



Uniting Aged Care

Strathdon *Link*

providing quality residential and community services to the aged

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Changed Governance for Strathdon Community

“... the changes are the church recognizing the need to strengthen the entire Uniting Aged Care network ...”

The Standing Committee of The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has announced changes in the governance structure in its aged care services agency, Uniting Aged Care. These changes operate from 1 September, 2006.

The moderator, Rev. Sue Gormann, in her statement of 29 June 2006, advised that the changes are the church recognizing the need to strengthen the entire Uniting Aged Care network through managing the considerable risks the church faces in providing aged care services. Ms Gormann also said that these changes do not reflect a lack of confidence in the commitment, skill or ability of current boards. She acknowledged their generous gifts and dedication.

A new management structure is to operate. It will be led by the Uniting Aged Care Board and the Executive Director of Uniting Aged Care (UAC). UAC is the largest provider of aged care services in Victoria and Tasmania. It offers a full continuum of services with over 1700 residential beds, community programs and Independent Living Units across both states.

Strathdon Community is focusing, as always, on its mission *“to provide quality residential and community services to the aged within the value of a caring Christian community”*. Our mission is achieved through the strong support of dedicated leaders, staff, donors and volunteers.

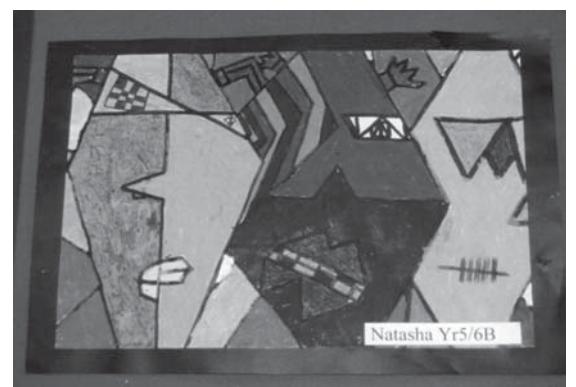


L to R: Louise Birt (nee Kemp), Margaret Kemp and Heather Mikronis (nee Kemp).

with the typing from her daughter, Heather. Margaret also volunteers in the Kiosk, is a member of the Foothills Auxiliary and helps with the Strathdon Fete by providing hand knitted garments.

Celebrating 80 years

Margaret Kemp, a resident at Strathdon celebrated her 80th birthday on the 9th August. Family and friends shared afternoon tea and a birthday cake. Margaret has three daughters, Heather Mikronis, Louise Birt and Anne Kemp. Margaret writes the Residents' Community Newsletter and has some help



Winning artwork from Natasha Years 5-6, Parkmore Primary School.

Children's Art Competition & Show... more inside

Minister Santoro commenting on Commonwealth Funding

The Minister for Ageing Santo Santoro has recently announced funding for programs which aim to improve services to older Australians in residential aged care. He was pleased to announce that –

“As part of the budget on 9 May 2006, funding of \$21.6 million over 4 years has been made available for a program to encourage best practice and improve clinical care for people in residential aged care. This program will provide a competitive financial incentive for residential aged care services to work with clinical researchers and research institutions to develop and implement best practice in clinical care. The projects will inform and impact on all Australian Government funded residential aged care services. Leading aged care services will work with groups of aged care homes, researchers and educators to produce the most up-to-date, evidence based, care practices. This will include clinical assessment, medication

management, wound management, infection control, oral health and falls prevention.”¹

and he advised of –

“An opportunity for accredited aged care providers to access Commonwealth funding to train residential aged care workers. Funding is available to assist 15,750 personal care workers in residential care facilities to upgrade their qualifications. This is the third tranche of funding under the Australian Government’s \$56 million vocational education and training component of the *Better Skills for Better Care* program. Through this round of this initiative, personal care workers can receive training in Certificate III and Certificate IV in Aged Care Work and Certificate IV in Lifestyle and Leisure. The training must be delivered by registered training organizations.”

It is important that the wider community is aware of government decisions in relation to this sector.

“The projects will inform and impact on all Australian Government funded Residential aged care services.” Santo Santoro

¹ “Care Essentials”, Santo Santoro, Department of Health and Ageing, June 2006 © Commonwealth of Australia reproduced by permission.

