

It's our birthday!

This year, Resthaven celebrates 75 years of service to older South Australians

Resthaven will celebrate this milestone with a number of events throughout the year.

In Murray Bridge, an **Open Day** and Devonshire Tea will be held on Wednesday, **14 April, 2010** from **1.30 – 3.30pm** at Resthaven Murray Bridge Residential Care Services, at 53 Swanport Road. This is an ideal opportunity for people to call in and have a look at the facility.

'Over the years, many things have changed. One thing that hasn't, is our commitment to supporting older people and their carers,' Resthaven Chief Executive Officer Richard Hearn affirmed.

'It is easy to forget that in the early years of South Australia's settlement, there was no government welfare support. At that time, services for the elderly were very limited. Many relied on Christian charity to survive.

'That is why it is remarkable that at the end of the Great Depression, in 1935, the Methodist Church embarked on a new Home Mission called 'Resthaven'. The name was chosen as it evoked feelings of safety, serenity and rest in life's eventide'.

'Resthaven was officially opened on May 11, 1935 by Lady Kidman, wife of the prominent pastoralist, Sir Sidney Kidman.

'Later that year, a large home, "Shirley Gardens", at Payneham, was purchased and became home to eighteen elderly ladies.

'The demand for accommodation continued, and the capacity of the home at Payneham was soon exceeded. In 1944, a larger property was purchased at Leabrook. to provide aged care and accommodation for 22 women. Constant demand meant that another home was established at Malvern in 1954.

'In 1957, the renowned pioneer of the Inland Mission, Rev. Harry Griffiths, approached the Resthaven Board and proposed that they 'provide a gracious ministry to the aged' in the Murray district. Demand was strong, and in 1957, the property at 53 Swanport Road was purchased. The first residents moved into their new home in 1958, benefiting from a strong relationship with the local church and support from volunteers and the wider community.

'Over the years, Resthaven has continually improved the standards of existing buildings to meet changing needs and expectations. Our aim is to offer comfortable surroundings and quality care for our residents. '

Media Release

23 February 2010

For immediate release

The residential aged care facility offers both high and low level aged care services and a secure environment for people with memory loss and confusion.

‘We have a long history and commitment to the Murraylands. As the needs of the community have increased, Resthaven has expanded the range of options available to help meet these needs.

‘To extend the services provided to local people living at home, community services commenced in the early 1990s. These services were coordinated from the residential site until expansion warranted a specific office location.

‘In November 2005, Resthaven Murray Bridge and Hills Community Services offices were opened at 88 Adelaide Road, Murray Bridge.

‘The need for separate offices highlights the rapid expansion in the range of community services offered by Resthaven in Murray Bridge, the Adelaide Hills, Mannum and surrounding areas. A new office recently opened in Loxton, to serve the Riverland.

‘In-home care and support services allow people to stay living at home. Staff take the burden off relatives, friends and neighbours, giving peace of mind and options for people who need support to maintain their independence.

‘Respite gives carers some time out with peace of mind, knowing that they can leave their loved one in a caring, supportive environment where they will be well looked after. Respite may be provided at home or at our premises at Mannum or Murray Bridge.’

‘Since the early years, Resthaven has benefited from the support of some wonderfully dedicated volunteers. Volunteers can assist in so many ways, with activities, friendly visiting, entertainment, craft, current affairs, teaching simple computing and so on.’

‘In May, our annual Volunteer Thank You Lunch will have a 75th birthday theme, all enjoy the party!’

Resthaven Murray Bridge; 53 Swanport Road, Murray Bridge. For details phone the Manager, Barbara Kompier, on 8532 1969.

For more information about community services, contact Heather Dibben on 8531 2989.

For more information about services offered by Resthaven, visit the website, www.resthaven.asn.au

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Photo captions:

(from left) Personal Care Worker, Crystal Snewin with Mrs Marion Warner at Resthaven Murray Bridge.

First dedication service at Resthaven Murray Bridge, 1958.