

# PEOPLE MATTERS

Autumn Issue | 2015

Long Service Awards for Wakatipu Supportlink

Celebrating the festive season at Presbyterian Support Southland

Doris celebrates her 100th year

Christmas spirit alive and well at Family Works

Outstanding Contribution Recognised

Spud in a Bucket Competition

Donation Form



**Presbyterian Support**  
**Southland**



## Going the Extra Mile for Presbyterian Support Southland

After nine years with PSS, most of it as Chairman, Robin Campbell's dedication to and passion for the organisation has been recognised with an Extra Mile Award.

Robin, who stepped down from the Trust late in 2014, was both humbled and surprised by the recognition, and said he had been proud to be part of an organisation that so genuinely cared about its community.

"Other people talk the talk, but the folk at PSS, they walk the walk. Other people talk about social justice...there are people at PSS who dedicate their lives to it," he said.

"Being Chairman has been a big role; it has to be, it's a big business, but I can't imagine many organisations this big – 450+ employees, \$18m in turnover, more than 500 volunteers – doing it as modestly or as far below the radar as PSS."

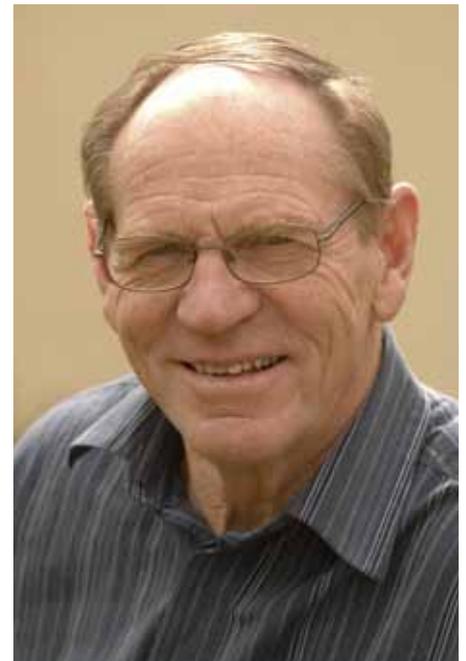
There have been a number of significant highlights for Robin over the past nine years; including establishing a clear distinction between social services and social enterprise, the adoption of the Charter and the development of a strategy on a single page.

"Too often strategy – the organisation's plan to win – is a booklet lost in the files. PSS got beyond that," he said.

And now another highlight has come in the form of the Extra Mile Award.

The award acknowledges Robin's time with the organisation locally, along with his work for the national Presbyterian Support federation and PSS's Retirement Village Company. Robin served as chair of all three bodies.

As founding Director of Presbyterian Support Southland Retirement Villages Limited, Robin put considerable effort into settling the new company in 2008.



Former Presbyterian Support Southland Chairman Robin Campbell's contribution to the organisation has been recognised with an Extra Mile Award

As Chairman of Presbyterian Support New Zealand he provided calm leadership as the seven independent regions worked towards a structure to allow Family Works to apply for national contracts. And as Chairman of PSS he had huge input into many and varied successes.

After three terms on the trust, Robin simply felt the time was right to step back.

"I have been involved with a lot of things over the years, and it's always been my view to give it your best shot, then move on," he said.

"Now it's time for someone else to give it their best shot."

Robin's best shot has certainly given PSS an excellent footing from which to move forward and the organisation wishes him all the best.



## Long Service Awards for Wakatipu Supportlink

Whatever way you do the math – the numbers reveal a dedication and commitment to volunteering that is truly deserving of recognition, and that’s just what Presbyterian Support Southland’s (PSS) Long Service Awards seek to achieve.

Thirteen volunteers from Wakatipu Supportlink were acknowledged for their long service recently; with 90 year’s of volunteering between just 13 volunteers alone.

Some, including Judith Mahon (20 years) and Brian Bayley (13 years), had spent well over a decade each driving vans for the elderly in the community.

Whilst volunteers can fill a huge number of roles – from driving to simply keeping people company – each played a vital role, said PSS Community Services for Older People Manager Lynn Morton.

“We are so fortunate to have such a reliable and available group of people willing to support the elderly in the Wakatipu community,” she said.

