Turning the page

SUMMER 2016



Latest news, services and developments of ACH Group

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Katrina shares her wisdom with Housing residents

Paralympian Katrina Webb AO gave an inspiring address as part of the ACH Group Housing Annual General Meeting at The Adelaide Oval in October.

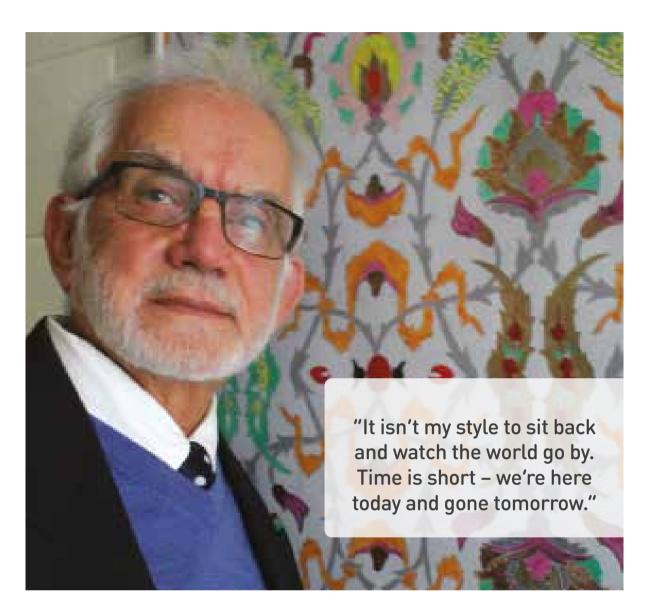
The medal-winning athlete shared the story of how she refused to let a diagnosis of cerebral palsy get in the way of her dreams of sporting and personal success. She said her three core values were to always try to be the best version of herself, to be authentic, and to consider how each decision she made would affect others.

"I wonder what life is going to bring me that I don't even know exists yet? That's what excites me every day," she said.

A record 274 housing residents attended the meeting and lunch to hear about the latest news and outlook from ACH Group. ACH Group General Manager Corporate Services and Housing Michael Elias said despite the changing landscape in aged care over the last 12 months, the future was bright.

"It's going to be a future based on partnerships, one that encourages self-determination and independence among older people," he said. "We believe that older people want services that allow them to retain control over their lives."





MOHAMED BEGINS A NEW CHAPTER

Adelaide cabinet maker Mohamed Sayed Evans' love of calligraphy is helping shape a new career as an artist and teacher at the age of 77.

Mr Evans sold his Lonsdale-based interiors and shopfitting business last year but it wasn't long before he found the need to embark on a new challenge.

"It isn't my style to sit back and watch the world go by," he says. "Time is short – we're here today and gone tomorrow. I love to create and to work."

Mr Evans paints and frames exquisite pieces of traditional Arabic art and Islamic calligraphy, drawing on an interest he first developed as a teenager in his country of birth, South Africa.

He was artist-in-residence during the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) festival at the Multicultural Communities Council of SA, where seven of his works were on display.

He is enjoying strong interest and demand for his work, being commissioned to create a work for new Islamic school Garden College at Parafield Gardens.

ACH Group's Fiona Telford-Sharp says Mr Evans' story is a great example of how people can reinvent and rediscover new opportunities at any stage of their lives.

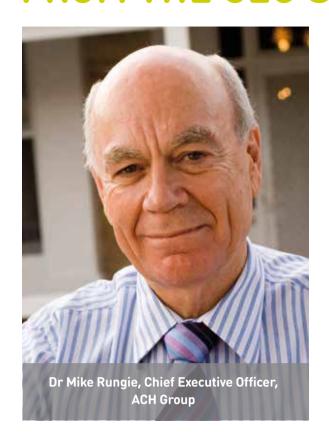
"When people retire, they often find themselves wondering 'what am I going to do with the next 30 or 40 years of my life?'", she says.

"They might want to use their skills and experience, or to try something new and completely different." she says.

Fiona is the driving force behind ACH Group membership network The Exchange, which unveiled a new look as part of the Adelaide Festival of Ideas in October. The Exchange also presented a business lunch on the topic 'Don't Retire Your Dreams of Business Success' along with Flinders University's New Venture Institute, an initiative of Flinders University.

