

## From the CEO's Desk

Christmas celebrations are underway once again. In this busy time I encourage you to begin to feel the peace of God and the joy of His presence as you reflect on the true reason for the season, and give "thanks to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Our residents celebrate Christmas with parties held in different areas of the facility. A staff Christmas party was held on 6th December and enjoyed by all. Village residents celebrated with a Christmas lunch at the Dandenong Club. A Christmas lunch was held for our volunteers to show our appreciation for the work they do throughout the year with our residents.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 16th November. It was encouraging to hear about God's ongoing blessings to our Association throughout the year. Bill Krins was presented with a lifetime membership in acknowledgement of his many years of service on the Board.

The Sunflower room has had a paint and new window furnishings installed, and in the Village a gazebo has been built for residents to enjoy.

On behalf of our staff, we wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We thank you for your support throughout the year and ask for your continued prayers for 2020.

*Dirk Schurink*  
Chief Executive Officer



*This beautiful nativity scene was made by Andy Fernando*

## From the Residential Services

### Manager's Desk



It has been a busy year at Outlook Gardens. We always try to provide the best care for your loved ones, which would not be possible without your invaluable contribution as friends and family.

With the holiday season upon us, some of our staff will be taking a break at various times over summer. Please be assured that there is always someone available if you have any questions. If your regular contact is not available, we will refer you to someone else who can help. As always, clinical questions are best discussed with a Registered Nurse or Unit Manager. If you have any concerns or queries with pharmacy bills, please chat with Inna.

Over Christmas and the New Year, there will be a number of residents coming and going on social leave. We recognise that this is not possible for everyone, so if you would like to join your loved one for a meal here instead, meals can be pre-ordered/paid via reception.

Christmas meals are almost finalised, and we're looking forward to having lots of family faces at the table this year! If you haven't yet made arrangements, please talk to reception asap. Depending on availability, you may even be able to book a dining area for a few family members to join you.

Dementia Australia will be joining us for an information evening on Tuesday 11 February, commencing at 6pm. This workshop will provide helpful information and facts about dementia, as well as effective ways to engage with people with dementia for "a better visit" and opportunities to share experiences. We intend to arrange family evenings 4 times per year, and want these sessions to be useful in supporting residents' families. We would love your input / requests for topics that would be helpful for you. Please let us know!

*Inna Emelianova*  
Residential Services Manager

## Christmas Treasure



What is the greatest treasure you own? Is it a mansion? A car? A blue or pink diamond?

The bible tells us that all these things are temporal and will all pass away: *“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal”* (2 Cor 4:18). There is a greater treasure that will last throughout all eternity - have you heard about this treasure? Have you found this treasure yet?

In the Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl – Jesus teaches that *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls”*. (Matt 13:44-45)

The Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20 tells us how this eternal treasure – a deity from the kingdom of heaven— made its way from heaven to earth in the form of a baby to dwell among us. This was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah ‘All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet *“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”* - which means *“God with us”*’. (Matt 1:22-23)

The characters in the first Christmas – Joseph, Mary, angels and the shepherds in the field—all witnessed something spectacular in human history that night. They saw the face of God. Each one of their lives were changed after they encountered this eternal treasure. Mary (mother of baby Jesus) *‘treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart’*. (Luke 2:19)

Do you know what love is? Have you loved? Have you been loved?

Scripture tells us in 1 John 4:8 *‘Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love’*. This is the greatest treasure of all – God is with us and God is love. Do you know His love? He loves you so so so much that He gave His one and only Son Jesus Christ (John 3:16). This love is eternal and is a free gift – the gift of salvation - for all.

This Christmas take time out to invite Jesus into your hearts, homes and celebrations with families and friends. You are very much loved by the One who created you whether you know it or not. God Bless your Christmas with His Love, Peace and Joy as you celebrate with Him.

Merry Christmas to All!

*Chew Nang*

Pastoral Carer

### **Could you volunteer some time and talent?**

We are always looking for volunteers to join our community for an activity! If you are interested please contact Georgie our Lifestyle Co-ordinator on 9795 7566. We would particularly love more people to be involved with reading, board games, craft or any other special skills or talents.



# Leisure and Lifestyle

In addition to all of our regular weekly activities, there have been so many special events happening over the past few months, it's almost too much to squeeze in to one newsletter! We'll let the photos tell the story...



