



Uniting Aged Care

Strathdon *Link*

providing quality residential and community services to the aged

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From the Chief Executive



Investing for the Future

Strathdon Community has long been investing community funds in the provision of a range of aged care services and is about to give further meaning to the term “investing for the future” through an innovative partnership with the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Fund.

An invitation has been extended by the Greater Melbourne Foundation, set up by the Lord Mayor’s Fund, to establish within the Foundation, the Strathdon Community Perpetual Trust.

If you are considering a gift, then the establishment of the Strathdon Community Perpetual Trust makes it possible for your generous support to have a lasting impact.

Strathdon Community has long been supported by various philanthropic trusts and foundations. This has enabled the purchase of many items of much needed essential equipment and importantly, significant contributions enabled us to proceed with the redevelopment project. This included the extension and refurbishment of the nursing home and construction of the Richard E McGarvie Hostel and adjoining Community Centre.

Community support in the form of bequests and perpetual giving when directed to the Strathdon Community Perpetual Trust will ensure an income stream providing financial support in perpetuity.

Included with this newsletter is important information regarding the Strathdon Community Perpetual Trust and I would personally ask that you give serious consideration to providing a meaningful way of ensuring your ongoing support for the work of Strathdon Community.

Within a well managed fund such as the Greater Melbourne Foundation, the Strathdon Community Perpetual Trust can offer taxation advantages and the distribution of income each year after provision has been made for capital growth, thus ensuring a donor’s gift or bequest that lasts forever.

Security of Accommodation Bonds

Late last year the Commonwealth Government introduced legislation into the Parliament to amend the Aged Care Act 1997 which will further strengthen provisions relating to the security of Accommodation Bonds invested by incoming low level care hostel residents.

Of the many provisions contained in the amendments, the most significant is one that provides for arrangements that will ensure a guarantee by the Commonwealth in the event of a default.

This has come about as a result of industry and consumer lobby to ensure both the reputation of legitimate service providers and the funds of our residents are protected.

Strathdon Community has always ensured the protection of Accommodation Bonds through the provision of appropriate insurances and reporting annually within the requirements of the Government’s Prudential Reporting program, but more importantly by investing all deposited Accommodation Bonds with Uniting Church Funds Management. In addition, total bond holdings are reported in our publicly available Annual Financial Report.

With increasing amounts on deposit and the continual growth in the number of bond contributors into residential care, Strathdon Community strives to continue to offer total peace of mind and financial security to all incoming and existing residents for Accommodation Bonds held on deposit.

Information about the current bond requirements, retentions and charges on entry can be obtained from reception at 17 Jolimont Road or the Finance Manager Geoff Watkins on 9845 3142.

Volunteers

Strathdon Council recently approved the funding of a salaried position enabling the on-going co-ordination of volunteer programs across the various residential and community services provided by Strathdon Community.

Sue Davey now works on a limited part time basis on Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon each week undertaking the recruitment and placement of volunteers within the various departments.

If you are considering becoming a volunteer, are able to increase your current commitment or have a particular skill that you think would be of benefit to our many residents, then I would invite you to contact Sue on 9845 3121.

Accreditation

Currently, all of our senior managers and staff are busily engaged in the preparation of our application for the next round of accreditation which is due around June of this year.

Whilst the application itself is a significant task, we have of course been continually working towards the continuation of our accreditation status and an important part of this process is the feedback from our residents, their family and carers, staff and suppliers.

For those who have responded to the various feedback surveys over the past three years or so, thank you very much for your contribution, as this is a very meaningful way in which we are able to demonstrate to the Accreditation Agency both your satisfaction and our responsiveness to your issues and concerns.

We will of course advise you closer to the actual dates of the visit of arrangements available for those who wish to meet with the site assessors to discuss any issues relating to our care and services.

Coming Events

3rd Annual Art Exhibition & Sale 7 – 9 April 2006

I welcome you and your families to attend during the three days of the Art Exhibition. The Art Show begins with the Opening and Presentation of prizes on Friday 7th April, 7pm - 9.30 pm with wine and savouries.

Crazy For You, 18 May 8pm, 21 May 2pm and 24 May 8pm

The Whitehorse Musical Theatre always put on an exceptional show at The Besen Centre in Burwood. The music of Gershwin is particularly well known in this musical, so you are invited to take some time out with your friends and be entertained whilst at the same time supporting Strathdon.

In appreciation of your continuing support,



John Brooks

Chief Executive Officer
