

# MEDIA RELEASE

22 August 2011

## **Choir hitting the high notes for Seniors Week**

The Lady Small Haven choir is belting out hits from the forties throughout Seniors Week and proving that age is not a barrier when it comes to performance endurance.

The group of 35 singers, with an average age of 80, has been taking the Gold Coast by storm, entertaining not only the residents at the aged care service but also members of the public who are flocking to hear them perform.

The choir, the brainchild of Somerset College's founder Rod Wells, is preparing to perform two shows during National Seniors Week; and they are inviting people to come and hear their new Fabulous Forties Concert.

Choirmaster, Mr Wells said the choir has become a big part of his life since moving to Churches of Christ Care's Lady Small Haven.

"It has filled a gap for me. I am now 82 and would never have imagined doing something like this at my age.

"When I came here I no longer had a school to look after, so I formed the choir and about 25 people came to the first practice," he said.

And it has grown from there.

Jannene Holt, Lady Small Haven's Lifestyle Therapist, said Mr Wells took something ordinary and turned it into something extraordinary.

"When Mr Wells moved in, he had basically given up, but his talent to organise and teach others helped us all become better singers. He is tough on us and he whips us into shape but he gets results," she said.

The choir practises every Monday afternoon, and the choirmaster does not go easy on his singers, even the ones in their 90s.

Mr Wells said he thinks the choir gives people a new lease of life. "We have 10 people over 90 and one of them, Trudy, is giving a solo at the Fabulous Forties concert – she is singing like a bird.

"Every second person says they can't sing, which is fairly true unless you give it a try. With a little bit of nurturing they open up, and as a result our choir has a very strong sound. We even have people from outside that provide a boost, and that helps us come good," he said.

What: Fabulous Forties Concert

When: 23 and 25 August 2011

Where: Lady Small Haven Aged Care Services, 60 Allchurch Avenue, Benowa

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## **About Churches of Christ Care**

Established in 1930, today Churches of Christ Care is one of the largest, most diverse not-for-profit organisation in Australia.

Churches of Christ Care, a division of Churches of Christ in Queensland and working with Churches of Christ in Vic/Tas, provides a range of care services to vulnerable persons at different stages of their life journey.

Churches of Christ Care is active in the areas of early childhood services, child protection, community and affordable housing, retirement living, community aged care, and residential aged care. We operate more than 140 services throughout Queensland and Melbourne, Victoria with the support of more than 3,000 staff and over 700 volunteers.

Services provided by Churches of Christ Care are funded by a mix of government subsidies, grants, fees and charges for our services such as early childhood services and residential aged care, and through fundraising activities.

Our services are offered to all those in need regardless of religious background. 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.