Oktoberfest BBQ and social afternoon—what a beautiful day to be outside!



Outing to Cardinia Club Pakenham







Casey Fields Primary School brought a wonderful Lion King performance



A special time of reflection with the RSL at the Remembrance Day Service







Dressed up for Oaks Day, with a fashion parade and chicken & 'champagne' for morning tea





Ladies making Christmas Cakes



Sri Lankan Club Christmas Celebration





Dutch Club – Sinterklaas Visit





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

The following residents are celebrating Milestone Birthdays

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>December</b> | Dawn North—85th birthday<br>Johanna Kappers—80th birthday<br>Hilder Muller—95th birthday            |
| <b>January</b>  | Margit Szegi—85th birthday<br>Karoly (Karl) Hegedus—80th birthday<br>Grace Van Houten—90th birthday |

#### **Having a birthday?**

Lounge areas may be booked via Reception for resident birthday celebrations. In order to ensure everyone's safety, please do not use birthday candles or sparklers (no naked flames) within the facility as our heat & smoke detectors are very sensitive!

#### **You are invited to an evening for family & friends**

“Dementia: A better visit” - facilitated by Dementia Australia  
Tuesday 11 February 6pm, Community Centre, followed by a light supper  
RSVP to reception by Monday 11 Feb

This workshop will provide helpful information and facts about dementia, as well as effective ways to engage with people with dementia for “a better visit” and opportunities to share experiences.





**Going out?**  
If you are going out/taking a resident out, please  
**tell the nurse's station before you go**

**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.

**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.

**Op Shop Closure Dates:**  
Op shop last day Friday 13 Dec, reopens Thurs 6 Feb

**Christmas/New Year hairdressers' availability:**

|          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Alex –   | away from 5 Dec; back 30 Jan |
| Melina – | Wednesday 18 Dec             |
|          | Thursday 19 Dec              |
|          | Sunday 22 Dec                |
|          | Monday 23 Dec                |
|          | Monday 30 Dec                |
|          | Thursday 2 Jan               |



*We love it when families come to visit, and it's extra special when there are 4 generations in the same room! Look at those happy faces! This happy snap was captured when Dorothy, Elise and Lucy visited Wilma recently.*

## KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

The Aged Care Royal Commission recently identified that locked doors may be considered an 'environmental restraint'. We are closely following Royal Commission findings as they are published, and as a result, you may have received a call from us recently regarding the keypad locks that are installed for resident and staff safety / security. If you have any queries or concerns about this system (or anything else at the facility), please do not hesitate to contact us.

## SHARING FOOD

If you are bringing food into the facility, please be mindful of your loved ones' diet, especially if they have difficulty chewing or swallowing. If you are unsure of their needs, please check with care staff beforehand. Also, we know that many people like to share yummy Christmas goodies with one another! If you are sharing any food with other residents, please check with care staff first to ensure that it is suitable for the recipient.

If your food is homecooked, please enter the details in the Incoming Food Register at reception

## Have a peek at our new bathroom design...

With our latest bathroom update, we are trialling a new design that uses contrasting tiles to assist with recognising key bathroom elements. We're keen to see if this is helpful for residents in our Lavender wing.





# Village Happenings



Visit to  
Alowyn Gardens  
in October

Once again the  
months have

flown by and we are nearing the end of 2019. December is always a busy month with break-up parties to attend.

The village lunch was held at the Dandenong Club and was an enjoyable get-together for residents and guests. There has been a good weekly gathering for morning coffee on Thursdays. Our last kiosk day for the year is 19th December, with a special morning tea Christmas party.

We also have a Christmas celebration on Friday 20th in the evening in the Community Centre.

On a sad note, long time resident Bert Elfring passed away in November. Bert served on the Residents' Committee for many years and was a great contributor to many lovely barbecues he cooked for us all.

The building of the gazebo in the village has created a lot of interest. A lot of hard work has gone into the structure—the finished product will be an added feature in the village gardens.

**To Village residents, Facility residents and staff—  
we wish you a very Blessed Christmas and a  
Happy and Healthy New Year.**



*Right: construction of new gazebo  
Below: Christmas Village Lunch*





★ Christmas Greetings...from all of us

