

President's Report

Starting with last year's AGM the organisation has undergone significant changes in personnel. At the Board level Ginny Hewlett, Ron Badger and Rowena Abbey retired at the AGM and in February Nic Carmody stood down due to other commitments. YVAC is indebted to them all for their years of service and I wish to thank them, for all they have done. I make special mention of Ginny, a Board Member from the beginning, Secretary and long serving President. The success of the organisation and its high standing in the community is due in no small way to Ginny's efforts. I should also not forget her husband Tim a much loved member of the volunteer group. I wish them well for the future. Paul Turner, well known to many of you, joined the Board to fill the vacancy left by Nic. We have a strong Board with diverse skills and I would like to thank them all for their contribution throughout the year in particular our Vice President Tony Reeves, the Convenor of the Personnel and Remuneration Committee and Melina Walters the Convenor of the Audit and Risk Committee.

In January our CEO Robyn Broms resigned to take a position in Adelaide and to be with her daughter. We were very fortunate that Lyn Morgan after hearing of Robyn's resignation expressed an interest in taking on the CEO role. As most of you will know, Lyn worked at Horton House from its inception and was the Care Manager for twenty years. Because of her long experience at Horton House, her excellent work ethic and empathy with both staff and residents we had no hesitation offering Lyn the position. Lyn's return has been welcomed by all and she has taken the role with determination and gusto. Welcome back Lyn.

In early July we had a "get together" in the lounge at Warmington Lodge primarily to thank our staff for their excellent work and the care and attention they give to our residents. Time and time again residents tell me how well they are treated and what a great job the staff do. I again thank the staff for their work and dedication and for making Horton House and Warmington Lodge such a special place for our residents.

I make mention of Lyn's management team, Simone Hughes Care Manager, Alison Jones Deputy Care Manager, Alison Cooke Administrative Officer, Dearn Dyson Finance Officer, Jo Limbrick Home Care Coordinator and Janice Puckett Activities Coordinator. Not only are they caring for our residents and Home Care clients but they are dealing with the complexity of aged care funding and believe me it is complex and forever changing. It is a constant battle with the Department to maximise our claims and yet not over step the mark otherwise the money has to be repaid.

I would also like to thank all the organisations, groups and people that support YVAC such as the Friends of Horton House, the members of YVAC, the various groups that contribute to the Wednesday morning tea and all the volunteers who give so generously of their time.

As you will recall, last year development approval was given for the refurbishment of Horton House which included a new wing and the virtual gutting of the existing rooms so that en-suites could be added to all rooms. Unfortunately when the project was put out to tender

the building quotes were nearly double the estimated cost. As a consequence the project was put on hold. In the last few months in association with the architects we have come up with a sketch plan for a scaled down version of the refurbishment. This plan still has a new wing with 7 rooms with ensuites and a staff room and ensuites added to some but not all the existing rooms. We are currently undertaking a study to determine the feasibility of the project. Hopefully the study will be completed in the near future.

We have made an offer to purchase 45 Castor Street which was accepted. As yet contracts have not been exchanged. It adjoins our property 43 Castor Street which adjoins our eastern boundary. The purchase of 45 Castor Street is an exciting opportunity for a development on 43 and 45 Castor Street which complements our aged care business and is certainly a better option for development than Corona Grove which sits to the back of Warmington Lodge on an elevated block. Provided we do buy 45 Castor Street the Board will need to decide if it needs to retain all or part of Corona Grove.

The Annual Financial Statements show that YVAC is in a healthy financial position in part due to the donations from the Yass Aged Care Foundation for which we are very grateful and I thank Peter Doyle and his Board for their support. Although YVAC is cash flow positive without the Foundation's donations, the money enables YVAC to plan for the future with confidence.

September 2017 will be Horton House's 25th anniversary and in November 2017 it will be 10 years for Warmington Lodge at the Castor Street site. There will be a function to mark these important milestones which will be held towards the end of 2017 and we will keep people informed on what is planned.

Michael Walker
President