

# Neighbourhood news

Our latest news and favourite moments

PresCare  
AGED CARE COMMUNITIES

Groundwater Lodge  
Yaralla Place

July 2022

## From the Manager



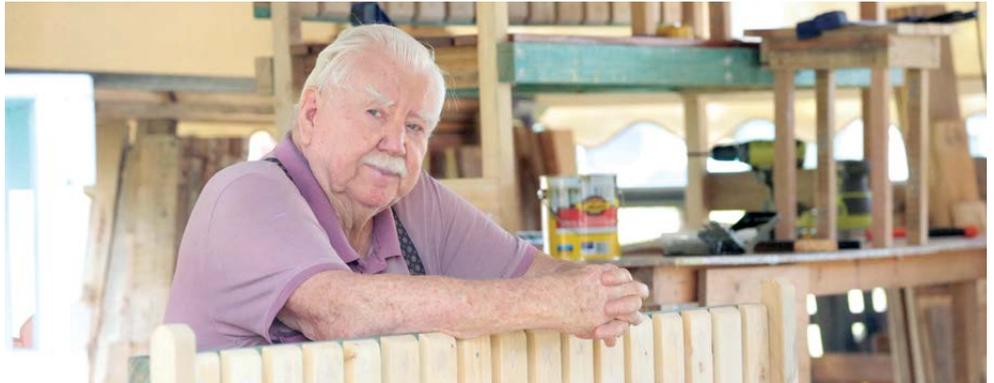
### Judy Fisher

Welcome to another edition of Neighbourhood News! It's lovely to be able to share more stories and news from our two special communities.

Like everywhere, Covid continues to be challenging at Yaralla Place and Groundwater Lodge, and I again thank every team member for working so hard to contain any cases. With some of our team needing to isolate at home, we very much appreciated additional support from some wonderful Australian Defence Force men and women in April.

Apollo Care's CEO, Stephen Becsi visited our communities in May and thoroughly enjoyed meeting residents and staff. We've also just celebrated the one-year anniversary of being part of the Apollo Care Alliance – read the article on page 2.

Our bus is now back to full working order and will be custom wrapped in the coming weeks. Residents are already putting together ideas for outings. Drives around Maryborough for picnics and exploring other areas along the Fraser Coast are high on the agenda!



## Resident profile



### Meet Joe – whose passion for woodworking has been reignited at Groundwater Lodge

*Formerly a construction foreman on large-scale projects, Joe was a keen woodworker who'd often be found happily tinkering away in his home shed. When poor health meant he had to give up his hobby a few years ago, this left a big hole in his daily life.*

After he'd been living at Groundwater for a while, a team member discovered his love of woodworking and commissioned him to make an outdoor table. Joe set to work.

The table was so admired by everyone that Joe started taking more orders. The women's sewing group asked him to make a cupboard, a neighbour asked for a bookshelf, a Carer ordered a dog bed, and a visiting doctor commissioned a letterbox! All the pieces were made out of discarded wooden pallets that team members would find and bring in.

Soon, Joe found he was spending most of each day immersed in his passion, and he couldn't have felt happier or more energised. He used the money he made from selling his pieces to purchase tools and for a holiday to Fraser Island with his family.

Joe has also donated items to the community, like planter boxes for every resident's private verandah, chairs and garden benches. Joe credits the encouragement he received from everyone at Groundwater for helping him reconnect with his hobby, and regain his sense of purpose and energy.

*"This is how I enjoy spending my time. I've got a real workshop here and I feel proud and useful. I like living here – it really feels like home."*



## Celebrating one year with Apollo Care

*In late June, we celebrated Apollo Care's one-year anniversary as approved provider of PresCare.*

This was an exciting milestone for residents and staff to enjoy. We all came together to share a BBQ lunch, birthday cake and entertainment from one of our favourites, Fred. We were then treated to a special singing performance by the Yaralla Songbirds – a group of keen residents led by Lifestyle Officer, Robyne, on guitar.

