

Thank you

Without the help of our donors, sponsors and volunteers, Benetas would struggle to provide a good quality of life for our clients. Thank you to everyone who supported us over the 2009/10 financial year. We'd like to mention in particular:

- Corowa Court Op Shop for over \$60,000 to purchase a new bus for Benetas Corowa Court
- Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation for \$50,000, the Collier Charitable Trust for \$15,000 and The Marian and EH Flack Trust for \$10,000 towards HiLo beds
- John and Claire Birch Trust for \$35,000 and the Estate of May Vicars Foote for \$30,000 towards our Quality of life fund
- Graeme Thomson and Margot Neilson for \$20,000 for the Dementia Specific Unit at Benetas Broughton Hall

- Mrs Cathleen Carrington for \$10,000 for Benetas Hurlingham
- St John's Park Auxiliary for over \$9,000 for Benetas St John's Park

Thank you to our major sponsor Health Super for over \$17,000 to help fund our staff events including the Team Member Awards in December 2009. These funds also allowed us to redesign our website home page. Visit www.benetas.com.au to view it — and be the first to make an online donation! We've also received support from Sharp through their provision of prizes for staff at the 2009 Team Member Awards and \$5,000 worth of televisions for the winners of our Aged Care Nurses Appreciation Awards held in partnership with Radio 3AW. Thank you!

The Great Respect Debate

Benetas and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation will join forces in October to host 'The Great Respect Debate.' Based around Benetas' research into *Respect in an ageing society*, this major public event will see two teams debate whether 'Seniors must earn respect.' Special guests to be announced shortly.

Friday 8 October, 10am — 11.30am
Melbourne Town Hall. To book your FREE ticket, email events@benetas.com.au or call 03 8823 7957.

Do you have the Will to help?

Have you thought about your Will and how it could help others? A bequest in your Will or a donation is a gift that will help Benetas to continue to provide first-class care and improve the quality of life of older Victorians into the future.

For more information about making a bequest please contact our Fundraising Officer on 03 3328 7957 or visit www.benetas.com.au.

We want to hear from you!

Please contact the editor with your feedback or story ideas for the *Family News*. Call Lisa Cowell on 03 8823 7925 or email lisa.cowell@benetas.com.au.



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www.benetas.com.au

Support Benetas

YES! I want to support Benetas and help older Victorians

Contact details

Title Surname

Given Name

Address

Suburb

State Postcode

Phone (day)

Email

To donate online visit www.benetas.com.au/donate or call 03 8823 7958.

Thank you for your support. It is vital to our work.

My donation

Please accept my donation of

\$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 \$250

or my choice \$

Cheque Money order (Please make payable to Benetas)

Visa Mastercard

Credit Card No: / / /

Name on card

Expiry date /

Signature

I authorise Benetas to debit a monthly gift \$ from the credit card specified (minimum \$10), until I notify otherwise.

Please send me more information about:

- Including Benetas in my Will
- Residential Care
- Community Care
- Respite services
- Benetas@Home
- Volunteering with Benetas

Donations of \$2.00 are tax deductible and will be issued with a receipt.

If you would prefer not to receive further communication from us please tick here:

Please post to:
Fundraising at Benetas
PO Box 5093
Glenferrie South 3122

CHANGE OF DETAILS? Have you moved recently or changed your contact details? Please help us keep our records up-to-date by sending us both your new and previous contact details to Fundraising at Benetas, PO Box 5093, Glenferrie South 3122.

Family News

For friends of Benetas

Spring 2010



Derek Robinson is a resident of Benetas Lovell House in Caulfield. With the help of manager Rodney Xenitellis, Derek was reunited with his younger brother Richard in May. It was the first time the siblings had seen each other after more than 50 years apart.

They've spent this time living on opposite sides of the globe – Derek in Melbourne, Richard and his wife Maureen in the UK.

Born in the 1930s, the brothers grew up in a village in Yorkshire and as Derek says, "It was a wonderful upbringing." Richard explains, "We were not well off due to rations, but we always had an annual holiday at the seaside and regularly went to the cinema."

Richard was 18-years-old when Derek joined the Royal Air Force and left to travel the world for a number of years. He remembers Derek's quick two-week visit home to the UK but it was too cold for Derek. As a result he made a snap decision and booked a one-way ticket to Melbourne.

Derek says, "I have spent the last 55 years living in Melbourne. When I arrived in 1960 I met my wife while I was staying at her mother's boarding house." Derek worked at the Melbourne College teaching pattern-making and retired at the age of 60. In more recent years, Derek was a carer for his late wife until



Bringing brothers together

Derek (left) and Richard (right) Robinson are reunited.

he suffered a stroke himself. He spent two months recovering in hospital.

Richard's wife Maureen recalls, "When Derek moved in to Benetas Lovell House the staff didn't think he had any family as he couldn't really communicate. But then one day, he suddenly remembered he had a brother."

With the help of Rodney, the manager at Lovell House, Maureen and Richard arranged a trip to Australia from the UK to specifically see Derek. Not only was it the first time the brothers had seen each other in over five decades, but it was the first time Maureen had met her brother-in-law.

Derek explains, "I felt emotional and so excited to see Richard." The pair spent the majority of the two-week visit reminiscing about their childhood.

"...one day, he suddenly remembered he had a brother."

Helping older Victorians like Derek remain connected to their family is incredibly important at Benetas. Not only does it help the older people we care for to stay happy and healthy themselves, but it also provides families with a sense of wellbeing.

The Premier says thanks!

Congratulations to the Benetas St John's Park Op Shop Auxiliary in Mooroolbark who were finalists in this year's Victorian Premier's Community Volunteering Award. The Op Shop has been open since 1984 and since then has raised a staggering \$1.5 million in funds for residents at Benetas St John's Park. Thank you for your ongoing and extraordinary commitment to Benetas.



