

# Ross Home

1918 - 2018





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Information for this book has come from a wide range of sources. Details have been checked and confirmed, where possible, but we acknowledge some factual errors may have been included. Our thanks to Otago Daily Times, as a number of images and quotes came from the newspaper.





## **Welcome to the Ross Home Centenary celebration**

*Margaret Pearce, Ross Home Manager*

Thank you for joining us, as we celebrate Ross Home being part of the North East Valley community for the last 100 years.

This book provides a brief snapshot, and a few of the many highlights from across the last ten decades. Each decade certainly had plenty of activity happening, as Ross Home responded to the need to care for older people in Otago.

One of the constants with Ross Home, which is very evident as you look across the last ten decades, is that we have constantly been growing and changing in response to the demand and changes in the industry. We have often barely finished an expansion project before planning for the next project was underway. Ross Home now looks completely different, in size and set up, to the building that was first opened 100 years ago

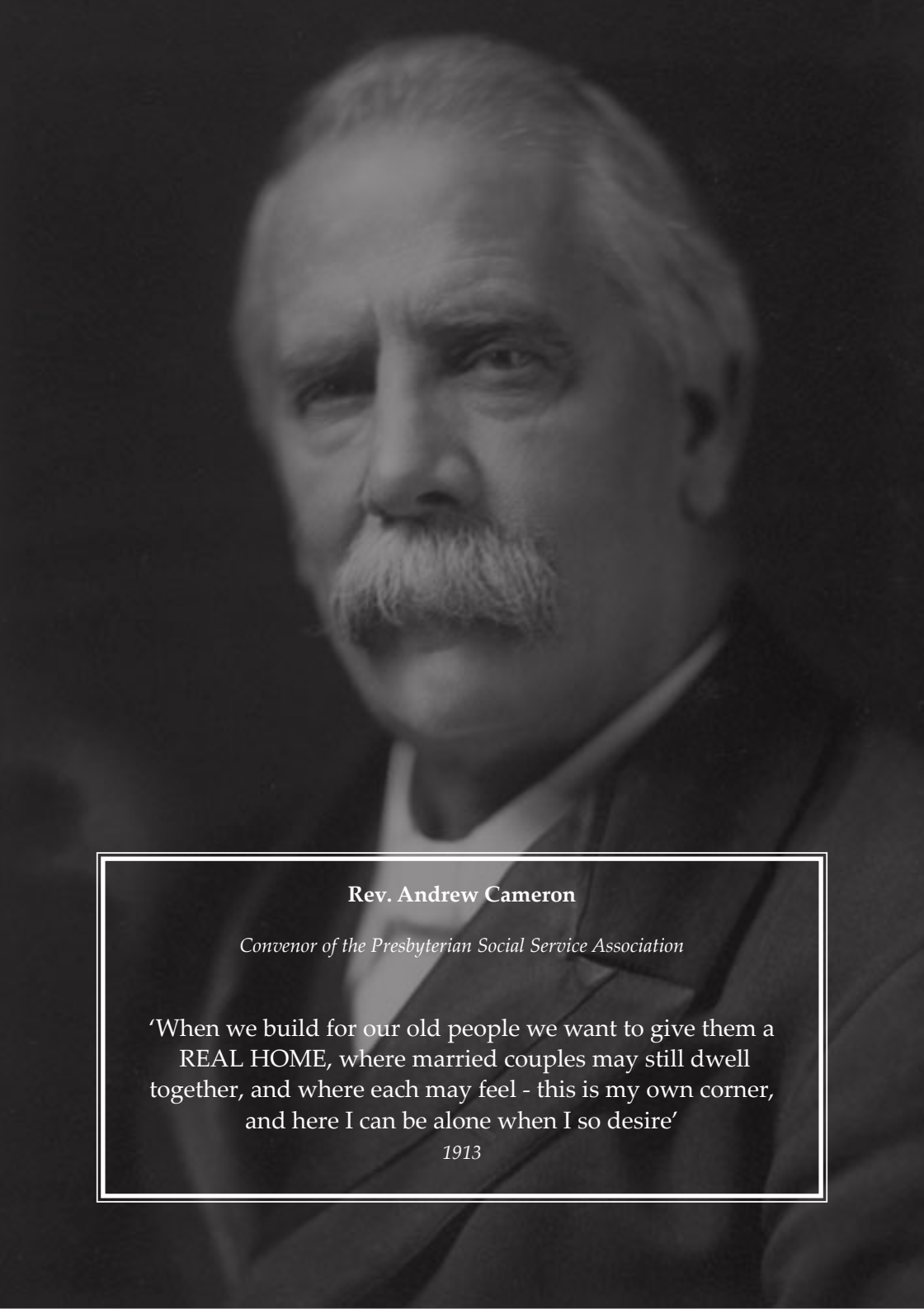
Another constant is the community connection we have built and maintained across the last century. Ross Home has always been a home which is part of the local community. This is reflected in the people who are part of our family, and many of the activities we are involved in. Our connections, and community involvement, remains very important to Ross Home.

As Rev Cameron said in 1913, it is important that facilities for older people give them a 'real home'. We are very proud that Ross Home has done this, from the day we opened in 1918, until today.

Ross Home can only do this because of the fantastic and committed team who make things happen here. We have a great management team, group of staff and a large number of committed volunteers who make sure that Ross Home is, most importantly, a home.

Enjoy the memories which have been shared here, and the stories and memories we are sharing together in person across the centenary weekend.





**Rev. Andrew Cameron**

*Convenor of the Presbyterian Social Service Association*

‘When we build for our old people we want to give them a  
REAL HOME, where married couples may still dwell  
together, and where each may feel - this is my own corner,  
and here I can be alone when I so desire’

1913



# 1910s

## 1916

Mr John Ross  
(Later Sir John Ross)



The Presbyterian Social Service Association (PSSA) was hoping for two things;

- A suitable sunny site close to town and,
- Financial means to build a new home.

