



# Outlook Christian Living

## *Spring 2023 Newsletter*

Welcome to our Spring newsletter! In this edition, you will meet our new Director of Nursing, as well as hear updates from around our community. As you'll see, there is always plenty happening at Outlook Christian Living, and life is full for our residents. Through it all, we are always grateful for God's sustaining grace and love as we live our lives alongside others. Our staff are always aware of the immense privilege of being part of our residents' lives in our aged care home, and our village residents continue to care for each other in a wonderful demonstration of 'loving your neighbour'.

### **From our CEO**



After a long and cold winter, spring has finally arrived, bringing delightful rebirth to our gardens. This is a wonderful time of year to take a stroll around one of our villages and admire the gardens as they return to life. The longer and warmer days invite us to venture outside and enjoy the fresh air and many beautiful spring blossoms.

To further enjoy the colours and energy of spring, our village residents are looking forward to an outing to the Tesselaar Tulip Festival. It is so encouraging to see residents from different villages choosing to socialise together and enjoy one another's company. There have now been several shared village events, and the Outlook Christian Living community is gradually becoming more connected across our various sites. This has been one of the key aims in merging our villages and aged care home, and it is wonderful to see it coming to fruition.

At Outlook Gardens Aged Care, we recently hosted an event to express our gratitude to our staff on **Aged Care Employee Day**. This is celebrated annually on August 7th to celebrate the dedicated professionals who care for our residents, including nurses, allied health experts, personal care providers, hospitality teams, cooks, cleaners, laundry workers, leisure and lifestyle officers, administrative staff, maintenance, pastoral care and others. This year was particularly meaningful given the challenges of the past few years. On the day, our Aged Care staff and resident were thrilled when we announced that face masks are no longer mandatory inside the aged care home. After nearly three years of wearing masks, it was a welcome change for everyone. Many residents had not seen our staff's faces before and were delighted to see them without masks. Being able to see one another's faces makes a significant difference to the way we connect and communicate with one another.

The other news from our aged care home is that the reception area has undergone an incredible refurbishment, resulting in a modern new look. Our residents and their families have welcomed the changes with enthusiasm. We must thank Greg Davenne and his team for their hard work and dedication in creating such a beautiful and inviting space. As a next step, the main dining room will receive a minor refurbishment, which will include new light fittings, curtains, and a fresh coat of paint.

It continues to be a privilege to lead our Outlook Christian Living team, and I thank each of you for your ongoing support and prayers as we continue to build our community together.

*Jacques de la Porte*  
Chief Executive Officer



# Around the villages...

## Olive Gardens

What a beautiful season Spring is, with lovely blossoms, and very welcome sunshine. It's amazing how everything seems better when the sun is shining!



We have been busy at Olive Gardens recently; with two 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays to celebrate, a monthly happy hour, and an outing to the Dandenong RSL. Pastor Michael de Kretser has also commenced leading a bi-monthly bible study. It's great to have more activities available to keep us all busy.

Coming up, some of us will be joining residents from Ebenezer and Outlook Gardens to Tesselaar's beautiful Tulip Festival. We are very much looking forward to a day together with our sister villages!

## Ebenezer

You know that Spring is in the air when the blossoms are flourishing on the fruit trees in anticipation of a bumper crop. Here at Ebenezer village, we see the bright colours of Spring bursting open as the sunny days warm the soil.

During the winter months we have welcomed some new faces to our community. Lois Anderson moved into unit 39 and Carol Driller into unit 24. In the coming months, we hope to welcome three more families. A recent highlight for our village was our Tartan—Winter Dinner Dance. Residents from Outlook Gardens and Olive Gardens were invited to attend.

In September we are also planning a coach tour for all three villages to attend Tesselaars Tulip Festival on Friday 22 September. Look out for your invitation very soon.



## Outlook Gardens

Our beautiful Magnolia in the village is in full bloom, so Spring has definitely arrived! Apart from our usual coffee morning and Happy Hour we have also enjoyed a Pizza Evening held in the Community Centre. Along with the pizzas we also had delicious slices and cakes (made by various ladies in the village) with coffee and tea.



A large group of us went to Morning Melodies at the Mulgrave Country Club where we enjoyed a 'Legends of the 80s' show, morning coffee and tea which was then followed by lunch—a very pleasant outing.

The latest residents to be welcomed into the village are Gordon and Shanthi. We are enjoying getting to know them, and hope they will be very happy in their new home.

## Encouragement from our Pastoral Care Coordinator

Dad (Ps Crosbie) and I recently made an impromptu two-week dash to Sri Lanka to support, listen, pray, encourage, help practically, and laugh with a relative, Robert, after the very sudden promotion to glory of his wife Cheryne. She was Dad's cousin, and like a second mother to us as we grew up in Sri Lanka before migrating to Australia.



Over recent months, several residents from our aged care home and retirement villages have also passed.

