

# MEDIA RELEASE

18 July 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Aged care residents sing the praises of Cook Islands culture**

Residents at TLC Aged Care – Noble Manor are singing up a storm when members of a local Cook Islands community group come to visit the residential aged care facility as part of a playgroup initiative.

And while plenty of focus is on the Cook Islands babies and toddlers brought along to the aged care home, it seems the Cook Islanders have also brought along their musical culture for residents to enjoy as a bonus!

Penny Anderson, Lifestyle Coordinator at TLC Aged Care – Noble Manor in Noble Park says residents are literally singing the praises of the local Cook Islands community who have embraced Noble Manor and its residents.

The relationship began as a playgroup – a playgroup that is both multigenerational as well as multicultural.

Placing playgroups into aged care facilities is an initiative of Playgroup Victoria and aims to promote intergenerational play and interaction.

“For our residents, it’s like they have grand children and great grand children and for the children, it’s like having grand parents,” said Penny.

Noble Manor staff met with representatives from the Cook Islands group, Mona and her husband Terry, who have both been driving forces behind the playgroup’s formation and success.

“We were thrilled to see they were already operating as a playgroup,” says Penny. “They’d been meeting regularly in a venue but had to move out because the building was to be demolished. So they were on the lookout for a venue.”

And after touring Noble Manor’s facilities and meeting rooms, members of the Cook Islands community surprised aged care staff by bringing out their musical instruments. “There were guitars, other stringed instruments, a sound system and tape recorder with music and before we knew it they were ready to perform some music. It was just wonderful.”

The Cook Islanders demonstrated the cultural and musical talents such Pacific islands are known for and their impromptu performance brought smiles, laughter and clapping from many of the residents.

So now that arrangements are in place, the playgroup will meet each week on a Thursday between 10am – 11.45am and will include a visit from the morning tea trolley! About ten babies and toddlers are involved in the weekly visit with Noble Manor residents.

“The group really is a delight to work with,” said Penny. “In fact the playgroup is becoming so popular we need a larger venue at Noble Manor so we’ve moved out of the meeting room and out into the main lounge.”

**A more formal launch of the multicultural and intergenerational playgroup will take place on July 24 at 10 am at Noble Manor.**

**And as part of a community art project involving a community artist and aged care residents, a creative and colourful banner has been made to celebrate the Cook Islands group’s involvement at Noble Manor.**

**For further information contact <Penny Anderson 95584611>  
Photo opportunities available.**