Read more about the new-look Exchange and how you can get involved on page 5.

FROM THE CEO'S DESK



There's a lot of talk about innovation, particularly involving technology, and it can be both exciting and worrying. Older people are telling us they want to be part of the excitement – but without the worry.

And when it comes to technology to support ageing, older people are saying don't invent things we don't need, don't complicate things, and don't make things that we want hard to use.

Some designers are starting to listen. They have even worked out that the best way to achieve this might just be to involve older people in the design of technology, and certainly the testing.

Internationally, we are starting to see aged care organisations working with

entrepreneurs so that they can design and test products as people live their daily lives. Feedback from older people has been that many really enjoy being involved and making a contribution to both startup businesses and older people generally... especially when they get paid to do it!

This relationship between business and older people is even becoming formalised in some countries, into Living Laboratories. Older people living in their own homes or in aged care services sign up to become members of a Living Laboratory. They agree to be part of designing and testing products and to provide information on how they live. In return they get access to training, networks, information... and even purpose.

Sounds better than bingo.

Plans for Open Daws take shape

An ACH Group-led consortium known as 'Open Daws' will redevelop the Repatriation General Hospital site into a world class centre of excellence comprising health, education, accommodation, ageing and Veterans' services.

As an organisation with a long history of serving the Veteran community, ACH Group is delighted to be leading this project, which will establish a community that opens the door for participation in a wide range of life opportunities with greater personal choice. We will create a precinct that supports the rights of individuals to make choices about the way they live and provide quality services to support those who need them.

The Open Daws consortium is made up of a range of other specialist agencies - Anglicare, Flinders University, RDNS, Healthscope and Adelaide Community Healthcare Alliance - whose expertise will complement that of ACH Group to deliver a range of services.

Services could include:

- Education
- Aged Care Accommodation
- Transition Care
- Affordable Housing
- Independent Living Units
- Function Centre
- Childcare Centre

ACH Group already has a presence on the site, having established ViTA there in 2014. ViTA is a state of the art centre that supports older people to rehabilitate, regain health and live good lives through accessing residential, transitional, and short term care. Services offered at ViTA will be complemented by new services coming on site.

We appreciate that the Repat site is of great significance to the community in general and the Veterans' community in particular, and so we are undertaking extensive community consultation to ensure that the redevelopment is sympathetic to the history of the site. We are already working closely with RSL SA and will reach out to other Veterans' groups during the consultation process to incorporate their views in the masterplanning process.

It is our intent to preserve the sprit of the site by maintaining the heritage buildings including the General Hospital Chapel and the SPF Hall, and the Remembrance Garden wil be retained and enhanced.

We look forward to sharing more updates as plans unfold.

"I am absolutely confident they will deliver an outstanding and unique new precinct for the community."

Health Minister Jack Snelling

Turning the Page is an ACH Group publication. If you have any questions or would like to subscribe to the publication, please contact the Marketing and Communications Team on telephone **(08) 8159 3600**.

For more information about any of ACH Group's programs please contact 1300 224 477.









@ACH Group

VETERANS SIT FOR SECOND WAR PORTRAIT

The last time Harry Ray had his official war portrait taken, he was just 17 years old and about to head to sea with the Royal Australian Navy to fight for the Allies during World War Two.

In September he and three other WW2 veterans sat for a second portrait at Kapara Residential Living as part of an Anzac Centenary project.

They are among 7,000 veterans across Australia whose photographs will be compiled into a book to be presented to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AAIPP) spokesperson Louise Bagger, who travelled to Glenelg South to capture the portraits, says the project is about saying 'thank you' to veterans.

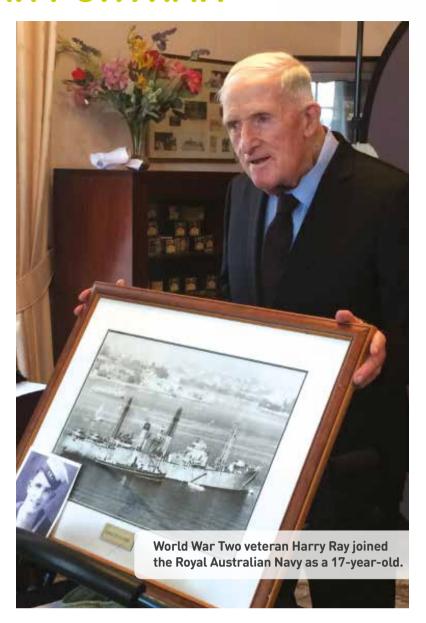
"Many of these veterans had a formal portrait taken during the war and we wanted to provide this bookend to say thank you and to honour them for their service," she says. "For me it is a real privilege because what these people went through is incredible."