Losing loved ones highlights the fragility of life, our mortality and where all of us will spend eternity. Where will you?



In our G.I.F.T. (Growing In Efaith Together) Bible studies in the aged care home, we studied Jesus' seven "I am" statements in John's gospel. In one of the statements in John 11:25-26, Jesus assured Martha at the passing of her brother Lazarus: *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die."*

**Wow! What assurance, hope, and comfort for all who believe in Jesus. Even though we die, we continue to live on with our Lord in glory!**

Our family will miss our dear relative Cheryne very much. So do all who lose a loved one. However, as believers, we are comforted because Jesus also said in John 3:16 *"...whoever believes in Me shall not perish but have everlasting life."* **Death is not the end for those who believe in Jesus but the beginning of everlasting life with our Lord in Heaven!**

Be encouraged by the lyrics of Bill and Gloria Gaither's popular song:

*"God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus; He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died, to buy our pardon, an empty grave is there, to prove my Saviour lives!  
**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know, He holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because He lives.**  
And then one day I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death, gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory, and I'll know He lives!"*

Can you read and sing these lyrics with conviction? I pray you can. Jesus finishes His "I am" statement above by challenging Martha with "Do you believe this?" and she answers, "Yes Lord, I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God, Who comes into the world."

How about you? **Do you believe this?** The blessing of life after death can be yours too when you turn from your sins and **T.R.U.S.T.** in Jesus! I pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to do this.

If you would like to chat further about the above or would like me to visit with you, please talk to one of our staff, ring 9795 7566 or email [michael@outlookcl.com.au](mailto:michael@outlookcl.com.au)



God bless you and assure you that because Jesus lives, we can face all our todays and tomorrows!

*Pastor Michael de Kretser*

## ***New Director of Nursing at Outlook Gardens Aged Care***

We're very excited to welcome Jodie Hoogenboom to our Outlook Christian Living family! Jodie has an extensive background in nursing and aged care, and is settling in quickly as our Director of Nursing at Outlook Gardens Aged Care. Our residents and staff have welcomed her warmly, and Jodie is a regular sight at each of our nurse stations throughout each day. As we get to know her, we've asked Jodie to share a little more about herself...

*What brings you to Outlook Christian Living?*

I had heard positive feedback from a granddaughter of a current resident living within our home. She spoke highly of staff and the care provided to her Grandmother.

Working within an organisation of faith is also important to me. A home which demonstrates the values and ethos of the organisation is where I want to be. At Outlook Christian Living, I see this evidenced through the care provided and relationships between residents, families, staff and management team. I am privileged to be trusted to lead the team.

*What do you love about aged care?*

Working within the Aged Care sector has been an absolute honour over the past five years. It is very rewarding to be part of our residents' daily lives and share experiences together, particularly in supporting them with their needs and helping them achieve their goals. I love to walk around and hear laughter, see residents chatting together and enjoying lifestyle activities. Our residents become part of a larger Aged Care home family outside of their own family unit. Having a resident welcome you back with a smile when you walk in each day is a truly heartwarming moment.

Prior to working in Aged Care, I spent 24 years working in the Acute Hospital sector, beginning as a junior nurse before progressing to manage operating suites. After this I fulfilled various roles including Quality / Risk Manager, General Manager, Corporate General Manager and Procurement Manager. Some of these were very time-demanding and involved overseas travel. In some roles, a significant part of my focus was on costs and finance.

It wasn't until my own grandparents entered Aged Care that I first walked into an aged care home. At that moment my trajectory changed from the acute sector (and associated revenue generation) to being part of people's lives and having a tangible impact on how they live each day. I soon discovered the most satisfaction I have ever had in my working life—through developing friendships with families and their loved ones, enjoying the stories they share, observing them laughing with their friends, and having consistency in my day. I now go home smiling each day!

*Tell us a little about your life outside of Outlook Christian Living?*

I have a wonderful partner, Tim, who is a commercial builder and two beautiful daughters – Chloe and Sophie. Chloe is 21 and currently completing her Nursing & Midwifery degree at LaTrobe University; Sophie is 19 and in her final year of Hairdressing at Joey Scandizzo. It's very handy having both a nurse and hairdresser in the family! We also have a beautiful flame point Siamese cat, Cleo - she basically rules our household and is always very vocal about where she is and what she needs.

*L: Photo taken in Bali while on holiday with my beautiful daughters*

*R: Cleo, the 'boss' of our house!*



## **Noticeboard**

### **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.

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

Outlook Gardens Aged Care is looking for volunteers! Our activities program has many opportunities for volunteers to be involved in activities, including: art/craft, special interests, bingo, gardening, music, facilitating boardgames, helping set up or pack up, or just joining a resident for a chat. 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 would like more information,  
contact Gabby on 9795 7566 or [leisurelifestyle@outlookcl.com.au](mailto:leisurelifestyle@outlookcl.com.au)