovely xmas lunch.  
Unanimous agreement.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2.30pm.

---

# President's Report

Patti Nicholson

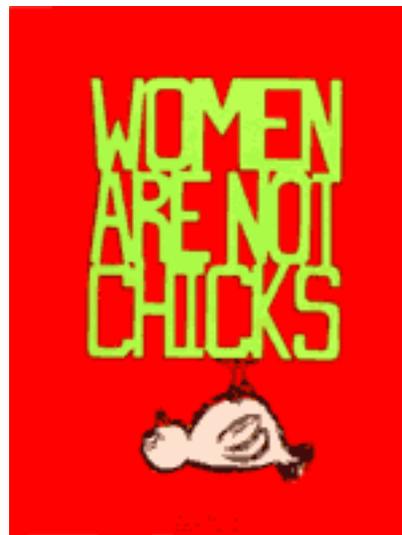
2008-2009

---

This year has been challenging for the Management Committee as we struggled with new accountability and reporting requirements from our funding bodies.

At first we were a bit resentful because it seemed that we were being criticised for not spending all of the money that had been granted to us, even though we had reported to them each year that we were operating with a significant surplus and had expected to be asked to repay it.

The main problem had arisen from the assessment by the Newtown fire brigade that the 5th bedroom of the house was unsafe to use as a bedroom and subsequently Lillian's had a reduced capacity, which led to reduced staffing hours.



Meetings with our new CPO led to a joint audit and agreement that Lillian's would convert the kids' rec. room back to a useable bedroom as soon as it was made safe. To this end, Lillian's sought builders and security experts and got two quotes before the end of May, and we were ready to spend our accumulated surplus on this project. However, our CPO contacted the Department of Housing and we were unable to do anything until they assessed. They did send Ilya Vidin from Resi-tech who said that he understood our urgent need and would submit his report as quickly as he could. Nothing has come of this. It makes it extraordinarily difficult for Lillian's to fulfill our agreement to have this room occupied by January 2010.

The management committee held a planning meeting on Saturday, 23rd May, 2009 to formulate a service plan for the next 12-24 months. This took a whole day and was useful to clarify directions and procedures that will be necessary to achieve our primary goals. It made us realise that the the new requirements are a positive force that give us a focus and we welcome the accountability requirements but disagree with the assessment by DoCS that

Lillian's only receive funding for Transitional "24 hour on-call" rather than "24 hour on-site" because Lillian's has operated 24/7 for the last 20 years. We firmly believe that it is essential for the well-being of all of our residents to have staff here all night, every night - and it is a legal requirement for those under 16 years. DoCS reasoning was that crisis refuges are available to take in young people at all hours of the night, but our research on this showed that crisis refuges have OH&S issues around this practice and they will not accept a young person until a background check has been carried out, and they are unwilling to phone other services at 3am to do this - so in practice they will only do intake between 7am and 11pm. And fair enough when they operate with one worker at a time.

So, is this just another attempt to do away with small, community based services in favour of large church-based charities?

I want to acknowledge the work and stamina of my fellow committee members, especially Barbara as she waded through old financial stuff to find which money is undeniably Lillian's money as distinct from DoCS grant monies. And also the staff of the refuge who have felt a bit bewildered by the fuss and got on with doing what they are good at - caring for the young women who live here. And Lin, who is in the middle of all of it. Well done, team.

---

# Treasurer's Report

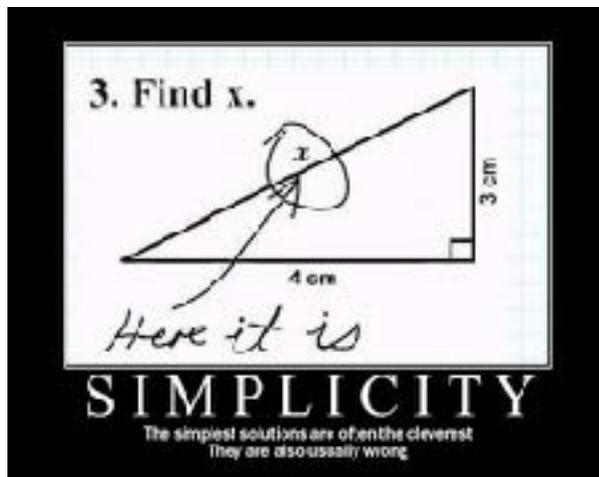
Barbara Kernick

2008-2009

---

Another surplus. Staffing costs have not risen much but we had to spend quite a lot to upgrade the computer network to make it SMART compatible while still user-friendly.

