PRESIDENTS REPORT 2026

Welcome and thank you for attending the 2026 Annual General Meeting of Yass Valley Aged Care Limited. We are fortunate to return to this, the Robinson Room for our AGM.

Each year as I sit down to write my report, I think it is prudent to reflect on our mission and vision statements and assess how well we as an organisation, have measured up to those goals. These goals assume greater importance as the environment in which we operate continues to change and in a constantly changing environment these goals become our anchor and guide. The board, staff and volunteers, constantly strive to live up to these ideals and I hope we generally succeed in meeting them.

The new Aged Care Act 2024 commenced on 1 November 2025, so this is the first full year of its operational impacts. The Act imposes a number of new obligations and the implementation of new procedures to meet these obligations has been challenging. Pursuant to the Act the new Aged Care Rules 2025 also came into effect and provide detailed operational instructions and a legal framework for daily execution. This has imposed a considerable burden on our already busy staff who have risen to the challenges. We have also had to spend considerable amounts of money to bring aging systems up to date to ensure we comply. We have more work to do in this area as we continue to meet the ongoing challenges. I should also mention that the compliance burden has fallen on the board and volunteers as well.

This year has seen some renewal on our board. Two long standing directors, Michael Walker and Hugh McDonald have resigned.

Michael joined the board in 2004 and became President in 2015. Michael's contribution to this organisation has been significant. Michael was on the board when Warmington Lodge was completed in 2006. Michael immediately returned from holidays when Horton House was significantly destroyed by fire and physically assisted in the clean up. Michael, with the aid of a small committee, undertook the construction of the Clark Wing and the Parker Link, which was opened in 2019. The Clark Wing comprised seven additional rooms with ensuites, a lounge and staff room. The construction cost was funded entirely from YVAC's own resources. Michael was on the board during the covid lockdown and assisted in the kitchen to get meals to all the residents. He was instrumental in the acquisition of Corona Grove and 43 and 45 Castor Street which now gives us the opportunity to expand the facility. In addition to all these undertakings Michael has been an active board member and involved in the maintenance and improvement of the buildings and grounds.

Hugh McDonald joined the board in 2012. I would like to acknowledge and thank Hugh for the many hours he devoted to board activities, committee duties and other occasions where he gave freely of his time and expertise to assist the organisation. Hugh was always one of the more active members of the board and always ready to assist when called upon. Even after he resigned, he offered to be available to assist if his skills were needed.

I would also like to thank Trish Barber and Justine Turnbull who also resigned from the board this year, both having made valuable contributions to the organisation. I would like to thank everyone who has served on the board this year for their help and support.

Like most years the last twelve months have been busy. All the equipment in our kitchen is operating well in excess of its commercial life and any equipment could fail at any time. Our kitchen staff have been doing a wonderful job working with aging and failing equipment. They have been performing miracles on a daily basis while turning out wholesome and tasty food for our residents. We have engaged an architect, kitchen designer and other professionals to help us with the kitchen refurbishment. The Foundation has been most helpful in funding the deposits for the new equipment much of which has to be imported from overseas. The Foundation has also undertaken to help with the cost of the work which is estimated to be around $1.275 million. We are currently seeking tenders for this work which we hope to complete early next year.

We are also proceeding with the refurbishment of Horton House and to a lesser extent, Warmington Lodge. Horton House needs a lot of work to bring it to the standards of a modern facility. There are still nine rooms without ensuites and many of the other facilities such as dirty linen storage, medication rooms and storage rooms are no longer fit for purpose. There is also a lack of office accommodation for the staff. The plan is to remedy all these problems while generally upgrading the interior to make it a pleasant place to live and work. This is a much more ambitious project and is yet to be costed. The advantage we have is that this project can be completed in stages making it easier to digest. Again, the hope is that the Foundation will help with the cost.

We also have a concept plan for eighteen more rooms contained in a separate wing to be built on land we own at numbers 43 and 45 Castor Street. This will enable us to care for more residents with cognitive issues, which we know is a growing need in the community. The Foundation has agreed to fund the cost of the development approvals for this facility and the refurbishment of Horton House.

I have mentioned the Foundation several times in this report. We are grateful for the Foundation's ongoing support and assistance. I mentioned the fundamental shift in the way our organisation and the Foundation operate in last year's Presidents Report. This year has seen the practical application of that assistance and I would like to give my personal thanks to the Foundation's President, Katie Walker and the Chair of its investment Committee, Lee Pinder who have given me considerable assistance during the year. Katie and Lee have been most supportive of the new projects mentioned above and frankly, without the assistance of the Foundation I doubt these projects would have achieved the planning stage. For me it has been a pleasure working with them and enjoying their enthusiastic support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many hardworking volunteers. They make the lives of our residents better in so many ways. Very soon you will be asked to purchase raffle tickets for their major annual fundraiser. When you are approached please be generous as every dollar they raise goes back to the residents.

Thank you to our staff who strive every day to care for our residents and do a fine job. Your daily efforts make our facility a better place and the place that our residents or their families choose.

Thank you to our residents. You chose us to care for you and I hope we continue to exceed your expectations every day.

Tony Reeves
President
26 October 2026.