



Outlook Christian Living

Summer 2022 Newsletter

It was wonderful to gather as a community a few weeks ago to celebrate our 50th year since the first AGM of the Association of Christian Senior Citizens' Homes Inc. While we are undergoing numerous changes as an organisation, it was timely to be reminded of the stories of the original vision to provide loving Christian care, and give thanks for God's provision throughout our history. On the same day, our Board Chair also welcomed and commissioned Jacques de la Porte as our new CEO. Look out for the photos later in the newsletter.



Handing over to our new CEO

I am excited to introduce myself as CEO and honoured to be part of this amazing, diverse organisation. I want to thank Neil Morgan and the Board of Directors for having faith in me to lead Outlook Christian Living into a new era.

As you know, Neil accepted a new role as the Director of Finance, and I am grateful for his ongoing support as a member of my executive team.

As we embark on a new journey together, we begin amid one of the most challenging times the aged care sector has ever faced, driven by the coronavirus pandemic and much-needed aged care reforms. As an organisation, we have a few challenges to deal with, but we must address these in a way that will build a long-term sustainable future. My number one priority as I enter this role is the health and well-being of our residents and supporting our people who so diligently and selflessly provide the care they need every day.

I will always communicate openly and transparently with our residents, families, and staff, and I encourage them to do the same in return. With a relentless focus and preparedness to challenge ourselves and take bold decisions, we can continue to deliver exceptional care to our residents, value and support our staff, and ensure a viable and sustainable organisation well into the future.

May God bless and keep us close and help us continue to serve and care for the most vulnerable in our community.

Jacques de la Porte
Chief Executive Officer

I firstly want to thank everyone for their deep support and prayers while I was fulfilling the CEO role at Outlook Christian Living. It was greatly appreciated.

The aged care industry has been faced with enormous change and challenges throughout the last 2 years and to know that there are supportive residents, committed staff and a dedicated Board has made a very real difference to management as we adjusted to the changing regulations and rules that have been a regular feature of our operating environment. These changes are unlikely to stop any time soon and I know the management team and the Board will be working closely with Jacques to support him in whatever way he needs. Our aim is to ensure that Outlook Christian Living continues to be a well-respected provider of aged care services and retirement living.

As we approach Christmas, can I encourage each of you to set some time aside to reflect on the many blessings you have been given, for the peace we enjoy in our part of the world and for the most incredible gift our God has given us in the form of his Son. It is so easy to get lost in the general festivity and celebration of the Christmas season without always remembering the significance of the birth of Jesus. Without this undeserved gift, we would not have eternal life.

At this time of year, we remember this timeless historical story that has such profound meaning for our lives today as well as our life in eternity.

Neil Morgan
Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Around the villages...

Olive Gardens

We have had a lot of activity at Olive Gardens! Recently we have welcomed two new residents, the Hall is being refurbished and we have enjoyed a community BBQ as well as celebrating several birthdays. December will be a busy month with Christmas Carols in the Hall, an end of year lunch outing, and our Village AGM and BBQ.



We wish the Outlook Christian Living community a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Ebenezer

Congratulations on our 1st anniversary of the Outlook Christian Living newsletter. Twelve months ago, we published our first combined villages and aged care facility newsletter. We hope you've enjoyed the articles that numerous residents of our village have written. As we approach the end of 2022 and celebrate Christmas with our family and friends, all of us will have mixed memories of the past 12 months. You may have lost a loved one or been quite unwell. You may have a friend that no longer lives nearby or you may have acquired a new neighbour.

Whatever your circumstances we hope you'll have an opportunity to focus and celebrate the greatest birthday that Christians can celebrate, the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; And the government shall be upon His shoulder; And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Outlook Gardens

With the end of the year fast approaching the various activities around the village are finishing up for their Christmas break. We look forward to having our annual Christmas lunch this year after a two year break, as well as a BBQ in the grounds for our Residents' AGM.



The final day for the kiosk and Thursday morning coffee is on 15th December when we break up with a party.

To the residents of each village, hostel residents and staff, we wish you a very blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

God's provision

Throughout the Bible, God consistently calls His people to gather and recall the stories of His leading and provision. From the Israelites following God in the desert in the Old Testament, the Jewish remembrance festivals of the New Testament, and the church throughout history, we hear of God's love and provision for humanity. Telling the stories reminds us that God is active in the world.

Today, each of us have our own experiences within Outlook Christian Living, and when we add our part of the story, the pieces fit together to form a picture of God at work in our corner of the world. Through God's provision, Outlook Christian Living now spans three wonderful retirement villages and a loving aged care facility—providing a welcoming community and Christian care for hundreds of people.