The project began on Anzac Day last year when the AIPP put out a call to veterans, families and friends to invite them to register. A total of 450 photographers signed up to volunteer their time, many of them travelling long distances to reach veterans living in remote parts of the country.

Louise, who served for 15 years in the Navy, says many veterans are humble and would prefer to let the memory of war die with their mates.

"These people walk amongst us every day and we wouldn't know that they served in World War Two. It was an incredible time that they lived through, and now that we are two generations on, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren want to know what they did. It's quite special and important."

Each of the residents will receive a free portrait. Families and friends are invited to purchase extra copies to raise money for the RSL and Legacy, via www.aippreflections.fotomerchant.com.



Sun-Life visitors enjoy a warm welcome





Perry Park resident Rae Perin was delighted to learn how to write her name in 'kanji', one of three Japanese alphabets, when the Sun-Life exchange group visited the Port Noarlunga home in September.

The group of 14 professionals from the aged care sector in Japan visited ACH Group sites to engage with staff, customers and volunteers to learn more about our Good Lives approach.

During their visit to Perry Park, the group exchanged gifts including tiny hand-stitched fabric animals, created by a Sun-Life resident as part of her rehabilitation. Host Michaela Kristan, who travelled to Japan with six other ACH Group hosts in October, said the residents were delighted to learn how to write their names using unique calligraphy pens.

"The group left the calligraphy pens and paper behind as a gift, so that everyone could keep practicing," she says.

Michaela, a support worker for ACH Group's Community Services, says it was obvious the group enjoyed their time. They also visited Gorge Wildlife Park, the Whispering Wall and Barossa Valley. The program has been undertaken for the past decade with annual visits to Australia and bi-annual visits by ACH Group employees to Japan.

Ted's journey takes a happy turn

Ted Setnikar was just four years old when he was sold to a farmer by his alcoholic father in exchange for cigarettes and two bottles of schnapps.

Born in Slovenia in 1948, Ted was the youngest of 10 children born into a life of poverty. His mother was killed by lightning on his first birthday, leaving his father increasingly unable to cope.

Ted was taken to join his sister at a farm where he endured years of physical and mental abuse until he was eventually placed in an orphanage.

In 1967, he escaped the country and migrated to Australia, where he faced further challenges at a time when homosexuality was illegal.

At the age of 68, Ted has found peace and happiness. He works as a volunteer, lives with his partner in the Adelaide Hills and practices Soka Gakkai, a Japanese form of Buddhism which promotes peace and happiness. He wrote a book about his experiences which he now sells to raise money for the Hutt Street Centre for homeless.

He joined a panel of speakers brought together by ACH Group at the Adelaide Festival of Ideas in October. We asked him to reflect on his experiences and share his ideas on the panel's topic, 'Reinvent, rediscover and have a voice.'

Q: When did your life change for the better?

A: The earliest big change for me was when I went into an orphanage and discovered that there was such a thing as kindness. In the orphanage, I was with children in a similar situation. No doubt, a lot of us had a scar. A scar stays in your heart, memory stays in your mind. That never goes away, but you learn to live with it, and when you do, you can move ahead. If you stay in your state of misery, well then that's the end, really. When I was about 16 or 17 and left the orphanage, I decided that I would never deliberately hurt anyone, or do to anyone what people have done to me.

Q: When did you become a Buddhist?

A: I joined Japanese Buddhism 20 years ago when I saw a (ABC TV) Compass program

about it. I said to myself, well I've been practicing this since the age of 16. So I went to the meeting, and fell in. That was me. We practice humanity, the philosophy of life.

Q: Your thoughts on reinvention?

A: I have never tried to be anybody else. At the end of the day people will accept you the way you are. In my case, when people find out my sexuality, nobody cares about it.

