




SUNDALE
60
YEARS
OF CARE

This year Sundale celebrates its 60th birthday. To commemorate six decades of caring for the community, we will be sharing the stories of 12 remarkable individuals and revealing their amazing contribution to Sundale.

John Kleinschmidt

Board President (2006 – 2015) Board Vice President (1990 – 2006) Board Member (1986 – 2015).

John Kleinschmidt and his Sundale Board contemporaries are credited with transforming Sundale from a largely volunteer-led organisation into the strategic business it is today.

John's Sundale association began well before he joined the Board in 1986.

"After my National Service ended, I joined the Gatton Apex Club and can vividly remember when the Nambour Apex Club visited to sell t-shirts," John said.

"The Nambour Apex Club had strong links to Sundale, and I was so impressed by what they were doing and the service they were providing the community.

"Inspired, I wanted to do something similar, and together with my fellow Gatton Apexians built the Gatton Senior Citizens Centre."

A career opportunity in 1981 saw John, his wife Vonda and their three children, Carlie, Michael and David relocate to Nambour. Five years later he joined the Sundale Board as a community appointee.

"Nambour in the 1980s was a very exciting place to be. It was the centre of the Sunshine Coast," John said.

"There was a strong appetite to build so we could further support the community, and that's exactly what we did at Sundale.

"I was part of the team that oversaw the construction of Palmwoods Garden Village and Coolum Waters.

"During my time as Board President and Vice President, we also purchased land, including the parcel on Henebery Road, three caravan parks, Aloaka Lodge in Kilcoy, Bindaree Lodge near Gladstone, the Cooroy Hospital and built affordable housing units along Carter Road in Nambour.

"There was a can-do attitude driving the Board and the community back then. Our

strong financial position also allowed us to fund growth."

John's 29 years on the Board coincided with the transformation of Sundale from an organisation run predominately by volunteers, to a savvy operator who sought out industry leading developers, builders, architects, lawyers and designers for support.

"As Sundale grew, so did our level of professionalism," John said.

"Appropriate management structures were implemented, which acknowledged the growing complexity and governance required to operate aged care homes.

"I spent a long time at Maroochy Shire Council, however, Sundale is the most satisfying achievement of my professional career.

"I had the opportunity to work alongside people like Graham Chapman and Stuart Napier and together we all worked together to fulfil the needs of the local community."

John was also the driving force behind the creation of the Sundale Community Foundation in 2013 to celebrate Sundale's 50th birthday. Over the past decade, the Sundale Community Foundation has allowed Sundale to advance health, education, social and environmental outcomes throughout the region.

John's hopes for Sundale's future align with the current Board's vision.

"When Sundale was founded, it was the first aged care provider on the Sunshine Coast," John said.

"Sundale is still very well regarded for the remarkable care it provides, however, I would like to see some of the facilities modernised.

Sundale deserves to be at the top of the pedestal again and shining brightly."