

Corpus Christi Village Welcomes its Foundation Residents

One of the highlights this year has been the realisation of our dream to provide an integrated continuum of independent living and additional service options by establishing Corpus Christi Village on land adjacent to Corpus Christi Aged Care Facility. We have been thrilled by the positive community response, with stage 1 selling quickly. Corpus Christi Village Manager, Mark Dunne, has been busy welcoming new residents since early October and facilitating a smooth transition and community activities. The very popular Chapel and Community Centre are used on a daily basis. Over 85 residents from the village and aged care facility attended a commemorative service and similar numbers attended the first Mass celebrated in the Chapel. Christmas Carols and other festivities are planned to ensure the first Christmas for residents at Corpus Christi Village is enjoyable and memorable.

Below: At the first social event for Corpus Christi Village residents, Mr Dean conveys his pleasure at having made the move!

Progress at St Bernadette's

An important milestone in the re-development of St Bernadette's Aged Care Facility was reached last week with the attainment of a certificate of occupancy for the fifteen new rooms to provide care for residents with dementia, as well as the new chapel and multipurpose room. The chapel is a very welcome addition and will be used for Christmas festivities as well as regular Masses for residents and local parishioners.

The final phase of work to be completed by the second half of 2009 includes refurbishing existing rooms, upgrading the kitchen and laundry and establishing a new coffee shop.



Parish Welcomes Managers at John R Hannah



Father Kevin Davine and Ray McIntosh

On Friday, 3 October 2008, around 100 parishioners of St John Vianney Parish and residents at John R Hannah Aged Care Facility formally welcomed the new Residential Services Manager, Ray McIntosh, and Care Manager, Jo Niggemeyer. Father John Hannah presence was very much appreciated and he talked about the establishment of the facility by the Parish 21 years ago. On behalf of the Parish, Father Davine gave Ray McIntosh a candle symbolising the trust and hopes of the community and their faith in the new managers to fulfill the mission to promote the quality of life and dignity of residents with respectful care.

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Justin Villa Welcomes World Youth Day Pilgrims

Twenty young Italian pilgrims, singing in full voice and bearing the Italian flag, were joyously welcomed by the priests, sisters and staff at Justin Villa prior to World Youth Day. We celebrated a lively Mass together; our visitors sang hymns in Italian accompanied by the guitar and we sang parts of the Mass in English accompanied by the organ. During our special morning tea we enjoyed harmonious entertainment provided by the Parish of St Bridget's Church. Then our young Italian friends were singing, clapping and creating an atmosphere of great festivity! We mingled and were able to understand one another, using our hands as well to do the talking! It was great fun and we felt united in our shared faith. The priests at Justin Villa gave their blessings and prayerful support as our pilgrims left on their journey to hear the message of faith, love and hope to today's youth from our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI.

Sister Cecilia Vakameilalo-ppdm, Justin Villa

Message from the CEO

How the past months have flown! In spite of the financial crisis there are exciting developments underway at Catholic Homes.

We welcomed the first residents of Corpus Christi Village in October and we are thrilled by their positive feedback on the quality of their new homes, as well as the Community Centre and Chapel. In view of the popularity of Corpus Christi Village, Stage 2 has commenced and will be available for occupancy in the last quarter of 2009.

Fifteen new rooms to provide care for residents with dementia at St Bernadette's have been commissioned and the rest of the project is on track for completion in June 2009. We have also submitted an application for funding from the National Respite for Carers Program to provide respite for carers using the residential property we purchased alongside St Bernadette's earlier this year. This will complement our community care packages and strengthen our partnerships with cultural groups and support for carers in the western region.

Our quality management system has been enhanced with the launch of our intranet, which provides easy access to policies, procedures and communications across the business. The new Catholic Homes website reflects our refreshed branding and contains updated information about our services.