In 1916 these two requests were firmly met when Mr. John Ross donated 10 acres of land in North East Valley to the PSSA on condition they raise a further £3,000 towards the development of a home for the elderly.

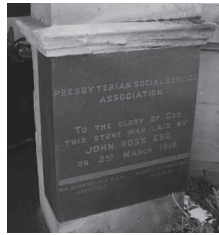
This was the beginning of a forward thinking project to meet the needs of the elderly and the initiation of an active community, which would become Ross Home.

## 1917

Ross home was designed by Mr. W. H. Dunning. Construction was undertaken by Fletcher Bros Ltd who offered a 'very economical' quote to build.



Ross Home by W. H. Dunning - Architect



The foundation stone laid by  
Mrs J Ross.

Mrs John Ross laying the foundation stone of the Presbyterian aged people's home in North East Valley, Dunedin, watched by a group of spectators - **Otago Witness**, 13 March 1918.

## 1918



Mr and Mrs Fleming, the first managers of Ross Home, with Ross Home staff on the steps of Ross Home.



Ross Home opens 5 October 1918

As soon as Ross Home opened the need for more room was evident, and almost straight away plans were underway to expand.





#### INCIDENTS BY THE WAY.

**ROSS HOME v. HEAVEN.**—The old man was sitting contentedly in his armchair. The visitor asked: "And how do you like the Home?" Reply: "I am very happy here. I lived in the place I came from for seven years. I was not happy. I used to meditate a great deal about Heaven in those days; since I came here I have not thought about it at all."

Evening Star 13-Aug-1921

# 1920s

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#### A SECURE HAVEN

'Ross Home is a place where the old people can live in peace and with self-respect'

*PSSA Annual Report 1920*

# 1921

## Eva Young

Becomes Matron of Ross Home

*As successor from Mr and Mrs Fleming  
(She remained Matron for 27 years)*



The PSSA community continued to be actively involved with the residents of Ross Home. But meeting the needs of the Ross Home residents was often with the generosity of donations from the community (In this same year, the Politician and Lawyer Mr. Downie Stewart (Jr) donated a piano to Ross Home) or through fundraising, such as the 'aim to raise 50,000 half-crowns scheme'.

#### PRESBYTERIAN 'SOCIAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION.

#### P.S.S.A. DEBT EXTINCTION FUND.

**WANTED, £6,250,**

**OR**

**50,000 HALF-CROWNS.**

The DUNEDIN P.S.S.A. has been at work for 15 years. During that time it has accomplished much for the comfort and rescue of a great army of young people. In addition to this, it has erected Ross Home, one of the most beautiful homes for the aged to be found anywhere. So constant has been the cry for the extension of our work that the Committee now finds itself burdened with a debt of £6,250. This is a crippling burden, from which we seek deliverance. Hence our appeal for 50,000 Half-crowns.

*Evening Star 13-Aug-1921*



# 1924

Although Ross Home was less than 10 years old, concern about the residents' physical comfort meant Miss Young oversaw the home's improvements. In this year 36 fireplaces were superseded by a hot water heating system.

More specialized care was needed by some residents in the home, and plans were soon drawn for a hospital block with financial assistance, and building plans from Mr. James Fletcher, who had previously built Ross Home.



## ROSS HOME CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION

1. Applications for admission must be made on the Associations' form, which will be supplied on application.
2. Applicants must submit some name known to the Association as reference. The referee should be able to certify that the applicant's character is good, and that he or she will be suitable for admission to Ross Home.
3. The inmates of the Ross Home are admitted only on the condition that they cheerfully adhere to the rules of the Home and conform to the instructions of the Matron.
4. Persons suffering from mental infirmity cannot be admitted.
5. Invalids and hospital cases cannot be admitted.
6. The Association feel that old people should, where practicable, live with their own relatives, and applicants must satisfy the Committee that there are good reasons for their admission to the Ross Home.
7. Members of the family of those received into the Home are expected to contribute towards the maintenance of their relative, where that is possible, to the amount of the cost of his or her maintenance in the Home, unless they can show that they are unable to do so.
8. Preference is given to applicants who have no near relatives living or whose means are insufficient to maintain them in comfort outside the Home.
9. Applications are laid before a Committee of the Association, which deals with each application on its own merits.

# 1925

Building for the new hospital was underway and would contain two wards, one for men and one for women. The current occupancy at this time was 50 residents.

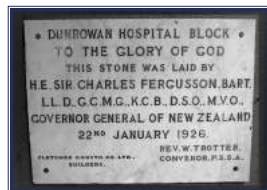
The Governor General, Sir Charles Fergusson, and Lady Alice Fergusson, make their first visit to Ross Home on 11 June. They conclude their visit by saying 'they were looking forward to coming back to Dunedin in a few months and hoped to become better acquainted with the people'.

# 1926

## 'A COMMUNITY BENEFIT' CEREMONY AT ROSS HOME

*Otago Daily Times - 23 January*

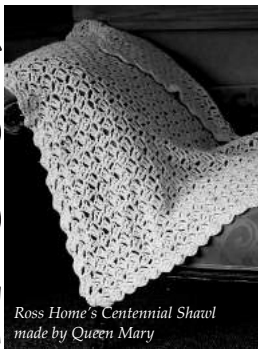
"I am sure that among the wonderful work which is done by the Presbyterian Church throughout New Zealand, and particularly in this part of the Dominion, no work appeals to me more, as giving lasting benefit to the community than



this provision of facilities for the care of the sick." This was one of the many appreciative remarks made by his Excellency the Governor General, Sir Charles Fergusson, after he laid the foundation stone of the Dunroven Hospital wing at Ross Home yesterday morning.

