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## Media Release

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### Never Too Old to Learn

'You're never too old to learn or do a good turn', says 95 year old Resthaven Marion resident, Lil Bousfield. Lil is learning how to use computers with the help of students at Westminster School at Marion, South Australia. A strong relationship has developed between Westminster School and Resthaven Marion, 10 Township Road, Marion.

Each week, Lil joins other residents and heads off on a bus from Resthaven Marion to the school to use their computers. Under the tutelage of Year 9 and 10 students, they study *Introduction to Computing, Internet, Web-based Email and Photo Management*.

Karen Neighbour, Resthaven Marion Lifestyle Coordinator, offers a variety of intergenerational activities with young people of many ages and coordinates arrangements for the *Keys to Learning* program. She says, 'The purpose of the *Keys to Learning* program is to assist the residents to broaden their communication skills and keep in touch with their families and friends – particularly when they live overseas or interstate.'

'It also improves their computing skills and has opened up a whole new world.'

Residents thoroughly enjoy their interactions with the students, and mutual benefits are evident through mentoring and teaching each other. A growing empathy, tolerance and understanding of older people is a very positive outcome of the collaboration between Resthaven and Westminster School.

Lil not only rises to the challenge of learning new technology, but also raises funds for children with cancer through Camp Quality, cooking and selling delicious scones at Resthaven.

Everyone looks forward to Lil's home baked treats (made in accordance with the Food Safe Guidelines). The irresistible smell of freshly cooked scones wafts through the facility, tempting fellow residents, volunteers and staff alike.

Karen says, 'Lil contributes enormously to the Resthaven community, helping daily, serving morning tea to other residents as well as being a "buddy" to a number of new residents whom she takes under her 'wing'.'

'Helping others for whom life has been difficult or not as fortunate, in even a small way, is important to Lil. She is an inspiration.'

'Lil promotes positive ageing in a very practical way, giving back to the community.'

**Photo:** Lil Bousfield and Westminster School student Melanie at a *Keys to Learning* session.

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