



Fashioned for style

CLASSIC DESIGN – Katharine trousers and Wendy blouse (left). The Timeless by Heather Hill collection of adaptive clothing is designed to be functional and stylish (right).



IT'S NOT every day your grandma inspires you to start a fashion label. But that was exactly the case for Queensland mining engineer-turned-designer Hayley Clarke.

Hayley is the co-founder of Timeless by Heather Hill clothing label, a collection of functional and adaptable pieces for seniors.

"I come from long line of ladies who love the pleasure of dressing," said Hayley, from Auchenflower.

"As a young girl I fondly remember my grandma's elegant style and as she's aged and become less agile I've become increasingly concerned that she would not be able to retain this elegance that has in many ways been a key part of her identity."

What makes this clothing line appealing is that while the pieces are practical and easy to get on and off, they're also classically-styled with a nostalgic nod to the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

From Katharine Hepburn-inspired pants and Lucille Ball dresses to skirts that wouldn't have looked out of place on Audrey Hepburn, these are clothes your daughter and even granddaughter will want to borrow.

"I spoke with my mother, Heather Hill, who has an extensive background in seniors care and accommodation, and together we decided there is a real need for suitable clothing options for seniors that are both easy to put on and take off and still look stylish, not institutional," Hayley said.

"As someone becomes less mobile, why

should they have less of a chance to dress elegantly and feel great about themselves?"

Behind the classic shapes and timeless style of the pieces are clever designs and techniques to make sure they are easy to put on and off – for the wearer and the carer.

"Someone who has had a stroke, for example, may only have the use of one arm. And from working in nursing homes we see a lot of people who also have jerky uncontrolled movements which makes dressing difficult," Hayley said.

To this end she has incorporated extra long zips, wrap-around designs and hidden secure snap studs.

"Our Katharine trousers, for example, have two hidden zips on both sides and a lower crotch so the front can come down as a flap, which makes it easier when changing and preserves some dignity also."

There are tops that fully come apart for people who can't raise their arms and dresses made from busy prints "so spills and creases don't show".

Another bestseller are scribs – clothing protectors similar to a bib that look like scarves. "My grandfather has Parkinson's and can sometimes dribble or spill food," Hayley said. "He can wear this, which has bamboo backing and is easy to wash, without looking out of place and still maintaining his dignity."

Hayley is now planning a range of men's clothing.

■ www.heatherhilltimeless.com.au

The Best Xmas

Usually every Christmas I get beer, chocolates but this year my son surprised me completely! park and a fish by the creek with my children and I came home and found that they had changed

I was gob smacked; it had a remote and every time I told me that this new seat would wash and dry with the push of a button, he said that he had purchased for his family just last week and they loved it so much he just had to get one for me to! Well, two weeks later I don't know how I ever survived without it...

All I have to do is sit down on my nice warm seat to the loo, once I am finished I simply press a button and I get a warm water wash and warm air dry! No more toileting is a time of luxury, it is the best Christmas present I have ever bloody got! **Marvin R**

Installs in minutes

- ✓ Warm air dryer
- ✓ Warm water wash
- ✓ Soft closing lid
- ✓ Heated seat



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Delamore Retirement Community

Kedron's best kept secret

Warm smiles and good friends are what makes Delamore special; that and a terrific location right in the heart of the northern suburbs. Located in the beautiful grounds of Delamore House, is a boutique retirement community for the over 65's in Kedron North Brisbane. The gracious Community Centre, located in Delamore House, is the hub for meeting, dining, entertainment and activities.

The entire package that is 'Delamore' is based on the enriching spiritual values of love, compassion, simplicity, peace and joy which is part of the spirit inherited from the Franciscan Sisters. Since 1930, the Missionary Franciscan Sisters have built up tradition of serving the community through education, and caring for those in need. While being a Christian community in which religious and spiritual values are supported, Delamore is also a place where all people are welcome regardless of their beliefs. The Delamore Retirement Community provides well-designed accommodation for elderly and retired persons, and provides a team of management and staff who work together to offer care in line with the Franciscan Sisters.

