

---

## Media Release

---

10 February 2010

### Miss Dorothy Wilson's rather large family

Miss Dorothy Wilson will turn 95 in April, having dedicated her life to the care of older people. She commenced work at Resthaven Leabrook, a landmark on the corner of Kensington and Glynburn Roads, on August 24, 1953. For over 21 years, Miss Wilson was the 'Matron'. It was an era when the matrons 'lived in' - on the premises, therefore being on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to assist residents with their needs.

However, this was more than a job. Miss Wilson has written in her 'Memories', "When I came to Resthaven there were 31 in residence and I admitted 334, making 365 people that I was privileged to call my family."

During her time as matron, Resthaven grew to accommodate up to 117 residents 'in their eventide'. She advocated on behalf of the residents and always went the 'extra mile', accompanying them to appointments and many other extra duties.

From time to time, Dorothy spoke to Church groups about Resthaven, rallying support and fundraising for better equipment and the little extras that make life more comfortable.

Resthaven was her family and remains so today. She now resides in the low care facility, having previously lived independently at Resthaven Leabrook. Throughout her life, she has volunteered on an almost daily basis in a variety of ways. Only recently, she cut back her volunteer activities, which included:

- visiting residents and undertaking small tasks for them
- serving in the "Chatterbox" coffee shop
- sewing and mending for residents for whom this is difficult and who do not have relatives to assist with this
- active member of the Friends of Resthaven - a group involved in fund raising activities to supply additional items for residents
- organising the on site Chapel services including floral arrangements, seating, hymn books, liaising with the visiting ministers, making scones and afternoon tea following the service on Sunday, cleaning up afterwards.

She has a caring manner with an aura of peace. She does not look for praise or recognition and willingly offers her assistance whenever she can for a variety of other tasks.

'I look back with great gratitude not at what I was able to give others, but at what others gave me. Each one had something to give and my life has been so enriched by knowing them,' she says.

ENDS