

Special feature

Creating a supportive community for aged



CARE AND SUPPORT: Mandurah Retirement Village residents Dot Erickson and Archie Tuckey with assistant supervisor Sue Matthews and Ray Watters.

PROVIDING an environment for the elderly in which they can maintain their independence and human dignity is the vision of Mandurah Retirement Village.

The focus is on creating a community atmosphere where residents can access the support and help they need in their senior years from professional staff who respect their dignity and privacy.

Administrator Don Pember said the aim was to provide a comfortable home

away from home for aged married couples and singles in the local area who were no longer able to fully care for themselves due to ill health, accident or infirmity.

"Every retired person is entitled to peaceful, quiet and secure enjoyment of their accommodation and our mission is to deliver high quality services to the retirement village and hostel," Mr Pember said.

INNOVATIVE APPROACH: Mandurah Retirement Village administrator Don Pember and architect Michael Murphy discuss the plans for the development.



Leading the way in solar design

THE new 32-bed extension to Mandurah Retirement Village is believed to be the first aged care facility in Australia to incorporate passive solar, low energy, environmentally sustainable design.

Architects Baverstock Murphy & Associates are acknowledged leaders in the practice of energy efficient design for the past 25 years.

They have provided an architectural solution which not only uses 60 per cent less energy than any equivalent project but is responsive to the environmental and emotional needs of residents, staff and visitors.

Fundamental to the design is the understanding of the human requirement for a building to provide comfort, well being and ease of use, for the concept of "ageing in place".

Features in the building that support passive solar and energy efficient design are correct orientation, high thermal mass, good insulation and cross ventilation and

innovative mechanical systems, such as indirect evaporative coolers and solar air heaters.

Passive systems such as the Tecto Pergola allow the sun to penetrate in winter but exclude it in summer to provide shade.

Baverstock Murphy & Associates are proud to be associated with the development.

A spokesperson complimented the Mandurah Retirement Village management board for their foresight and courage to pursue innovation.

They had achieved a building that was residential in scale and character yet efficient and cost effective to operate, he said.



MANDURAH RETIREMENT VILLAGE INC.
including Goolbah Lodge

Setting a standard for quality care

QUALITY care is the focus of Mandurah Retirement Village, where a range of systems is in place to ensure the highest standards are met.

All relevant legislation and regulations are complied with and there are specific guidelines for health and personal care, resident lifestyle, physical environment and safety.

Management and staff are appropriately qualified and experienced to perform their roles effectively and the village is fully equipped to provide quality service.

Residents receive appropriate clinical care and their specialised nursing care needs are identified and met by qualified nursing staff.

All services provided by outside sources are expected to meet the village's high standards of residential care.

A complaints procedure is also in place to ensure residents or their representatives obtain prompt resolution of any concerns.



TOP: Staff member Anne White assists resident Karl Kublick.



LEFT: Staff member Elizabeth Fraser with resident Sonny Bockisch.

An agenda for progress

THIRTY years ago a small group of community-minded locals with a goal to establish a retirement village in Mandurah met at the home of Owen Tuckey to discuss a plan of action.

An informative presentation about the establishment and administration of the Swan Cottage Homes convinced them they could achieve a similar development in Mandurah.

A committee was formed and several months later the first board of management for the proposed Mandurah Retirement Village was appointed.

Chairman Owen Tuckey made two acres of land south of the high school site available for the purpose and planning for the first stage of development began in earnest.

In 1972 Mandurah Retirement Village, featuring 38 modern self-care units, was officially opened by Sir Thomas Wardle.

The units were so popular the next stage of the development began soon afterwards and three years later Sir Charles Court had the official duty of opening an additional 12 self-care units, a 32-bed personal care facility and a social hall.

During the next decade Mandurah Retirement Village consolidated its position, purchasing properties and land south of the existing site.

Approval was given to close part of Fifth Avenue to enable the original property to be amalgamated with the land purchased on the south side of the street.

In December 1994 the development's available accommodation increased by 15 hostel places and the following year a Lotteries Commission grant contributed to the construction of a transitional lounge at a cost of \$89,000.

Later that year the original hostel received a major fire safety upgrade thanks to Commonwealth funding.

By 1996, however, the board believed the original

hostel was no longer suitable to accommodate residents who had reached the stage where they needed major assistance with daily living and more complex care.

A competition was held in conjunction with the Royal Institute of Architects to design innovative and different ways of providing residential care for seniors.

Baverstock, Murphy and Associates were chosen from 30 architects to design and oversee the construction of a new hostel to replace the original completed in 1975.

Mandurah Retirement Village administrator Don Pember said a comprehensive consultation process followed, with staff and residents involved in designing the new building, which incorporates passive solar design concepts.

Constructed without the benefit of government capital grants, the cost of the development has been met from the organisation's cash reserves, resident accommodation bonds and loans.

The Lotteries Commission has helped with furniture, fittings and equipment for the new building and the Commonwealth Government has arranged for resident concessions.

"The board has developed a vision for the future to provide services into the community and the types of services it will provide on its current and external sites," Mr Pember said.

"Mandurah Retirement Village will continue to pursue additional places to cater for those residents who require nursing home beds.

"The board will also explore the possibility of a dementia day care centre."

He said Baverstock, Murphy and Associates had been commissioned to design an Eco-village environment.

"The board is committed to being a major provider of home care services in the Peel region and looks forward to entering this field in 2000.

"We are focused on pursuing excellence through continuous improvement and are always prepared to examine our role and more importantly, examine innovative and different types of services," Mr Pember said.



LEFT: Administrator Don Pember with the new sanitiser.