



Greg Giblett, Dyan Dent, Dr Mick Dewing, Hon. Rick Wilson MP., Wayne Carter

Geegeelup Opening

The official opening of the \$7.8m redevelopment and upgrading of the aged-care facility within Bridgetown’s Geegeelup Village took place on April 20, and was opened by Federal MP Rick Wilson on behalf of the Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Richard Colbeck.

Geegeelup Village has been run and managed by the local community for nearly 50 years and Chairman, Dr Mick Dewing, has been involved in the Geegeelup Village development since 1979. The aged-care facility can now provide high-care accommodation for 32 people. In the Village, 51 homes provide independent living accommodation, and six rental properties are planned for future development.

To this day Geegeelup Village remains one of the few community-owned and managed aged-care villages in Western Australia.

The \$7.8m grant that funded the redevelopment of the aged care facility has added 16 new ensuite bedrooms, and the existing 16 ensuite bedrooms have been fully refurbished. Other amenities included in the redevelopment upgrade are a four-bed dementia wing, a palliative care room, spacious new residents’ lounge-dining area, additional separate residents’ lounge, meeting room, new kitchens, new reception area, offices, consulting rooms and even a hairdressing salon. The upgrade also includes a \$500,000 on-site emergency fire brigade facility with tanks and diesel-powered pumps providing added safety for residents and staff.

Dr Dewing talks with pride on the development. “The one word I can use to describe the new Geegeelup Village Hostel is ‘Fabulous’.

“The building is a success, it’s functioning well and overall, there is a ‘happy feel’ amongst all the staff.

“We have 25 clients accommodated at the moment; the capacity is 32. I foresee a long term future with this size development.

“We now have a CEO to run Geegeelup, Sean Mahoney. His role will be one of overview control with the Finances, Human Resources, independent living accommodation and rental properties.

“Geegeelup Village is now the fourth largest employer in town, which in itself means with the growth has come the need for managers in Rostering, Services and HR Compliance.

Read more in issue 310 June