## A TRADITION IS BORN

The Great Exhibition of 1925 - 1926 was hosted in Dunedin (Logan Park), and part of the exhibition display was a shawl made by Queen Mary. After the exhibition, the shawl was donated to Ross Home. The long-held tradition of female residents wearing the shawl to mark their 100th birthday began, and continues today.



*Ross Home's Centennial Shawl made by Queen Mary*

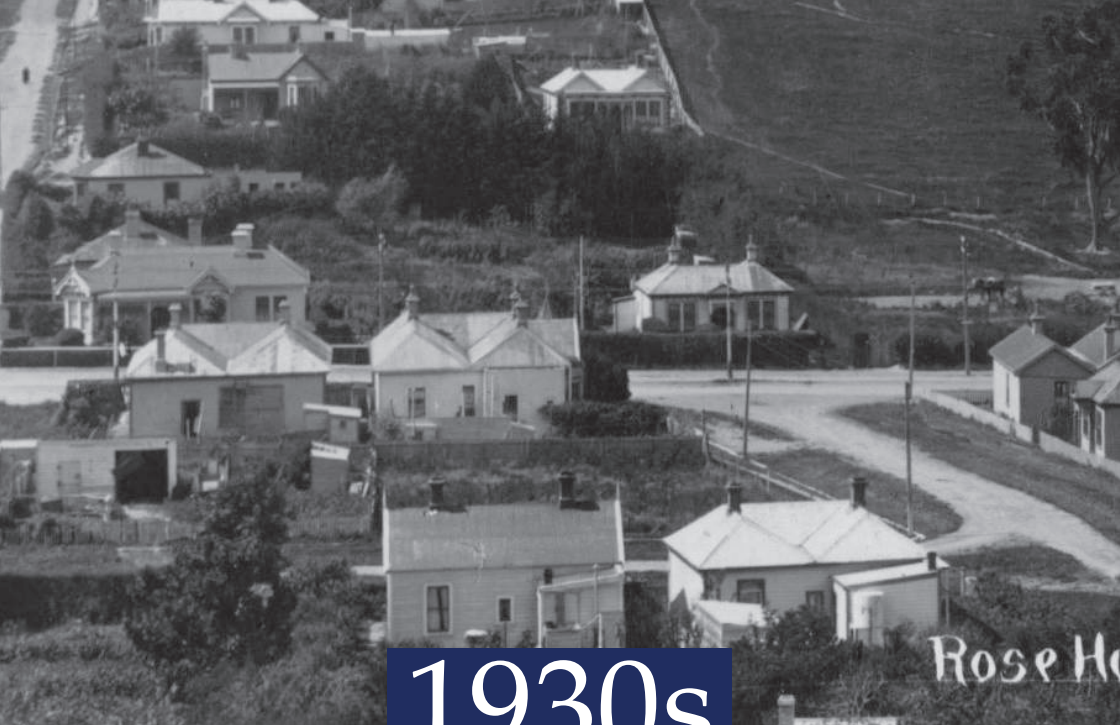
On 10 November the Ross Home bowling green was opened.

The green was made available to the residents of Ross Home through an anonymous donor and the work of Mr C. Russell Smith, a bowler and Home committee member.

*By the end of 1927 Ross Home was debt free!*

# 1927





# 1930s

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## DONATIONS, PHILANTHROPY & ENTERTAINMENT

Through the generosity of Mr. Booth, Ross Home residents received their first Radio and Gramophone. The radio was installed in the women's room where the female residents enjoyed listening to daily religious services and the electric gramophone was installed in 'Dunrowan' hospital wing.

The radio provided the community some distraction during the time of economic depression. And a particular favorite to listen to in 1933 was - 'Community Sings.' The female residents of Ross Home listened to the programme on a Friday evening, while they knitted for the unemployed.



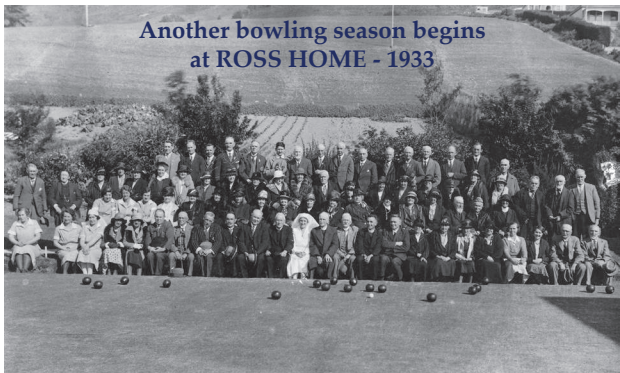
Community Sings - 27 May 1938 - ODT

## LOCAL INSTITUTIONS BENEFIT

The late Mr Edwin Booth, probate of whose will was granted to-day, has left his gramophone, cabinet, and records, and his Bremner-Tully wireless set to the Presbyterian Ross Home at North-east Valley. Pecuniary legacies were also left as follows:—

- £100 to the Dunedin Orphans' Club.
- £100 to St. Mary's Orphanage.
- £100 to the clergy fund of the Church of England.
- £100 to the Presbyterian Social Service Association for the Ross Home.

