

# Media Release

16 July 2019

## Flying the flag at Star of the Sea

VMCH Star of the Sea Torquay residents and guests recently gathered to watch their newly unveiled Australian flag fly for the first time.

Star of the Sea was one of three residential aged care homes in the region to receive a commemorative flag pole through a Department of Veterans Affairs grant program.

The Torquay RSL coordinated the successful a \$4,500 grant application for the supply and installation of a flagpoles as the first step in developing small commemorative gardens for the residents.

Federal Member for Corangamite, Ms. Libby Coker provided the Australian flag and attended Star of the Sea for a formal presentation and unveiling.

Acting Residential Services Manager Ana Hourian said the Torquay RSL Welfare Officers are a great support to the residents at Star of the Sea, and their initiative was well supported by staff and residents.

“The work the Torquay RSL does across for veterans across the region is commendable, and the residents and staff really appreciate the time taken to arrange this flag pole and flag.

“The RSL often come to Star of the Sea for commemorative days, such as ANZAC Day, and Remembrance Day, and these services will be even more special now that we have the garden and flag pole.

“We think it’s so important to acknowledge and always appreciate the sacrifices that were made by our veterans who proudly served our country. This flagpole, and the flag that will fly here will be a reminder each day of the significance of their sacrifice.

“We know our residents, our veterans, and their families look proudly at our flag for years to come.”

Speaking on behalf of the residents was Star of the Sea resident Michael Muschamps, who assisted the Torquay RSL in the grant application process.

Michael trained in the Royal New Zealand Navy from 1949 to 1953 and served in Korean War and Malayan Emergency.

“(The flag raising ceremony) was a significant way to mark the close association between Star of the Sea, and the local veterans in the area,” said Michael.

“It was heartening to see the support from the community, especially from Member for Corangamite, Libby Coker. It was splendid to see so many involved.”

Michael said he hoped that the installation of the flag pole and flag will encourage others to get involved, including those who live in the adjacent VMCH Star of the Sea Retirement Village.

During the flag raising ceremony Michael also praised the staff of Star of the Sea for providing support for the installation of the flag pole.

“We are all very lucky to live here, the staff do a magnificent job and we love living here.”

**Photo:**

1. **VMCH Star of the Sea Torquay Acting Residential Services Manager Ana Hourian with resident and veteran Michael Muschamps**
2. **Member for Corangamite, Libby Coker presenting Star of the Sea with the Australian flag**

## About VMCH

Here at VMCH, our services are as diverse as the people we support.

Our values underpin the work we do. As a Catholic not for profit organisation, compassion, respect and inclusion aren't just words to us, they guide us in everything we do.

While we've been around for over a century, we're always moving forward. Always staying true to who we are by supporting people and families to live their best lives; providing a place to call home and spaces to learn and grow.

Our professional and compassionate teams are with you on your life journey; helping you with a wide range of support from early learning and therapy, specialist education, disability services, affordable homes, residential aged care, retirement living and at-home aged care.



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