

Facelift for Marian Court Units 'great benefit' for residents

By Jennifer Duke

MARIAN Court Units, a self-care facility for the over 55s, has recently undergone substantial renovations and its largest redevelopment since its construction in 1965.

Susan Halliday, executive officer and director of Marian Court, said residents have benefitted greatly from the refurbishment.

Mrs Halliday said the new outdoor barbecue area can be used by residents for hosting family and friends, and Marian House offers "a nice entertainment area" and a weekly movie night.

A focal point of the renovation was combining single units into double units to create larger living spaces for residents.

These spacious carpeted and tiled units, designed according to each resident's preference, are complemented by newly refurbished communal areas.

The renovations also include a redesigned entrance, installation of a new, larger lift and the introduction of new safety features, such as higher balcony rails.

The final stage of the refurbishment, including



BENEFITS: Susan Halliday, executive officer and director of Marian Court, CWL Sydney president Loretta Chester, CWL executive Moya Potts, and resident Merle Hanscombe. (Below) Resident couple Brian and Patricia McNally.

new carpet and landscaping, will soon be completed.

Mrs Halliday said the ongoing work has caused minimal disruption to residents and there have been "no dramas".

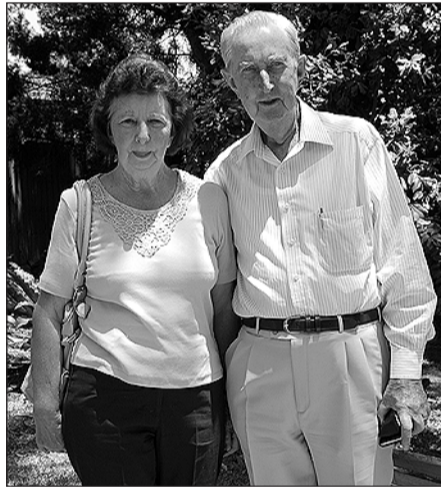
The Sydney archdiocese branch of the Catholic Women's League (CWL), which operates the Strathfield site and provides staff on a volunteer basis, with many league executives also serving on the Marian Court board,

has overseen the recent developments.

Within the past two years there have been 16 new residents at Marian Court, which offers a hairdressing service, a library, and weekly Mass in the onsite Mass room.

The chair of the board of Marian Court Units, Noreen Keoghan, said residents are "very happy" with the refurbishment.

"They really appreciate all we have done for them," she said.



Priest plea for drug smuggler

FR TIM Harris, the Rush family's priest, has called on Catholics to write to their local Federal MPs and voice their concerns about the death penalty now that the final appeal to overturn the death sentence of Bali Nine drug smuggler Scott Rush is imminent.

Now 23, Scott was one of nine people arrested in Denpasar in 2005 attempting to smuggle more than eight kilograms of heroin from Indonesia to Australia.

It has been more than 2½ years since his life sentence was changed to a death sentence.

If his final appeal fails, the only avenue left will be for the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, to appeal to Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono for clemency.

"I am not suggesting that we make loud protests or anything like that, for the appeal process will need to run its course," said Fr Tim, parish priest at Corinda-Graceville parish in Brisbane. Perhaps simply reminding their local Federal members about Scott's situation will suffice.

"The last thing we want to do is antagonise anyone. The Federal members, if the response is strong, will make sure that the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister are well aware of the views being expressed in support of Scott. This will be a good thing and keep Scott's dire situation before them."

Fr Tim added: "To the Prime Minister's credit he has already indicated his willingness to seek clemency from the Indonesian President if the appeal is lost. We need to make sure the PM honours his word if the news is bad.

"Our Catholic people need also to pray fervently for justice to be done, for with prayer anything and everything is possible. Our Catholic people could spare a prayer for the parents of Scott, Lee and Christine", who have travelled to Indonesia to be with Scott during the Christmas season.

CDF defies Global Financial Crisis to distribute \$9m

By Damir Govorcin

THE Catholic Development Fund (CDF) has weathered the storm of the Global Financial Crisis distributing nearly \$9 million this financial year to support the charitable works of the Sydney archdiocese.

Since its inception in 1993, the CDF has distributed in excess of \$72 million to the archdiocese.

The Archbishop of Sydney, George Cardinal Pell, says the CDF continues to be "a sound and safe steward" of archdiocesan funds and those of its many clients within the archdiocese.

General manager Mark Huxley says

CDF had a "great year" despite turbulent economic conditions.

"This was largely due to the conservative and prudential approach to the way we have done, and continue to do business," he said.

"Because of this conservative approach, we were insulated to a very large extent from the effects of the Global Financial Crisis. This policy stems from our strong and talented advisory board coupled with a stewardship approach to the funds we manage on our clients' behalf."

He continued: "As a result of being essentially unaffected (though not entirely) by the Global Financial Crisis, we

were able to continue to do business as planned, unlike the secular finance world who are still very much in recovery mode.

"We remained able to offer competitive investment rates along with loan rates to our clients which were well below those available on commercial loan facilities."

Mr Huxley said the CDF enjoys and appreciates "considerable support from our Catholic clients within and without the archdiocese".

He said the Catholic Development Fund Sydney is in "a very sound position" and this means "we can confidently plan to offer our continued support to all of our clients now and into the future".

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