
Media Release

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Resthaven and Westminster School Win coveted COTA 'Every Generation' Award

Resthaven Marion, in conjunction with Westminster School, has taken out the COTA 'Every Generation: For Young and Old' award for 2010.

The coveted prize is awarded to programs which encourage interactive, intergenerational activities that aim to challenge negative stereotypes about ageing.

Resthaven Marion and Westminster School have undertaken a series of programs between residents and students that aim to encourage positive interaction and mutual learning between residents and students.

These include:

- A weekly computer tuition group, where residents visit the school technology centre, for high school students to teach them computing skills in an interactive learning environment.
- An annual indoor bowls challenge and Christmas event, where primary school students bring along personally made Christmas cards and gifts for residents.
- Visits from year 8 students throughout the year to participate in games afternoons and discussion with residents (usually a class of 20-25).
- Combined church service at the school chapel, with the service topic: Respecting Each Other – hope in our dreams and visions.
- Visits from music student, Ting, who plays for the residents after school and during school holidays.
- Other music students performing concerts.
- An 'Action Day', where students visit the site and interact with residents as part of their service learning project.
- One on one supervised visiting and reading.

Further to this, Resthaven Marion resident, Brian Bowley, is currently helping to design a garden area at the school for students and staff to enjoy, and Resthaven Executive Manager, Residential Services, Wendy Morey, was invited to speak about aged care at a parents' forum at Westminster School in March 2010.

Resthaven regularly evaluates current activities for the benefits of both generations in a deliberate attempt to challenge negative stereotypes of ageing.

It is hoped that this different, intergenerational experience will bring an appreciation of the value of older people, which will positively enhance future outcomes when considering the older population.

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Media contact: Julie Johnke

Phone: 08 8373 9141

Email: pr@resthaven.asn.au