



**Resthaven**  
Incorporated



# *Celebrating 85 years in 2020*

**Since 1935, Resthaven has provided outstanding care and support to older people and their carers in South Australia. Resthaven remains true to the core values and philosophy of our founders.**



*The first Christmas at  
Resthaven Leabrook, 1944*

## **Our History**

Resthaven, or 'Rest Haven', was born out of the Great Depression of the 1930s, when services for older people were scarce, and many frail, elderly people relied on Christian charity to survive.

It was in this climate that Rev Charles E Schafer called the Methodist Church to action.

In 1932, the Church embarked on a vision for a new Home Mission to alleviate the suffering of elderly people who had served the Church all their lives, yet had no home or family to care for them as they became frail and aged.

The idea was presented at the Methodist Conference of 1935, where enthusiastic approval was given for a home for elderly ladies to be established.

Under the guidance of Rev John and Mrs Annie Pearce, in their home at Brighton, 'Rest Haven' was born. This name was chosen as it evoked feelings of 'safety, serenity and rest in life's eventide'.



*Rev Charles E Schafer*



*Rev John Pearce*

'Rest Haven' was officially opened on 11 May, 1935, by Lady Isabel Kidman.

With strong demand, later that year, a large home, 'Shirley Gardens', was purchased at Payneham. It accommodated 18 women, and was opened by the wife of the Governor, Lady Dugan, on 29 February, 1936.

By 1940, the Home Mission Department of the Methodist Church had oversight of Resthaven. Resthaven was incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act* on 31 May, 1944.

Later that year, as demand continued and the capacity at Payneham was exceeded, a larger property was purchased on the corner of Burnside Road (now Glynburn Road) and Kensington Road at Leabrook. On Sunday, 23 December 1944, the Mayor of Burnside, Mr Philip R Claridge, officially opened Resthaven Leabrook.

Resthaven acknowledges its heritage in the Methodist Church and continues to work within the values and ethos of the Uniting Church in Australia.





1935

1944

1954

1958

1962

1967

1974

- 1 'Rest Haven', Wattle Avenue, Brighton, 1935, home of Rev John Pearce
- 2 Resthaven Shirley Gardens, 1935-1944
- 3 Resthaven Leabrook, 1944
- 4 Resthaven Malvern, 1954
- 5 Resthaven Murray Bridge, 1958

- 6 Resthaven Mitcham, 1962
- 7 Resthaven Westbourne Park, 1967
- 8 Resthaven Marion, 1974
- 9 Resthaven Bellevue Heights, 1979
- 10 Resthaven Paradise, 1980

- 11 Resthaven Therapy Services, Leabrook, 1980; Marion and Paradise, 1981; Malvern, 1985 (later incorporated into Marion and Paradise Community Services)
- 12 Resthaven Marion Community Services, 1995



# Resthaven Time Line 1935–2020



1980 1985 1995 2003-06 2009-11 2015 2018 2020

- 13 Resthaven Northern Community Services, 2003 (moved from Leabrook)
- 14 Resthaven Craigmore, 2004
- 15 Resthaven Onkaparinga Community Services, 2005 (now at Noarlunga Centre)
- 16 Resthaven Community Respite Services, 2005 (separated from Marion CS)
- 17 Resthaven Murray Bridge, Hills & Fleurieu Community Services, 2005 (moved to 37 Swanport Road in 2018)
- 18 Resthaven Limestone Coast Community Services, 2006 (Naracoorte)
- 19 Resthaven Paradise & Eastern Community Services (relocation onsite), 2009
- 20 Resthaven Riverland Community Services, 2009 (moved to Berri, 2020)
- 21 Resthaven Mount Gambier, 2011
- 22 Resthaven Western Community Services, 2015 (moved from leased premises)
- 23 Resthaven Port Elliot, 2015
- 24 Resthaven Aberfoyle Park, 2018



# Resthaven. *A brief historical snapshot*

From humble beginnings, today Resthaven works with around 10,000 older people and their carers from more than 30 locations across metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australia, to provide outstanding care and support.



*A Resthaven Board Meeting in 1955.*

**Resthaven Leabrook** was purchased when the capacity of the first Resthaven home was exceeded. The first residents moved in on **23 December, 1944**.

