

Catholic Homes Newsletter

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His Grace, Archbishop Denis Hart DD with Peter Whiting,
Chair of the Catholic Homes Board.



His Grace, Archbishop Denis Hart DD blessing Corpus
Christi Village with Joan Donoghue, CEO.

Message from the CEO

In a spirit of rejoicing His Grace, Archbishop Denis Hart DD, formally opened and blessed Corpus Christi Village on 20 May. Over 120 people attended the celebrations. Corpus Christi Village residents provided uplifting music and numerous special touches, such as sprigs of eucalypt from the trees on site and a beautifully embroidered lectern cloth depicting the dove on the Catholic Homes logo. His Grace applauded the use of the former seminary site to provide a welcoming spiritual space for a vibrant Catholic community. Special thanks to everyone who has enabled us to realise this dream and to make it such a special place.

Special congratulations to Michelle Willison, Residential Services Manager, St Catherine's Aged Care Facility, on her selection as one of the three finalists for the Aged and Community Care, Victoria, Employee Award. This great achievement reflects her inspiring leadership, dedication and commitment to excellence.

We were pleased to see increased benefits for pensioners in the Federal Budget. We hope that going forward the Government will address the need for a long term sustainable index for aged care services and appropriate capital financing for refurbishment and new facilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders who contribute so much to Catholic Homes.

Joan Donoghue, Chief Executive Officer

Congratulations!



Francis and Kathleen Nash (pictured top left) celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary at St Catherine's Aged Care Facility on 11 June. They said their happy marriage is due to their faith and their love for each other.

Jim and Betty Minto's accents are as strong as they day they left Scotland and so is their marriage of 60 years. Celebrating with fellow residents at Providence Aged Care Facility, in a serious moment between jokes, they said they have enjoyed a blessed life together.

Congratulations to Father Fennessy on the 50th anniversary of his ordination on 1st May 2009. He was joined by the other residents at Justin Villa in celebrating this great milestone.

We are very proud of Michelle Willison, Residential Services Manager at St Catherine's Aged Care Facility (pictured bottom left with ACCV President, Val Lyons) who was one of three finalists in the ACCV Employee of the Year Awards. Michelle is an outstanding and inspiring leader whose dedication takes her beyond the call of duty.



Aloha From Providence

Residents at Providence said "Aloha" as they dressed in brightly coloured shirts and leis to enjoy a wintry evening on a tropical island. Garlands of flowers and exotic parrots greeted residents and visitors. Songs and refreshments were accompanied by the more serious business of hula and limbo competitions. Mrs Gladys Humphries showed that 96 years of age is no impediment to winning a hula competition! Dreams that night were of exotic Hawaii.



The Two of Us

Kim Tong, an 89 year old resident at John R Hannah Aged Care Facility was absolutely thrilled when Belinda Chew volunteered to visit her regularly. As Kim doesn't speak English, she welcomes the opportunity to speak with Belinda in her own language. Belinda, who also visits another Chinese resident at the facility, says volunteering is rewarding because she knows how much they appreciate her visits. Thank you, Belinda!





Residents at St Bernadette's enjoying music performed by

Dementia Research Project

A project to enhance dementia care services will be undertaken with staff and relatives of residents with dementia at St Bernadette's Aged Care Facility in the second half of 2009. Coordinated by Dr Fran McInerney, Joint Associate Professor of Aged Care with Catholic Homes and the Australian Catholic University, the project will be conducted in collaboration with the Menzies Research Institute at the University of Tasmania and Curtin University. "We will assess their awareness of the special needs of people with dementia and promote effective communication and decision making about their care," says Dr McInerney.

St Bernadette's Opens New Unit for People with Dementia

We are proud to announce the completion of the new 15-bed dementia unit and a major refurbishment at St Bernadette's Aged Care Facility in Sunshine, costing \$4.9 million.

People with dementia who are assessed as requiring a low level of residential care will be able to be admitted to the unit from 6 July 2009.

"We will take time to learn about each individual so we can provide the best possible service. It is so important to know about their likes and dislikes, past experiences, cultural preferences, interests, capabilities and needs," says Penny Iddon, the Residential Services Manager.

"We like to work closely with family members, as they are an important part of the caring team. We welcome their suggestions about how to enhance the resident's quality of life and the role the family would like to play," says Penny.

The staff has been selected for their special qualities, positive attitudes and particular skills. Consistent rostering and the integration of care and lifestyle activities will promote familiar, trusting relationships between staff and residents.

Designed to provide the best physical and social environment, the unit will enhance the quality of life and safety of people with dementia.

Pastoral Care in the Spirit of St Francis

Father Victor Bonello has utilised his talents and skills to nurture communities of faith and build places of worship in areas remote from his birthplace. Born on the island of Gozo nearly 89 years ago, Father Victor was ordained a Franciscan in 1947. In 1956 he was posted to Warrawong in NSW where he became the first Parish priest. At Coober Pedy, he designed and built the first underground church. He also provided pastoral care to mining communities using a 4 wheel jeep. He was also the parish priest at Dingley and Springvale. A linguist, teacher, architect and builder, Father Victor has dedicated his life to pastoral care. He now lives at St Bernadette's Aged Care Facility.



Visit to Corpus Christi Seminary

Retired priests at Justin Villa recently enjoyed a very memorable visit to the Corpus Christi Seminary, where many of them had trained for the priesthood some decades ago. Although it is now at a new site, they immediately felt at home. A young deacon provided a guided tour, including the beautiful chapel and a very interesting library. They enjoyed refreshments and shared stories and reminiscences with the rector and seminarians.



Donations & Bequests

The generous support of community members greatly assists us to build new aged care facilities and affordable accommodation, as well as enriching the lifestyle and care services we provide to seniors across Victoria.

If you would like more information about making a bequest or donation, please call Odette Waanders on 8862 9080, or send this coupon to:
The Fundraising Officer,
Catholic Homes
Suite B, 2 Domville Ave
Hawthorn Vic 3122:

Title: _____ First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

All communication will be in strictest confidence.

Sudanese Day at J R Hannah

On 20th May, over 100 residents, families and staff attended a very informative cultural exchange event by Sudanese staff and members of their community.

Dressed in tribal costume and formal wedding dress they danced, sang, and showed photographs of their life back in Sudan. They shared their experiences of living under constant threat of internment or death, of their flight for freedom and safety, and of their happiness at living in Australia. Their exuberant love of life and desire to contribute enthralled everyone.

