



Mrs Prue Bennett Honorary Life Membership - 2015

Prue has been associated with Bayley House since about 1980 when she began as an emergency instructor. Prue continued to work on a permanent part time basis over the next 35 years and contributed many hours of her time as a valued volunteer as well. Prue demonstrated a natural ability to relate to all clients. Prior to moving to Australia, Prue had experience working closely with a boy with Down syndrome in New Zealand. Her skills in teaching clients are extremely good and clients have thrived with her unwavering commitment and support. In particular Prue's ability to understand individual program planning and the relevant steps needed for a client to achieve their personal goals have empowered clients to succeed in greater self-reliance and independence.

Prue contributed above and beyond the call of duty. On occasions Prue would take clients to her own home just at the point that their parents were in dire need of respite and no other choices were evident. Vacation breaks at holiday camps and houses saw Prue leading the way to help out. At the All Stars performances and Christmas Carols concerts Prue brought her fabulous personal style, such that she earned the reputation as the "Wardrobe mistress". And it goes without saying that her sewing ability was simply fantastic.

For our clients, Prue is much loved and her dedication and loyalty to clients and to Bayley House has been longstanding and exemplary. Clients continue to swell with pride and well-being when on the receiving end of Prue's warmth and devotion to them. The trip to Milan, Italy as part of the Melmi exchange was a special highlight.

So adept at understanding her clients, in one case Prue identified a previously unrecognised case of Coeliac Disease. A debilitating and very painful condition if not well treated. Once diagnosed, Prue set about cooking special meals for this client and even on time away from Bayley House, Prue cooked meals and delivered these in the morning before heading away. Another client with autism who is mostly in his own world, very recently saw Prue and his smile beamed a mile wide at her while also bestowing a big kiss.

The work in special needs was especially hard work yet lots of fun was had. There were no hoists, traction or lifting equipment and all lifting was done manually – no mean feat for a person of Prue's stature. Prue completed her long career at Bayley House with our Senior's group and we are told, our seniors "just loved Prue." Her natural ability to work with people of all ages with an intellectual disability was evident – we only had to look at our clients' faces to see the mutual warmth and happiness registered on faces.

On a personal note, Prue was married to Past President and Life Member Paul Bennett, who sadly passed away in October 2015 after a long illness. Paul had been associated with Bayley House for many years, initially through Prue's involvement with Bayley House.



Over a period of 35 years Prue has demonstrated great dedication and commitment to help Bayley House provide the best possible services for adults with an intellectual disability. Her passion to help people with an intellectual disability to fulfil their individual potential has been central to her accomplishments in her role at Bayley House.

In awarding Life Membership to Prue Bennett, Bayley House wishes to recognise and thank Prue for her longstanding, thoroughly professional commitment to Bayley House and our clients. We are indebted to Prue and have great pleasure in awarding her Honorary Life Membership of Bayley House.

Ms Rhonda Whitfield, President of the Bayley House Board presents Prue with her Life Membership at the Supporter Thank You function on November 25 2015.