



Winter 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to our Winter newsletter! Over the past three years our newsletters have explored themes from our Aim & Mission statement, and we've enjoyed sharing a little more about what makes us 'tick' at Outlook Christian Living. In this edition, our contributors have each been invited to share something from their own heart.

We hope you enjoy catching up on our news and photos, and hearing thoughts from each of our regular contributors.

From our CEO

As we move into the winter season, I want to thank our residents, clients, families and friends for their ongoing support, trust and commitment to the Outlook Christian Living community.

The past few months have been both busy and positive across all areas of Outlook Christian Living. Despite ongoing challenges facing the aged care sector nationally, Outlook Gardens continues to perform strongly, maintaining high occupancy levels and positive feedback from residents and families. Most importantly, our focus remains firmly on delivering safe, compassionate and person-centred care every day.

We are also proud of the continued growth and strength of our Home Care services. More older Australians are choosing to remain living independently in their own homes for longer, and our Home Care team continues to expand the support we provide across the community. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our care staff who work tirelessly to support clients with dignity, respect and genuine compassion.

Within Retirement Living, our villages continue to provide vibrant and welcoming communities where residents can enjoy independence, connection and peace of mind. It has been wonderful to see the continued participation in social activities and community events across our villages, reinforcing the importance of staying connected and engaged.

This year also marks an important period of preparation as the aged care sector continues transitioning toward the new strengthened Aged Care Standards and broader reform agenda. Management remains focused on ensuring Outlook is well positioned for the future, with significant work underway in governance, clinical systems, workforce development and quality improvement initiatives.

I am also pleased to share that the organisation will soon commence construction of a new Support Services Building on-site at Outlook Gardens. This important development will create the opportunity for the future expansion of our residential care services through the development of a small-scale, home-like specialist dementia care wing. This project reflects our ongoing commitment to meeting the growing needs of older people within our community while continuing to provide care environments that feel safe, personal and welcoming.

As always, I would like to sincerely thank our staff and volunteers for their continued commitment and professionalism. The compassion, kindness and dedication shown every day makes a real difference in the lives of those we support.

Thank you for being part of the Outlook family. We look forward to continuing to provide high quality care, services and community throughout the remainder of the year.

Jacques de la Porte



Around the villages...

Olive Gardens

Autumn has been busy at Olive Gardens, and we have enjoyed many social times together including an Easter service, a trip to Gardenworld, gathering for ANZAC Day, and meeting The Gadget Girl. In addition to all of these extra activities, we also enjoy regular Happy Hour events, morning teas and Bible studies.

We also love gathering for milestone birthdays, and have had a few opportunities to celebrate with one another recently.

Our beautiful village continues to be a wonderful place of community, and we are grateful for good neighbours and friends.

Ebenezer

In the gentle turning of autumn, our Harvest season brings Easter, ANZAC Day and Mother's Day together in a time of deep reflection. In its own way, each of these occasions speaks of love freely given, lives poured out for others, and the quiet strength of remembrance.

- **Easter:** We remember Christ's sacrifice and rejoice in the hope of resurrection.
- **ANZAC Day:** We give thanks for courage, service and the great cost of peace, holding in prayer all who have suffered loss.
- **Mother's Day:** We honour the tender, faithful and often unseen self-giving of women and all who nurture life with compassion and grace.

At Ebenezer, we gathered together for each of these occasions, and enjoyed one another's warm company.

It was good to be reminded that in all things, we are invited to remember with gratitude, love with generosity, and trust the Lord who brings hope out of sorrow and renewal from every ending.

Outlook Gardens

In April we had the opportunity to gather for two important times of reflection. At the beginning of the month, Pastor Michael led us in a meaningful Easter reflection at our Thursday morning coffee. Later in the month we gathered together at the flagpole for our ANZAC Day service. Following the ANZAC service, we then adjourned to the Community Centre for lunch, coffee and fellowship.



In May, Mother's Day was celebrated with a film evening. We all sang along with Elvis Presley in Blue Hawaii and then enjoyed supper together after the show.

We welcome new residents to the village Edward Scharenguivel (unit 1) and Jose Vazquez (unit 13). We wish both of them well as they settle into their new homes.

Encouragement from our Pastoral Care Coordinator

A classic Mother's Day sermon text is 2 Timothy 1:5 where the Apostle Paul writes to his apprentice Timothy: "I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and now, I am convinced, is in you also." Timothy benefited from their teaching and modelling, and the Holy Spirit used that to make him born again.

