

Found – New Kitchen with Huge Potential!

After a determined and lively search, we are very excited to announce we've found it! Work has already begun to transform 1 Thompson Street, Abbotsford - a former seafood wholesale business - into our dynamic new headquarters, with Julien and Rob champing at the bit to get cookin'.

While there is some work to do before the new kitchen and office space becomes operational early next year, the building nonetheless has really 'good bones', and already has 2 large cool rooms, including a walk-in freezer.

The property also provides ready access for volunteers and agencies alike to nearby Church and Victoria Streets, as well as offering good parking on site and close by. And then there's also the proximity of the area's finest pork rolls for Rob...

An extraordinarily generous donation from the Jack and Ethel Goldin Foundation has enabled us to buy the building. This gives us enormous scope to develop it to suit our evolving needs. And so we have thrown ourselves into its makeover with great gusto.

Another substantial donation from a donor who seeks anonymity has also been critical in this process. Significant assistance from Sustainability Victoria has also been a tremendous help.

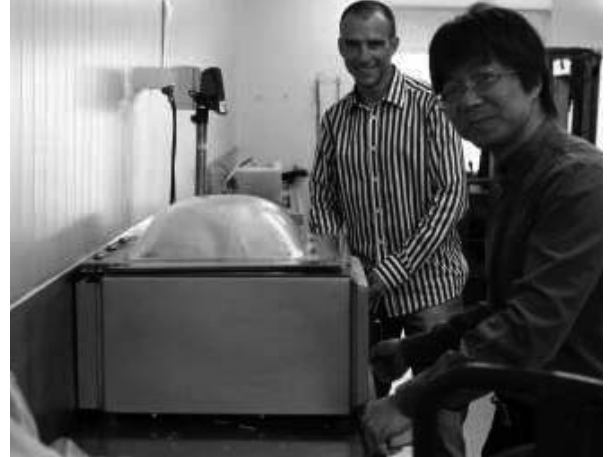
Through one of our volunteers with experience in the development of commercial kitchens, we have netted some generous help from architect Mun Soon of McGauran Giannini Soon. Aply advised by Sandy Dudakov (an OU Board Member who has been a weekly volunteer for years and whose professional experience includes helping organisations relocate their offices), Soon is preparing the design drawings for our new kitchen.

This new space will allow us to increase our capacity from around 430,000 meals a year to a total of over 1 million. We will be able to run two kitchen shifts a day, drawing on the already over-flowing volunteer dynamism which so generously and enthusiastically comes our way.

This will all be such great news for our many volunteers who know we are bursting at the seams at Hanover, and who understand what scope and capacity we have to provide ever more meals to those in real need. We will soon be able to source, handle, prepare and provide so much more – the news is all good!

And did I mention the proximity of pork rolls for Rob?

If you have any trade or fit-out skills you'd like to offer, or know of anyone who might like to help in the kitchen transformation, please contact us on 9529 1322 or drop Marcus an email marcus.godinho@oneumbrella.org.au



Marcus and Soon getting a move on in the new HQ

News from the Kitchen

Head Chef Extraordinaire Julien reports that the blessings continue to flow from all directions.

At a time of the year when many around town are getting into hyper-festive mode, we have received some magnificent luxury goods of our own, like smoked salmon and other beautiful fish from the Meriden International Hotel School (which runs courses in hospitality management). Local Southbank Deli, Knosh, has also given us a range of beautiful prepared food that definitely will not be wasted!

In a wonderful gesture to start 2008 with a real bang, Goodman Fielder has donated over 4 pallets of puff pastry – that's around 3,000 kilos! But how to store it, you might ask?? Well, that's where good-natured Gary of Austco Polar steps in, offering us free use of their freezer in Laverton. So the generosity just keeps on flowing...

And over 200 Christmas hampers from our friends at NAB will brighten the faces of many Melburnians in need this holiday season. Made up of items individually donated by NAB employees, these hampers represent yet another terrific outcome from our special partnership with NAB..

Christmas lunch will be served this year to around 60 Melbournians by Rob, our very own Sous-Chef-to-the-Stars, on Christmas Day. In what will be our last Christmas at Hanover, Rob is planning a feast befitting the occasion (and dreaming of pork rolls in Abbotsford...)