The Palliative Care Project is progressing well. Fran McNerney, our Associate Professor in Aged Care, and Michelle Willison, Residential Services Manager at St Catherine's Aged Care Facility presented the results to date at the Palliative Care Conference in October 2008. Katherine Hannaker, our Quality Manager, also delivered an excellent presentation on Pandemic Planning on behalf of the Pandemic Working Group at the Better Practice Conference in Melbourne.

With the closure of a busy and productive year, I extend my thanks to members of the Board and Board Sub-Committee, managers, staff, volunteers and contractors for your dedication to the care and well-being of seniors in our community.

On behalf of the Board and staff at Catholic Homes, best wishes to you and your family and friends for a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a New Year of many blessings.

Joan Donoghue, CEO



*Wishing you love, faith,
hope, peace and joy
at Christmas
& throughout 2009!*

Rock and Roll!

Residents throughout Catholic Homes have been enjoying a wide range of lifestyle activities. The Rock and Roll night held at Providence in September was a roaring success. Residents, family members of all ages and staff had a great time rocking and rolling to the music of Andy Dee and his group. It brought back many happy members, as well as being the hot topic for many days and everyone walked with an extra spring in their step!



Celebrating Achievements

We are very proud of our staff for the wonderful work they do on a day-to-day basis as well as their extraordinary achievements.

Attainment of Qualifications

We are proud to recognise the achievements of staff who undertake formal professional qualifications in the course of their work at Catholic Homes. Qualifications attained this year include the Certificate IV Aged Care, Certificate IV Community Services Lifestyle & Leisure and Diploma of Business in Frontline Management. Congratulations to the following staff for completing their qualifications this year:

- Angela Benigno (Certificate IV)
- Meenabehen Patel (Certificate IV)
- Cecilia Vakameilad (Certificate IV)
- Debbie Yeomans (Certificate IV)
- Linda Karrasch (Diploma of Business)
- Barbara Limpyer (Diploma of Business)
- Jacqueline Smith (Diploma of Business)
- Caryn Wells (Diploma of Business)

Service Anniversary Awards

At our Staff Recognition Ceremony in October 2008 we recognised the following staff for their wonderful commitment and service to Catholic Homes:

- Helen Laurie for over 25 years at Providence
- Beverley Storey for 15 years at St Catherine's
- Francesca Costin for 15 years at St Joseph's
- 10 staff for over 10 years of service.

Residential Aged Care Accreditation

Congratulations to the Managers, staff and volunteers at St Bernadette's, St Joseph's and John R Hannah Aged Care Facilities, and the support staff in central office, for successfully achieving accreditation for a further 3 years. The independent assessors from the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency spent two days at each facility reviewing all 44 standards. They complimented many aspects of service, including: excellent person-centred care plans for residents and positive feedback about care from residents and families; diverse and enjoyable lifestyle programs; and impressive management and maintenance systems.

SACS Not-for-Profit Leadership Award Finalist

Teri Saunders, Residential Services Manager of Corpus Christi Aged Care Facility, was recognised for her leadership achievements at the SACS Consulting 2007 Not-For-Profit Leadership Awards. There were 60 nominations of prestigious candidates from aged care, youth, children's and other health and service organisations. Teri's inspirational leadership was acknowledged as one of the five finalists.



Teri Saunders receiving her SACS Leadership Award, with Kate Hollins, General Manager- Residential Services.

Outstanding Trainee of the Year Award

Hus Akayala, a trainee nurse at St Catherine's Aged Care Facility received the Apprenticeships Plus Outstanding Trainee of the Year Award, as well as the Health/Nursing Trainee of the Year Award. St Catherine's Residential Services Manager, Michelle Willison, said "Hus has a wonderful rapport with residents and staff alike. His love of nursing and dedication shine through and he is a positive role model and mentor for new employees."



Hus Akayala receives his Award, proudly supported by (L to R) Alana Crimson, Michelle Willison, Residential Services Manager, and Noreen Evans, from St Catherine's Aged Care Facility.