Those of us who are Christians praise God for our children and grandchildren who are walking with and serving the Lord. This is one of our greatest joys.

However, often our residents' biggest heartaches is that some or all of their children and grandchildren are not walking with the Lord. Like Timothy's parent, we taught and modelled Jesus at home, we took them to Sunday School, Catechism classes, youth club, church, worked hard to send them to Christian schools, and many professed their faith in Jesus. However, for some reason, many are sadly not in relationship with Jesus.

We pray daily for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts but there seems to be no change and we ask, "What more can we do?, Why is God not answering our prayers"? Well, salvation is God's gracious gift to us. We cannot earn it, nor work for it. The Spirit needs to enable people to believe. This can happen as a child, teenager, adult or like the thief on the cross, on our death bed! The Spirit needs to work in people and in His time.

Our role is to **firstly pray** for our family, pray for the Spirit to soften and open hearts, pray that we can share our God story and the Gospel clearly, pray for God to give us opportunities to witness for Him and pray for God to grow the seeds we plant and water.

Secondly, as 1 Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." So, prepare by **writing and memorising the Gospel** so that you can answer. To help you, go to 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Timothy 1:15-16, 2 Timothy 1:9-10. Weave the Gospel into how God saved you and how God has made a difference in your life.

Thirdly, when God opens a door, do not be ashamed of the Gospel which is powerful unto salvation for everyone who believes. **Be bold and invitingly share the Good News** about Jesus and His love. Share that Christ died for sinners like us, the worst of them and rose again to give us life to enjoy now and forever! Pray again for the Holy Spirit to work in them. Beautiful are the feet of him or her who brings Good News!

Let us not Bible-bash but be intentional. For example, invite family and friends to come to church, a Christian choir or mission event, pray through the Gospel when they come for a meal or birthday, write an encouraging Bible verse in a card or email or share your hope that you are looking forward to being in heaven when you die and your wish to see them there, only when they join you and believe in Jesus.

They also say, "Action speaks louder than words." So let us tame our tongue and **speak words seasoned with grace and upbuilding, let our actions be good and Godly** and may our family and friends hear us and see our good deeds and give glory to God!

Rev Michael de Kretser

Pastoral Carer, Outlook Christian Living

Pastor, Dandenong Christian Reformed Church, dcrc.org.au

or search us on YouTube



An update from our Care Services Director

Winter is always a timely reminder of the importance of keeping warm, staying well-nourished, remaining socially connected and taking extra care of our health and wellbeing.

With the flu season upon us, we are very pleased to see a strong uptake of influenza vaccinations across both residents and staff. We have also had a number of residents choose to receive a COVID-19 booster vaccination. While vaccination always remains a personal choice, we continue to encourage residents and families to stay informed about the benefits that vaccinations can provide in helping reduce the severity of illness and protecting vulnerable members of our community.

There continues to be plenty happening each day, with our Lifestyle Team providing a wonderful variety of engaging and meaningful activities. From social gatherings and themed events to creative programs and community connections, it is fantastic to see our residents remain active, engaged and connected.

Within the clinical and care space, we have continued to implement focused education and training sessions for staff, particularly in high-risk areas including wound management, falls prevention and management, medication management, and ensuring we continue to meet the requirements surrounding restrictive practices.

Together with members of the Senior Leadership Team, I recently attended the Ageing Australia State Conference. This conference provided a great opportunity to stay informed about the many changes and developments occurring across the aged care industry, while also networking and learning from industry leaders and experts. Our team are now busy working on implementing a number of valuable insights and new ideas.

We are also pleased to share that we continue to maintain very strong occupancy levels, with ongoing demand and a growing waiting list for admissions. This reflects the trust and confidence families and the wider community place in us and the care we provide.

In addition, our Support at Home services are continuing to grow. We recently held an Information Evening, providing information to navigate the journey of obtaining Support at Home funding packages, including ensuring care needs are accurately represented during the assessment process. We understand that the aged care system can often feel overwhelming and difficult to navigate, and we are committed to providing support through this process.

If you know someone who may benefit from Support at Home, please do not hesitate to contact us on 9795 7566 or email homecare@outlookcl.com.au for further information.

As always, we greatly value feedback, suggestions and ideas from our residents, families and community members as we continue striving to provide the highest quality care and services possible. Please continue sharing your feedback with us via email, phone or in person.

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a chat beside the fire, it is the time for home.” — Edith Sitwell

Liz Adepoju



Noticeboard

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance concerns/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 always 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 would like more information, contact Gabby on 9795 7566 or leisurelifestyle@outlookcl.com.au