



Since 1872, Cottage Homes has seen many significant milestones for our people and organisation. In this newsletter, we celebrate some of these special markers and the work being done to continue our legacy of care, community, and commitment into the future.

While we reflect on the many older South Australians who have accessed our safe, secure, and affordable rental accommodation throughout our 150-year history, we continuously look at ways we can grow and help even more people into the future.

Cottage Homes is entering an exciting period of growth which will increase the number of people we can house by up

to a huge 26% over the next few years and see us expand out of metropolitan Adelaide for the first time.

We are thrilled to have signed an agreement to lease land from Club Fleurieu to create a Cottage Homes site at Yankalilla – the first arrangement of its kind in our long history.

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**Above:** Glenelg resident Philip surrounded by his artwork shares his story (page 3).

## RECORDING OUR STORY

Celebrating our 150 years in 2022 motivated us to search into our history.

Thanks to generous and committed research by Dr Val Liddle and Mrs Barbara Ogden, we now aim to establish archives so that our records will be safe and accessible. We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in volunteering for this project.



## RESIDENT PROFILE

Our longest resident Elizabeth Garrett (pictured) has called Cottage Homes Mitcham home since 1997, moving into units with her sister Eva and friend Sandor after a recommendation from a family friend. "Doesn't seem so long ago..." she reminisces.

A dedicated volunteer, Elizabeth was involved with the Hungarian Club at Norwood for 15 years. She fondly remembers the early days at Mitcham, when an on-site caretaker collected rent, managed maintenance, and checked on residents.

Now, she enjoys the recent renovations. "It's brilliant! Using the ramp with my walker is a breeze!" she says. Elizabeth makes the most of her days, going on local outings with another resident, shopping via the Council bus, and staying connected with family on her iPad.

A true sports fanatic, she follows gridiron, basketball, baseball, and the Crows in the AFL. "I enjoy living here. It's in an ideal position – Mitcham is a lovely suburb." 🏠

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Up to 15 units will be built nearby existing club rooms and Men's Shed on the spacious Club Fleurieu grounds that feature a rose garden and rotunda, a fruit orchard and shared garden.

We are working closely with John Byleveld Studios and URPS on the site layout and unit design, with the aim to complete planning approvals and appoint a builder in 2025 and commence building by early 2026.

In another first for Cottage Homes, the new units will be built using modular housing which is built offsite and transported into place, reducing waste and time.

Planning is also underway for an expansion at Ascot Park, the site of our last sizable growth (10 units in 2014). In 2024, we purchased a house adjacent to the existing site which will be redeveloped into four brand new units.

In another exciting advancement, we are working with Brown Falconer Architects on a concept plan to add housing for an additional 15 people at Glenelg, including extra carparking and enhanced landscaping and communal areas for both new and existing residents.

These significant things in the life of our organisation will help to provide even more safe, secure, and affordable rental housing for older South Australians. 🏠

**We have entered a significant and exciting period of growth for Cottage Homes, potentially increasing the number of people we can help by up to 26%.**

Meet a milestone resident...

## 2,000KMS TRAVELLED SOLO TO THE COTTAGE HOMES

One of our newest residents Margo Lee (pictured) came to Cottage Homes Prospect in May 2024 following a solo road trip of over 2,000 kilometres!

After leaving her previous rental quickly, Margo followed a house-sitting opportunity in Queensland. At 79 years young, with only her Hyundai coupe and a paper map, Margo battled rain, running out of petrol, broken car parts, keys locked in the car, dirt roads and getting lost to travel to the Gold Coast through Broken Hill, Bourke and





Ascot Park  
resident, Tony.

## A TAPESTRY OF WORK

Professional achievements are part of the milestones that make life truly memorable. Some of our residents have enjoyed exciting and fulfilling professional careers which spanned different fields and countries.

