

Jelly Cottage

What can I say about Jelly Cottage & the program run there?

- ❖ I can't imagine Daw House without it.
- ❖ It was a haven in a bustle of medical 'stuff'.
- ❖ It was a place my 2 children could go & be safe & expressive.
- ❖ It was a place I could go & know I'd relax for a short while with a cup of coffee, a chat, a hug & a seat.
- ❖ It was a safe place my Ken could wander over to when he was well enough, where he knew he would be warmly welcomed & could talk & relax.
- ❖ It was a place we could laugh.
- ❖ It was so therapeutic & soothing to participate in things like working with clay.
- ❖ I will never forget (& I know my children also remember well), arriving to find Ken already at a table outside Jelly Cottage, in the warm sunshine, waiting for us with Beth & the wonderful volunteers. And Ken already had his lump of clay he was moulding & shaping. And we sat down too, & our family of 4 were there together & we were all moulding & shaping & working our pieces of clay. I can't express how valuable & special that time was. We could BE together in a way that wasn't possible in Ken's room in the Hospice. Here we had a haven, a space for our precious BEING TOGETHER
- ❖ It felt good to be surrounded by a wonderful environment of beautiful, creative creations.

- ❖ It was away from the main part of Daw House (with all the medical associations) & getting there entailed a short walk in the garden which was always a good thing to do.
 - ❖ It was 'mobile' with access to Jelly Cottage programs or activities not just in Jelly Cottage but in the lounge in Daw House as well. Then there was even the time Beth supplied Rheana with 2 big tubs of 'arty' bits & pieces to use in her Dad's room when she & I were staying overnight.
 - ❖ David said 'You get to choose the activity you feel like doing at that time & it's a creative experience.'
 - ❖ Rheana said 'I found it a peaceful place to go.'
 - ❖ Rheana said 'I liked it when Daddy sometimes came there with me.'
 - ❖ The visits to Jelly Cottage even after Ken had died were so valuable. I especially recall visiting with Rheana when she was introduced to creating 'hearts'. Rheana's heart was of camellia petals & a background of little dark brown seed pods & the photo Beth took for us is beautiful.
 - ❖ We've since made & photographed many hearts, & it was a wonderful, expressive thing to do together on the anniversary of Ken's death.
- Thank you Beth for introducing such a beautiful idea.

