

An Open Letter from an OTIS Foundation Property Owner

The OTIS Foundation is actively seeking more retreats to accommodate its waiting list of guests. Can you help? As an owner I would like to explain to you how it works.

Our holiday house is in the Snowy Mountains and we rent it out during the winter for skiing. We also go during the summer, but there are many weeks when it is standing empty and there is not a huge market for rentals. We make it available to OTIS from November to June for guests from Monday to Friday. Naturally, if there are times that we want to use it ourselves, we simply notify OTIS. The arrangements can suit your needs - for instance you might want to keep weekends or a week during that time for your own use. It is a cost neutral arrangement for owners with accounting and tax issues, gas and electricity, cleaning and linen, all considered. OTIS manages all the bookings with great care, liaising with the guests and rental agents. We think it is a great advantage to have our house occupied and cleaned most weeks of the year- wear and tear seems minimal.

Why do owners want to offer time at their properties? Everyone has been touched by breast cancer- if not yourself, then a family member, a close friend, a colleague. You may have wondered how you could help, what you could do to offer support and show you care. Have you ever thought – if only she could have a break from all the tests and treatment, from all the worry about work, finances and family- if only she could get away for a bit. Those who are fortunate in owning beautiful holiday places can also enjoy the privilege of sharing them without risk or worry through the OTIS Foundation. There is enormous satisfaction in knowing that you are extending a helping hand to someone who is doing it tough and needs a break.

The guest book at each property is the greatest form of repayment. The messages each tell a story and convey a gratitude and appreciation of the generosity and the spirit with which these retreats have been provided:

“It has been a joyful and restorative time for me and my dear friends. None of us will ever forget this magical time.”

“I can’t believe your generosity- thank you again and again. It was so lovely having time out. It has been so long. Thank you so much”

“Life can bring a few challenges from time to time, but for those who have been on this journey, life has never been sweeter and your gift will always be treasured in our hearts.”

“What a wonderful healing place. A good for the soul place.”

If you have a holiday house that you currently rent out, and you could start by giving OTIS 12 weeks a year, the OTIS Foundation would love to hear from you. If you have friends who may be interested in participating in this opportunity to really do something positive for women with breast cancer, please tell them about the OTIS Foundation retreats.

Yours sincerely,

Elsbeth Humphries
Property Owner – ‘Creekside’ Thredbo