

Aah, the joy of sand and sea

A GROUP of aged care residents have enjoyed an outing to Middleton beach thanks to the use of Mobi-Mats which, when rolled out, allow people with mobility issues to go over the sandy surface.

ACH Group's Jane Young was the driver behind the purchase of the mats.

"We have residents who grew up near the beach who haven't had the opportunity to be on the sand for 20 or 30 years," she said.

"Our first trip with the mats was very successful and our residents haven't stopped talking about it as well as their lunch of fish and chips.

"The mats are quite versatile and will also allow us to go to picnic areas where we haven't gone before.

"We have one resident from Goolwa who worked on the barges and the ferry to Hindmarsh Island before it closed, so he loved going back to the beach."

Lee Simon, who uses a



MEMORIES – Lee Simon and Ian Buckingham enjoy a trip to the beach, made possible thanks to the mats.

wheelchair, last went to the beach about 10 years ago and thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

"It was wonderful," she said. "I loved the water coming in and the sand between my toes. I would have gone again the next day."

Ian Buckingham, who recently became vision impaired, also enjoyed the

day, with his senses of sound and smell heightened by the experience.

Ms Young hopes to use the mats up to once a fortnight and take two groups a day, for morning tea and afternoon tea.

The purchase of the mats was enabled by grant funding from the ACH Group Foundation for Older Australians.