“It is quite a transient population in Wakatipu – at one volunteer training only one of the nine people was a Kiwi – but that’s nice. Often visitors will miss that contact with their elderly relatives, so put the time in to volunteer. And we’re very fortunate, also, to have a core group that



A group of Wakatipu Supportlink Volunteers celebrate the recent Long Service Awards

continue year on year to give of their time to support the older community.”

Wakatipu Supportlink currently has 26 volunteers who fulfil a number of roles for the elderly in the local community.

### Long Service Awards

The following Wakatipu Supportlink volunteers were recognised for their long service:

Judith Mahon (20 years), Bryan Bayley (13 years), Nannette Bennington (11 years), Leona Smith (8 years), Margaret James (7 years), Susan Beardsley (5 years), Jan McPherson (4 years), Cherie Morgan (3 years), Maralyn Alderson (3 years), Susan Morrison (3 years),

Ruby Hutton (3 years), Anne Pannett (2 years), Derek Marshall (2 years)

### What is Supportlink?

It’s a programme in Invercargill, Gore and Wakatipu that matches volunteers with older people living in the community who are in need of some form of help. This can range from providing transport to the shops, to taking someone to the movies or helping out while spouses or regular caregivers have time out.

To volunteer or find out more about the service, call PSS Community Services for Older People Manager Lynn Morton on 03 211 8253.

## Celebrating the festive season at Presbyterian Support Southland

The festive season was celebrated in a variety of ways across Presbyterian Support Southland’s retirement villages – with a nativity scene and a visit from a miniature horse just two of the novelties enjoyed by residents.



Bill Sands and his daughter Annette enjoy the Christmas Day celebrations with residents and staff at Walmsley House



A staff member brought this chestnut Appaloosa stallion in to visit the residents at Peacehaven Village, which proved a hit! For Jean Favel (pictured) the visit brought back memories, as her family used to have miniature horses



Vickery Court residents enjoyed a visit to the Manna Christian Store on Spey Street as part of their Christmas celebrations and were able to get right into the Christmas spirit! The residents were allowed into the nativity scene, where they got this great picture taken

## Doris Hodges celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday



Doris Hodges celebrated her 100th birthday in January 2015

There might not be a birth certificate to prove it, but Doris Hodge's 100th birthday has been acknowledged by the Queen and the Prime Minister – and the occasion has been celebrated in style.

The Walmsley House resident turned 100 on January 5th, celebrating the milestone with 140 guests (mostly family) at an afternoon tea at Invercargill's First Church and with a smaller function at Walmsley House.

The walls of her room are adorned with cards from her many family members, along with messages from the Queen, Prime Minister John Key, Governor General Jerry Mateparae and Invercargill Mayor Tim Shadbolt.

Despite her birth certificate going missing in action – the story goes that a farmer's son, charged with delivering her birth certificate to register her birth, got caught up at the pub and failed to fulfil his job – there is no doubt Doris is officially 100.

On wishing to obtain a passport, family

had to go through school records to prove her identity and her birth date. It was a mission well worth it though, with the plucky centenarian delighted to share her big day with family and friends.

Born in Riverton, then moved to Invercargill with her husband Harry, Doris has been an active member of both communities. She was a very good bowler right up until she was 95; even when she started to lose her sight she could still roll a very good bowl down the green.

A regular church goer, she was still making up parcels for elderly folk right through to her mid-90s – making goods for recipients much younger than her. She was also a very talented tatter; often making goods to sell to support her family during war time.

With a large family, including 96 direct descendants and a daughter across the road, there is no shortage of visitors for Doris at Walmsley House. It's a home in which she is more than happy.

## Christmas spirit alive and well at Family Works

He might appear clean shaven for 364 days of the year but, come Christmas, Family Works Social Worker David Griffin is always eager to pull on a beard, gumboots and a bright red suit – all in the name of making the festive season a memorable one for Family Works staff and clients alike.

David has been the office Santa Claus for a number of years and the enthusiasm in which he embraces the role has not

gone unnoticed, with Family Works staff presenting him with a personalised book on the 12 Days of Christmas and his very own pair of black gumboots recently.

