



Celebrating **50** YEARS
INC. 1972

HERMAN VAN LOON

Forefather of Warrina Homes

1927 - 2018

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Compiled by Ria, Hugo, Sonja and Timothy



It all started with Herman and other people from the Christian Reformed Churches in Adelaide discussing ways they could productively serve their community with the vacant land adjacent to their Church in Campbelltown and a vision for a home for older people was born.

As a civil engineer with a large engineering company, he had significant project management experience and Herman used his knowledge and skills to lay the ground-work for Warrina Homes to become a quality organisation. He initiated meetings, applied for grants, spoke to planning authorities and architects, lobbied local members of parliament, networked and spoke with banks and builders.

Herman served as President of Warrina Homes from the time it was incorporated in 1972 until 1976; and then again from 1979 - 1986. He also served as vice president 1986 - 1995 and a Board Member from 1995 - 2002. It was a challenge to 'let go' once he retired from the Board after putting his heart and soul into the Home over decades.

Since the 1971 feasibility study, Herman had the foresight to ensure that the finances and administration were independent of the church, but the governance maintained its Christian ethos.

During the years 1972 to 1986 there was continuous building and development in various stages including Independent Living Units and the Hostel. Mrs Posthumous (Mrs Hilde van der Linden and Mrs Sya Vaatstra's mother) was thrilled to be the first person to move in an independent living unit!

The hostel's first stage officially opened in 1981 and from that point Herman spent countless hours presenting endless calculations in a bid to complete the hostel at a time when running costs, staffing requirements and operational costs of aged care were escalating dramatically. Eventually, the final stage of the hostel was realised in 1986.



In a determined effort to fulfill the promise to provide the complete continuum of aged care, three “bed-rights” were purchased in the North Eastern Community Hospital. Herman joined the board of the North Eastern Community Hospital Nursing Home in 1979.

Herman was a humble person who sought to practically live out his Christian faith. He was innovative, precise, clear thinking, genuinely interested in the welfare of people and able to see ‘the big picture’. For example:

- Arranging to share an accountant (Jim Everett) with Torrens Valley Christian School.

- Partnering with Kingsborough (Aged Care provider) to secure the funds for the hostel to commence.

- Sharing car parking with the Christian Reformed Church in Hill Street.

- Mentoring capable young people on to the Board to ensure continuing quality governance.

- Proposing overseas study tour for the CEO.

- Encouraging a woman (Margaret Day) to become the President.

- Commencing honorary advisory roles such as a medical practitioner, Dutch consul and lawyer to ensure quality services and good governance.

- Advocating for COTA membership in 1973 to stay informed regarding industry standards and Aged Care service developments.

This summary is testament to Herman’s considerable legacy in the development of Warrina Homes to be the quality Aged Care provider that it is today. His contribution was made in a voluntary capacity while working in a demanding full-time job, raising a family with Ria (Herman’s wife) and managing other Church commitments. We remember our dad working hard and often on Warrina Homes’ matters! In the early days of the Home’s establishment he often asked for extended lunch hours from the company so he could visit

Government offices. He would then make up this time by working on Saturdays. Our family had a holiday home at Carrickalinga and dad was often sitting at the kitchen table there working on Warrina Homes material when he should have been relaxing!

We thank the Lord for our husband and father, Herman and the way he has used his gifts to serve God and many older people who have called Warrina their home over many years.

Did you ever see the windmill erected outside the first Independent Living Units in Hill Street in the 1970s? It was designed and built to scale by Herman and Mr Arie van Hoegee as a fond remembrance of Holland for the residents of Dutch heritage for whom Warrina Homes was originally commenced. The mill was removed to make room for new buildings and after a long spell in a paddock in Oakbank, it was carefully restored by Herman and other helpers, with some financial support from Warrina Homes. It now stands proudly on the property of Herman’s grandson in Coromandel East with fond memories of Herman van Loon.



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SHARE YOUR
WARRINA HOMES
STORY

Please email your 50 year reflection and photo to kristy.morrow@warrinahomes.com.au (ILU) or lucetia.graves@warrinahomes.com.au (RAC).