



From the CEO's Desk

Can you believe it is Christmas already? What a year we've had! We are enjoying getting ready for Christmas at Outlook Gardens. The decorations are up, residents are doing special activities and craft, and plans are in full swing for a delicious Christmas lunch.

One of the highlights of December is our Christmas service, which is a time to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. After such a busy and unusual year, I am certainly looking forward to the opportunity to pause and focus on Jesus. As you celebrate Christmas with your loved ones, I hope that you are able to take a moment or two to focus on Jesus too.

As you will have heard, Talya Goldsmith joined us at the end of November as our Director of Aged Care. Talya will be ensuring that Outlook Gardens continues to provide the best care possible. We're very pleased to have her join the family, and she brings a wealth of experience to the role. She is enjoying getting to know residents and staff, and is quickly settling in. She introduces herself below.

As we farewell 2020, we look forward to what the new year holds. I have said it many times in the past few months, but I want to acknowledge again the prayers, grace and sense of community that carried us all through the second half of this year. We look forward to many happy times together in the new year!

Dirk Schurink
Chief Executive Officer



Introducing our new Director of Aged Care

Firstly, to all those I have already met, thank you for the very warm welcome to Outlook Gardens. I look forward to continuing to meet everyone as the weeks go by. Hopefully, masks will be gone soon and I will get to see everyone's faces.

A little about me—As some folk have identified, I originate from New Zealand. I trained in New Zealand as a Registered Nurse and then went on to complete my Psychiatric Nursing training.

After all that study I travelled for about 8 years nursing my way around the world. I returned to Australia and settled in Melbourne. I continued to study, choosing to specialise in Psychogeriatric and Dementia care. Some extra study in leadership and management plus Aged Care Auditor training has seen me working solely in aged care for the last 21 yrs.

I enjoy the specialty of aged care and love coming to work every day. While at times it is a very tumultuous industry with lots of changes, the constant for me is the passion I have to care for our older generation.

My new joy is the arrival of my first grandchild (a boy). This joy is tinged with some sadness as they live in Los Angeles, but lots of photos and videos arrive daily and I am happy to share them with everyone (as staff are finding out!).

My door is always open and I look forward to meeting with you all as you visit. Please feel free to stop by and say hi!

Wishing you all a safe and healthy Christmas,

Talya Goldsmith
Director of Aged Care



What is Christmas about?

The Christmas story revealed through the scriptures....

“And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” *Isaiah 40:5* “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” *Isaiah 9:6*

“And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.” *Revelation 12:5* “And she shall bring forth a song, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.” *Matthew 1:21*

“The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.” *John 1:9-10* “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.” *Philippians 2:8-10*

“God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.” *Acts 5:31* “The Lord says, ‘The time is coming when I will choose as king a righteous descendent of David. That king will rule wisely and do what is right and just throughout the land.’” *Jeremiah 23:5* “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.” *1 Timothy 1:15-17*

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.” *2 Corinthians 9:15* “O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His loving kindness is everlasting.” *Psalms 107:1* “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope...” *1 Peter 1:3*

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.” *Romans 12:10* “Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men.” *Luke 2:14* “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.” *Hebrews 12:28*

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” *Colossians 3:15* “And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.” *Luke 1:14*

What a year 2020 has been! How do we find peace and joy after a tumultuous year of unprecedented events?

Perhaps this year Christmas might bring with it a different and new perspective for many....

The blessings of Christ’s love, peace and joy be with all of you.

Merry Christmas!

Chew Nang

Pastoral Care Worker



This nativity scene was created by Ebenezer Village residents and is on display at Ebenezer for Christmas

Sharing diverse cultures...



With our Dutch heritage, poffertjes (Dutch Pancakes) are always popular at Outlook Gardens.



Our Indian and Sri Lankan residents enjoyed an important cultural celebration. Look at those beautiful saris!



It wouldn't be Melbourne without celebrating the AFL Grand Final. We had a footy-themed happy hour—complete with pies, hot dogs and a teddy in a face mask!



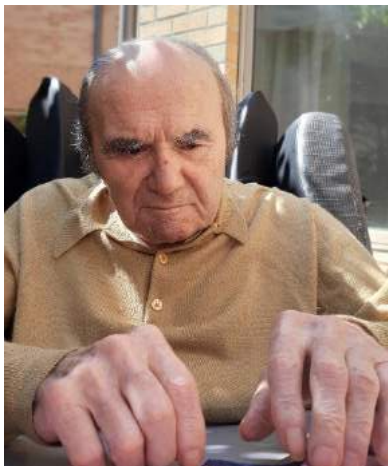
Special activities



The ladies got together for an Oaks Day high tea (complete with fascinators for their hair), and the men enjoyed a BBQ in the Grevillea courtyard on a beautiful sunny day!



