



## Vale Charlie Blatch 28.6.1949 - 14.2.2019

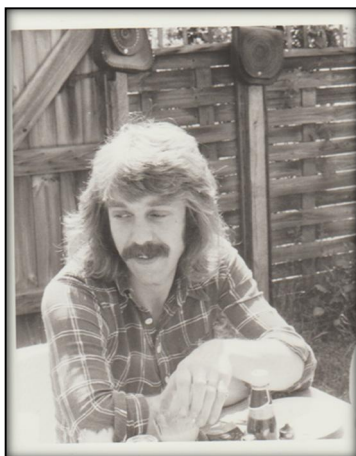
Many friends and colleagues will now know of the passing of Charlie Blatch on Friday 14 February 2019.



In 2012, Charlie received the prestigious award for **Significant Contribution to the Therapeutic Community Movement in Australasia by an Individual**, at the ATCA Symposium in Tasmania. This award acknowledges and publicly recognises the

exceptional work of people who have worked tirelessly over several years to promote and develop the therapeutic community approach to treatment within the sector.

Charlie was a true pioneer of the TC movement. He first began working within therapeutic communities in the early 1970s, commencing in the UK at the Ley Community in 1972 – the second TC to be established in that country. In 1980 he established Killara House in Albury, moving it to the country community of Granya in north east Victoria, where it was – quite ironically – established in the old Granya pub. Initially viewed with some suspicion by the community, Killara House became an important asset to the community over time, and its residents supported and embraced. Even the local cricket team became a ‘dry club’ in honour of its new players.



From Killara, Charlie moved to Canberra, where he was appointed Director and then CEO of the Alcohol

and Drug Foundation ACT (now Karralika Programs), a position he held from 1988 – 1993. This included a period of significant development, with the establishment of the Karralika Family Program, the short-term STAIRways program, transitional and aftercare programs. In 1993, Charlie moved to the Gold Coast, where he later became the CEO of Goldbridge, a position he has held for over 21 years. In this time, Goldbridge has developed from a small residential service to an evidenced-based TC including transitional, educational and community-based support.

In 1986, Charlie became a founding member of ATCA, and served in various roles, including ATCA President, working with the Association to encourage new members and to build knowledge of the TC model. He is most likely the person



amongst us with the longest periods of service to the TC movement and played a key role in Australia from 1980 to develop and build the model. Charlie worked tirelessly for the Association and Goldbridge, and his contribution to the peer review process, on which the ATCA Standard has been built, was enormous. In 2015, Goldbridge became the first ATCA member to be certified under the ATCA Standard.

**Charlie will be farewelled at a Memorial Service, to which all his friends and colleagues are invited, at 2pm on Friday 8 March at the North Burleigh SLSC on the Gold Coast.**

**As Charlie was fond of Hawaiian shirts – his family invites everyone to wear a Hawaiian shirt or other ‘loud’ outfit to celebrate his life.**

Thank you, Charlie, for your amazing contribution to the TC Movement and for your life experience which you brought to your work and relationships. Over the years, you have touched the lives of thousands of people – giving so many the opportunity for change.

## Windana opens new TC in Victorian Grampians Region

Windana, in partnership with the Victorian Government, officially opened Grampians Therapeutic Community on 22nd January 2019.



Windana welcomed Minister Foley, who unveiled the plaque and cut the ribbon to formally open the new TC. Minister Foley praised Windana for the services it provides to people experiencing substance misuse, recognising all those in the local community and all the organisations that were instrumental in the completion of the facility. There was strong acknowledgement of the success of Therapeutic Communities and their fundamental place within the AOD sector.



Through the Victorian Budget 2018/19, the Ice Action Plan and the Drug Rehabilitation Plan, the Labor Government is more than doubling the number of residential rehab beds in Victoria – from 208 beds in 2014-15 to 450 beds. The Grampians Therapeutic Community is the first state-funded residential rehabilitation facility to open under this initiative. It is a world class state-of-the-art facility and sets the standard for the future of AOD treatment.

Please visit the new TC when you are next in Victoria – we look forward to hosting you!

During the opening ceremony Minister Foley made a further announcement that Windana was the successful bid for the new TC in Barwon. The 30-bed facility at Corio will be designed over the coming months and we look forward to opening in 2021.

It's raining TCs in Victoria and we are proud to part of this monumental investment in residential rehabilitation and to increase the footprint of Therapeutic Communities in Australasia.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**17th European Federation of Therapeutic Communities Conference**  
17-20 September 2019  
Thessaloniki, Greece

**17ο Συνέδριο της Ευρωπαϊκής Ομοσπονδίας Θεραπευτικών Κοινοτήτων**  
17-20 Σεπτεμβρίου 2019  
Θεσσαλονίκη, Ελλάδα

*More information to be announced soon.*  
Περισσότερες πληροφορίες θα είναι σύντομα διαθέσιμες.

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A date for your diary. **The 17th EFTC Conference in Thessaloniki, Northern Greece.** Hosted by KETHEA and Argo, we expect this to be a major event in the world of recovery and the therapeutic community movement. The conference will be preceded by a two-day training institute at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. More details on the EFTC website.