As we prepared for our 50th anniversary celebration, it was a privilege to revisit some of the early stories—from speaking with several founding members (some of whom are now reaping the benefits of their dedication in the early days, and living in one of our retirement villages or the aged care facility), poring over minutes from early meetings, and collating photos for a memory board. Common themes have emerged of faith, vision, generosity, persistence, determination and, most importantly, God's provision.

God has consistently provided for us throughout our history—from the early establishment of a group of people with a shared vision, the provision of suitable land, people volunteering or subsidising their professional skills, sacrificial financial gifts, government grants, strong leaders, generous hospitality and support, and many other instances of grace and generosity at just the right time.

When we are caught up in our everyday routine it can be easy to lose sight of God's bigger picture. Challenges throw us off balance, and we can become frustrated or disheartened. Yet, when we gather to share our collective story and remember God's love and provision, it gives us confidence in our future. If God has been at work faithfully in our past, we can be sure that He is with us in the present, and will continue to be in the future.

Psalm 127 reminds us that "unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain".

Throughout our history God has been faithful, and we are confident that He will continue to provide and lead us into the future. Thanks be to God!



On Saturday 26 November we gathered to celebrate 50 years since the first AGM of the Association of Christian Senior Citizens' Homes Inc. It was a wonderful afternoon of celebration around the theme of "Past, Present & Future", beginning with a thanksgiving service that included a performance from The Jubilate Choir, a biblical reflection from Ps Ron Nauta on caring for the elderly, and a commissioning prayer for our new CEO. At afternoon tea, Harold Dykstra and Corey van Garderen shared some memories before cutting a celebratory cake for the occasion. This was followed by the AGM, with many attendees from across the association, including members from each of our villages.



Keeping the Cross at the centre and growing towards our future

Meet our new CEO, Jacques de la Porte

In November we welcomed Jacques to our team as our new CEO and he has been enjoying getting to know our residents and staff over the past few weeks. We asked Jacques to tell us a little about himself:

What brings you to Outlook Christian Living?

The opportunity to continue my career in a sector I love so much by working for an organisation so closely aligned with my Christian faith.

Tell us about your passion for aged care?

The two most important commandments are to Love your God and Love thy Neighbour. Loving your neighbour means we must serve others. Using my God-given talents to not only serve others but positively impact the lives of our residents, their families, our staff and the wider Outlook Christian Living community gives me a sense of fulfilment and purpose.

Who else is in your household?

My wife, *Louisa*, daughter *Claudia*, and my two teenage boys, *Search* and *Destroy* (*Jean-Luc* and *Xavier*). We also have one giant Maremma dog and a bunch of horses.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

During my spare time, I re-start horses, give riding instruction, train harness racers or compete in dressage, cross-country or showjumping events. I also enjoy sailing with my family and occasionally compete in a yacht race or two. Saturday mornings, I teach children, and people living with disabilities, how to sail.



Noticeboard

Would you like to volunteer to spend some time with Aged Care residents?

Outlook Gardens Aged Care is recruiting volunteers! Our activities program has many opportunities for volunteers to be involved in activities, including: art/craft, special interests, bingo, music, facilitating boardgames, helping set up or pack up. We are especially looking for people who might be available on weekends when our regular programs are taking a break. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Gabby on 9795 7566 or leisurelifestyle@outlookcl.com.au

All volunteers need to provide a police check and be fully Covid vaccinated (including booster).

FROM OUTLOOK GARDENS AGED CARE

MAINTENANCE

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

I cannot start this message without welcoming Jacques as our new CEO. We are all looking forward to having him on the team as he takes up the mission to help us keep growing as an organisation and community.

Spring has almost gone, and we've had a lot of rain without much sun so the gardening at my place has fallen behind.

I've begun reading loads of interesting facts about places, people, and the world. I was amazed to learn that on 15 November 2022 the world population reached 8 billion people and that half of these 8 billion live in only seven countries.

Thinking about the world and our population here in Australia my thoughts go out to those who have endured terrible floods in the last few months and also those in our community for whom this time of the year will bring back memories of the terrible fires they experienced a year ago.

As we head towards a time of family and friends' celebration, I encourage you to stop for a moment and spare a thought and prayers for those for whom this Christmas will not be as wonderful as they may wish.

I would like to thank all the staff who have worked so tirelessly through 2022 to make Outlook Gardens a wonderful place to live for our residents and a great place for staff to work.

I wish everyone a healthy and safe Christmas and a happy and wonderful 2023.

Talya Goldsmith, Director of Aged Care