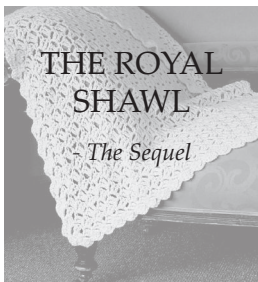
## Another bowling season begins at ROSS HOME - 1933







# 1937



*Otago Daily Times - 15th May*

'Mrs Ross thought that it would be fitting to secure a photograph of one of the old lady residents wearing the shawl, and in due course this photograph, together with one of the home, was sent to the Lady Cynthia Colville for presentation to the Queen. Queen Mary appreciated the kindly, thoughtful act of Mrs Ross, and straightway selected some very fine photographs of the Royal Family and commanded the Lady Cynthia

Colville to send them to Mrs Ross for presentation to Ross Home. Thursday's function was arranged to receive these gifts.

Mr T. Somerville presided, and, on behalf of the committee, accepted the photographs of the Royal Family, which were artistically framed. In accepting the gift, Mr Somerville said that this was another fine indication of the kindly, sympathetic interest taken in the Ross Home by the Ross family.

**I**n this same year again the PSSA committee was concerned with the number of Applicants waiting to get into Ross Home. Their hope was for an extra 12 single rooms as well as a hospital ward for those who became ill while at Ross Home.

## ROSS HOME TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Dunedin Presbyterian Social Service Association has every reason to feel proud of the Ross Home, one of the finest institutions for aged people in the Dominion, which will celebrate its twenty-first anniversary to-morrow.



1939



Residents helping to shell peas.

*Staff help was in short supply during the war period and residents were happy to help where possible (1945).*



1948 - The PSSA described care of the aged as the greatest problem facing social service



# 1940s

## 1940

### DUNEDIN HOSPITAL CHAPEL FUND.

#### GREAT FLORAL DISPLAY

In charming setting, giving delightful vignettes of colour and form, at 46 MONTAGUE STREET (near Ross Home). Voluntary offertory towards above Fund. Any day—morning, afternoon or early evening.

Ross Home was continuously fundraising, and this time it was for a chapel, a dream of Miss Young who was keen for the residents to have their own Chapel at Ross Home. Religious services were held in the dining room, meaning all tables needed to be pushed aside after the Sunday meal.

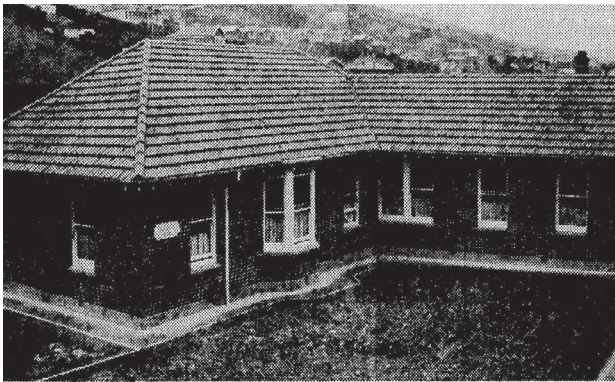
As hoped for in 1937, a generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Kilgour had made possible for more rooms to be built. By the end of 1940 foundations were in place for the new Kilgour wing.



The dining room at Ross Home, used also for religious services.

### OPENING OF THE KILGOUR WING

## 1941



'There has always been a waiting list for admission, and this has been a real source of anxiety to the committee. It is noteworthy that the present extension has taken place during a time of war and your committee, realising the increasing need for further accommodation for the old folk of our church, took their courage and their faith in their hands and proceeded with the erection of the wing which we today erect to the glory of God and dedicate to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Kilgour.' April 1941 - ODT

## 1948

Miss E. O. Friis becomes Matron of Ross Home.

*As successor from Miss E Young.*



# 1950s

**1950** In the 50's availability of staff was still short and the introduction of labour saving devices, such as a washing machine and iron was of great help to Ross Home



**F**inally, the time came for Ross Home to have its own Chapel. This was a dream Miss Young had long held for Ross Home. Fundraising for the Chapel began in the 40's and continued right through the 50's to pay for the Chapel. A well-wisher donated the communion table which has a small plaque in memory of A. Cameron and his wife.

# 1952



1953

**Mary Allan**

Becomes Matron of Ross Home.

*As successor from Miss E. O. Friss*



1954

**R**oss Home is described as having one of the best physiotherapy units in a private institution in New Zealand.

# 1956



**Esther Elliot**  
Becomes Matron of Ross Home.

*As successor from Mary Allan*

# 1957

**R**oss Home receives a repaint, and the pastel choice of colours was chosen by the residents.

The Craig Block also started development, enabled by the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Craig (featured right) which became available in 1956. The new building would consist of a hospital block and rooms for staff on a second level.







Stained-glass window in memory of Matron Eva Young,  
donated to Ross Home Chapel by the Nurses Association.  
The window remains in the Chapel today.



Cottages  
opened 1962



1960s

1960

## CRAIG BLOCK OPENS

The Craig Block is officially opened on 27 February 1960 by Rt Rev A. D. Horwell, the moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. The Mayor of Dunedin, Mr. T. K. S. Siday, was also among the speakers at the opening. The new hospital block featured a hydraulic bath, making bathing accessible again for those who were weak to climb into a tub.



'I have seen many homes for the aged in different parts of the world, and the care given at the Ross Home is quite the equal of the best, and far better than most.'

