

MEDIA RELEASE



May 2011

Celebrating 30 years at Churches of Christ Care's Bribie Island Retirement Village

As Bribie Island resident Mary Croker cut her anniversary cake, she remembered all the good times the past three decades has brought her.

This month Mrs Croker celebrated her 30th anniversary living at Churches of Christ Care's Bribie Island Retirement Village, and last week the village held a small celebratory morning tea to recognise this important milestone.

Mrs Croker moved into the village with her then husband in 1981. And since, she said the village had transformed from a small, close-knit group to a bustling, busy and social village.

"When we first came into the village, there were only four independent living units, no nursing home, no chapel, and about 15 endowment units," Mrs Croker said.

"There weren't many people on Bribie Island either. It was very quiet and secluded back then."

Mrs Croker has seen the expansion of the village, the building of the nursing home, the respite centre and the establishment of the Community Care Program, which are all part of Churches of Christ Care's Bribie Island Aged Care Services.

"Things here are very different now," she continued.

"There are so many more activities and services available here. I am 97 though, so unfortunately I am not able to participate in everything. Over the years I have been involved in all the village projects like the village fete, the fundraising activities, and I was one of the founding members of Busy Fingers, an op-shop type club where we would sell lots of bits and pieces. Today Busy Fingers is still going, and is as strong as ever."

Mrs Croker said the village had become her life, and she couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

"The best thing about living here is the safety and security," she explained.

"After my husband passed away, I didn't feel alone here. I felt safe and comfortable knowing there were people around me all the time. When you get old and your partner passes away, if you live in your family house, sometimes you become very isolated. But here I am constantly surrounded by people I know and I never feel cut off or lonely."

ENDS

Photo attached.

Mary Croker cutting her special 30th anniversary cake.

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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 our 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.