

Meet Hector Neil McLean, a man with a vision and extraordinary kindness.



Hector Neil McLean was born on 5th December 1856 at Ellerston in the Hunter Valley, NSW. He lived most of his life in Inverell and was regarded as a very community-minded citizen. He served on Council and was committed to a dream of establishing a Convalescent Hospital.

His legacy is the cornerstone of McLean Care, and before he died in March 1932, a provision of his Will designated that a convalescent home be established on his family property 'Killean', the present site of McLean Care Inverell residential facilities.

When Hector McLean penned his wishes in his last will and testament, it was a document that would forever shape the future of our organisation.

Hector was a grazier and landowner and a successful businessman, but he was also a man who believed in the power of giving. Never married and with no children of his own, his generosity extended not only to his family, friends and loved ones but also to the people who had worked alongside him.

He left substantial sums of money to his nieces, nephews, and brothers, among others. For example, In 1932, he bequeathed amounts of £500 pounds to many individuals, an act of generosity that, when adjusted for inflation, would equate to over \$59,000 today. He bequeathed amounts of £1,000 pounds to his brother, equating to over \$118,000 in today's value.

After numerous bequests to relatives and friends, he desired the residue of his Estate to be devoted to the establishment of a Convalescent Home. He was very particular on how the Trust would be administered to bring his vision to life.

His Trustees (P.T. Coy; Rev James and Alec Frederick Avern A.F.A) in pursuance of his Will, created three "Home Trustees" (A.F.A; H. Buxton and E.N Ditchfield) and transferred to them, the 200 acres of land and then the two sets of Trustees jointly set to work to build, and equip the home, and to launch it.

He also planned ahead and this from his will stated "When that is satisfactorily done, The Will Trustees will 'evaporate', and transfer all remaining Estate assets to the "Home Trustees".

Between the 1930's and 1954 the Perpetual Trustee Company was administered by The Will Trustees P.T. Coy; Reverend E James; and A.F Avern; and The Home Trustees A.F Avern; H Buxton; and E.N Ditchfield, administered everything and made sure Hector's vision was brought to life.

His obituary in the Inverell times described Hector McLean as a man whom "out of raw materials be built up a house of character, in which he lived and had courage to stand up to the name he made" and "an unbounded faith in the prosperity of Inverell and the district."

What truly set Hector Neil McLean apart, however, was his determination and his clear, unyielding vision. Killean, would be utilised to create a convalescent home for those in need. His detailed instructions on the number of acres, the administration of the Trust, and those entrusted with its management, were ironclad.

These precise guidelines laid out in his Will would be the compass guiding the development of the very first McLean Care home as well as the management structure including Home Trustees.



His bequest included infrastructure considerations, and smart financial investments, he even thought about the remuneration for Medical Men, Nurses and Employees along with the expense of providing food, drugs and medical appliances.

In 1970 McLean Care's first Retirement home was established and administered by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Advice. In 2007, HN McLean Memorial Retirement Village Ltd and HN McLean Village Holdings Ltd with a Board of Directors was established and later in 2010, McLean Care Ltd was created.

Though the management and administration structures may have changed from those early days, it was Hector's attention to detail, his vision, and his unyielding bequest that empowered the trustees of his estate to eventually bring his dream to life in 1953 – efforts were delayed post war as building materials were difficult to procure at the time.

Today, we continue to carry his legacy forward, as the custodians providing care and support to those in need, just as he intended.

We remember our Founder Hector Neil McLean and his incredible legacy that now helps countless lives. Every day we uphold the values he held dear, and we look to the future with the same unwavering commitment to the well-being of the communities we serve.

McLean Care has come along way since 1953 and remains a thriving, modern and successful organisation that continues to care for older Australians.



On November 15th we celebrated our official 70 year anniversary where it all began - in Inverell. As the CEO of McLean Care, I was deeply humbled to commemorate a remarkable journey of compassion, dedication, and service that spans 70 years. McLean Care, as we know it today, is central to the communities we serve, with a proud history of commitment to older people living in regional and rural New South Wales and Queensland.