If you put three children together, a Christian, a Muslim and a child of gay parents, the only thing they will argue about is toys. They won't care what religion the other child is, or who their parents are. I find it the same with older people. I drive a bus and my partner volunteers as a carer. As people get older, I find that they just don't care about little things any more, and they accept you as you are.

When it comes to my cultural identity, I marry the two. I take the good parts of Slovenian culture – the music, for example – but there are things I like about being Australian, so I'm not fully Aussie and I'm not fully Slovenian. But I love it here and I wouldn't go anywhere else.

Q: And retirement?

A: There is no such thing as retirement. It's only a transition from regimental hours and commitments to flexible commitments. I do voluntary work now and I have lots of commitments. I used to have Saturday and Sunday off – now I never have two days off in a row. I always wanted to write a book and when I retired I got up one morning at four o'clock and started writing. I got up at four o'clock most mornings for two years.

Then I got involved with ACH Group Good Lives on Film. I've also been involved in the Free to Be Project.

Q: What is most important to you?

A: There are a few very important things in life. One is to be free. In my life, I've always been searching for that freedom.

First there was the political freedom I wanted, to have freedom from relatives so that I could choose my own destiny.

When I came to Australia I learned that I was illegal because I was gay and I was sent

to a psychiatrist. To be as free as we are in Australia today, that's what I was hoping to achieve one day.

Q: What do you hope to achieve with your book?

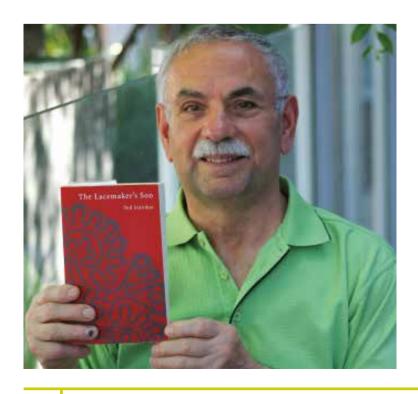
For myself, writing has been a healing process. When you talk about the pain you have, you feel better when you share how you feel. There were many times I would sit down and I would burst out crying and I couldn't write. There's a poem I wrote about my mother and now, it still makes me sad, but I can read it.

I hope that anyone who reads my book might find some healing for themselves because there are a lot of people who still have hatred towards somebody, often someone in their family, and they haven't been in touch for many years. My advice to them is to always, as soon as you can, go to the one you hate and make peace. Because that will bring you freedom. I went to visit my Dad, and Maria at the farm, and I gave them both a hug. My sister said 'Oh, how could you?' I told her it's because I don't want to carry my pain around with me any more.

When you make peace and embrace that person, that's the beginning of the ultimate, and the ultimate in life is love. And I know, because I know what it's like when you haven't got it, and I know now when you do have it. Love for myself, love for fellow human beings and love for the environment.

I get lots of mail from people who have read the book who say how much it has helped them, and that they're going to give it to their daughter or sister because they're sure it's going to help them. The nicest thing was when one lady sent me a pair of gloves and a scarf and a note that said 'I hope you will never be cold again'. The book really changed my life. It opened doors and now doors continue opening. I believe the book opened the door to ACH Group and now, being involved with this organisation, other doors are opening.

Ted's book *The Lacemaker's Son* is available from www.huttstcentre.org.au





Ken jazzes up his world with music

With a musical family, and a lifelong love of jazz, Ken Riley was always going to pick up the trumpet. It was just a matter of when.

In Ken's case, it took a special gift from his late wife on his 50th birthday – and a gentle nudge from his second wife a few years later – to turn his interest into a passion.

Today, at 75 years, Ken is a seasoned performer, having played everywhere from the Adelaide Town Hall to Christmas pageants, the Adelaide Fringe, the Santos Tour Down Under, churches, the parklands and the Adelaide Zoo.

"I always loved music as a child and I remember tinkering on my aunt's piano. She was a professional pianist and my uncle led the Memphis City Blues jazz band, so there was musical talent in the family. But no-one really talked about music, and no-one suggested I take up an instrument. So it never really clicked in my head that I could do it."

When Ken was nearing his 50th birthday, his late wife Hilda asked what he would like for his birthday. "I told her that I'd like a trumpet and a few lessons to get me started. And that's what I got!"

