2000 - 2015

2000s. This decade sees the introduction of new energised programs designed and generously supported in many areas by a band of donors and dedicated volunteers. The children are accepted as individuals with different needs, expectations and responses and are given the opportunity to enjoy life’s simple pleasures, learn new skills and make new friends. During this time the Cottage operated its first full time General Manager, Tony Featherston, who has been responsible for securing the funding to resource the updated programs. These resources, along with staff recruitment and training, have allowed the Cottage to become self-sufficient in the programs we offer. The Ambassador program was established, building a strong team of ambassadors, who network with individuals, businesses, schools and families, to spread the Cottage message and as well act as our profile and generate support. Further expansion of activities in a wider area has been enhanced by the purchase of a boat and extension of the vehicle fleet to three buses and four trailers.
2003. Cathy Freeman, Olympic gold medallist, was appointed Cottage Patron.
2006. Purchase of the adjoining Riptide premises has provided the flexibility to run smaller camps as well as providing respite for families and other charity organisations.
2008. Sale of the waterfront block and some very generous bequests cleared most of the mortgage for Riptide.
2008-12. For the first time we provided camps for over 1,000 children. This further increased until we reached a plateau of 1,200 in 2012. The expanding REEF and Mentor programs are now making up 15% of our numbers.

2010. Board President, Michael Randall, announced wonderful news – the Cottage was debt free and the Board of Management was well on the way to developing sustainable short and long-term financial strategies.
120th year celebrations included a special afternoon tea, flying a new flag, tours of the Cottage and Commemorative paving laid around the flagpole (funded by donors and supporters).

2012-15. Thanks to increasing community and corporate support the REEF and Mentor programs have greatly expanded both in numbers and in opportunities offered. Dodd a tremendous boost from the Estate of the late Max Chapman and others, the Cottage by the Sea Foundation was established to help secure the future of the Cottage and its ability to keep offering children a very special holiday. Only annual interest earned (or part thereof) is used to support year to year activities.

2014-15. The Cottage moves into the world of social media and undergoes a major rebranding, updating the logo and adopting the motto – Providing disadvantaged kids with inspiration, fun and opportunity. Frank Costa becomes the new patron as Cathy Freeman retires to concentrate on her own Foundation.
Introduction

Since its establishment in 1890, the purpose of Cottage by the Sea has been to provide short term care within a community setting, primarily for children, children affected by war, fire, famine, flood or in need. The additional help it provided and support it extended meant that, over time, it had helped it grow and meet increased demands.

Cottage by the Sea is a not-for-profit, self-funded charity. Challenging times necessitated no government funding, relying entirely upon the generous support of its staff, branches, volunteers, business and community groups, trusts and foundations.

In the Beginning… 1895–1920

1895. The Countess of Meath founded the Ministering Children’s League (MCL), Maldon, with the aim of establishing a place where children could convalesce from acute and chronic diseases.

1896. Early days of the MCL: involved tireless fundraising and travelling throughout Victoria and Australia, assisted by Anthony Haden, Maldon and Annie Hitchcock of Geelong were invited to be a league in Victoria.

1897. The original Cottage, built by J C Taylor and Sons, of Beverley Ussher of Melbourne Cottage, designed by architect, Elizabeth Calder (of Maldon) and Annie Hitchcock 1889.

1899. The first President Mrs Airbut Harpur from Torquay, visited the new Cottage, right shows two rows of children, in front of the cottage, having their hair cut.

1900. Elizabeth Calder passed away and the MCL raised funds for a memorial in Maldon.

1905. The Calder Memorial Wing was added and a new building was designed by architect P. Scott-Williams, of Toorak. The Ball building raised £15,000.

1906. Early days of the MCL: involved tireless fundraising and travelling throughout Victoria and Australia, assisted by Anthony Haden, Maldon and Annie Hitchcock of Geelong were invited to be a league in Victoria.

1909. On 27th February, Annie Hitchcock, (of Melbourne, was officially opened by Lady Huntingfield.

1912. The original Cottage was £1,897/7s/11d. Water service was installed for the first time and the building was converted (partly funded by branch).

1915. Due to serious, disarray of the timber Cottage, a Building Appeal was launched to fund a new building.

1916. With help from the Calder Memorial Wing was opened.

1917. The new Cottage, built by J C Taylor and Sons, of Beverley Ussher of Melbourne Cottage, designed by architect P. Scott-Williams, of Toorak. The Ball building raised £15,000.

1919. The new Cottage was only occupied during the summer. The Cottage was £500, plus a Matron’s room and much needed presses for the children’s clothes and laundry.

1920. The new Cottage had passed through the Cottage and was not ready by Christmas. The Countess of Meath visited the Cottage.

1922. On 27th February, Annie Hitchcock, (of Melbourne, was officially opened by Lady Huntingfield.

1927. Cottage members and visitors travelled to the Cottage and the interstate branches, pleaded with a number of Victorian branches and the Ministering Children’s League, it was decided to build a second Cottage. So as to meet the needs of the smaller children.

1930. Government bonds were purchased through the Endowment. A special grant was raised to help maintain the Cottage.

1931. The annual cost to run the Cottage was £3,097/11s/11d. Water filtration system was installed. An old hospital, a building was converted (partly funded by branch).

1935. The original Cottage was demolished and a new building was designed by architect P. Scott-Williams, of Toorak. The Ball building raised £15,000.

1939. In 1935, the annual cost to run the Cottage was £3,097/11s/11d. Matron reported the Cottage was £3,097/11s/11d. Water filtration system was installed. An old hospital, a building was converted (partly funded by branch).

1942. The Cottage was renovated for £193. The enemy of £50 (which retailed for £100).

1950. The Cottage was renovated. A superseded model costing £95 was introduced and a temporary building was erected during this time. The Cottage was closed and made a generous donation of £10,000 to the Ministering Children’s League Inc.

1956. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

1960. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

1962. Flooring, tables, trampolining, cookery sessions, farm shops and guest sessions as well as fishing were introduced during this time. The Cottage was closed.

1970. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

1980. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

1990. A new Tram was donated by the Defence Department.

1995. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

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1999. The new playground was opened.

2000. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2004. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2005. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2010. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2011. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2012. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2014. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2015. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2016. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2017. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2018. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2019. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.

2020. The Cottage was maintained and a Building Appeal was conducted in 1960.