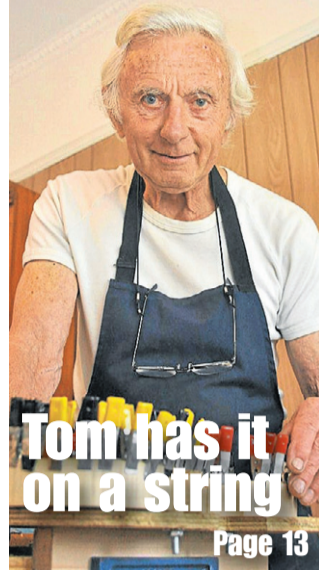




TRANSFORMATION?: Signs pitching retirement village land sales around the former St John's Orphanage have been posted in the last few weeks. Developer Peter Madew has outlined plans for the project, the site's clean up and the main building's restoration.

INSIDE TODAY



Tom has it on a string

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Circlework



Clouded in mystery

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Looks can be deceiving

By LOUISE THROWER

DEVELOPER Peter Madew admits the old St John's Orphanage looks a bit of an eyesore right now.

But that's about to change in the quest to transform the surrounds, and eventually the building into an independent living retirement village, he says.

The 1912 EC Manfred-designed structure in Mundy St once housed some 2000 children. Run by the Sisters of Mercy, it closed in 1978.

Current owner John Ferrara bought the property and surrounding 2.4 hectares earlier last decade for \$450,000, with his then partner, Ray Ekinci.

Mr Madew, of Canberra-based Madew Development Group, is undertaking a joint venture project with Mr Ferrara. They plan to build 76 units and houses in seven stages spanning three to four years. Mr Madew will help fund and manage much of the construction.

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