

THEATER ACCESS PROGRAM BRINGS GREAT JOY

Kangara Waters resident Joy Horne is looking forward to going to the theatre this weekend to not only view but also read the Canberra Theatre Centre's opening season show, *The Wharf Review: Pennies from Kevin*.

Her hearing impairment has meant the 86-year-old is restricted in the live entertainment she can completely enjoy, but the IRT-sponsored access program for the theatre company provides Mrs Horne with a great opportunity.

Mrs Horne will join other residents from the retirement village and members of the public at Saturday's matinee session where she will be able to read the dialogue and sound effects in real time on auditorium screens or a discreet hand held device.

"I think this is a wonderful idea, I can't wait," Mrs Horne said.

"I went to the movies and saw a captioned film, the latest Meryl Streep movie *It's Complicated* and it was fantastic as the captions were just below the film – I didn't miss a thing."

IRT Chief Executive Nieves Murray said it was a privilege for IRT to be able to support the Canberra Theatre Centre's Access Program this year and support the range of services this provided.

"This is a great opportunity for people who have hearing impairments like Mrs Horne, but also for people who have a vision impairment and people with mobility issues who need assistance accessing the theatre," Ms Murray said.

"Sponsoring the access program is a way for IRT to not only support our residents at our newly opened Kangara Waters site who may want to attend the theatre, but also the wider community who may have these special needs."

As for the show, Mrs Horne said she was excited to learn the Wharf Review production centered around politics, particularly Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

“I’m one of Kevin’s supporters,” Mrs Horne said. “I handed out leaflets for him prior to the last election.”

A number of the Canberra Theatre Centre’s 2010 productions offer the access services. For more information call 62752700.

For information on Kangara Waters self care apartments and villas, or residential care facility feel free to call IRT’s Accommodation & Customer Service team on Freecall 1800 024 915.

Ends

Note to Editor/s: We request you refer to IRT as “IRT” not “Illawarra Retirement Trust” – thank you.

About IRT:

IRT is Australia’s largest not-for-profit, community based, aged care & retirement living provider.* It has been providing care, services and accommodation to older Australians for 40 years. IRT manages villages in 30 locations across the Illawarra, South Coast of NSW, Sydney and Canberra. It serves the needs of over 2,800 residents in its villages and helps maintain the wellbeing of about 1,700 clients through its Community Services.

*BRW Nov 2008

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Interested media are invited to contact:

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