In a symbolic nod to our origins, we celebrated this significant milestone at our foundational location here in Inverell, to honour the legacy of Hector Neil McLean and the McLean Care team's 70 years of dedicated service to older people.

Our story began in 1932, with the vision of a man of proud Scottish heritage, Hector Neil McLean, who lived his life in Inverell, New South Wales. Hector McLean was a dedicated community-minded citizen who dreamed of establishing a Convalescent Hospital for people from rural and remote areas in and around the Inverell district.

Upon his passing, Hector made provision in his Will for the establishment of a hospital on his property, 'Killean.' The founding stone was laid on the 17th of November in 1951, and the building was completed in 1953.

The first Convalescent Hospital served as an essential service to Inverell and its surrounding areas. However, as transportation improved, the need for convalescent-type care diminished, and an emerging void in aged care was recognised. This transformation gave rise to the provision of services to the older people of the region. Across our developmental timeline is a testament to our unwavering commitment to evolving and expanding to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities. McLean Care is defined by the people we serve - the residents, clients, staff, and the community. Our vision is clear: "enriching experiences beyond all boundaries," and we possess the capacity to realise this vision for our residents and clients.

Our mission is equally defined: "owned and inspired by our community to focus on you." We exist to provide innovative solutions

to the ageing journey and the ever-evolving needs of our people and their communities. McLean Care has remained faithful to Hector McLean's wish - that regional, rural, and remote communities and their people should not be disadvantaged due to their geographical location.

As organisational custodians we are dedicated to operating, managing, and leading in line with our values, emphasising autonomy and entrepreneurship through mutual trust, and we take immense pride in our achievements.

The world around us has undergone significant shifts, marked by advancements in technology and global communication. We have adapted to the changing landscape, embracing technology to streamline processes and provide care to those who have difficulty accessing professional aged care services. We have to think big – we cannot wait to be saved.

We need to develop, collaborate, dream and implement the future – and it's here now and we are doing just that.

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As we celebrate this remarkable 70th anniversary milestone of care, we also recognise the heart, courage, perseverance, and the exceptional individuals who have been instrumental in our success throughout the decades. We take pride in the enduring legacy forged by those who paved the path for us.

Seven plus decades after Hector McLean's generous bequest, McLean Care is now a leader in the Care Economy managed and guided by a community-based Board of Directors, extending services over a vast geographical area serving more than 3,000 older Australians and boasting a workforce of more than 620 professionals.

We are surrounded by a talented and skilled team.

We have never lost sight of Hector's original vision. At the heart of the McLean Care model of care is each individual person, and at the core of that model are fundamental approaches that we take to ensure that all of the care we provide is individual and person-centered.

The McLean Care Sapphire Model of Person-Centered Care was developed to ensure that, as a collective, we deliver what we say we will in every community where we provide services.

Our organisation offers a comprehensive range of services, to support older Australians at various stages of their later life including Home and Community Care, Residential Care, and Independent Living options. Our multidisciplinary team includes a nurse practitioner, skilled nursing staff, allied health professionals, and support teams spanning project management, finance, administration, hospitality, and maintenance.

Today, we proudly stand as an award-winning and industry-recognised provider of quality aged care services. Our commitment to innovation, quality, and the well-being of older Australians remains unwavering.

As we celebrate this milestone, we are also wrapping up another year of caring for all of our clients, families and team members. Let us remember as the Christmas season begins, how grateful we are to have each other and I thank each and everyone of you for your support of McLean Care.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey, and I wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas.


Sue Thomson
Chief Executive Officer



Celebrating our 70 years through the decades.



On Wednesday 15th November, 2023, we celebrated our McLean Care 70 Year anniversary with an afternoon tea in Inverell.

Our residential homes throughout NSW and QLD and our Home and Community offices also joined in on the festivity of the afternoon via video link as we shared stories of our legacy.

It had been a milestones to remember and a bright future dedicated to ensuring our ageing Australian's love their later life with us!