A large and unexpected cost was the support and retrieval of a long-term resident who found herself marooned on the other side of the world - passport and ticket home stolen !! Phone calls were expensive but at least she (luckily) had a mobile phone (otherwise communication would have been near impossible) and Lillian's helped with money for government charges for replacing her passport and visa and her ticket home.



We had a lot of thoughts about what to do with our surplus funds, including water tanks and solar panels and insulation as a way of saving money in the longer term and reducing our footprint. DoCS did not approve this.

We also wanted to spend on fixing the safety of the kids' recreation room to make it possible to use as a bedroom again. In May we got two quotes before

DoCS contacted DoH and we had to wait .. and wait ... Eventually a man came from ResiTech and did an assessment. He seemed to understand the urgency and said he would do his report asap. We have heard no more. It is very frustrating, because he told us that he would put in his report that we had the money to do it in the hope that this would fast-track inspections and approvals. Our hands are tied by the Department of Housing bureaucracy.

We are very concerned about future funding - especially around the level that DoCS indicates that it will fund. The issue of 24 hour staffing is major. We accommodate girls who are only 14 and 15 years old and there has to be 24 hour staffing. DoCS argues that crisis refuges are funded to be staffed 24 hours so that they can intake young people at all hours of the night . This is farcical. Most crisis refuges accommodate young people who are under 16 and they have to be staffed 24/7 the same as Lillian's. The loss in annual funding for 4 residents is \$68,620 - and \$85,775 for 5 residents. lillian's would be unable to pay staffing costs for overnights and so we could no longer accommodate girls aged under 16 years. This would be a very sad indictment of DoCS funding policies.

Our current surplus of \$14,000 adds to our equity and we are keen to be able to spend this quickly on preparing extra bedroom space and setting up an exit house for residents who are ready for a more independent lifestyle. We also plan to replace the car and refurbish the house in the next year and we have made provision for this.

We know that our funding level will remain the same for the 2009 -2010 year - but we have to increase our support levels during this year and we have to fight for the appropriate funding rate. And we will.

# Auditor's Report

Cheryl G Hastie

2008 - 2009



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Lillian Howell Project Incorporated (ABN 22 455 606 951)

### Report on the financial report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Lillian Howell Project Incorporated, which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2009, and the Statement of Financial Performance, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the Committee's declaration.

### The responsibility of Management/Committee for the financial report

The Management/Committee are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian accounting standards (including the Australian accounting interpretations). This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian auditing standards. These auditing standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Management/Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

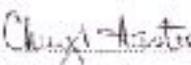
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

### Auditor's opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Lillian Howell Project Incorporated as at 30 June 2009, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian accounting standards (including the Australian accounting interpretations).

  
CHERYL G HASTIE  
Chartered Accountant

Dated this 22 October 2009

Suite 5, 82 - 86 Lillian Cres Mordial NSW 2254  
PO Box 28 Gungah NSW 2254

T (02) 9543 5217 F (02) 9543 6109

**Lillian Howell Project Incorporated**

ABN 22 465 606 851

**Statement of Financial Performance**

For the year ended 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
DOCs Grant	412,265	401,620
Dividends Received	30	69
Interest Income	13,255	5,753
Rental Income	4,940	4,700
Donations & Sponsorship	5,500	4,500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>435,988</b>	<b>426,642</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Staffing Expenses</b>		
Wages-Permanent Staff	210,430	242,237
Wages-Casual Staff	58,909	28,968
Superannuation	25,625	27,049
Workers Compensation	10,709	11,247
Staff Development	1,715	73
Conferences	271	0
Supervision	1,080	1,260
L.S.L. & Maternity Leave Provn	2,454	3,045
Holiday & Sick Leave Provn	15,267	28,990
Employment Expenses	0	71
Staff Recruitment	0	602
<b>Total Staffing Expenses</b>	<b>346,462</b>	<b>343,642</b>
<b>Property Costs</b>		
Electricity	1,173	1,281
Repairs & maintenance	589	2,754
Household General Replacements	347	1,458
Provision-Cyclic Replacement	5,000	0
Insurance-Contents	1,780	1,897
<b>Total Property Costs</b>	<b>8,889</b>	<b>7,390</b>
<b>Administration Expenses</b>		
Accounting		426
Audit Fees	1,350	1,350
Administration Expenses	11,286	387
Bank Fees	282	245
Office Supplies	767	1,443
Postage	100	111
Resources & Education	1,707	1,102
Sundry Expenses	189	0
Telephone	4,001	3,594
<b>Total Administration Expenses</b>	<b>19,682</b>	<b>8,699</b>
<b>Travel Expenses</b>		
Travel	1,037	875
Motor Vehicle Costs	3,544	2,856
New Vehicle Provision	5,000	5,000
<b>Total Travel Expenses</b>	<b>9,581</b>	<b>8,741</b>