The acknowledgement was a bit of fun, after another Christmas which has seen the generosity of Southlanders once again come to the fore.

Family Works was again fortunate to receive widespread and substantial donations of food, toys, essential items and money that it was able to distribute amongst more than 140 Southland families.

Family Works Director Judith McInerney said it was touching to see how the community supported those in need.

"It makes a huge difference to families in our community, it just eases that pressure a little over what should be a happy, family-oriented time," she said.

A wide range of organisations, businesses and individuals donated all types of goods; and staff from Focus Technology and Crowe Horwath also chipped in to assist Family Works staff to put the parcels together and to clean up afterwards.



Staff from Crowe Horwath and Focus Technology pitched in and helped Family Works staff put together food parcels for close to 50 Southland families



Karen Willis presents David Griffin with his 12 Days of Christmas book; a token of appreciation from staff for his great work as Santa over numerous Christmases

Groups such as Rotary, and churches including Elim Church, City Impact Church and Richmond Grove all made donations; and the H&J Smith Christmas Tree Appeal again proved a hit with both the public who donated presents and the families that received them.

Twenty five places were also made available to Family Works for clients to attend the Invercargill Christmas Lunch for the Less Fortunate, hosted by Mayor Tim Shadbolt, which proved a fantastic function for all involved.



## Outstanding Contribution Recognised



SIT Year 1 Bachelor of Nursing student Gayatri Devi was awarded the Presbyterian Support Southland Award for Outstanding Contribution

Gayatri Devi had never stepped foot in a resthome until she took on a nursing placement at Gore's Resthaven Village last year.

In four short weeks, though, the first year nursing student certainly made an impact, receiving excellent feedback from Resthaven staff and going on to be awarded the Year 1 Bachelor of Nursing Presbyterian Support Southland Award for Outstanding Contribution at the 2014 Southern Institute of Technology Award Ceremony.

Whilst Presbyterian Support Southland (PSS) supports the award, it is staff at SIT who determine its recipient each year and, whilst Gayatri impressed during her placement at Resthaven it was a year-round contribution that was recognised through the award.

"I was really surprised to get the award, but it was really nice to be recognised

and chosen out of such a large number of nursing students," she said.

Gayatri had enjoyed the first year of her three year Bachelor of Nursing course at SIT and her four week placement at Resthaven had proved to be a hugely positive experience, if not an eye-opening one.

"I had a really good mentor, and all of the staff there were really good to work with and learn from," she said.

"It was my first resthome experience. I come from Fiji and we don't have resthomes – we care for our elderly at home – so I'd never been in a resthome, and it was really good."

PSS Director of Services for Older People Julia Russell said PSS supported the SIT award for a number of reasons, including to promote PSS as a provider of Services for Older People, to show that the organisation takes pride in excellence and to support education.

### Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$10       \$50       \$100
- \$500       Other \$ .....

### DONATION FORM

*Donations retained within Southland*

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss (Name/s) .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Phone .....

Email .....

Donation Purpose .....

**OR Donate Online** [www.southland.ps.org.nz/donate-now/donations-form](http://www.southland.ps.org.nz/donate-now/donations-form)

### Other ways I would like to help:

- Become a Volunteer (Services for Older People, Buddy Programme or Foster Care)
- Become a Family Works Guardian Angel
- Contact me to set up a regular automatic payment
- Contact me about leaving a gift in my Will

All donations over \$5 are accepted. Presbyterian Support Southland is a Registered Charity. Our Charities Commission Registration is CC22363. Please make cheques payable to Presbyterian Support Southland. Presbyterian Support New Zealand will preserve the confidentiality of all personal information it holds in accordance with the NZ Privacy Act 1993.

Marketing & Communications Manager  
Presbyterian Support Southland  
PO Box 314, INVERCARGILL 9840

Phone: 03 211 8252  
Email: [admin@pss.org.nz](mailto:admin@pss.org.nz)  
[www.southland.ps.org.nz](http://www.southland.ps.org.nz)

## Spud in a Bucket Competition



The supreme winner of the Peacehaven Village Spud in a Bucket competition was Elsie Nelson. Elsie is pictured second from left, alongside other competitors who all took part in the annual competition