

# MEDIA RELEASE



3 December 2010

## **The Lady Small Haven Aged Care Services choir to reignite Christmas joy in the community**

Twenty-two ladies from Lady Small Haven Aged Care Services will on Monday night delight the community with their singing talent and stage flair.

Ranging in ages between 85 and 95, the recently formed female choir at the aged care service is the brain child of Rod Wells - another resident at the facility.

Mr Wells is a musical aficionado, a former music teacher, and international choir conductor, who awoke in the middle of the night with the vision to start this choral group.

According to Lady Small Haven diversional therapist Jeanne Holt, Mr Wells was admitted into the nursing home about six months ago.

"But his health and his mood increased so much after he started this choir that he was moved into the hostel," Ms Holt said.

"It is just phenomenal what this choir has achieved, and it is amazing what Rod has been able to create here at Lady Small. He was even approached by a few people in the community who wanted to join the choir. I continue to hear comments from choir members who say they never thought they would sing again, and they can't believe what they have been capable of. And the families are just elated to see what their parents and aunts are doing in this choir – it is just extraordinary.

"It has been Rod's baby for the past four months, and there are no words to describe how this has lifted the spirits of everyone who has been involved. He was the first headmaster of Somerset College here on the Gold Coast, and also the founder of Cannon Hill Anglican College, so he has had a lifetime of teaching and musical experience. He is a very well respected community figure, and it is wonderful how much joy he has been able to bring to the residents here."

Ms Holt said there was a buzz among the residents, as they all eagerly awaited the chance to get up on stage.

"They cannot wait until Monday, it's going to be a real production. The performance is Christmas themed, and there are backdrops, lighting and decorations for the show. They will all be dressed up in white robes with red collars. It is going to be a wonderful Christmas performance, and something quite extraordinary."

## **ENDS**

### **Photo opportunity**

Who: Rod Wells's choir from Lady Small Haven Aged Care Services, which comprises approx 19 residents from the facility, and staff and community members.

What: The choir will perform a number of Christmas songs, dressed in traditional choir robes, with special lighting and production effects.

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Where: Community hall at Lady Small Haven Aged Care Services – 60 Allchurch Avenue, Benowa.

When: Monday 6 December from 7pm.

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## **About Churches of Christ Care**

Churches of Christ Care is a division of Churches of Christ in Queensland—a group of churches that is part of the worldwide Christian church.

We strive to create an inclusive, caring, compassionate environment that meets its clients' needs without discrimination or prejudice. Everyone is welcome to call on our help regardless of their religious background.

Churches of Christ Care is one of Queensland's leading providers of early childhood, child protection, affordable housing, retirement living and aged care services. We are a not-for-profit organisation that supports more than 27,000 clients each year in urban, rural and remote areas.

We operate 137 services throughout Queensland with the support of more than 2,800 staff and over 700 volunteers.

Churches of Christ Care is built on a foundation of Christian values, commitment to quality care, and trust and respect for clients and the community.