

Calperum and the Environment (CATE) committee

Renovation of Rotary House at Calperum – February/March 2023

As Murray River flood waters around Calperum Station were rising, the managers of Calperum removed all the furniture from a number of houses including Rotary House. Fortunately, flooding of the buildings was averted through efforts to raise and extend nearby levy banks. Whilst everything was out of the house, it became clear the walls and carpet flooring was old and tired and in need of rejuvenation.



Before photo



After photo

Three Rotarians were invited to an on-site meeting on 8th February 2023 to survey the situation – Jeff Cluse (Secretary/Treasurer of CATE), Ian Coat (Incoming Chair of CATE) and Russell Green from Rotary Club of Regency Park (Great Calperum supporter and hard worker). The CATE committee Chair Don Will was invited but had other commitments.

We met with Julie Robinson (Calperum Associate Director) and Corey Grogen (Interior Building designer at Calperum) and we were taken on a tour of Rotary House, House 4 and Catlin's house to view the situation. We also looked over the levy banks and saw how high the water rose to within centimetres of the top. The buildings were very lucky to be undamaged by water – it was close.

It was decided to replace the carpets with floating wood flooring and repaint the internal walls and ceiling in Rotary House as a matter of urgency as the house was booked out for March 15th, 2023. The hunt was on to source these materials in a hurry. Local businesses have been extraordinarily generous in supporting the work.

The first team Jeff Cluse (Regency Park) and Peter Sowdon (Walkerville) headed to Calperum to paint the ceilings on Sunday 19th, February 2023 to Wednesday 22nd, Feb. We were greatly supported by the fabulous hard-working ladies from the staff at Calperum – Ceobahn, Sam and Mandy. With their assistance we completed the ceiling a day early and started painting some walls to help the next team.



Ceobahn in action



Sam in action

The second team arrived on Wednesday 22nd Feb, was PDG Jerry Casburn (RC Unley) and his lovely wife Briony (RC McLaren Vale) with RC Unley club members finished the painting of the walls by the end of the weekend.

The 3rd team – Jeff Cluse (Regency Pk), Russell Green (Regency Pk), Peter Sowdon (Walkerville), Reg Hutchinson (Adelaide), Andrew Gay (Edwardstown), Simon Brewer (Magill Sunrise) & Ian Coat (Magill Sunrise) all assisted at different stages. Our section was to remove the carpets and edging and install the floating floors. We started on Monday 27th Feb were completed by Sunday 5th March with Jeff returning on Wednesday 8th March to complete some minor flashings etc.

It was a great team effort and the inside now looks a million dollars – book a time up there and check it out.

Where did we stay? We had the small Dorm and the large kitchen opposite which is a short walk to Rotary House.





If you know Rotary House at Calperum you will know what rooms, they are.

If you don't – come and visit.



Relaxing after a hard day's work – in the Dorm Kitchen.

Special mention.

Corey from Calperum was offered 80 litres of wall paint and 20 litres of ceiling paint as a donation from **Paint Supplies** on West Lakes Boulevard at Hendon – fantastic – this was used on Rotary House.





Bunnings at Berri provided the floating floor in small Dorm for half price and are very keen to strongly support us again for future.

Jill Chapman (employee at Bunnings Windsor Gardens) from RC Adelaide assisted us greatly as well with access to the floating floor for Rotary House.

Our next project will be installing floating floors in House 4. But first we need funds to pay for the flooring. The painting was done a few years ago by Jerry and Briony Casburn and the Unley team.

Please help us out – we will gratefully accept funds from \$500 to \$2,000 or more as we need a further \$15,000 to \$20,000 to complete House 4, the Small Dorm, and the Large Dorm.

Forward funds to CATE committee – BSB 015-029 A/C 088 474 940 – Note reference Calperum Rectif.

We are also looking for assistance on site. We expect to be looking to do the floor in House 4 late April or May 2023. Please email Jeff Cluse if you could be available – jeffcluse@gmail.com or 0417 573 696.

Thank you to all that helps to pull this together in such a short time – it is so wonderful with the great attitude out there in Rotary land.

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