Over the last year with Apollo, both Yaralla and Groundwater have seen a program of improvements aimed at making these communities even better places to live and work.

Investments across technology, food service, human resources and staff culture are already making a positive difference, while the refurbishment of Groundwater continues to be rolled out.

The introduction of Apollo's unique Spiritual Care Program is providing residents with additional support aimed at enhancing their wellbeing. We all look forward to seeing more improvements over the next 12 months.

Follow us on  
Facebook



*Have you been following our Facebook page?*

Here, we post stories and updates about what residents have been enjoying. Ask your friends and family to 'like' the page and they'll be able to see and comment on all the fun things we get up to.

Feedback



*Feedback from residents and families is important to us so we can make positive changes.*

We also love hearing when we're doing something well. To provide feedback, you can:

1. Tell us in person
2. Fill out a feedback form (located at Reception and each Household), and place in the feedback box or hand it to a staff member
3. Email Apollo Care's Chief Governance Officer at [feedback@apollocare.com.au](mailto:feedback@apollocare.com.au)





# Notice board

## Birthday wishes!



*Happy birthday to residents who celebrated birthdays in April, May and June:*

David, Lillian, Mair, Gary, Muriel, Ruth, Mae, Lorryne, Val, Ian, Coral, Peter, Shirley, Irene, Bronwyn, Edna, June, Lyle, Kevin and Brigitte.



## Apollo's Spiritual Care Program

*Maree is one of our committed volunteers, visiting residents at Yaralla Place once a week.*

**How do you help the residents?** It's whatever they feel like on the day. We have many interesting conversations, and sometimes they like to pray with me or I read to them.

**What do you love about volunteering?** I love getting to know their stories and I use photos or objects in their room to spark memories. I also love that I'm helping provide comfort and companionship, especially to those who don't have family nearby.

**What would you tell others about volunteering?** Being a volunteer is very rewarding - I thoroughly recommend it!



## Work together to achieve together

This testimonial from a Registered Nurse after her first week at Yaralla Place perfectly expresses how our team is united to work together in a supportive culture that puts residents first:

***"Working at Yaralla Place has reaffirmed what I love about nursing and why I entered the profession in the first place.***

Everyone has been so lovely and I felt warmly welcomed and reassured I could ask for help anytime. The staff know the residents very well and take a holistic approach to care. The residents look happy and well cared for and the community feels homely, bright and well-furnished."

**Registered Nurse**

## Special events

**Fri 26th Aug**  
Daffodil Day

**Sun 4th Sep**  
Father's Day



# Favourite moments



Easter Bunnies visit



Making flower decorations



Yaralla Songbirds



Fun Hat Day



Colourful cleaners



## Meet Margaret



Our experienced and compassionate Nurse

*Margaret completed her Registered Nurse training back in Zimbabwe and spent the first part of her career working in hospitals. Immigrating to Australia in 2005, she originally planned on settling on the Gold Coast until she discovered that elderly people in Maryborough needed her more.*

**Why did you decide to come to Maryborough?** When I arrived at Brisbane airport, my Nursing sponsor asked if I would consider going to Maryborough as there was a critical shortage of aged care Nurses. I didn't hesitate to change my plans – I wanted to go where I was most needed. I've been working as an aged care Nurse here ever since, and I've been at PresCare for 10 years.

**Why did you decide to come to Maryborough?** I love the residents to bits! Being able to spend so much time interacting with them and getting to know them is really special. I just love being around them because they feel like family.

**How does PresCare support you to utilise your clinical skills?**

I am very well supported by the PresCare leadership team. We collaborate and I know they are always on hand to help me. Plus, the Carers are fantastic. The way they work together and help each other, and the Nurses, makes a big difference to every day.

**What would you say to others considering a career in aged care Nursing?** It is amazingly rewarding. As a hospital Nurse, patients come and go so quickly there's not much time to form relationships with them. But at PresCare, I have the time to find out what makes each resident unique. Caring for the elderly is what I love doing.