Rev A. M Elliffe



1961

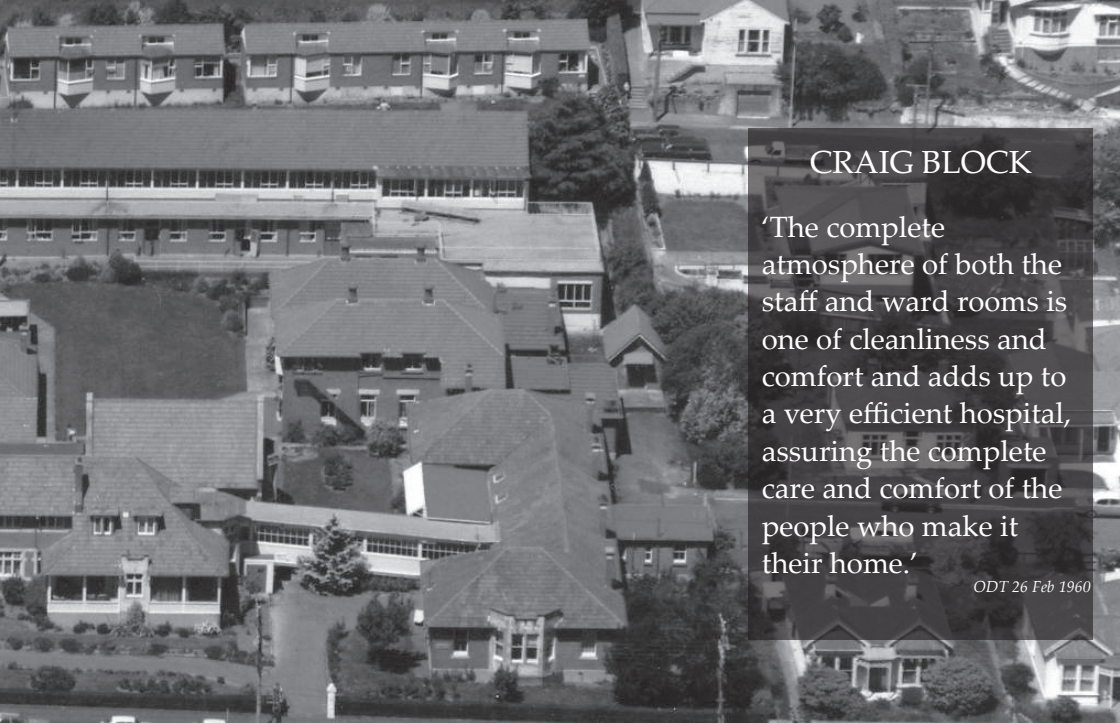
**E. POTTER**

Becomes Matron of  
Ross Home.

(pictured on left)

As successor from Esther Elliott





## CRAIG BLOCK

'The complete atmosphere of both the staff and ward rooms is one of cleanliness and comfort and adds up to a very efficient hospital, assuring the complete care and comfort of the people who make it their home.'

ODT 26 Feb 1960

# 1962

## COTTAGES OPEN



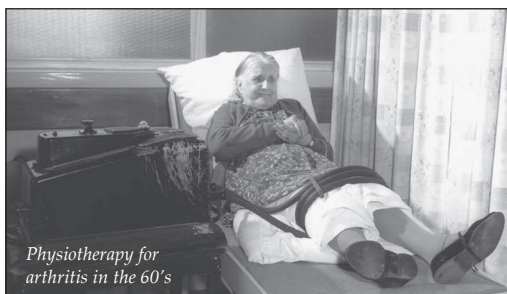
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## BETTY MACARA

Becomes Matron of  
Ross Home.

*(featured above on right)*

*As successor from E. Potter*



*Physiotherapy for  
arthritis in the 60's*



Lorraine Ritchie

*(physio aide, nurse and Manager of Ross Home)*

‘Just about every kid in North East Valley has worked in the laundry at some time or other ironing handkerchiefs.’



Ross Home was very much a family of residents and people from the North East Valley community. Since World War II finding staff had been a struggle and many casual staff came from North East Valley. Ross Home consisted of a close group who knew each others family and their children often helped in the laundry during their school holiday's.



# 1970s

## 1970

By the time 1970 arrived the once newly added Dunrowan block was now outdated - the wards were of a Victorian style and the physio equipment which was once ahead for its time in the 1950s was now old. In true Ross-Home style, it was once again time to think about updating.

It was also in this year the PSSA piloted a medical scheme of comprehensive medical care at no cost to the residents. Not only was Ross Home the first to try this scheme but the trial at Ross Home lead to extended aged care in Dunedin and New Zealand.

1971

### Norman Kirk visit to Ross Home

'It is obvious that the residents are well cared for and do enjoy the lovely gardens and surrounding Ross Home. I was particularly impressed by the pensioner cottages giving residents a measure of independence and security.'



Ross Home was not only home to the residents and the local community, but also staff who had migrated to New Zealand.

Therefore when one of the nurses Ivy Barlow was to be married, she asked if she could marry at the Ross Home chapel.

Ivy had migrated to New Zealand from a Dr. Graham home (Kalimpong, India) when she was young, and trained as a nurse. During the time Ivy had worked and lived at Ross Home the residents and staff had become Ivy's family. Miss Macara, the matron, wanted to buy the material for Ivy's wedding dress and the home's sewing lady, Mrs. Howe, made the dress. The Ross Home cook Mrs. McCracken made the cake, and the Ross Home Minister Mr. Jenkins offered to provide the service. Mrs. Bowie (Mr. Bowie's wife) played the organ and decorated the church. The tea lady Frances Bowman and her husband took the photographs, and their daughter was Ivy's flower girl.



1979

### Bill Christie

Becomes Manager of Ross Home

(featured left)

As successor from Betty Macara





## DALKEITH

# 198

Over the years Ross Home had endeavored to keep up with modern times, and often it was ahead. Despite all the past changes the sixty-two-year-old Ross Home was becoming less advanced than some of the newer homes being built.

