



Above: Parkside resident Mary-Lyn moved in December (page 3).

As we enter a new season, we are naturally reflecting on the idea of new beginnings. While we often associate fresh starts with early life, our work reminds us that new beginnings can happen later in life and be just as meaningful.

For those who come to live in a Cottage Home, a new beginning is often about much more than a change of address. It represents independence, stability and the comfort of knowing they have an affordable place to call home for as long as they need.

It is also about becoming part of a community – connecting with new neighbours, building relationships and feeling a genuine sense of belonging.

This year marks a new beginning for Cottage Homes as well. We are entering a significant period of growth, expanding into new communities and increasing the number of homes we can offer. Across the next 12 months, we will deliver 28 additional homes through our Yankalilla and Davoren Park projects, an important step forward in our 154-year history of supporting older South Australians in need.

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SUPPORT OUR NEW BEGINNINGS

As we expand into Yankalilla and Davoren Park, more older South Australians will have a place to call home, **but we cannot do it alone.**

Your support is essential to help bring these new communities to life. Whether through a donation or by joining our volunteer visitor program, you can make a real difference.

To volunteer call 08 8233 5222 or donate today at cottagehomes.org.au/donate.



RESIDENT PROFILE

Trish began her new chapter at Cottage Homes Toorak Gardens in December, finding a place to feel at ease after a period of anxiety over housing uncertainty.

After years of rising rent and financial pressure, Trish faced the very real concern of what would happen when her savings ran out. Moving into her Cottage Home has brought a renewed sense of stability and relief.

"It's a place where I can stay and settle," she says.

Trish says she values living independently and the simple comfort of connection. "You can always say hello here," she says, reflecting on the supportive community she now calls home.

Since moving in, Trish has excitedly embraced her new surroundings, forming connections with neighbours, welcoming friends into her new home, and spending time on her creative hobbies.

For Trish, this new beginning has meant finally having peace of mind, belonging, and feeling at home. 🏠

At Yankalilla, we will soon commence construction of 14 new homes, with the aim of welcoming tenants by the end of the year. This project has been shaped by local request and strong support and responds directly to a clear need within the southern Fleurieu community.

We are also proud to introduce a new Cottage Homes community at Davoren Park. This site offers 14 established single-storey units and marks our first presence in Adelaide's northern suburbs, creating a new opportunity for older South Australians in the north to remain connected to their local community.

These new developments come at a time when the need for affordable housing continues to grow. Increasingly, age pensioners are finding themselves priced out of the private rental market, making the work we do more important than ever.

As you read the stories in this newsletter, I hope you are reminded that it is never too late for a new beginning and that having a secure place to call home in later years can make a real difference to people's lives. 🏠

Ben Sarre

Chief Executive Officer

"Increasingly, age pensioners are finding themselves priced out of the rental market."



Meet Mary-Lyn A SEARCH FOR SECURITY

After several years in a rental where she had established a garden and befriended neighbours, Mary-Lyn faced significant unattended, maintenance concerns and a rent increase of \$100 per week. A more affordable home became essential. Having registered interest three years earlier, the opportunity to move

NEW STARTS, NEW CONNECTIONS

For many of our newest tenants, their fresh start at Cottage Homes has meant more than just a new place to live. It has meant joining a new community.

When Phil moved into Toorak Gardens six months ago after years in a rental which was 'half the size for twice the price', he quickly felt at home. He 'loves' his new welcoming community. Neighbours say hello and look out for each other. He's now happily settled in, enjoying time to read and do cross word puzzles surrounded by photos of his grandchildren.

Heather (pictured p. 4) experienced that same welcome on arrival at Toorak Gardens. After navigating rising rental pressure, she now enjoys the 'relief' of having a secure home which is adorned with photos enjoyed by her two-year-old granddaughter. She has embraced the 'feeling

of belonging' and often shares her culinary creations with neighbours.

After enjoying some of Heather's yummy treats, Phil returned the favour in a small but memorable way, returning the empty container with a Cherry Ripe tucked inside as a heartfelt thank you and show of community spirit!

Since joining Findon in December, Karen has rediscovered her independence. After several years living with family, she appreciates having her own space again, getting to know her neighbours and wider community, and making it feel like home by decorating and planting herbs on her veranda.

For our newest tenant Felicia (pictured p. 4) moving into a freshly renovated Findon unit



Phil from Toorak Gardens.

in March brought an immediate sense of relief. Following years of uncertainty and months living with family, having a place of her own again 'means freedom'. Even on her first night, surrounded by boxes, it 'felt like home'. Since then, she has been enjoying chats and laughter with neighbours and is looking forward to making friends and hosting family for meals.

It's lovely to hear our newest tenants have enjoyed turning units into a home and neighbours into community. 🏠

into a newly renovated Cottage Home at Parkside on a warm day last December brought a profound sense of relief.

With the stress of moving behind her, waking up after her first night in her new home felt like a 'retreat'. Mary-Lyn described a feeling of 'psychological safety' knowing she would not have to move again. For the first time in a long time, she felt she could truly settle and quickly felt 'at home' and 'reassured'.

Mary-Lyn has embraced her new 'aesthetic' surroundings. Warmly welcomed by neighbours with gifts of flowers and home-grown produce, she has shared coffees and conversations, enjoying the opportunity for connection that community living brings. 'Connection' is a value she holds deeply, shaped by a lifetime of supporting and caring for others.

Mary-Lyn is now looking forward to the future feeling

'very blessed'. With affordable rent and a well-managed home guaranteed, she no longer carries the stress of housing uncertainty. Instead, she is focused on creating a welcoming home, continuing her volunteering, compiling her family history and contributing to the communal gardens.

For Mary-Lyn, this fresh start is about living simply, belonging to a community and a secure place to call home. 🏠



Above: (L) Heather from Toorak Gardens, (R) Felicia from Findon.

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN UNVEILED

Cottage Homes has recently developed a new Strategic Plan, which will guide our work and priorities from 2026 to 2028.

This important process has provided a clear roadmap for future growth, to strengthen impact and respond to the increasing need for affordable housing for older South Australians. It reflects both the long-standing legacy and commitment to meeting future challenges. The plan focuses on sustainable growth, expanding into new communities and continuing to provide well-managed, affordable homes where people can live independently and stay connected to community.

You can read the full Strategic Plan on our website at cottagehomes.org.au/strategic-plan. 🏠

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A NEW COMPANION

For Peter, moving into Cottage Homes Prospect has marked a new beginning, one that now includes a special companion.

After a period of ill health, Peter realised he needed a more stable place to live. "I couldn't live on a boat anymore. I'm safer here," he says.

With a medical certificate recommending a pet for his



wellbeing, Peter welcomed his new kitten "Pussycat", now three months old, as the first indoor cat resident at Cottage Homes.

"It's not luck, it is a blessing," he says, now enjoying his new home. 🏠

OUR VISION

A society where all older people can access safe and secure housing.

OUR MISSION

To provide secure affordable housing for eligible older people to live in independently.

OUR VALUES

Dignity
Community
Sustainability