Some of the Op Shop Auxiliary members

A voice for older Victorians

As our population continues to age, it's critical that Benetas plans for the future to ensure we can continue to provide first-class services to older Victorians. What's more important is that we *listen* to those we care for so we continue to provide the services people *need* and *want*.

Listening to the experiences of our clients and families and sharing their voices was the focus of our recent submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Caring for Older Australians.

The inquiry is the first step towards instigating reform in aged care in Australia, and Benetas jumped at the chance to be involved. Our submission presents our recommendations for aged care endorsed by real stories from our clients about their experiences. It confirms Benetas is an organisation that has a real commitment to playing an active role in advocating on behalf of older people.

Please read our submission, available at www.benetas.com.au.

While you're online, visit www.thegrandplan.com.au. You may have already received information about this campaign from Benetas. We're encouraging you to help us keep pressure on our politicians to improve choice, access and the sustainability of the aged care sector.



SANDRA HILLS
Chief Executive Officer



Maria (middle), with her daughter (left) and carer (right) enjoy a day at Chadstone.

Maria is a Benetas client living at home with the support of a community care package in Wonthaggi. She uses a wheelchair and finds it difficult to leave the house without assistance, but with the help of a grant from the Benetas Quality of Life Fund to cover transport expenses and her carer's support, Maria was able to enjoy some much-needed retail therapy in March. With her carer Shirley, Maria made a special trip from Wonthaggi to Chadstone Shopping Centre. They were joined by Maria's daughter Pam for a lovely day of

shopping, lunch and buying gifts for her granddaughter. Maria said, "It had been five or six years since my last shopping trip — and while I love to shop for clothes, things are a bit limited in Wonthaggi!" The Quality of Life Fund enables Benetas clients to achieve something special in their life that is important to them, and that they would otherwise not be able to afford to do. If you're a Benetas client or resident and want to learn more about the Quality of Life Fund, please speak to your care manager or a Benetas staff member.

The wheels on the bus

Do you know that minibuses equipped for wheelchairs can cost over \$60,000? As a not-for-profit organisation, Benetas doesn't have the funds to purchase buses and keep them running without support. Residents and staff at Benetas Corowa Court, our residential facility in Mornington, were thrilled when a lovely new bus was donated by the Corowa Court Op Shop in Mt Eliza. A special afternoon tea was held in May to thank the Op Shop volunteers for making such a significant donation.



A very large lunch

Benetas Community Care clients and volunteers recently joined over 1,500 guests at the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation annual 'Christmas in July' lunch. Guests enjoyed entertainment from performers such as Daryl Braithwaite, Keith Potger and Jonathon Welch's Choir of Hope and Inspiration. A highlight for Benetas clients Fred, Albert and Mavis was meeting Lord Mayor Robert Doyle as he greeted guests during the day. We thank the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation for hosting this event and bringing joy to disadvantaged Victorians.

Feeling clucky

Benetas Hurlingham, our residential facility in East Brighton, is a little 'chirpier' these days, thanks to three beautiful pet chickens. Facility Manager Sheena Wynn reports, "There is certainly no shortage of resident volunteers to assist with chook chores." Names for the lovely ladies were drawn out of a hat from a selection submitted by residents. The girls have been christened Alexandra, Cleopatra and Mabel.



Awards galore

Benetas was recently recognised as a Fair and Flexible Employer by the Victorian State Government's Working Families Council for our endeavours to provide our staff with a fair, flexible and family-friendly working environment.

We were also the recipient of the Aged and Community Care Victoria Media Award for the positive portrayal of older people in the media, thanks to the extensive media coverage we generated about our *Respect in an ageing society* research paper in March.

After just 18 months in her role as CEO, Sandra Hills has been recognised for her achievements at the SACS Awards for Leadership as a finalist in the Not for Profit Sector – Executive Leaders. SACS Consulting, a human resource firm, hold the awards to provide recognition to those who contribute to the community through dedicated leadership.



Award recipient Samantha (middle) with Benetas colleagues.

Ray of sunshine

Samantha Tuivonovono, a nurse at Benetas St George's, our residential facility in Altona Meadows, has been recognised for her constant cheeriness and dedication to residents in the recent Radio 3AW Aged Care Nurses Appreciation Awards. Samantha was nominated by Manager Michelle Kotiau who says, "Sam always smiles throughout her day and displays an infectious positivity." In addition to her daily responsibilities, Sam volunteers to help new nurses in their first days on the job, creates fun, themed events for residents and is on the organising committee for quarterly balls. Sam says, "We enjoy our workplace. It is clinical, but we enjoy it. You have to love people and you have to find that humour." As one of the five 2010 award winners Sam was thrilled to receive an LCD television, kindly donated by Sharp.

Regional support

Over 53 new cases of dementia are diagnosed each day in Victoria according to a recent Access Economics and Alzheimer's Australia Vic report. This is set to increase to 82 per day by 2020. In regional Victoria, numbers of people living with dementia is predicted to quadruple to 77,890 by 2050. These projections highlight the importance of planning dementia

services to ensure people living in regional Victoria have equal access to care and support as those who live in the city. With this in mind, Benetas and Alzheimer's Australia Vic are working together in Gippsland to support people living with dementia, and those who care for them. In 2009 we established the Lakes Entrance Dementia Carer Support Group. We are also pleased to announce we are launching a second support group

for carers living in and around Orbost (near the Victorian and New South Wales border). The group will meet for the first time in September at Orbost Neighbourhood House. Staff from Benetas and Alzheimer's Australia Vic will then hold monthly meetings to provide carers with the opportunity to share experiences, information and support. For more information call the Benetas Community care office in Gippsland on 03 5155 6000.