

Summer 2021 Newsletter



Welcome to the very first edition of our NEW newsletter! We hope it helps to connect you to our wider community across three retirement villages and an aged care facility. Our community extends from Langwarrin (Ebenezer) to Eumemmerring (Olive Gardens) to Dandenong North (Outlook Gardens). This newsletter will be published each season (4 times per year), and distributed by a representative at each site. Although we live in different places, we are all part of the same community, and through this newsletter we will share some of our common stories. Enjoy!



Greetings from our CEO

I wish to extend a very warm welcome to each of you as we launch the first version of our newsletter covering all three retirement villages and our aged care facility. The newsletter seeks to balance articles of interest and updates from all villages with an insert that is specific to each location. It seeks to build on the strong work of many gifted newsletter editors who have done a brilliant job of preparing such professional and interesting newsletters in the past. As these newsletters will be prepared quarterly, there is also an opportunity for individual villages to issue local newsletters or updates in the months in between if there are residents interested in taking on this role.

As we head towards Christmas, I want to encourage you to take some time out in the coming weeks to reflect on the meaning of the season and to enjoy some time with family and friends. Christmas is a special time of the year, when we look back to celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world, bringing peace and hope. This message can often be lost in the busy-ness of the season, but it is important to pause and remember the arrival of a tiny baby over 2000 years ago.

It will be extra special to gather with one another again after so long apart, and important that we enjoy some of these privileges that we have not been able to share in over the last year or two.

While the past few years have brought unexpected changes and challenges for each one of us, I wish you all the very best for a peaceful and happy Christmas. May next year be a wonderful one for you and your loved ones.

Neil Morgan
Chief Executive Officer

Around the villages...



Olive Gardens

We are all very excited to be out of lockdown, particularly with Christmas so close. Now we will all be able to celebrate this blessed time with our families and friends.

Over the past few months we have had some big things happen within our community. Two of our residents celebrated their wedding, several of our neighbours have had time in hospital, others have had significant birthdays, and we are awaiting the arrival of a new neighbour to unit 5.

Unfortunately Covid came to Olive Gardens and we had five residents infected. Sadly, one wasn't strong enough to fight the infection and we were all very sad to hear of her passing. Our prayers are with her family as they grieve their loss.

My own personal feelings after lockdown are easily summed up. Gratitude for the small things in life that we have always taken for granted and thankfulness that our Lord has carried us safely through.

Ebenezer

Lockdown has not slowed progress at Ebenezer Village. In the past five months there has been quite a bit of activity, with some residents needing higher care. Four residents moved into Aged Care facilities and one passed away after a short stay in hospital. This meant that we had vacant units that needed to be emptied and renovated. Thanks to Chris (our COO) and Greg leading our maintenance team, we are pleased to announce that all our units are now occupied.

We also received some sad news, saying goodbye to our much-loved long time maintenance man. We hope to have a celebratory farewell soon as this was not possible due to Covid restrictions at the time.

The village has been blessed during these difficult and challenging times, with no reports of anyone contracting Covid.

We wish everyone a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas that only Christ can give.

Outlook Gardens

At long last after so many lockdowns we were able to have a farewell lunch for Dirk and we all enjoyed the BBQ meal. We wish Dirk and Sharon a very happy and long retirement.

Due to the Dandenong Club closing their function room for December we were unable to have our normal Christmas party. However we had a good number of residents at the Community Centre to celebrate together with an enjoyable lunch.

The kiosk will be closing on Thursday 16 December with a break up party—which will be our last get together for the year. The kiosk will reopen on Thursday 20 January 2022.

Wishing management, staff, residents of the Aged Care facility and our three villages a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year.

Reflections...

Christmas and Persecution

The theme of persecution is woven into the heart of the Christmas story right from the beginning. When King Herod met the three wise men, he secretly 'ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, **that I too may come and worship him.**"' *Matthew 2:7-8*

Is there truth in Herod's last few words to the wise men?

After the wise men had worshipped the new born Christ they were 'warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way'. *Matthew 2:12*

After the wise men 'had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."' *Matthew 2:13-15*

'Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.' *Matthew 2:16*

What does 'persecution' mean?

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary...

1: to harass or punish in a manner designed to injure, grieve, or afflict

specifically : to cause to suffer because of belief

2: to annoy with persistent or urgent approaches (such as attacks, pleas, or importunities) : PESTER

What does persecution look like to you?

How are you celebrating Christmas this season? Has Christmas changed for you over the last couple of years?

In our current world situation there is much chaos, disorder and misinformation. How do we know what is truth and what is not? God's word in the Bible encourages us to "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." *Matthew 7:7*

Seek God for the truth...

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:32

Merry Christmas and God bless you all with the abundance of His peace and love.

Chew Nang

Pastoral Care Worker

Introducing Chris, our Chief Operating Officer...

Chris Dennis started with us a couple of months ago, and we'd love to get to know her a little better! We asked her some questions...

What is your role? I have recently commenced in the role of Chief Operating Officer. Part of my role is to oversee the retirement villages and the buildings and property at the Aged Care Facility.

When and where will we see you around Outlook Gardens, Olive Gardens and Ebenezer? Although my office is in the administration wing at Outlook Gardens Aged Care Facility, I aim to attend as many retirement village morning teas as possible and am very much looking forward to getting to know you better.



Tell us something about your life outside of your office? I have two children – a 19 year old daughter who has just completed her second year of an education degree and a 16 year old son who will be in Year 11 next year. I also have a miniature dachshund puppy (Frankie) who's favourite hobby is chewing everything in sight! (Rather than share a picture of myself, I thought I would introduce you to Frankie and her big sister Bear)

A Christmas Prayer

As we celebrate the Christmas season, the coming of Jesus offers love, joy, peace and hope to all. The birth of a tiny baby brings a new beginning to all of humanity. In the same way that we have received love, joy, peace and hope from Jesus...

May we give and receive **love** with and from those around us

May we spread **joy** wherever we go

May we live in **peace**, and carry it within us every day

May we know hope for the **future**, both in this world and beyond

Amen



Noticeboard

FROM OUTLOOK GARDENS AGED CARE FACILITY

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance concerns or requests can be logged during business hours by calling Outlook Gardens reception on 9795 7566. Urgent issues should be reported immediately, via the same number.

It's been not only a busy time at Outlook Gardens Aged Care Facility in the past few months, but also a busy year. As you know, Covid has caused major disruptions to normal life for the community and specifically within the facility.

Despite all the disruptions we have faced in 2021 we are now getting excited and looking forward to decorating the facility and celebrating Christmas. We have lots of special events coming up, and it's always a fun time! The other hint we have that alerts us to the month of December is when staff start coming to work wearing Christmas t-shirts and santa hats!

We currently have several rooms available in various areas of the facility—if you or someone you know is needing respite or permanent care, we would love to show you what is available. We love conducting facility tours, where prospective residents and their families can view some rooms, meet some staff and learn about activities and daily life within the facility. If you would like to come and meet us, just phone and book an appointment on 9795 7566 . Talya Goldsmith, Director of Aged Care