Ascot Park resident Tony Chicarella enjoyed a 50-year career as a chef before he retired aged 75. Tony completed his early training in Italy before honing his

skills in restaurants in France, Belgium, Switzerland and England.

After coming to Australia in the mid-1960s, Tony worked at the Freeway Hotel at Pooraka then described as 'luxurious' and 'the largest and most outstandingly designed suburban hotel in Australia' when it opened in 1966. "It was a new place, the best place, it was wonderful!" said Tony.

Glenelg resident Philip Pike is an artist born in Maitland South Australia. After studying at Flinders University, Philip worked in radio and television before moving interstate to work with Queensland Performing Arts Trust.

Always following his artistic side, Philip also pursued music, fine arts and writing, with two published books in his name and his work exhibited in several South Australian galleries.

One career highlight for Philip was when the director of music at St Stephen's Cathedral used his paintings as inspiration to compose a symphony. This was performed in the cathedral while the paintings were exhibited in the adjoining chapel.

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Lightning Ridge, and then to Maryborough and Hervey Bay. Impressively, Margo travelled for a year, sleeping in her car or house sitting, and celebrated her 80th birthday along the way. Then came the hoped-for call from The Cottage Homes and she travelled back to Adelaide to a freshly renovated unit. "I was so relieved," said Margo. "At my age, being out on the road is not easy!"



Margo Lee

With one look at her new permanent home, Margo said, "I'll take it!" and was "impressed how everything was handled" as she settled

in. She enjoyed setting it up to suit her lifestyle and decorating it with her furniture. "It has a lot of storage, it's great for me," she said.

Margo now enjoys the quiet Prospect location and garden. "I'm happy here. I walk to the shops and the roses are beautiful; the double delights are my favourite!"

Margo plans to keep driving, so wave if you pass her on the open road! 🏠



## DECADES OF SERVICE & DEDICATION

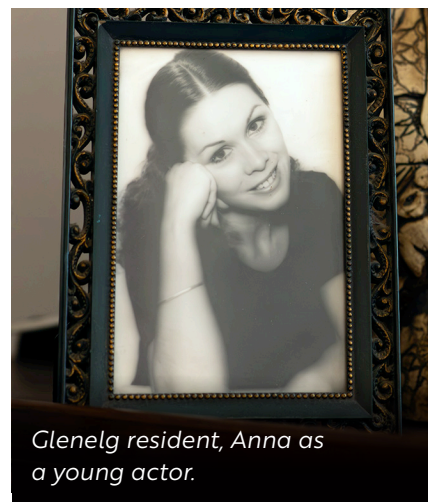
There are some amazing stories of service throughout Cottage Homes' history.

One of the most notable is the Marryat family, whose 74-year service was vital to the establishment and early growth of Cottage Homes.

Charles Marryat married Grace Montgomery in 1854 and together they had 6 daughters and 3 sons. Charles coordinated and chaired the first ever committee meeting in 1871 which led to the establishment of Cottage Homes in 1872.

Charles served on the Committee for 35 years and his son Charles was an honorary architect.

The Marryat women were also strongly connected to Cottage Homes. Grace served on the Committee for 38 years and their three daughters, Isabel, Katie and Mabel also served on the Committee. Mabel resigned from the Cottage Homes Committee 80 years ago in 1945, closing her family's incredible chapter of service and dedication to our organisation. 🏠



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Anna Pike, Philip's former wife is also a Glenelg resident. She had a long and successful career as an actor and a voice and drama coach, enjoying roles in Shakespeare and contemporary productions.

One of her most memorable roles was playing Blanche Dubois in a production of 'A Streetcar Named Desire' with the University Theatre Guild.

After moving to Brisbane with her then husband, Philip, Anna was an examiner with Queensland's Australian Music Examinations Board. "This gave me the opportunity to travel throughout Queensland which was a wonderful experience," said Anna.

Philip and Anna worked together to pursue their careers while raising their family of four children. "It was always a team effort," said Philip. 🏠

Cottage Homes

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