

# Catholic Homes Newsletter

## A Special Friendship

Janet Henderson has lived at Providence for 6 years and enjoys daily visits from her daughter, Robyn, as well as regular contact with almost 50 of her descendents. She says her philosophy of life is to have faith in God, to make the most of each day, and to never go to bed with ill feelings.



Janet Henderson (left) and Doris Petschel

Doris Petschel became friends with Janet when she moved into Providence 3 years ago. "Janet had been a very close friend to my sister, Ivy, during her stay at Providence and she has become a wonderful friend to me," says Doris.

"Our personalities are different but we complement each other. We've never had a cross word and we both share a strong faith in God," says Janet.

We tend to focus on the losses that come with old age. However, you are never too old to make special new friends. As Janet says, the secret to enjoying a good old age is to make the most of each day and to count yourself among the fortunate.

## More Good News

- ✓ Congratulations to St Catherine's on achieving a further 3 years' accreditation by the Aged Care Standards & Accreditation Agency.
- ✓ Our Community Aged Care Packages Program was highly commended as a result of the recent independent quality assessment, with no areas for improvement identified. Congratulations to our Case Managers, Jacqueline and Barbara.
- ✓ 58 residents are now part of our vibrant Corpus Christi Village community. All units have sold and the last four will be ready by March 2010.
- ✓ Our new Case Manager, Nick Sady, is based at the Corpus Christi Village Community Centre. We have an allocation of Community Aged Care Package available for eligible retirement village residents.
- ✓ Our new DVD available to promote Catholic Homes is available for viewing on our website.

## Movember Fundraising Success

An enthusiastic team of male staff has preened and polished their moustaches during November to promote men's health. Thanks to the support of colleagues, suppliers and residents, they raised around \$4,600 and were awarded a platinum cup for their fantastic results. Well done (L-R) Dominic, Robert, Val, Michael, Joe, Jeff and Ray (who escaped the camera).



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Above: His Grace, Archbishop Denis J Hart DD during the blessing at St Bernadette's.

Below (L to R) Peter Whiting, Board Chairman, Joan Donoghue, CEO, and Bill Shorten, MP, with the Archbishop.



## Message from the CEO

On 20 November 2009 Archbishop Denis Hart celebrated Mass and blessed the Chapel at our new state-of-the-art dementia facility at St Bernadette's, North Sunshine. This will fulfil our mission to provide access to integrated services on the one site to meet the growing need for dementia services in the north-west corridor of Melbourne. We were pleased to welcome Mr Bill Shorten, Federal Member for Maribyrnong, to this event.

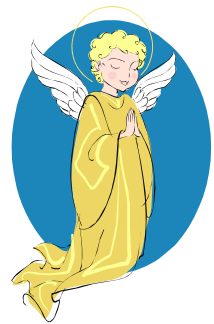
Several weeks earlier, Father Ivano Burdian, Parish Priest of St Bernadette's Parish, blessed the new transport bus for St Bernadette's. We are very grateful to the residents and St Bernadette's community for fundraising fifty percent of the cost.

With the arrival of summer, it is vital that we are all prepared for potential bushfires and heatwave conditions. Catholic Homes will shortly distribute information to clients and staff on the new national fire danger ratings and strategies for managing during extreme heatwave conditions.

I greatly appreciate the valuable contributions and support throughout the year from board members, managers, staff and volunteers. I wish you all, including our residents, clients and your families, a joyous and peaceful Christmas. May the coming year bring you good health and many pleasant surprises!

Joan Donoghue, Chief Executive Officer

## Blessing of St Bernadette's Bus



On 15<sup>th</sup> October the new transport bus for residents at St Bernadette's was blessed by the local parish priest, Rev. Father Ivano Burdian. Joan Donoghue, CEO, thanked the residents, staff and local community members for their fantastic support in raising 50% of the funds required. The new bus will enable residents to enjoy many more outings. Volunteers willing to assist with driving would be most welcome. Please call St Bernadette's on 9310 1000.

## Will You be Prepared?

Good intentions about planning or reviewing your Will are often overtaken by other pressing demands on your time. Sadly, if you don't put your affairs in order, this can result in significant problems for your family and loved ones. If you don't make a Will, then government legislation will determine who your beneficiaries will be.

Don't let another year go by without ensuring you have a Will and that it is up-to-date. Consider: who you want to benefit from your Estate – such as, family, friends, charities; who you wish to be your Executor; whether you should put in place a Power of Attorney; and other relevant issues to ensure your wishes are respected. By making an appointment with your Solicitor to prepare or update your Will early in 2010, you will start the year with a resolution fulfilled and peace of mind that your Will is in order.

## The "Battle of the Choirs" at Sunshine



Three wonderful choirs brought joy, harmony and Christmas cheer to a very enthusiastic audience of residents, staff, volunteers and visitors. Above (L-R): Providence and the Sunshinites. Below: the Maltese Community Choir.

St Bernadette's resident, Madge Hutchinson, has been singing all her life. "I sing anywhere and I just love singing," she says. But she still had performance jitters ahead of the "battle of the choirs" contest between St Bernadette's and Providence on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October. The Sunshinites, as they call themselves, had put in weeks of practice under the expert guidance of volunteers, Ronnie Hosking and Eleanor Moss.

Both choirs performed a range of popular songs and Christmas carols to a very enthusiastic audience. The independent judges awarded *Singing from the Heart Awards* to: Madge Hutchison & Dullio Rinvenuto from St Bernadette's and Gladys Humphrey and Stanley Walsh from Providence. The Providence Choir was highly commended and the Sunshinites were pronounced the winners of the competition.

The sonorous voices of the Maltese Community Choir rounded off a very entertaining afternoon.

Residents from St Joseph's were among the visitors and thoroughly enjoyed the event. As Gladys Humphrey said: "it was very exciting and well done!" Special thanks to the three choirs, Liezel, Joy, Anne, Lyn, Ronnie and Eleanor for making the event such a great success.



## Staff Achievements Celebrated

At our annual Staff Recognition Ceremony on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009, we celebrated the achievements of staff that completed qualifications or passed key milestones in their length of service with Catholic Homes during the year.

Joan Donoghue, Chief Executive Officer, presented Diplomas and Certificates to staff recognised for their achievements, in the presence of Senior Managers and other staff.

Congratulations to Dorothy Manwa, Janelle Clark and Zita Smith for completing Diplomas in Business, to Sanela Karac for completing Certificate IV in Business and to Rosemary Pace for completing Certificate IV Community Services (Lifestyle and Leisure). Achieving these qualifications while working requires dedication, discipline and hard work!

We also celebrated the completion of 20 years service by Helen Rizou, Anne Austin and Marj Cosgriff, 15 years service by Glenda Pryse, Stephen Shelley and Samantha McPherson, and 10 years service by Susan Hamilton, Joy Wowk, Anne Raptopoulos, Samone Rexter, Brenda Marsh, Anna McGlin, Lillian McClurg, Phyllis Doolan, Thalatha Perera, Zita Smith and Mary Smith.

**Congratulations to you all!**