## 1981 — 1982 PLANNING THE UPGRADE

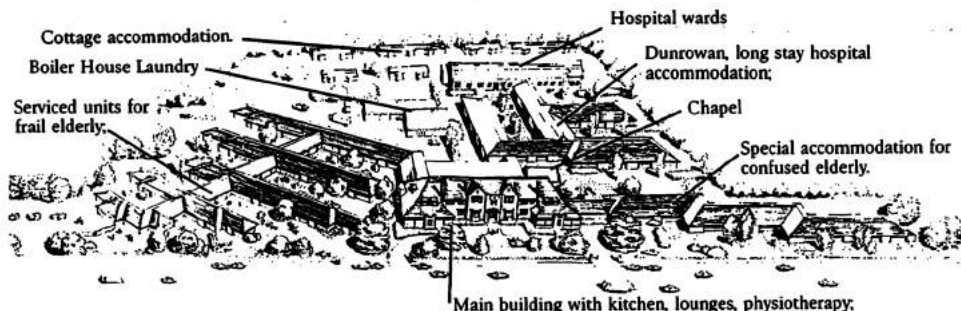
By 1981 plans were announced for a multi-million dollar revamp of the sixty-three-year-old home. This would involve rebuilding the forty-two-bed rest home and twenty-nine-bed Dunrowan wing.

The central philosophy behind the design was to promote independence for Ross Home residents.

Bill Christie stated 'We would meet them at their point of need, and we would take over to complete whatever they couldn't manage on their own.'

Having basic kitchen facilities in units was a new concept in rest home care enabling residents freedom of choice.

A wing with greater security for residents with dementia was also to be established and twenty single and two double serviced units 'Dalkeith' were to be built all with easy walking distance to the Alexander McMillan Mall which would provide a hairdressing salon, shop, and space to socialize.





30s

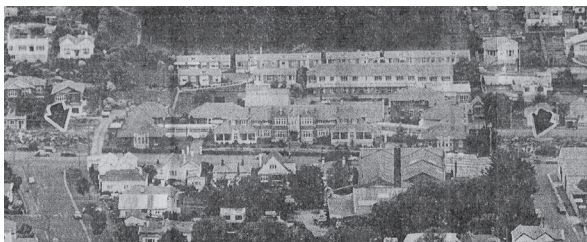
1985

## DEMOLITION, MOVING AND APPEAL



*A last nostalgic view of Dunrowan Hospital—forty years of service—now over. Let us give thanks for all who have lived and served in Dunrowan down the years. Otago Daily Times photo*

The two flanking wings of Ross Home and the old Dunrowan hospital are demolished to make way for the upgrade.



1986



Mr D. Lange lays the foundation stone.

1987

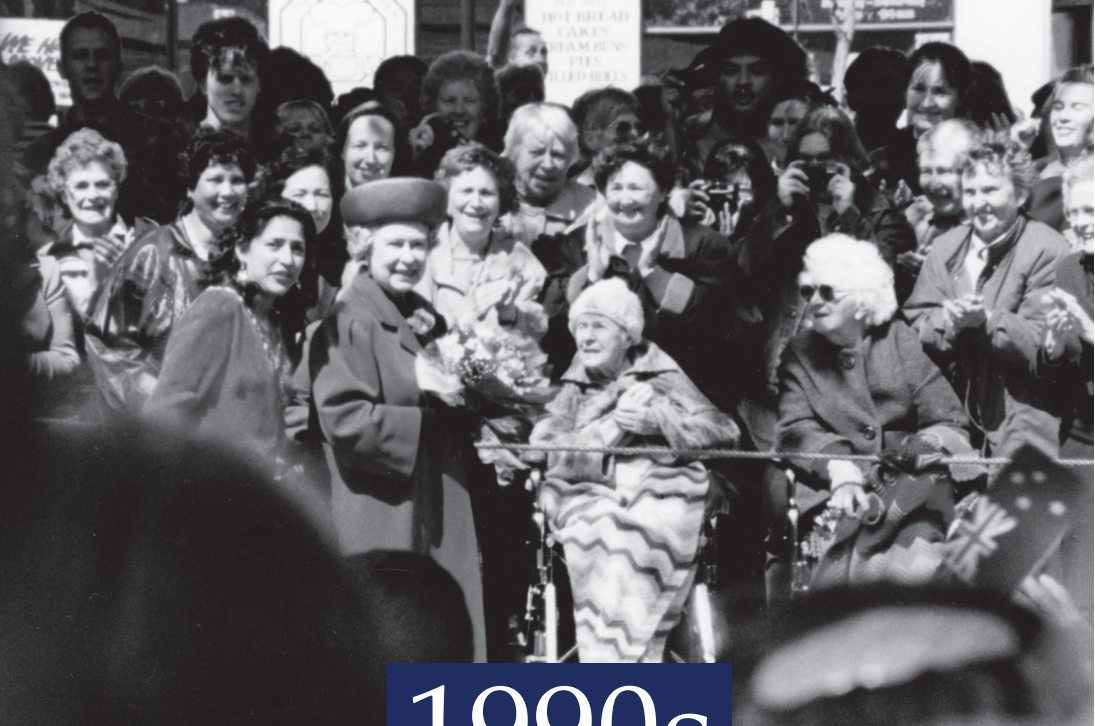
DALKEITH OPENS

1988

ROSS HOME DEVELOPEMENT OPENS

All hands needed on deck. The forces helped with a temporary move to and from 'Ross Wakari' as the temporary accommodation was known as, at Wakari hospital, while the demolition and build were on. Bill Christie referred to it as quite a logistical challenge, however the residents were very understanding.





# 1990s

## 1990

After 30 years of service, it became clear the Craig Block would now be in need of an update, and plans began to be put into place. This would lead to a \$8 million project carried out in the 2000s.



