



7 February 2008

LET'S MAKE 2008 THE YEAR OF HARALD'S HOUSE

Harald's House has received the best new year's present it could have hoped for – the pledge of a block of land vital to move the project forward in 2008.

The news of a firm commitment by a local developer was revealed to members of the Harald's House Committee this week as they met to discuss the project's future.

Harald Falge, founder of Street Level Youth Care and the inspiration for Harald's House, said he was "over the moon".

"Our Committee has been advised suitable land has been identified and offered by a generous local benefactor to be the new site for Harald's House," Dr Falge said.

"Subject to the normal planning and council approval process, we hope to be turning the first sod and starting construction of the house this year.

"There is a still a long way to go but securing the land was the major obstacle we needed to overcome. This is the best indication yet that 2008 will be the year in which Harald's House will begin to be built by and for the community of Cairns."

Without revealing the location or seeking to pre-empt council processes, the land is ideally situated in a former cane paddock in the southern growth corridor close to sporting and community facilities.

Committee chairperson Charlie McKillop said work would begin immediately on an application for planning approval and design by a project management team spearheaded by Cr Terry James and Conics (formerly C&B Consultants).

“Having an approved site will mean we can do the detailed design work and get on with the job of actually building Harald’s House. It means laying the bricks and mortar which is what all of us have been working towards for so long with the generous support of our community,” Ms McKillop said.

“This is a wonderful boost for Harald and the many people who have believed in his work and shared his vision to give young people a chance to break the cycle of homelessness and get their lives back on track.”

With \$365,000 already raised, more than a third of the target of \$1 million had been achieved and generating around \$1500 a month in interest – all of which would be kept in trust in perpetuity to meet the ongoing operating costs of Harald’s House when it is built.

Tax deductible donations can be made at Cairns Penny Savings & Loans.

The Committee thanked Greg Kern for providing a home base and secretarial support for Harald’s House. The next meeting of the Harald’s House Committee will take place at the office of Kern Consulting, ground level, National Mutual Tower on Wednesday, March 5, 5.30pm. Anyone interested in being involved or offering support can call 0406 699 506.

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