

LAWYERS

WHY YOU MAY NEED AN ENDURING GUARDIAN

MICHAEL NAUGHTIN specialises in Estate Planning at RMB Lawyers. In this week's Law Matters column, he provides four case studies to show the important role of Enduring Guardians.

Many people ask whether it is necessary to appoint an Enduring Guardian to make medical and care decisions should they be unable make those decisions. The following case studies provide examples that may help answer that question.

1. Steve was diagnosed with cancer and received both radiation and chemotherapy. The treatment was not successful, and made him very sick. Steve's doctor believed that they should try another course of chemotherapy. Steve's wife Sue was distraught. She believed that another course of chemotherapy would not work and Steve would only suffer. After much heartache Sue decided her husband should be made as comfortable as possible until he died rather than starting another round of treatment. As Steve has appointed Sue his Enduring Guardian she had the power to request that Steve receive no further chemotherapy.
2. Brian appointed his brother Graham his Enduring Guardian. Graham believed that Brian's health has deteriorated to the stage where he could not make decisions for himself. Brian disagreed, so Graham applied to the Guardianship Tribunal for an order that his appointment as an Enduring Guardian take effect immediately. After considering all information provided by Brian, Graham and Brian's service providers the Tribunal made an order that the appointment of Graham as Enduring Guardian take effect.
3. Jane was diagnosed with early stage dementia. She immediately appointed her husband her Enduring Guardian to make decisions concerning where she will live and what health care she will receive when she loses capacity to make these decisions. In case her husband does not outlive her, she also appointed her niece as her Enduring Guardian.
4. Divorcee Bill, who has two adult children, appointed his sister his Enduring Guardian. Bill suffered a stroke and could not speak. Bill's daughter wanted him to live with her but his son favoured a nursing home. Bill's sister made the decision about his care in consultation with his carers and eventually the two children accepted the decision, preventing a potential family dispute at a time when Bill certainly had enough difficulties in his life.

Second Highland Food and Wine cluster launched

By Jen Walker

The second Southern Highlands Food and Wine Cluster was launched at Peppers Manor House last week.

The Moss Vale Cluster comprises 18 producers, cafes and wineries and extends out to Exeter.

The launch coincided with the unveiling of Pepper Manor House's \$5 million renovation, encompassing a new function centre, a new casual dining and bar area, and a total revamp of all the suites.

The renovation has lifted the hotel to a five-star rating. Its restaurant, Katers, is part of the Moss Vale Cluster.

The Southern Highlands Food & Wine

Clusters are an initiative of Moss Vale Rural Chamber of Commerce and represent more than 100 regional growers and producers.

Each cluster offers a cross section of that area's producers and venues.

At the launch Mayor Larry Whipper said that people can lose touch with the fact that food doesn't come from supermarkets.

"The clusters are a true example of the paddock to plate experience," he said.

"They promote our local growers, support economic growth and community resilience. They are uniting so many people and promoting the diversity in this area," Mr Whipper said.

The Loch's Brigid Kennedy is behind

the cluster concept in the Highlands and said it was drawing good media attention including Sydney Weekender and Gourmet Traveller.

"I know that about 25 per cent of business for my farm store and about 30 per cent of business for my accommodation comes from being part of a cluster."

"It means all of us are talking about all of us. It's about having pride in the region and collaboration," she said.

The next cluster to launch will be with Barbara Robertson.

Eventually there will be nine clusters throughout the Highlands.

See southernhighlandsfoodandwinecluster.com.au for details.



Brigid Kennedy and Clr Holly Campbell at Peppers Manor House launch of the Moss Vale Clusters.



Ted Smith from Yelverton Truffles, Cass Wallace, Matty Roberts and Barbara Smith.



Ioannis Berardos and Phil Rucker providing samples from Bernie's Diner at the Cluster launch.



Jennifer Stokeld, Jan Walters and Jill Dyson enjoy local wines at the Moss Vale Food and Wine Cluster launch.



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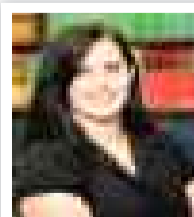
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Clare Macarthur-Stanham, Kate Ingham, Leonie Poulton and John Scott at Peppers Manor House.



Mayor Larry Whipper listens to Cluster initiator Brigid Kennedy talk at the launch of the Moss Vale Cluster last week.