**Lillian Howell Project Incorporated**  
**ABN 22 465 606 851**  
**Detailed Profit and Loss Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2009**

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Residents Expenses</b>		
Education & Amenities	4,974	1,198
Tutoring	1,170	
Activities & Entertainment	2,282	2,145
Residents Personal Living Expenses	9,324	630
Food & Housekeeping	18,526	20,492
Other Expenses (Xmas, Birthdays, etc.)	982	1,514
<b>Total Residents Expenses</b>	<u>37,278</u>	<u>28,983</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>421,792</u>	<u>397,415</u>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<u>14,196</u>	<u>29,227</u>

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

**Lillian Howell Project Incorporated**  
**Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2009**  
**ABN 22 465 606 851**

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
St. George Cheque Account	464,092	470,454
Fetty Cash	800	500
Prepayments	2,194	752
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>467,086</b>	<b>421,706</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>467,086</b>	<b>421,706</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Sundry Creditors</b>		
Creditors & Accruals		0
Employee Payroll Package	7,571	1,582
<b>Total Sundry Creditors</b>	<b>7,571</b>	<b>1,582</b>
<b>Tax Office Creditors</b>		
PAYD Withholding	6,639	9,400
GST	-2,062	-1,333
<b>Total Tax Office Creditors</b>	<b>4,577</b>	<b>8,067</b>
<b>Provisions</b>		
Annual Leave & Sick Leave	97,000	88,233
LSL & Maternity Leave	65,000	62,545
Replace Vehicle	30,000	25,000
Provision For Cyclic Replacement	20,000	15,000
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<b>212,000</b>	<b>190,778</b>
<b>Monies Held - Residents</b>		
Foster Allowances Held	2,695	-4,758
<b>Total Monies Held - Residents</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>-4,758</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>226,843</b>	<b>195,659</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>226,843</b>	<b>195,659</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>240,243</b>	<b>226,047</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	226,047	196,820
Current Earnings	14,196	29,227
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>240,243</b>	<b>226,047</b>

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

---

# Co-ordinator's Report

Lin Cooper

2008-2009

---



'08 - '09 was a memorable year - perhaps the most memorable of all the years I've worked at Lillian's.

Of a maximum 1456 "bednights" we had no vacancy for 1351. This was a 93% occupancy rate. The second half of the year was very stable with the same four girls (1 has been here for 2 years, another more than a year), but it took a few short term stays from July to December 2008 before it settled in 2009, and the same four girls have been here since January.

The greatest events had to do with residents - Lillian's girls are always surprising and impressive, but we were not prepared for the unfolding international drama of betrayal that befell one resident. Without identifying the young woman, this is a story that shows her beautiful character - in that she forgave the woman who brutally assaulted her and she reconciled with the family that brought her to Australia. She accepted their offer of a trip "home" soon after she turned 18 and was no longer under DoCS care, as there was to be a big family wedding and she expected to be there for less than two weeks. What she (and we) did not realise was that she was still legally a child in her birth country. The abusive adults had planned this carefully and stole her passport (although, due to her age, this is not illegal in her birth country) and returned to Australia, leaving her behind .

This was the start of a saga of poor phone connections, different time zones, difficulties with sending money, problems of travelling from isolated rural areas to big cities to request and to lodge documents. It took months - because everything closed down over Xmas/ New Year, and her health suffered as she dealt with the incredible stresses of jumping through bureaucratic hoops.



But she did it. This was real “coming of age”. Heroic effort got her back to Australia and back to school the next day, and full steam ahead for the HSC.

Bravo.

Unforgettable.