Jazz Band Entertains at Strathdon

On the 28th July, the residents gathered in the Community Centre for a great afternoon’s entertainment. Ian Crosby, who works in Finance at Strathdon, (pictured left with his daughter Grace) is the son of the leading trumpeter, John Crosby (pictured below centre). The band has eight members. Their visit was very much appreciated.



Youth in Philanthropy

“The test of a people is how it behaves toward the old. It is easy to love children. Even tyrants and dictators make a point of being fond of children. But affection and care of the old, the incurable, the helpless, are the true gold mines of a culture.”

- Philosopher Abraham Joshua Heschel

The Lord Mayor’s Charitable Fund has inspired school students to be in touch with philanthropy. Through a process of mentoring and connection with human beings and situations



“The test of a people is how it behaves towards the old . . .” Abraham Joshua Heschel

of need, a compelling model of social justice education is evolving. Education is about the whole person. How fortunate Strathdon has been to be involved with this program. A visit from informed, questioning, Year 10 students from The King David School was a recent highlight for Strathdon Community. This group of students will assess, after visiting a number of organizations, how to disperse an amount allocated to them by the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Fund.

The philosopher Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (see quote), was a social activist. He was also an educator and academic. His passion for social justice led him to walk with Martin Luther King Jr in the protest march at Selma, Alabama. He addressed the White House Conference on Ageing and he also addressed the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

We have been inspired by the actions of the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Fund with their progressive thinking and by the youth from The King David School who are the possible philanthropists and social activists of the future.

Above L to R: Robyn Stanton and Allan Kaufman from the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Fund, students and John Waller from The King David School, Armadale.



Above: Dante, Winner Prep-4 from Parkmore Primary School.

Centre: Nathan, Winner Prep-4 from Burwood Heights Primary School.

Right: Sir Arvi Parbo (Patron), Judy Boler (Principal Parkmore P.S.) and Debbie Coulter (Art Co-ordinator Parkmore P.S.).

Children’s Art Competition & Show 11-12 August

The presentation evening on the 11th August was well attended by residents from Strathdon and representatives from local primary schools, with Parkmore Primary School being the “Overall Winning School”. The Principal Judy Boler with Debbie Coulter, the Art-Co-ordinator was handed the school prize by Sir Arvi Parbo AC. Other primary schools participating were Highvale, St Timothy’s and Burwood Heights. Al DeGroot, an established artist, judged the art submissions and awarded prizes to each school in the following categories: Prep - Year 4 and Years 5 to 6.

'Play Pals' Playgroup

A group of mothers who met at Forest Hill Maternal & Child Health Centre, have recently organised a playgroup which meets every Thursday, 2 to 4pm in Strathdon's Community Centre. Their babies celebrate their first birthdays in September and October. New parents with babies are welcome. Please contact Amanda Fallscheer on Mobile phone: 0417 511 575.



Above: Mothers with their babies from the Play Pals Playgroup. **Left:** Babies at play.

Yarra Valley Singers "Christmas in July" 8 July

The Community Centre was alive with the sound of harmonious voices singing well known Christmas carols. It was a time to simply enjoy the familiar music and also to participate. A very enjoyable afternoon's entertainment which attracted local community and residents.



Above: The Yarra Valley Singers perform at Strathdon.



Strathdon's Commemorative Pathway

Would our volunteers and others be interested in donating a gold coin towards the cost of a brick to recognise and remember our Volunteers in a permanent way? Please leave donations marked for the Volunteer Co-ordinator at Reception, 17 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill.



Ritchies Community Benefit Card

Save money and help Strathdon Community by shopping at Ritchies

1% of the money you spend on groceries and liquor will be automatically donated back to us.

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Yes, I would like a **Ritchies Community Benefit Card** and nominate **Strathdon Community** as my charity.

Send my Ritchies Community Benefit Card to:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ please print

_____/_____/_____/ P/CODE: _____

PHONE: _____
Return this completed form in the reply-paid envelope to:
Ann Chan, Strathdon Community, 17 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill VIC 3131.

Phone: 9845 3104