



## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

The Board's year has been concentrating on consolidation and refocusing. Some of my references are not confined to the financial year but up to the time of finalising this report, in September, 2016.

The year saw the beginning of a complete root and branch review of governance, beginning with the company's constitution.

The Constitution has been redrafted substantially in line with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission's guidelines. The ACNC is the now the arbiter of Charities and Public Benevolent Institution status, which follows on to ATO endorsements. It is important to run as parallel as responsible with ACNC guidelines.

As required by the constitution the redraft is awaiting pre-approval by Australian Tax Office and then NSW Charities Commission.

Various policy reviews are underway or completed and will culminate in a major board revision in January. The purpose of the reviews is to strengthen the capacity of the board to meet any challenges ahead, be they regulatory, fiscal or project related.

The Board put a lot of time and effort in the establishment of a constitution and protocols for PACE. The board recognises the potential for the PACE partnership to strengthening our systems and executive capacity. The board have kept the PACE discussions front and centre and will continue to do so. Progress has been made and business cases are under consideration. The project is poised to come to fruition early next year. Even in its embryonic stage, PACE has received several awards for innovation.

During the year, the board and the planning committee have engaged in the development of options as opportunities arise within the next one and two decades. To this end, the board has attended several information presentations. This is a major focus.

A program of board education continues on a regular basis. Noteworthy was the attendance of several board members and our CEO at the annual Better Boards Conference.

David Sinclair stepping down after 10 years at the helm has taken a lot of adjustment. David's skills, experience and dedication in Aged Care are unparalleled. Thankfully David remains on the board and is a tower of strength.

On behalf of the Evergreen Community, Residents, Staff, Volunteers and Board, I extend a heartfelt and rousing vote of thanks to David for his long dedication to the cause of Evergreen.

Our CEO, Ted Coupe, continues to demonstrating the wisdom of those who selected him. I can hear the Hear Hears from the staff. They will attest to Ted's fairness and good sense in everything. He is a man to rely on in a tight spot and a gentleman always.

Our treasurer Ron Thomsen has given us 5 years of service as a director and is retiring before the AGM in October. Ron has been an admirable director and treasurer. Always asking the hard questions and challenging any complacency. Ron's excellent supervision of finances is reflected in his accompanying report. I think Ron is going on to slay some Lions, while he still has the strength. A very big vote of thanks to Ron and best wishes from all on the Board.

Susan Johnston retired in July, again after long and valuable service, particularly in relation to Evergreen's LGBTI initiatives. Susan's holds a very responsible public role and her workload became excessive. Susan's resignation coincided with the annual board dinner so we were able to give her a warm send off and I think she very much appreciated our gift. Thank you Susan. You are warmly remembered.

I thank all directors for their valuable contribution throughout the year. Malcolm Angus as a valuable sounding board and chairs the Planning Committee, with much on his plate this year. Jim Buultjens, vice chairman, was right there with Ron on the business of the Finance Committee. Lynne Rainford is fully engaged in the business of the board. I anticipate that part of Lynne's role will be devil's advocate and we welcome that Lynne.

We have new blood and a generational change on the board. At the September board meeting, we will be joined by Jane Barry and David Morgan. Jane has legal qualifications and a distinguished career in Law and in government and peak bodies. David is a high level I.T. and Project Manager. I extend a warm welcome to you, Jane and David. The board will extend itself to enable a long and productive engagement for you.

We have an infusion of impressive new management appointees, whom I welcome. I have no doubt will be commented on by our CEO.

To repeat a metaphor, we are all at the oars and that has the most salutary effect on the productivity and fulfilment of all members of the team.

The highlight of the year for me was the Anzac Day Ceremony. Thanks to all who assembled in such numbers and participated, our residents, volunteers, our friends from the RSL Club & Sub Branch, the Philharmonia Choir, our patron Ken Barnett, organisers Fiona, Sarah Joe and Ted, a pitch perfect prayer by Rev Bob Grant and the two very young gentlemen helping residents, whom I overlooked thanking on the day.

I commend this annual report to you.

Patrick McHugh  
Chairman