**Resthaven Malvern** was purchased in 1953, and opened in 1954. It comprised a residential home and from 1985, Resthaven administrative quarters (Head Office). Prior to this, administration was in Epworth Building, Pirie Street, Adelaide.

**Resthaven Murray Bridge** was purchased in 1957, following lobbying by Rev Harry Griffiths. The first residents moved into their new home in 1958.

**Resthaven Mitcham** began as vacant land purchased in 1960, to construct Resthaven's first purpose-built aged care home. Resthaven Mitcham was officially opened by Sir Thomas Playford, Premier of South Australia, on **7 April 1962**.

**Resthaven Westbourne Park** was Resthaven's second purpose-built aged care home. It was officially opened on **14 October, 1967**.

Land for **Resthaven Marion** was bequeathed to Resthaven in 1970 by Mrs May Hersey, as a memorial to her late husband, Alf. The first residents moved in to Resthaven Marion at the end of 1974, and the home was officially opened on **13 April 1975**. Retirement living and community services augment the support available at the site, Resthaven's largest.

Construction for **Resthaven Paradise** began in 1978, with the first residents moving in in late 1979. The site also offers retirement living and community services.

**Resthaven Bellevue Heights** was built on dairy farm land bequeathed by the Manson family to Resthaven in 1965. Building work for the home commenced in 1978, with the first stage officially opened and dedicated on **6 July, 1980**.

**Therapy Services** (originally Day Therapy Centres) commenced at Resthaven Leabrook in **1980** and Marion in **1981**, and shortly after at Paradise.

Services were available at Malvern from **1986** for around a decade, before being absorbed into the larger sites, now incorporated into community services.

Demand resulted in the expansion of therapy to home care for people living at home in the community.

**Resthaven Marion Community Services** was launched in **1995**.

Demand saw this service split in 2005 to Resthaven Community Respite Services and Resthaven Onkaparinga Community Services.

**Resthaven Community Respite Services** was opened on **18 October, 2005**, offering in-home and centre based respite for carers.

**Resthaven Onkaparinga Community Services** was another expansion of Resthaven Marion Community Services, opening in **2005**.

**Resthaven Craigmore** was opened in **2004**, to support older people in the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

Between 2003 and 2015, Resthaven expanded its community services throughout metropolitan Adelaide, the

Riverland, Limestone Coast, Murraylands, Fleurieu Peninsula and Adelaide Hills.

In **2000**, the therapy services located at Resthaven Leabrook moved to leased premises in Elizabeth to become **Resthaven Northern Community Services**. In **2003**, purpose built facilities opened. This service expanded to include Gawler and the Lower Barossa areas.

**Resthaven Murray Bridge, Hills & Fleurieu Community Services**

operated from the residential home from 1988, before opening a separate office in Murray Bridge in **2005**, offering in-home care and support services. Offices opened in Strathalbyn in **2014**, and Port Elliot in **2015**. The main office re-located back to Swanport Road, Murray Bridge in **2018**.

**Resthaven Limestone Coast Community Services** (previously Naracoorte Community Services)

opened in **2006**, since expanding into Millicent (**2009**) and Mount Gambier (**2019**).

**Resthaven Riverland Community Services** opened in **October 2009** in Loxton. The office moved to Berri in **2020**.

The re-located **Resthaven Paradise & Eastern Community Services** opened onsite on **17 October, 2009**. They also operate an office in Manningham.

**Resthaven Western Community Services** opened at Woodville in **2015**, having operated for several years from leased premises). Respite house, Regency Cottage, operates at Croydon Park.

**Resthaven Mount Gambier** opened its doors on **4 July, 2011**. Its official opening was held on **16 April, 2012**.

**Resthaven Port Elliot** officially opened on **14 May 2015** on the site of the old Port Elliot Primary School.

**Resthaven Head Office** was consolidated into a purpose-built building at Wayville in **October 2015**.

**Resthaven Aberfoyle Park** opened in **July 2019**, with the official opening in **October** of that year.

For further details visit our website:

[www.resthaven.asn.au](http://www.resthaven.asn.au)