

2021 was a busy year for the Board of Sister Eveleen Retreat House.

In May 2021, the Board started the process toward a measure of financial independence from the Diocese. Opening 2 new bank accounts in readiness for starting to use Xero as our accounting package proved to be a more torturous endeavour than first thought and the new bank accounts were not opened until November after assistance from Edwin. We are grateful to Lynda Alexander (Diocesan Finance Manager) and Jocelyn Kubala (Diocesan Accounts Clerk) for their assistance as we came to grips with the accounts package and the associated red tape. We have also been approved as a registered charity with the Charities Commission (CC59206).

We are also grateful for the generous donors who provided funding of the House Director's salary for 2 years. Eddie formally began this new 25 hours per week role on May 31st, 2021.

A retreat programme has been established. Some of these retreats will be run by the House Director and members of the Board however we have also been seeking to engage other spiritual directors to run retreats on our behalf. We also have a small group of volunteers who willingly assist with tasks around the House and with the work involved in running retreats.

Our semi regular Newsletter is distributed to House supporters and is posted on the website. (<https://www.sistereretreat.com/>)

Because of the age of the House, we have had to address regular maintenance issues. In the last 12 months we have purchased a new stove and engaged in running repairs on the sewer system (until it was finally diagnosed as an incomplete Earthquake repair). The sewer has now been repaired. We have also purchased new vinyl to be installed in the bathroom in the House.

We have investigated the feasibility of rebuilding the Annex using the plans which were drawn up by Foley Architects before the earthquakes. Unfortunately, this is beyond our current financial means. We purchased roofing iron in January to replace the roof and this was completed at the beginning of April. We are grateful for Dugald's experience, expertise, and useful contacts.

SERH was not immune to the effects of Covid. Fortunately, we were able to access the Covid wages subsidy in 2021. A Covid policy has been developed and the difficult decision was made to run as a Vaccine-mandate venue. This has allowed us to continue to offer retreats of varying lengths, although, like many other accommodation venues, we have noticed a reduction in the number of bookings for accommodation for personal refreshment.

We have been unable to recruit a new Treasurer so I will be stepping down from the Chair role to focus on the Treasurer role. My final act as Chair is to nominate Sarah Gardiner as our incoming Chair.

Glenda Prosser, Board Chair