Hilda passed away shortly after his birthday, and after a time, he packed his trumpet away. It was his second wife, Julie, who found the trumpet tucked away in the cupboard one day and encouraged him to pick it up again. The rest, as they say, is history.

In the past 25 years, Ken has played in a range of bands, including the City of Holdfast Bay Concert Band, the City of Adelaide Band and Second Wind Ensemble, a 'late starters' band. Today he says he has found his musical niche with the Henley and Grange Concert Band.

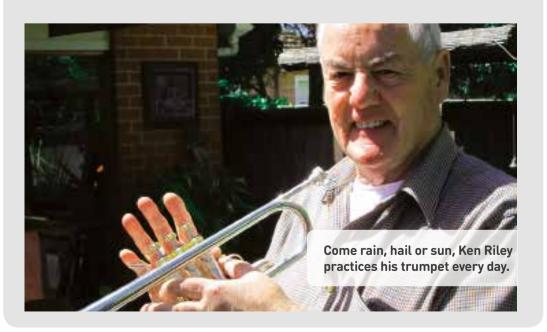
Ken combines his passion for music with volunteer work at Camden Community Centre, where he is active in the Community Garden and Men's Shed.

His role as an active volunteer was highlighted in ACH Group's Good Lives on Film project. Ken says making the film was great fun. "I learned a lot and by the end of filming our group was the best of friends."

Ken encouraged others to take up an instrument, regardless of their age.

"Once you get over the anxious stage, where you have to juggle learning to read music and the instrument itself, it opens up your world. I've met so many interesting people and have visited so many interesting places as a result of my music."

He doesn't plan to stop playing the trumpet – or piano, which he took up 12 years ago – any time soon. "I've just bought myself a new German trumpet, so I have to keep playing for a while yet!"



A NEW ERA FOR THE EXCHANGE



ACH Group's membership network The Exchange unveiled a brand new look at the Adelaide Festival of Ideas in October.

The network is now open to anyone aged 50 years and over who want to reinvent, rediscover and find their voice. Group members get involved in regular events, courses and experiences allowing them to share ideas, stay sharp and keep connected.

One of the group's flagship achievements has been the Good Lives on Film program, which has seen a total of 11 films produced by 17 filmmakers and 130 people on screen and behind the scenes. Other activities include a writer's blog, a habit change group and online learning program.

ACH Group's Fiona Telford-Sharp says the network is aimed at people who are asking themselves 'what next?'.

"They might have retired, or moved, or their circumstances might have changed, and they're ready to reinvent themselves, to work out what they're going to do for the next 10, 20 or 30 years of their lives. We seek out interesting opportunities for our members, so that they can be challenged, try something new, learn and grow."

Fiona says exciting plans are underway for a third Good Lives on Film 'bootcamp' for budding filmmakers in 2017.

"One thing I've learned from people is that when they retire they may want to use their skills and talents, or they might have always harboured a great desire to do something different – and finally have the chance," she says.

"The might want to write, learn an instrument, make a film. You can take up something at 50, 60 or 70 and become an expert, and that's really quite exciting."

A win for our film-makers

The Exchange's Good Lives on Film program took out the Creative Arts award at the 2016 COTA SA Positive Ageing Awards in October, presented as part of the Every Generation Festival Postive Ageing Awards.

To join the Exchange, visit www.ach.org.au/theexchange or phone 1300 224 447.

Film-makers Cris Davies, Kitty Gilchrist, Irene Ashley and Akhter Rahman with Fiona Telford-Sharp.



Little teddies come to life at Perry Park

Each day at ACH Group Perry Park Village, a small group of dedicated knitters gently click away to brighten the lives of sick children across Adelaide.

Known as the Perry Park Activities Group, these knitters have together produced hundreds of furry little bears called 'trauma teddies.'

"Every time I finish a trauma teddy I say to myself: 'there's another happy child,'" says knitter and group founder, Pat Adam. Pat says she was an avid knitter all her life, until the pain of arthritis in her hands and fingers put a stop to her hobby.

"I thought resting my hands would ease the pain, but my doctor told me to keep my hands and fingers moving, so I took up knitting again."