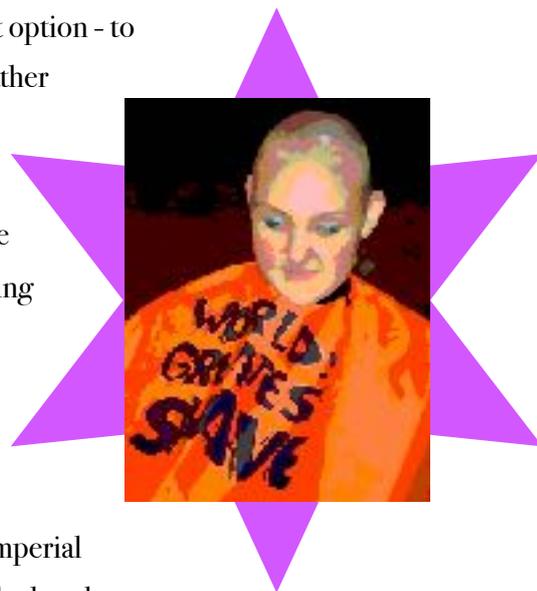
And another example of courage came from a young girl who was inspired to raise money for



Leukemia sufferers. She signed up for The World’s Greatest Shave and chose the hardest option - to actually shave her head completely rather than colour it (as she often dramatically coloured her hair by choice - and she felt that she would be able to raise more donations by offering her hair as her sacrifice).

This was brave and admirable.

We salute you.



There was also the community fight against the developer of the Imperial Hotel who wanted to hugely increase the number of patrons that the hotel was permitted to accommodate with his 24 hours a day seven days a week licence and to add insult he wanted to have a giant pink neon stiletto revolving on the roof - which would have been visible from the CBD. The renovations have been progressing for over a year and it has been blissfully quiet - we, and most of the neighbourhood, dread its re-opening. This same developer bought the block of land behind the refuge (on Erskineville Road, opposite the Imperial) and is going to build FIVE three-storied townhouses on the block with (despite our protests) balconies on the third floor which will allow so much of the refuge to be overlooked. We have heard many conspiracy theories.

To the left of the photo you can see the height of the TWO-storied building next door on Erskineville Road and our green roof-top. The other roof is the 2-storied terraces in Baldwin Street. When these town houses are finished the view of the tree will be blocked.



Lillian's has also been involved in a campaign to convert a disused block of council-owned land on Erskineville Road into a community garden. This is ongoing and unresolved, although there is a growing groundswell of support from the community and bewilderment at the council's reticence.

The staff team works hard to support each girl with her individual needs and when we look at the progress they have made it is apparent that we are doing well - credit due to combined efforts. We have worked closely with schools and health professionals to try to achieve the best possible outcomes, and thanks to the local medical practice (Kathy Beale and Patty Walton) who have agreed to take any Lillian's residents as new patients, even though they had closed their books; and to Veronica Roller whose dental practice will see our girls for any dental emergency; and we must also acknowledge Monica Finetti, our staff supervisor. We have addressed both community welfare and youth-work student groups at Ultimo TAFE, and had students do their youth-work placements here. Thanks to Better Read Than Dead for extraordinarily generous donations of books; to OzHarvest for regular deliveries of food (those Lindt cakes are amazing, but we prefer spinach), and to the InnerWest Veterinary clinic for all the Easter eggs.

A willingness to take on extra shifts when someone is sick or on holidays; to participate fully in staff meetings, focussing on the well-being of the girls in our care; to pick up the slack; to foresee possible outcomes and take appropriate action; to continue to do training to improve skills and to relate respectfully and with compassion and humility - a great staff team.



**Thanks to Cindy Ryan, Tracey Crawcour, Kylie Hoy, Farah Mokdad and Leah Weber** (who started as student placement, graduated to relief worker, and left to work full-time at YAPA - an impressive trajectory).

This has been a year of making a huge effort to reach the level of accountability now required by our funding body. As CPO's come and go (4 in 3 years) we continue doing what we've always done (nurturing and encouraging young women) and try to learn the ever changing systems. We are good at the first one because we understand it and much less good at the second but committed to improving. Thanks to our Management Committee for their ongoing commitment to Lillian's and willingness to put in extra hours and thought. The service sorely needs a committee willing to fight for it at this time.



But in the end it's all about the girls. Brave and funny and sometimes so deeply sad that it breaks our

collective heart to have to watch their struggles.