Craig Block 1960s upper level where staff resided

**ROMA**  
 Ross Home's new resident.  
 Ross Home was the first home in Otago to have its own mobility van, thanks to a generous donation. Roma made accessibility to many places possible for residents - including a visit to see the Queen.  
*(photo above)*



## 1991





# 1993

ROSS HOME  
celebrates its  
75th  
Anniversary



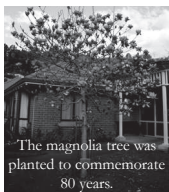
# 1995

**Lorraine Ritchie**  
Becomes Manager of  
Ross Home.

*As successor from Bill Christie*

# 1998

**ROSS HOME**  
**CELEBRATES**  
**ACCREDITATION**



The magnolia tree was  
planted to commemorate  
80 years.

Ross Home  
celebrates  
another  
milestone  
in 1998 and  
celebrates its  
80th year.

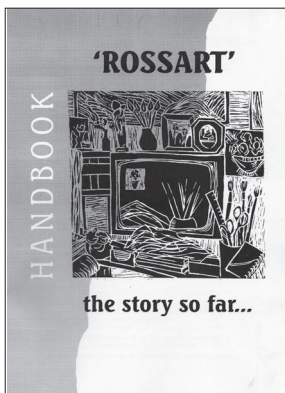


Lorraine Ritchie (centre) stated "The primary benefit is that it (certificate of accreditation) improves care for old people. The staff have examined their practices and made an effort to stand back and say "we provide quality service.""



Art week with visiting  
artist Patricia Tough  
(Leonard) sketching a  
resident and Reg Bennett  
painting a scene.

Janet de Wagt (resident artist) and  
Helen Frizzell (oral historian)  
assisted the residents with making  
these cards and other art projects  
featured in the Rossart Handbook  
and throughout Ross Home.







Ross Home and Support Centre Staff celebrate Ross Home's Ministry of Health four year certification in September 2017

# 2000s

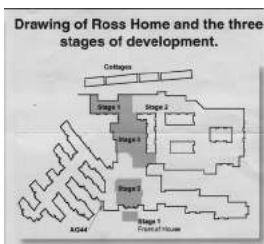
In 2017 Presbyterian Support were recognised by Readers Digest as Most Trusted brand in the aged care industry.

## 2000

**Margaret Pearce**

Becomes Manager of Ross Home.

*As successor from Lorraine Ritchie*



## 2002

The plans for redevelopment of the Craig block and expansion of Ross Home finally begin. This time residents remain at Ross Home whilst the work is carried out in three stages.

### Stage 1 of the Project

Eight months into construction, Stage 1 is near completion. This provides the first wing of the new accommodation, which contains new bedrooms with shared ensuites. To create this new wing, four cottages were demolished.

Some residents have done a shuffle to make room for continued construction, some temporary, as the refurbishment of the existing Craig/Kilgour wing, signals the start of Stage 2.







## Looking to Stage 2

Ross Home will be changing its heating source from coal to gas.

When this next wing is complete, renovated hospital bedrooms and a new laundry and boiler area, the landmark smokestack will be demolished to make way for an internal courtyard.

Also, a new entrance and area for the Maybank Day Programme will be developed.



In 2004 the trowel used by Mrs Ross to lay the first foundation stone of Ross Home was found and is now on display in the reception area at Ross Home.

Monday, October 17, 2005

# National award for Ross Home project

## Naylor Love wins praise for work

By John Gibb

The Ross Home redevelopment project in Dunedin has won national honours in the annual House of the Year and Commercial Awards.

The retirement home, operated by Presbyterian Support Otago, won the prize for commercial building projects valued more than \$5 million when the Registered Master Builders Placemakers awards were announced at a ceremony in Auckland on Saturday.

Judges highly praised the project, which was undertaken by Naylor Love Construction.

"This building has a wonderful atmosphere and enthuses those that live there," judges said in an statement. "The complete and detailed overhaul of this property required great sensitivity and the builder finished the smallest details to an exacting standard."



PHOTO: JANE DAVENPORT

Award-winning vista . . . Sun shines on part of the redeveloped Ross Home complex yesterday.



Small but home sweet home? . . . Ross Home residents (left) enjoy a drink with manager Margaret Pearce in the dining room.

Ross Home moves with times

## Ross Home celebrates 90th birthday

And re-commissioning of Lindsay Unit makes it a double milestone

By SPENDIA HAWOOD

A DOUBLE milestone will be celebrated at Ross Home and Hospital on Monday as the staff and residents mark the 90th birthday and the re-commissioning of the renowned Lindsay Unit.

Most of the home's 100 staff and 120 residents will gather for an afternoon celebration, a formal luncheon, and celebrating in much from afternoon, Ross Home and Hospital manager Margaret Pearce said.

The large cake will be presented to celebrate the birthday, with the cake cutting to be led by Mayor Ross Home supporter and long-term board member Mrs Patricia Vane. Everyone will receive a gift.

Staff and residents have worked with interest in the Lindsay Unit has undergone a £1.5 million renovation this year to become a state-of-the-art facility for residents needing hospital-level care for dementia, Mrs Pearce said.

The innovative design of the renowned Lindsay Unit, which reopened to residents last month, caused staff to be the special needs of the 24 residents Mrs Pearce said.

"Every feature is thought through and the way has been done so with the safety of our residents as our first concern, we're delighted with how well it's all working," she said.

The addition of the new unit meant that every resident could now have their own room, whereas previously had to be shared previously.

"This is much better for everyone."

With the number of people living with dementia expected to rise sharply in the coming decades, the upgrade was also a way of "future-proofing" Ross Home.



Smiling again: Ross Home and Hospital manager Margaret Pearce (left) and Lindsay Unit resident Chris Kelly enjoy the sun in one of the attractive new outdoor spaces of the refurbished building.