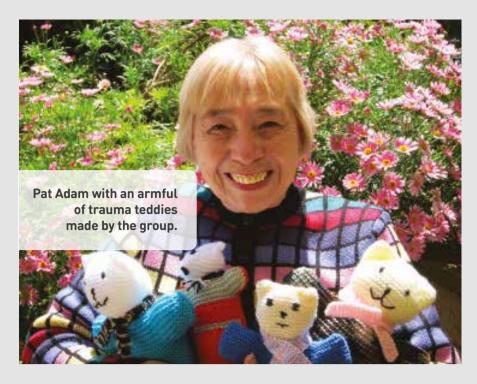
One day, while chatting to fellow Perry Park resident and longterm trauma teddy maker, Joan Vanderkley, she decided to try her hand at a trauma teddy.

"And now I make five a week!" Pat says.

The teddies are donated to Flinders Medical Centre and the Women's and Children's Hospital and are given to sick children to help ease the pain and trauma of being in hospital.

Pat says making trauma teddies is not only pleasurable, but makes her feel good knowing that she is helping others.

The Perry Park Activities Group – which was boosted by an ACH Group Grant when it began in April this year – also makes baby rugs for McLaren Vale Private Hospital, tea cosies, scarves and beanies and other craft items.



The group meets once a week, but doesn't always knit. "Sometimes we do exercises, sometimes craft activities and sometimes we just play games," Pat says.

The group is currently knitting up a storm for Perry Park's first ever Garden Party for residents, which will be held later this year.

Are you interested in joining a social group? ACH Group's Social Support programs help people to maintain their social interests or foster new ones, through a range of local group or one-on-one activities. We have art groups, choirs, exercise groups, movie groups, bus tours and cooking groups. Transport is available on request and people living with dementia or who require assistance with mobility are welcome.

Call 1300 224 477 or visit www.ach.org.au/social to find out more.

Art class brings generations together

Residents at Milpara Residential Living, Rostrevor, know when it's time for art time with a group of kindergarten students – they hear the giggles.



Once a month on a Wednesday afternoon a busload of energetic preschoolers from Emali Child Care Hectorville arrive at Milpara to share art with residents. As they wander through, the group lights up the faces of staff, volunteers and residents as they shout a happy 'hello!'.

Lifestyle coordinator Daniel Antonello hands out colouring sheets and textas and the children settle down to colour, proudly showing off their work as they go. The children also sing some of their favourite songs with the group.

Emali Child Care Hectorville Director Leanne Barker says the program has been a great success since it began 18 months ago.

"It's a great opportunity for us to connect with the community and I think it's also a good experience for the children to go out and meet

different age groups," she says. "And, of course, it's clear that the residents love it as well."

Resident Carole Duvoisin says she looks forward to the visits. "I think it's fantastic to share this time with the kids," she says. "It's nice to see the very old and very young together – we all enjoy it."

Northern Regional Residential Services Manager Graham Harding says the program sits well with ACH Group's core values.

"Research shows that people who are active and socially connected are happier and have a better sense of wellbeing and overall health," he says. "By bringing the generations together, we are providing an opportunity for people who live in our residential homes to remain connected and engage with the community."

Catherina celebrates with a gym session

Catherina van der Linden celebrated her 104th birthday in one of the places she feels most comfortable – the gym.



Catherina signed up to the ACH Group Life Exercises program at Glenelg in June last year and never misses a session.

She heard about the weekly program, which covers strength, conditioning, balance and fitness from her daughter Mariella Hocking, who also attends.

"We have created a fitness program tailored to what Catherina wants to focus on," he says.

"She always strives to push further and is not afraid to go the extra mile."

ACH Group Fitness Team Leader Angus Smart says Catherina is passionate about keeping active and fit and is an inspiration to many others at the gym.

"We have created a fitness program tailored to what Catherina wants to focus on," he says. "She always strives to push further and is not afraid to go the extra mile."

Angus says the program provides physical, mental and social benefits to older people. "Exercising regularly is good for health and fitness, it helps to prevent injuries and to recover from injuries faster," he says. "But there is also the social aspect of coming to the gym, meeting people and not being isolated that older people value too."

Mrs van der Linden migrated from the Netherlands and settled in Glenelg in the 1950s. For almost 30 years she tended a 1.2ha property with cows and sheep at Aldgate before returning to the Bay in 2004. The ACH Group Life Exercise Program is held in a gym at Glenelg using a range of equipment including bikes, treadmills and strength equipment.