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Our significant corporate partner – National Australia Bank (NAB)

One Umbrella is very fortunate to have a special corporate partnership with NAB. It essentially takes three forms.

Firstly, NAB's policy of encouraging employees to undertake voluntary work with community organisations during paid time each year works very well for us! Last financial year, this led to 370 NAB employees preparing and distributing around 74,000 meals with us. And from what they told us, they loved doing it. They appreciated the insights they gleaned on the nature of food relief, the cooking skills they picked up, and the bolstered camaraderie they experienced with their colleagues.

Secondly, NAB offers generous financial and in kind support to help run the kitchen, over a timeframe that allows us a certain security with planning and other commitments.

Finally, NAB provides opportunities for its people to be involved in skill based volunteering - offering the transfer of their professional skills where they are most needed. A current example with One Umbrella is strategic projects outside the kitchen, such as the Bacon Committee (about which you'll learn more by reading below).

This is an exciting partnership with great benefits to both partners. It helps strengthen NAB's standing in the community as a substantial corporate benefactor. And it helps us look forward with confidence to 2008 and our goal of One Million Meals per year.



Robyn Weatherley and Janelle Mason from NAB

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Spotlight on Volunteers

Sometimes we have to pinch ourselves to see if it's all real – there are just so many volunteers with a widely diverse range of skills, experience and talents beating down our door to get involved.

Two of them, Robyn Weatherley and Janelle Mason from NAB, are members of that emerging breed of corporate types who do more than put their money where their mouth is – they offer their considerable business savvy, strategic flair and ingenuity to improving the governance and direction of organisations like ours.

Coming to us as a result of our call for skill based volunteers from NAB, Robyn and Janelle have formed a think tank advisory committee essentially to help us bring home the bacon in a strategic way – appropriately, the 'Bacon Committee'.

Robyn is Head of Governance Integration with NAB, supporting the Group's senior risk and business executives. Take it from me, she knows some good stuff!

Her partner on the Bacon Committee, Janelle Mason, is a Client Director with NAB's institutional client based arm, nabCapital. While working for 9 years with an investment bank in London, Janelle was a regular volunteer at a struggling inner-city primary school, helping 8 and 9 year olds with their reading. Seeing the real and significant difference that that program (which she helped improve by strategically sourcing books) had, she was keen to find a similar volunteering opportunity when she came home to Melbourne.

Given her background in large investment banks both here and in the UK, Janelle admires what we have been able to achieve so far as an ultra-lean but entrepreneurial, pro-active organisation. Similarly, Robyn likes how our small operation has a big and immediate impact on so many homeless and hungry people, everyday.

A key goal of the Bacon Committee is to advise us on potential new income streams, and together they will work on analysing gaps in our operations in order to identify opportunities for strategic improvement.

Season's Greetings and thanks

And last but not least, a quick vote of heartfelt thanks to all our magnificent volunteers, helpers, supporters, donors, backers, champions, and partners. There are so many of you out there – you know who you are!

Of particular note at this time are two of our outgoing Board members, Paul Pattison and Barbara Rozenes.

Paul has long been a solid backbone for us as Treasurer, having signed up with One Umbrella in its earliest days. As well as hosting many a board meeting in his office, Paul's firm has prepared our books and annual accounts; an importantly supportive contribution to an organisation like ours.

And in her role as Patron Liaison, Barbara Rozenes was instrumental in recruiting patrons, including the then Premier, Steve Bracks, Eddie McGuire and Justice Linda Dessau. Barbara has also been a wonderful guide, mentor and activist with fundraising, and we will miss her energy.

We of course hope they will remain involved in the wider One Umbrella family, perhaps in less vigorous roles!

Without you all, so many more people in Melbourne would be hungry and under-nourished. So much good and nourishing food would be wasted. So many more landfills would be closer to capacity. And we would all be the poorer for want of this great adventure.

Thanks!

Marcus Godinho, Sandy Dudakov and Brian Chaitman already at work in the new kitchen space

