

A Chapter Closing, a Legacy Enduring

After decades of remarkable dedication, the **Friends of Cara Gawler Branch** have officially closed a chapter that helped shape Cara's story in profound and lasting ways. On Tuesday 24 March, members gathered for a reflective and heartfelt farewell lunch at the Fischer family home – a place rich with history, advocacy and deep connection to Cara's journey.

The afternoon brought together long-serving volunteers, friends and supporters, alongside Cara CEO John van Ruth, who joined the group to personally thank them for their years of unwavering service.

"The **Friends of Cara Gawler Branch** have shaped our community in ways that words can never fully capture," John said. "Their compassion, generosity and belief in what Cara stands for have touched lives across generations. We are deeply grateful for everything they have given – not just to Cara, but to the wider Gawler community."

While the Branch shares a special connection with the Fischer family, particularly through Brian and Rhonda's daughter Katrina, a Cara client, its story has always been about much more than one family. It was a collective of neighbours, parents, retirees and community members united by a shared belief: that every person deserves joy, purpose and belonging. Long before those words became part of how we formally describe our work, the Friends of Cara were living them.

Over the years, the group raised vital funds, built strong local awareness and created spaces of connection through community events that became cherished fixtures in Gawler. Craft stalls, raffles, lunches and gatherings filled with laughter and homemade treats were not just fundraisers – they were acts of belonging, generosity and love.

Under the leadership of President Jenny Barr, Vice President Paulene Evans and Treasurer Rhonda Fischer, supported by a dedicated group of volunteers, the **Friends**

of **Cara Gawler Branch** grew into something extraordinary: a true community within a community.

While their formal chapter has now come to an end, their legacy will continue to live on – in the lives they touched, the opportunities they helped create, and the enduring community spirit they leave behind.

To the **Friends of Cara Gawler Branch**: thank you. Your kindness, commitment and belief in what's possible have left an imprint on Cara that will never fade.



Image description: **The Friends of Cara Gawler Branch Members** at the 2025 Gawler Fair.



Image description (L - R): **Kathy Purbrick, Jenny Barr, Lorraine Purbrick, and Rhonda Fischer** at the FoCGB Christmas Lunch.