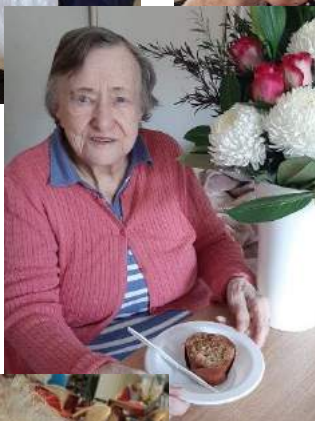
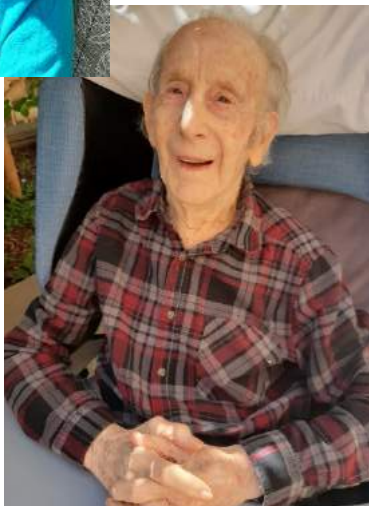
Candid moments...



As the weather gets better, the courtyard is a beautiful spot to enjoy the sunny days. We snapped these residents enjoying some fresh air and sunshine.



Morning and afternoon tea are wonderful times to relax and enjoy a cuppa.





Birthday blessings to all who are celebrating a birthday in
January, February and March

The following residents are celebrating Milestone Birthdays

February Adriana Bott—95th birthday
 Rita O'Brien—95th birthday

March Albert Gillingham—90th birthday



With social distancing requirements, birthdays have looked a little different over the past few months. Several birthdays have been celebrated outdoors in the Lavender courtyard, enabling families to be with their loved ones on their special day.



Village Happenings

After so many months with restrictions in lockdown it is lovely to get back to our normal life again. We hope to resume our activities in the new year after the holidays. Unfortunately we are unable to have our usual Christmas lunch at the Dandenong Club this year. However we plan to get together as a group in the new year and have a lunch at the Club as a reunion for us all. Our breakup party was held on 17 December in the Community Centre, and it was great to see most village residents together again. The kiosk closed on 17 December, and reopens on Thursday 21 January 2021.

We wish all staff and residents at the hostel and village a very happy and healthy Christmas and all good tidings for the new year.



Just a friendly reminder...

New Medicare or Pension Card?

If your family member receives a Medicare or Pension card with a **changed expiry date**, please provide the details or a copy to Reception or nursing staff so we can update our records.

Hairdressers

Alex and Melina send Christmas greetings to everyone.

Both Alex and Melina will be here throughout Christmas/New Year. Alex will then be taking a break from 4-15 Jan, and back for appointments on 21 January.

New Clothes for Christmas? Don't forget to label them!

If you or family members are bringing new clothes, please leave them in a named bag at reception or with care staff to be **labelled**. Of course, you can also choose to label clothes yourself with a laundry marker. Unfortunately we cannot take responsibility for lost clothing if it is not labelled.

Lost something?

If you or your loved ones are missing clothing items, please ask Reception or care staff.



Staying Connected

Don't forget that there are many ways to stay connected even if you can't visit in person:

Email: Send a message to admin@outlookgardens.com.au, and include some photos for your loved one. We print them off (together with your message) and pass them along

Skype: Call reception (9795 7566) to book a Skype call time with the nurses' station:

Magnolia: skype@outlookgardens.com.au

Grevillea: skype2@outlookgardens.com.au

Banksia: skype3@outlookgardens.com.au

Lavender: skype4@outlookgardens.com.au

Phone: If your loved one doesn't have their own phone, please feel free to call reception. The best times are between 9.30am & 5pm, and not between 12pm-1.30pm during our lunchtime routine

Parcels/letters: Parcels and letters can be posted or dropped at reception during office hours

Smartphone: Download apps such as WhatsApp, FaceTime or Viber to send messages and make video calls



Christmas celebrations



One of our wonderful staff, Chandrika, generously provided a Sri Lankan lunch for our residents and staff as a gift. Chandrika is pictured here giving a welcome speech (hence no mask at the time).



With a mix of cultures and traditions at Outlook Gardens, we love to celebrate Christmas in many different ways! Here are some pics from our Sri Lankan celebrations (above), and Dutch Christmas (Sinterklaas was unfortunately stuck in quarantine this year). We also have more special Christmas events to follow throughout the next few weeks...



Seasons Greetings from all at Outlook Gardens