To join an ACH Group Life Exercise Program near you, visit www.ach.org.au/good-health or phone 1300 224 447.

Dogo and Jean happy to help

Five years ago, Jean Milnes visited ACH Group's residential facility in Yankalilla for a 'Dances with Dogs' demonstration. She brought along her labrador Dogo, who moved all the way from the UK with her.

Residents enjoyed it so much that Jean and Dogo signed on as ACH Group volunteers.

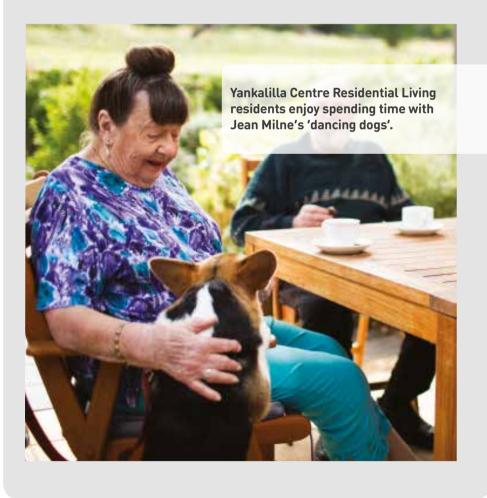
Pet therapy in residential aged care facilities, retirement living, home and community care and rehabilitation centres and hospices is growing in popularity.

Research has shown a few minutes of stroking a pet can decrease levels of stress hormones and help alleviate stress related disorders. Simply playing with pets can be beneficial, boosting neurotransmitters which help humans feel loved, calm and relaxed.

ACH Group Lifestyle coordinator Rosslyn Price says the dogs often help residents to socialise. "Residents that are often more introverted will come out and socialise with Jean and the dogs," she says. "It is the highlight of their day and sometimes the only interaction they want to have."

Jean says the next step for her is to train a cat to join the dogs. "I love how the residents' faces lighten up when they see the dogs. The long-term goal for me is to train a cat because I know many people would enjoy that, too." Jean also volunteers for the disability sector.

To find out more about residential housing at Yankalilla, visit www.ach.org.au/homes/residential-care/locations



The ACH Group Foundation For Older Australians

Wisdom event takes off



The atmosphere was electric when ACH Group's Sing for Joy Choir took over the terminal at the Adelaide Airport for a 'Flash Mob' event to shine a light on the wisdom that older people possess and break down stereotypes around ageing.

Renowned South Australian surrealist artist Andrew Baines worked closely with The ACH Group Foundation to bring the Wisdom at the Airport project to life.

The event generated a "bubble of excitement" that sent waves of interest through the airport.

Prominent South Australians including former Premier Lynn Arnold, Lieutenant Governor and ACH Group Board Member Professor Brenda Wilson, Phil Hoffman Travel's Phil Hoffman and former Department of Transport head Rod Hook signed up to be transformed into silver statues. Joined by entertainers Wayne Anthoney and Meredith Bowman, they turned heads as they made their way through security.

Then, as they moved into position, 80 members of the Sing for Joy choirs emerged from the crowds and burst into song and dance.

The video of this event has gone 'viral' on Facebook, attracting more than 700 likes and 200 shares, with a reach 57,187 people – and counting.

Artist Andrew Baines, who designed and directed the event, says the event generated surprise and joy among airport commuters. "I wanted to come up with a media-friendly way of highlighting the fact that older people in the community have a lot of enthusiasm and knowledge that deserves to be put back into society and that is being wasted," he says. "We clearly showed that older people are willing to



get out there and have a go, that this is something that deserves our attention."

The event generated a "bubble of excitement" that sent waves of interest through the airport and, later, social media.

"People didn't know what was happening at first, but they knew that it was something good. I had a Mum asking if her children could dance along – it had a nice intergenerational element too."

Foundation Development Manager Paul Harris says the event was made possible thanks to the goodwill of Andrew Baines, the Adelaide Airport, the prominent South Australians who joined as statues and the world class performance from The Sing for Joy Choir.

You can see the video 'Wisdom at the Airport – The Full Story' via our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GoodLivesforOlderPeople/videos/