

# GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY EDITION

On a cool autumn morning in May, 150 guests and residents gathered in the stunning foyer of the new building to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Mayflower as a company and officially open the Brighton facility.



## A grand day for Brighton

Trevor Martyn, Chairman of the Mayflower Board, welcomed distinguished guests, including the Hon Andrew Robb (Federal Member for Goldstein), the Hon Louise Asher (State Member for Brighton), Elizabeth Miller (State Member for Bentleigh) and Bayside Councillors, Felicity Frederico, Clifford Hayes and James Long.



In officially opening the facility, Andrew Robb remarked on his long association with Mayflower, his enjoyment at visiting and meeting residents and highlighted the close links he had established with Frances Mirabelli (CEO), whose leadership he admired.



It was announced on the day that the magnificent centre would be named after George Anderson, a former resident who had generously bequeathed more than \$1 million to Mayflower.

Generous supporters of Mayflower, John and Julie Chestney, were present to hear that the first floor of the building would be named the Pat and Herb Rasmussen Floor in recognition of Julie's parents who were past residents of Mayflower.

Recognition was given to Frances Mirabelli whose skill, dedication and hard work had steered the course of the building program together with the elected local representatives who had offered support, and the generous people whose donations had helped to make it all possible.

The second floor of the building has been named in honour of Ada Hyde, a former staff member who had also left a major bequest to Mayflower.



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## FROM THE CEO'S desk

So much has been written concerning the history of Mayflower, but history is worth repeating, especially when it's as inspiring as our own.

More than half a century ago a Welshman, Reverend Syd Henshall, left Watford in England and came to Australia to share the ministry leadership of the Collins Street Independent Church (now St. Michael's Uniting Church) with Lyall Dixon.

In 1960, Syd conceived the idea of a residential facility for aged people and with the support of his good friend, Keith Norman, they combined courage and determination to fulfil the dream.

Development through the years added to the dream. In 2007, the Mayflower Board, under the leadership of Keith's son, Peter Norman, made the courageous decision to redevelop the facility. This is the biggest venture undertaken by the company since its inception in 1961. The Mayflower Board, whose members are all volunteers, is to be congratulated on what they have achieved.

The completion of the first stage of the redevelopment has helped to make Mayflower a benchmark for all that is good, innovative and visionary in aged care. We are not the biggest player in the industry, but we punch well above our weight when it comes to aged care.

There are so many people deserving of recognition for what has been achieved and while space may not permit me to name them all, I would like to mention some. Special thanks to our donors, the philanthropic trusts, John and Julie Chestney and John Shellard as well as friends now deceased, George Anderson and Ada Hyde

Thank you to the architects Derek Pitt and John Borell for their creative design and to the builders, S J Higgins and the site foreman, Eric Deed.

I would like to express appreciation to our consultants, especially Bob Jeffs and John Warren, from Gallagher Jeffs, who pulled the project together and directed it to its completion.



Our major project partner is Westpac and their team, led by John Rubina, has helped to make possible the completion of Stage 1.

The unsung heroes of this journey have been our residents and staff. They have lived and worked in and around a noisy, dusty construction zone for almost two years. My special thanks to David Cotton (Chief Financial Officer), Ewa Kryszak (Quality Manager) and to each staff member whose commitment and hard work are second to none.

Finally, an achievement of this magnitude just doesn't happen without some sacrifice on the home front and I am grateful to my husband Dean and my family for their invaluable support.

All that is left for me to say is again thank you to all who have been involved in any way.

Frances Mirabelli  
Chief Executive Officer

# Back to the future



In his welcome speech at the official opening of the George Anderson Building, Trevor Martyn (Chairman, Mayflower Board), invited the gathered crowd to cast their minds back to the year 2005.

The Mayflower Board had just appointed Frances Mirabelli as Chief Executive Officer and together they faced the fact that most of the ageing buildings on site did not meet the required standards for future aged care. To add to their concerns, the company's financial position was precarious.

Within a few years, Mayflower has 'turned the ship around', constructing a modern facility that sets the gold standard for the industry and engaging in a progressive building program that will have replaced all the old buildings on site by the year 2012.

In the same period, Mayflower has added to the company Mayflower Reservoir and Mayflower Macleod with plans to build a residential facility on the latter site.

Continued progress is being made against the background of a solid balance sheet that positions Mayflower to meet the future.

In his final remarks, Trevor noted that none of this progress would have been possible without the skill, dedication and sheer hard work of Frances Mirabelli.

## George Anderson Building

When George and Shirley Anderson moved to Mayflower, they made the decision to give their support in whatever way they could. Both an only child in their separate families and having no family of their own, they were devoted to each other and - one would have to add - their golf! When Shirley died, George was grateful for the support of his fellow residents.

During his 89th year, George moved into the nursing home, where he remained until his death in 2006. In all that time, he

had never revealed his intention to leave such a generous bequest gift to Mayflower.