But the sense of achievement when they succeed is extra sweet - a girl who had never been to school and so never participated in a sports carnival came first in the

1000 metres flat race and then third in the inter-school cross country (and she had the flu). Just amazing and fantastic. And a kid



who was painfully shy completed a course in music performance and sang and played drums in the public gig at the end of the year -

fabulous. With courage and stamina and perseverance and a sense of social justice these girls have faced very real threats and



problems and mostly kept their sense of humour. Coming from such

different cultures and life experiences and speaking different languages these young women are inspirational in their ability to live peacefully together and with us. We all appreciate what they have taught us and sincerely wish them success (however they might define it) in their futures.

---

# Resident Report

2008-2009

---

Hi everyone, I would like to first introduce myself to you, even though you are familiar with my name! I'm Dee Dee and I was born in South Africa. I'm 19 years old and just finished my HSC 2009, with all of your support. I still thank you for your time, kindness, support and thoughts and effort you guys put on me ..... May God bless you all.

I just finished my HSC and now I'm enrolled for Musical Theatre at Eora, with lots of thanks for Lillian's and you guys, and now look back and say "Wow, I've done it!" even though I'm not expecting such good marks due to time that I missed out of important HSC preparation and study - and much of my energy since then has been spent trying to catch up again, but with lots of help, encouragement and support from the workers at Lillian's. This has made a big impact to me and my life and my future ... you guys and Lillian's are my inspiration. That's why I'm definitely gonna do Community Welfare because I would like to give back what I have been offered by good people like you guys.

You guys provide such good services for people in need while still assisting people towards their own independent choices in life.

The really good things I like about Lillian's is that each worker works so much and hard with love, respect, understanding and most of all, support. They don't take this house as "work", they also make us feel the sense of belonging and as residents we feel so loved and I'm proud to say we feel so safe and secured.

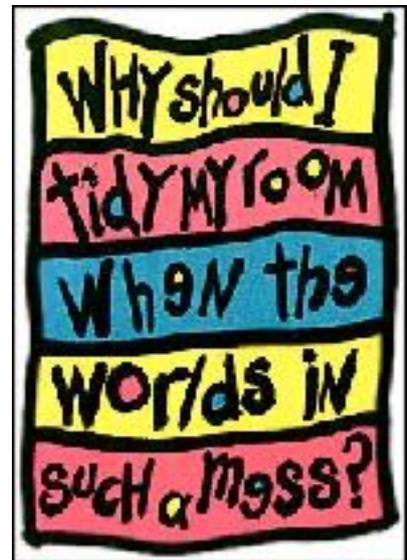
I like how you can tell them any secret and they won't judge you but instead correct you when you are wrong; and always give you love and support and always give you hope. I love these women so much, they are my big inspiration and I'm proud to call Lillian's "home", home sweet home.

I like how they teach respect. They teach you to be polite and most of all they always say "be yourself, you can do it". When I came to Australia three years ago, I wasn't a very happy child because lots of things had happened to me and has affected my life big time. But with the help of them I now tend to approach life with a smile.

I like how they teach us how to cook and many more things.

Things I don't like about Lillian's is the rules. Only, I hate rules so much. It really sucks when you have to come home while you were in the party, getting drunk with your mates and when you come there will be consequences, like you may be grounded and given an extra chore. Sleeping out without permission and many more such things are the things all teenagers do and action needs to be taken. But without rules we will be nothing outside there. I say all these things because I have been one of the naughty children the last two years, who hated rules, curfews unfortunately, not chores - but I hate vacuuming and shopping.

My point is, thank you Lillian's for everything. I realise all you did was coming from your hearts if you punished children, it's not because you hate them but to show them the right way, to lead them the right way.



I'm now old, but will always be a child in your eyes. I will be moving into my own place soon and I learnt so much from you guys and I will follow your steps everywhere I go. I come from a place where they think they know everything. If they punish a child they have to beat them like my family did to me, so I'm used to that (violence). But coming to Australia and Lillian's I have learned about different ways you can punish children. It has made me grow mentally and also physically with understanding. I'm proud to say I'm walking in new shoes now, just because of these women.

Thanks you guys, you taught me well. You have held my hand from the start. I met you and I'm very thankful for that. Couldn't be happier. But it's my time now. Sadly, it's time to let go of my hand, but hey, I will carry your love everywhere I go ... and I won't ever forget about you all.

Thanks to all those beautiful ladies I've never met, you guys are all amazing for doing great things for people. God will bless you even more ... Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. You have made a big impact on my life !!! May God keep you longer than he planned !

XO XO

*DXXXX*