

Corpus Christi Village

Welcomes the First Residents Soon

The drums are rolling and the welcome mats are almost ready! After years of planning and months of construction, Corpus Christi Village will open its doors to its first residents from September, with the first stage due for completion in February 2009.

We have been thrilled by the community response, with more than 50% of the 27 units in stage 1 reserved. Features commended by future residents include the well-planned design of the 2br and 3br villa units, the 6 star energy rating, quality fittings and fixtures, private gardens and courtyards, as well as proximity to transport and community amenities.

The availability of the chapel and community centre is the most significant drawcard, enabling residents to participate in spiritual activities and to create a vibrant and inclusive community. Already future residents are planning a walking group and a snooker club, and offering to donate items for shared entertainment.



Above: Villa Units at Corpus Christi Village under construction.

Below: The 2br display of the Melba Villa Unit reveals a light and spacious kitchen and dining area.



Catholic Homes New Branding

Catholic Homes is using new branding to communicate the service choices we offer and the values we practice.

The changes have been positively received, especially our decision to no longer use "elderly" in our name.

We have retained the dove as our logo, as it represents the Holy Spirit and is a symbol of love and peace.

The new design and colours convey our friendly, positive and contemporary approach.

CEO, Joan Donoghue, discussed the new brand with staff at seminars held in May and June. The important message is that our brand is not about advertising but about the compassion, integrity, care and collaboration we practice on a day-to-day basis.

Enriching life with choices, harmony & community

Choices

- Respect & Dignity
- Caring
- Person-Centred
- Cultural / individual diversity

Harmony

- Holistic
- Integrated continuum of care
- Living & working well together
- Peace of mind, spirit & heart

Community

- Welcoming & inclusive
- Nurturing
- Enriching
- Active & vibrant

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Catholic Homes Newsletter



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Enriching life with choices, harmony and community.

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Mrs Ruby Sestsoso, a Filipino resident at St Bernadette's, enjoys dancing with her compatriot at one of the regular entertainment afternoons.

Filipino Community Partnership

Residents and staff at St Bernadette's have enjoyed a varied education and cultural program provided by the Filipino Community Council of Victoria over the past year.

Funded by the Department of Human Services, the project fosters culturally appropriate lifestyle and care services, as well as improved access to aged care services by the Filipino community.

Strategies for Success

At our strategy review day on 10 May 2008, the Board and senior managers of Catholic Homes met to review our strategic plans to ensure that we are well positioned to manage the challenges and opportunities in our ever-changing environment.

Our guest speaker, Mr Richard Gray, Director of Aged Care at Catholic Health Australia, noted that workforce shortages, insufficient capital funding and inadequate indexation will continue to put pressure on the viability of aged care services. He said these pressures are prompting aged care organisations to become multi-facility and multi-service organisations to gain the economies of scale necessary for future viability.

Catholic Homes is implementing such a growth strategy so that we can provide an integrated continuum of accommodation, residential care, community care and retirement living services. Progress is reflected in the recent developments at John R Hannah Aged Care Facility, Corpus Christi Village, St Bernadette's Aged Care Facility, and in our CACP Program, enabling us to assist around 100 more seniors.

Catholic Homes values the quality of our relationships with parishes and local communities. During our strategy review, we spent time discussing practical ways of working with them to enhance the quality of life of seniors. The more we can work together in mutually beneficial ways, the more we are likely to achieve with our limited resources.



Blessing of John R Hannah Aged Care Facility

20 May 2008 was a day of great rejoicing and thanksgiving as His Grace, the Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis J Hart DD, blessed the John R Hannah Aged Care Facility. An enthusiastic gathering of over 200 residents and their families, local parishioners and volunteers, staff, and Board members attended the evening blessing and supper.

The blessing marked the completion of 18 months work involving the addition of 22 rooms to provide high level care, improved communal amenities, as well as 4 new resident-funded serviced units. This achievement is the culmination of the inspiring vision of the Parish, a cooperative partnership between the Parish and Catholic Homes, great team work by staff and contractors, as well as the patient cooperation of residents, staff, and volunteers.

John R Hannah Aged Care Facility will continue to provide high quality care by dedicated staff within a caring community for many years to come.



Mr Peter Whiting, Chair of the Board of Catholic Homes with Father John R Hannah, former Parish Priest of the Parish of St John Vianney whose inspiring vision and leadership instigated the Parish's commitment to provide aged care services.



St Bernadette's new Chapel & multi-purpose room.

St Bernadette's Development Underway

The residents at St Bernadette's are keeping a daily tab on progress of the building works which began in earnest in February this year.

The new chapel and multipurpose room, western courtyard and sitting nook, and improved pick-up and drop-off area will be completed in August.

The new wing providing specialized dementia care for 15 residents will initially be used for low care residents while the doors of their rooms are widened to improve accessibility. The project is progressing well and is due to be completed in May 2009.

Palliative Care Project

Catholic Homes and the Australian Catholic University have jointly funded and appointed Dr Fran McInerney to the position of Associate Professor of Aged Care.

Our first joint project aims to ensure that we are providing high quality palliative care that supports the dignity and choices of residents.

An initial survey of staff has been undertaken to identify strengths and to inform the provision of targeted education, which will in turn support a high standard of palliative care.

CACP Program Expands

Catholic Homes is delighted to be providing coordinated care and support services to 30 new clients living in the Eastern, Northern and Western Metropolitan regions of Melbourne. Clients benefiting from these services include Veterans, seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as those who are financially disadvantaged.

Collaboration with the Maltese and Filipino Community Councils of Victoria and the Returned Services League contributed to the successful provision of these services to members of their communities. These partnerships continue to flourish and further relationships are being forged, most recently with the Australian Polish Community Services.

Catholic Homes will apply for more Community Aged Care Packages in the 2009 Aged Care Approvals Round, so that we can respond to the preference of many seniors and their carers for home-based services.



CACP clients enjoying an outing together, organised by their Catholic Homes CACP Case Manager.

High Tech Game a Winner

Providence residents are moving with the times! Using a Nintendo Wii they are honing their indoor bowls, golf, baseball and even boxing skills, proving that age is no barrier to technology or fitness.

After a successful 3 week trial earlier this year, the Wii has become a passionate pastime for a growing number of residents - participants and spectators alike. Resident, Betty Minto, a former outdoor bowling champion at the Altona Sports Club, practices with her 12 year old great grandson to maintain her high strike rate. When you've achieved at the highest level, you have a standard to maintain!

The hand-held motion-sensitive controller requires the skilled manipulation of a real bowling ball or golf club. The benefits go beyond the fun and team spirit it generates. "It is great for concentration, coordination and dexterity," say Anne and Lyn, the Lifestyle Coordinators.



Above: Marie Somerfield (right) enjoyed a game of golf, with the Lifestyle Coordinator Lyn offering enthusiastic support.

Below: Betty's husband, Jim, is a spirited competitor enjoying the fun and challenge.