## Lois and Ian Shellard Family Foyer

People walking into our new building for the first time usually remark on the spaciousness and beauty of the foyer. Mayflower has been proud to name this area The Lois and Ian Shellard Family Foyer in recognition of the parents of John Shellard, a long time friend and generous supporter of Mayflower.



## Ada Hyde House

Ada Elizabeth Hyde lived in Mentone and worked at Mayflower for more than twenty years, during which time she assisted with the cleaning of residents' flats. A donor to Mayflower's quarterly mailings, Ada had quietly intimated that she had named Mayflower as a beneficiary in her Will. When Ada died in May 2006, Mayflower was notified of her bequest.

We have recently made contact with Ada's surviving sister, Freda (another sister, Edna died last year) to notify her of the recognition given to Ada and invite her to visit Mayflower.



## Pat and Herb Rasmussen House

To perpetuate the memory of her devoted parents Herb and Pat Rasmussen, Julie Chestney made a generous contribution to the Mayflower building appeal.

Before moving to Mayflower, Herb and Pat, known for their friendliness and love of doing things together, lived in East Ivanhoe where they were very involved in their local church. Herb was a bio-chemist at CSL for 35 years. They were the proud grandparents of Elizabeth.

Pat moved to Mayflower shortly before Herb and sadly, passed away in 2000.

Herb continued to live in an independent unit until shortly before his death in 2007.

Julie's gift, which prompted Mayflower to name the first floor of the new facility the Pat and Herb Rasmussen House, commemorates the memory of two loving and caring people.



## Margaret Beynon House

The name of Margaret Beynon (former Board Member) has been maintained with the dementia specific unit now located on the lower floor. This area also includes the archives, laundry and kitchen.

## Going to the Cinema

Going to the cinema for many of the older generation was a regular feature of their lives and that nostalgic experience has been recaptured for them in the new cinema situated in the foyer, to the right of the lifts. Movies will become a popular form of entertainment

## Two birthdays in one



Ralph Sierakowski has celebrated almost twice as many birthdays as Mayflower, but this year 17 May was 'extra special' as he was able to combine his 95th birthday with that of Mayflower's 50th and the official opening of the new facility. Ralph proudly joined Frances Mirabelli to cut the celebration birthday cake as the large crowd sang the familiar birthday melody.

# Some things never change!

As a resident of Mayflower Brighton for 15 years, Tom Collier has seen many changes, but none more dramatic than that which has occurred over the past two years. He has watched as familiar buildings were demolished and a state-of-the-art-facility constructed.

Prior to becoming a resident, Tom had been a frequent visitor to Mayflower, firstly visiting his father-in-law, Robert Gunn and then supporting his wife, Jean who had worked as a volunteer in the library. Jean died in 1986

Ten years later, Tom sold their home and moved to Mayflower.

Tom initially took up residence in Shambrook Lodge where the tenants lived as a family, their meals prepared each day by "two wonderful ladies" working at Margaret Beynon House.

It was not long before Tom was asked by management to accept responsibility as chairman of the Residents' Committee. The committee's crowning achievement was to convince management to purchase the Mayflower bus which changed many aspects of life for the residents.

Later, he was asked to represent the residents on the fundraising committee, ably chaired by long time friend of Mayflower, John King. This appeal raised funds for the development of the Rennolds building.

While he continues to see change as Stage 2 commences, Tom is adamant that two things remain unchanged - the kindness and friendship of fellow residents and the wonderful caring shown by Mayflower's efficient staff!



## A giant leap into aged care



At age 26, Louise Temminghoff is an exceptional woman who has a Bachelor of Nursing degree, 'loves aged care' and is committed to lifting Mayflower's current high quality care to an even higher level. In the two months she has been at Mayflower, she has come to appreciate the sense of team among the staff and finds her work with the residents immensely rewarding.

Louise describes coming from a surgical background to aged care as quite a jump, but one that is right for her. Her surgical and teaching experience at some well known hospitals has equipped her with management skills, but most importantly, helped her decide that she can make a worthwhile contribution to the care of aged people.

Since her appointment as Clinical Care Coordinator, Louise has been busy with the administration required to ensure that Mayflower continues to be accredited. She acknowledges that Mayflower has wonderfully experienced staff in its personal carers, enrolled nurses and Division 1 nurses.

Among her goals for Mayflower, Louise hopes to implement a smoother-running work roster, a competitive reward system that will aim to decrease staff sick leave through encouragement, affirmation and experiencing the personal rewards of working in aged care, especially at Mayflower.

## Donate to Mayflower

- I would like to discuss including Mayflower in my Will
- Please send me information about making a bequest to Mayflower
- I have already included Mayflower in my Will

yes • • • • •

I want to make a 50th Anniversary Gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Mayflower

Please find my cheque enclosed OR

Please debit my  Visa  Mastercard

Card No.

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DONATIONS TO MAYFLOWER ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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