

**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE PETER UNDERWOOD AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA TO OPEN THE BUTTERWORTH
LOUNGE AT THE ESKLEIGH HOME, PERTH in TASMANIA,
SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2012**

Thank you for asking me and my wife up to Eskleigh to open the Butterworth Lounge. I was last up at Eskleigh in April this year for the Tasmanian Art Award and I have to say that at that time this lounge was a complete mess and the outside area no more than words of description from Mr Luttrell. Worse, because it was such a mess the residents could not use the lounge at all. Well you all know that saying about building alterations and extensions, "You will regret it when it's going on but love when it is finished." Well that certainly was, and certainly is the case with this lounge. It is barely recognisable as the same space that I saw in April.

I am told that the total cost of the works is in the order of \$1/2m. That is a lot of money and I understand that not a cent of it came from the government. That is an absolutely fantastic achievement and I say a big thank you to the three key contributors, the Bruce Wall Trust, Brian & Wendy Faulkner and the Eskleigh Staff fund raising activities. Both the indoor and outdoor areas will provide rich and rewarding spaces for a broad range of activities for the residents and their visitors. As Dale Luttrell reports in the Spring edition of the Eskleigh Echo, "the residents find the larger brighter and more airy lounge excellent for activities or just relaxing."

As many of you no doubt know every issue of the Eskleigh Echo devotes a page to one of the six core values upon which the

work of Eskleigh is founded. In the Spring edition this page is devoted to "Flexibility." So far as Eskleigh is concerned Flexibility means, "We are ready for, and open to change. We demonstrate innovation and continuous improvement to be the best we can be, finding effective, creative and environmentally responsible ways to fulfill our mission." But what really caught my eye in that issue of the Eskleigh Echo was a piece written by Gaby Kolbeck. She was full of praise for what she called "Flexibility in abundance" in the new lounge and was equally generous with her praise for the patience of the residents while the renovations were in progress. She then wrote this about the big day:

"I was in the new lounge transferring the equipment from the old activity office to the new area just prior to the area being accessible to everyone. As the workmen were taking down the partition the experience was almost of biblical proportions! As the first sheet of timber was removed, I could see a corridor full of residents who were anxiously awaiting the opportunity to enter the newly renovated area. Once the last sheet was removed, it was like the floodgates had opened and the residents streamed into the "promised land". The energy was exuberant and the rooms buzzed with a happy hum which still exists weeks after the space became available for everyone again."

Isn't that a wonderful account, and doesn't it eloquently describe the pleasure and satisfaction that the use of this wonderful new flexible space has given everyone?

The development of this lounge and outdoor area is completely in accord with all the values to which Eskleigh subscribes. The capacity to use different areas for different purposes will promote happiness, increased self-esteem and improved confidence for all who use these areas. The thought that has obviously gone into the design shows that the Board and staff are completely empathetic to the needs of those who will use the lounge. The Butterworth Lounge, especially the outdoor area, will facilitate connections between members of the community and the residents and their families that will maximise the opportunities and outcomes for all the residents. So I am sure that you will all agree with me that the Butterworth lounge ticks all the right boxes and will become a much loved and often used asset in the years to come. I agree with Ms Kolbeck when she concluded her piece in the Eskleigh Echo with these words, "... a special thank you to the Board members, donors and fundraising committee for enabling this opportunity for the residents of Eskleigh Home."

And now - with great pleasure - I declare the Butterworth Lounge open.