COTTAGE HOMES

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For age pensioners, having an affordable home can make a difference in ways that extend far beyond just having a roof over their head. It can provide peace of mind, greater financial freedom, independence, connection to community and the confidence to plan for the future.

Lately, we have been reflecting on the difference our work of providing affordable homes has made for our Cottage Homes residents. Each has their own story to tell about what having an affordable home has made possible in their life, and we share some of these stories in this newsletter.

It is a theme that feels particularly significant for Cottage Homes right now, as we prepare to welcome 14 individuals to our first regional community at Yankalilla.

It has been incredibly exciting to watch this project take shape. All modular homes have been craned into place at Yankalilla within the grounds of Club Fleurieu on land we have leased. With work continuing on-site to connect services and complete the surrounding landscaping, we remain on track to welcome residents before Christmas.

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*Above: David O'Loughlin, Louise Allstrom, Mayor Darryl Houston & Ben Sarre watching unit placement.*

## YANKALILLA HOMES

Expanding to a regional location and providing homes for people on the Fleurieu Peninsula is an exciting initiative and we are grateful to those organisations and individuals who have already pledged their support.

You can help us make a difference by contributing towards the overall building costs.

To make a tax-deductible donation visit **cottagehomes.org.au/locations.yankalilla**



## RESIDENT PROFILE

Alice has called Cottage Homes Ascot Park home for 12 years, returning to an area she knew well after having to leave the Glenelg unit she had rented for 26 years.

Now 92, Alice "absolutely loves" her home and the independence it gives her to keep living life on her own terms. She keeps busy tending her garden, pulling weeds, sweeping outside, cooking soups and baking cakes.

"I'm very busy, I don't have time to sit!" she says.

Alice also enjoys a close relationship with her neighbours, often swapping cakes and other homemade food in the afternoons.

"I love my neighbours and we get on very well."

Most importantly, having a home of her own means Alice can continue doing the things she enjoys, her way.

"I wouldn't like being told what to do!" she laughs.

"I can't imagine living anywhere else."

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For us, however, the real milestone will not simply be completing new homes and growing the reach of Cottage Homes. It will be seeing what those units make possible for the people who will live in them.

For an age pensioner facing an increasingly difficult private rental market, an affordable home can mean knowing their budget is manageable. It can mean remaining independent, staying connected to the area, and having the stability to focus on the other things that matter in life such as hobbies, family and friends.

That is ultimately why expanding Cottage Homes into communities such as Yankalilla is so important. We are not simply increasing the number of properties we provide; we are creating the foundation from which even more people can continue living their lives on their own terms.

As you meet some of our residents in this newsletter, I hope their stories offer a glimpse of just how much difference an affordable home can make.

**Ben Sarre**
Chief Executive Officer

> "The real milestone will be... seeing what those homes make possible for the people who live in them."

Preserving Our History

## ARCHIVING FOR THE FUTURE

With more than 150 years of history, Cottage Homes has accumulated a remarkable collection of memorabilia documenting the people, places and events that have shaped our organisation.

The work to bring this history together began in the lead-up to our 150th anniversary in 2023, celebrated with a South Australian History Month event.

Supported by a grant from the History Trust, historical materials were collected from items found at our Prospect and Mitcham halls and donations from residents, families and community members.

Volunteers Mrs Barbara Ogden and Dr Valerie Liddle spent many hours researching records from 1883-1985 stored

# WHAT A HOME MAKES POSSIBLE

A secure home can make a difference to a life in many ways. For our residents, it can bring peace of mind, financial breathing room and the freedom to plan for the future.

For Mitcham resident Michael, having a secure home means knowing he doesn't have to face another unexpected move. Before arriving at Cottage Homes a year ago, he twice had to leave long-term rentals with only several weeks' notice.

His Cottage Homes unit became available in the final week he had to move.

After so much uncertainty, Michael says he feels relieved to have somewhere secure and affordable to call home. He describes Mitcham as the "best place of everywhere he has ever lived" and now enjoys taking each day as it comes, heading out on his gopher through the tree-lined streets. "When the sun's out, I'm out."

For one of his neighbours at Mitcham, having an affordable, secure home has brought that same peace of mind. Her previous private rental had become unaffordable, and she describes the affordable rent at Cottage Homes as an "incredible bonus".

Without the worry of where she is going to live, she can continue doing more of the things that matter to her, including volunteering and art. After three years at Mitcham, she remains "very grateful and thankful" to have a secure home.



*Michael from Mitcham*

At Findon, Denise is experiencing the difference financial breathing room can make. Before moving into Cottage Homes in April, she had been living with family and wanted a space of her own. A large private rental bond would have been impossible for her to afford.

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at the State Library of South Australia. Since then, Barbara has continued with the enormous task of compiling and auditing hundreds of additional items with the aim of expanding the State Library's collection. In 2025, another grant received from the History Trust is supporting the establishment of a data base, purchase of archival packaging and secure storage. It has been a significant undertaking, assisted by, Dr Sarah Black, Archivist for the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide, and Janette Lange, Archivist from the Mary MacKillop Museum who have generously shared their expertise.

We are enormously grateful to Barbara for the extraordinary time and care she has dedicated to this project, and to everyone who has supported her work.



*Valerie Liddle & Barbara Ogden*



# A NEWFOUND INDEPENDENCE

Since moving into Cottage Homes Prospect in July, Suzanne says she has found a new sense of independence, and a place that feels "just right".

After several years focused on helping family, Suzanne felt ready to have a space and a life of her own again. She wanted her own peace and friendships, and the freedom to decide how she spends her days.

"I have a life to live," she says. "I feel liberated now I'm here – in the best possible way!"



*Suzanne from Prospect*

***Above:*** *Representatives from Cottage Homes and Yankalilla Regional News inspect a home.*

Although unfamiliar with Prospect before moving in, Suzanne has quickly embraced her new neighbourhood. She loves being able to walk or catch the bus where she needs to go and introducing herself to neighbours.

There is already talk of starting a book club, garden club and walking group, and Suzanne is looking forward to growing new friendships, as well as enjoying simple freedoms like playing her music loud again.

She describes herself as "so fundamentally happy and content" and energised by a new lease on life.

For Suzanne, having a home of her own is giving her the independence to make plans, enjoy her own space and "live every day to the fullest".

"This is a perfect fit."

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## WHAT A HOME MAKES POSSIBLE

Now, manageable housing costs allow Denise to save a little and afford what she needs. She is looking forward to relaxing, travelling to visit family in regional South Australia and interstate, and welcoming family and friends into the home she has lovingly filled with furniture and treasured belongings.

"It's been a godsend," Denise says. "I feel really blessed and like I've won the lottery!"

## LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Over our 150+ year history, many South Australians have bequeathed funds to Cottage Homes, enabling us to expand the number of homes we have available. By making a bequest in your will, you'll be leaving a lasting legacy and making a meaningful, tangible difference, a message of hope and generosity.

Please contact us below.

Cottage Homes
08 8233 5222
admin@cottagehomes.org.au
cottagehomes.org.au
facebook LinkedIn