## Ross Home's Got Talent residents full of go

By Rosie Manins

Seniors from Dunedin's Ross Home sang their way to victory yesterday in the Age on the Go Stars on Stage talent quest in South Dunedin.

The show started the 16th Age on the Go week of activities for Dunedin's elderly and comprised teams from six Dunedin rest-homes.

The Ross Home Singers won the Rest Homes Talent Quest Trophy for their rendition of four songs, including *Old Man River* and *Pokarekare* and.

Judge Gladys Hope said she was impressed with the group's ability to sing in harmony.

"Enjoy what you do, because you do it so well," she said.

Other performances included song, dance, mime, poetry, sign language and instrumental acts.

The talent quest finished with a group sing-along.



Still going strong: The Ross Home Choir, with an average age of 91 years, before its appearance at the recent Age on the Go show festival.



# Our Memories

Everyone who has been involved with Ross Home over the years has a story or two to tell. Here are a few memories from people involved with Ross Home.

## **Cheryl Bell**

*Enrolled Nurse (retired in 2018)*

My journey with Ross Home began in 1968. When I started at Ross I had no idea I would still be working here nearly 50 years later. I have met some wonderful people along the way, staff, residents and their family members. I have worked under six managers and have myself, held a range of different roles over the years.

In 1968, Ross Home was very different to what it is nowadays. Residents were segregated, which was normal practise during that era in all health care facilities. In the rest home area, men and women did come together in the dining room for meals. Very few residents were addressed by their Christian names.

In the 60's, and for some time after, occupational and physiotherapy was a very focused treatment for residents as many suffered from some form of arthritis, strokes and multiple sclerosis. Staff did not have access to the transportation we have nowadays, so staff would often take residents on outings to Chingford Park or walks along the valley.

The Chapel was well attended on Sundays with residents dressing in their Sunday best clothes. Ladies wearing their best hat and coat and the men looking smart wearing their best three piece suits.

I took time away from Ross Home in 1970 and lived in Scotland for five years,

returning back to Ross in 1975. Things were beginning to change and over the last few decades change has been constant.

I have loved my years looking after the elderly and my focus has been being a good advocate for residents, their families and for the staff I have worked with. I am proud to have been part of Presbyterian Support Otago.

## **Rev John Allen**

*Resident since 2015*

I was very pleased to come to Ross Home three years ago as I've held a connection to Ross Home through my family.

Rev Andrew Cameron was my grandfather, on my mother's side. Mary Allen, who was the Matron here in the 1950's was my Auntie and I saw lots of Ross Home as a young person when she was working here.

I'm looked after so well by all of the nurses and carers here. Recently I've had some of the students working with me in Physio classes. It's great to see them involved.

I enjoy attending the Chapel services held at Ross Home each Sunday afternoon. We have people from many different denominations come and take the Chapel services with us.

We also have plenty of opportunities to go on outings – sometimes to see films and entertainment and other times we explore the wonderful scenery that you can find all around Dunedin.



## **Michelle Marsh**

*Supervising Activities Coordinator*

I started at Ross Home in 1983. When I began working for the Presbyterian Social Service Association. I have had many roles during my time at Ross Home. One of my favourites has been organising activities, outings and social events for the residents.

I recall in my earlier years when the residents would call and ask me to bring in some blackballs and humbug lollies for them.

Many of the residents enjoy getting out into the community and because of the wonderful access we have to transport, we can do this on a regular basis.

Ross Home annually enters the local talent quest. I recall one resident getting stuck in the bathroom moments before the group were to perform on stage. I told the resident 'don't lock the door in case it gets stuck and you can't get out'. Sure enough the lock jams! After a helpful hand from the maintenance man the woman was free, and the group went on to perform and win the title.

Anzac Day has always been an important time at the home, with many of the past residents having fought in the war. I decorate the home from head to toe in Christmas themed decorations to ensure that each resident's Christmas is filled with lots of festive cheer.



Cheryl Bell with resident Patricia Leonard.



Rev John Allen



Michelle Marsh





## Looking to the future

*Maurice Burrowes, Enliven Director (Presbyterian Support Otago)*

When Ross Home opened in October 1918 we provided dormitory style accommodation for up to 28 older ladies, who were then referred to as ‘inmates’.

To gain admission to Ross Home you had to provide references that indicated you were of good character. Ross Home was for the more independent person, with invalids and hospital level care not accepted.

Fast forward to today, and Ross Home provides accommodation for 124 residents at varying levels of care (rest home, hospital and psycho-geriatric hospital). Large single bedrooms with en-suites are now the accepted standard of accommodation in the sector.

People are coming into care later in life, with more complex health needs, higher acuity levels and more residents require palliative level care. This is reflected in the average age of admission to Ross Home in 2016-17 being 86 years old.

The shape of the aged care residential sector has been flipped on its head over the past 100 years. 100 years ago it was not-for-profit organisations, like Presbyterian Support Otago, who people looked to for care. It has become a highly regulated sector, and large national for-profit providers are now the major players.

What has not changed in the last 100 years has been Presbyterian Support Otago’s long standing commitment to provide a range of highly responsive services that support older people to maintain a quality of life with meaning and purpose.

Our philosophy today is still very much aligned to 100 years ago. We want residents to enjoy a sense of community, with friends, family, and whānau involvement. We want to ensure our residents at Ross Home, and in all Enliven facilities, are involved in all aspects of their care and are supported in ways that maximise their autonomy and independence.

Thanks to everyone who has been part of Ross Home for the last 100 years – and we look forward to the coming century.



# Sponsors

Our thanks to the following companies who have supported us in a range of ways to prepare and run the Ross Home Centenary weekend.

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Otago Polytech Design students Katie Graham and Lizzie Taylor were involved in the design of the logo, booklet and other printed materials for the Centenary weekend.



