



Aberlea Inc.
MORTLAKE

Member's Newsletter

A three-monthly newsletter for
residents, families and members

Winter 2021 Edition



www.aberlea.com.au

The Aberlea community in Mortlake is celebrating a COVID-19 milestone after 100 per cent of eligible residents received their second and final Pfizer vaccination in June.

Chief executive officer David Knight said he was also “extremely proud” that more than 70 per cent of staff at the 40-bed aged care facility had voluntarily been vaccinated.

“It’s a huge step forward for our facility and enables us to protect our residents, families and the community even more,” he said.

“We all understand, or should understand, that the COVID-19 threat hasn’t disappeared and as visitation relaxes again, it’s wonderful to know that the protection of our residents is even greater than it was before the recent lockdown.

“We have been through a process with all our residents to keep them informed, to gain their consent, to have dialogue with their families and to achieve this milestone.”

Mr Knight said, unlike state-managed healthcare facilities, Aberlea staff at Mortlake did not qualify for Priority 1A vaccinations.

“Our staff are 1B and are now entitled to Pfizer or AstraZeneca depending on their age. It is not mandatory for staff, but we are encouraging vaccination strongly,” he said.

“The strong uptake reflects the culture we have built here that vaccination not only helps protect you from COVID-19, it helps protect everyone around you. It’s a strong ‘we’re in this together’ mindset, which we’re proud of.”

Mr Knight said all staff who presented proof of their COVID vaccination received a personal gift.

“As a small measure, we have organised a couple of tickets to the movies as a small thank you for playing their role to help combat this world-changing virus,” he said.

In the words of resident Joseph Dimech “I’m vaccinated and safe, are you?”



eftpos



We now have an eftpos facility available at Aberlea for your convenience.

NO CASH OUT facility though.



QR CODE

We now have a QR code situated at the Shaw Street front door and at reception.

Please ensure that each time you enter the facility you scan in as well as completing the green screening sheet for visitors and the white screening sheet for staff and contractors.

Temperatures are still required to be undertaken by staff.

Visitions ...

At time of the publication of this newsletter, lockdown no. 5 was put in place in July, no visitors allowed until further notice. The exception is for exceptional circumstances only, ie. end of life care. As in previous lockdowns, we will continue to work hard internally to ensure your loved ones continue to be engaged and remain active.

Prior to lockdown two visitors were allowed per resident at a time, up to five visits per day. Visitors do not need to be from the same household and there is no time limit on visits.

Please note all visitors need to register our QR code and will continue to require screening before entry and face masks must always be worn. Visits are to take place in residents’ rooms. Aberlea’s visiting hours are 10am – 12noon, followed by 1.00pm to 4.00pm daily.

As always if you have any queries, please contact us directly.

Thank you for your patience and we look forward to welcoming you into our facility.

Winter 2021



From your Chairman

Just when we had hoped to have Covid-19 behind us, it strikes again. At least this time all residents are vaccinated, and we hope (fingers crossed) this is a brief lockdown.

On a more positive note, we have unaudited end of financial year results, which shows a much better result than previous years. This confirms the Board's decision I informed you of last newsletter to more strongly focus on a strategic plan for both our Mortlake and Timboon operations. This could not have been achieved without the leadership of the Board and the outstanding commitment of our staff, ably lead by CEO David.

Since last writing, our Director of Care Phil Irvine chose to retire, after 5 years of unwavering commitment to the care of our residents. We all wish Phil well in the next phase of his life, and thank him for his service.

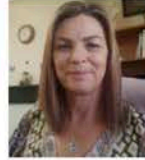
With Phil's departure we welcome Leonie Kelly to the new role of Manager of Operations, which is part of a broader restructure of our Executive driven by CEO David. Welcome Leonie, we look forward to continued progress at Aberlea with your assistance.

The new kitchen at Aberlea House is progressing well, and we are most grateful for the splendid effort of "Katie's Crew", in maintaining their high standard of catering from the mobile kitchen in the container on Hyland Street. I'm sure your new workspace will justify your efforts.

We have been short listed for funding under the Federal Government's Business Improvement Fund, and hope to have a favourable result and details in August.

Thank you for all your support for Aberlea, we are looking at a very exciting future.

Mick Murphy OAM
Chair



From your Director of Care & Operations

My name is Leonie Kelly and I am happy to be the new Director of Care and Operations at Aberlea.

I am excited by the challenge and to help Aberlea continue to provide first class residential aged care for residents and support residents families.

I started my nursing course at aged 30 years once my children all went to school.

While working as a graduate nurse I worked across all aspects of nursing and once I completed my graduate year I worked in general and unit areas. My nan became ill and I took time off to care for her at home until she died in her home. This experience steered me to completing a course in Palliative care – becoming a specialised palliative care nurse.

I worked as a specialised palliative care nurse for 5 years on the ward SWHC and in the community of Warrnambool and surrounding areas.

I left nursing for a while to teach enrolled nurses at South West TAFE in Warrnambool. I have been working in aged care for the past 4 years going from RN to being a Care Manager.

I have been with Aberlea for 3 weeks now and I am loving meeting all the residents and their families. I look forward to continue to meet all families of the residents. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns of any nature.



Lifestyle & activities ...

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

The Aberlea Olympics opening ceremony was held in July. Leonie officially opened the games with Julie and residents participating in singing some Australian classics as resident Jo walked the torch around and handed it off to all residents.

All residents and staff are paired up as teams and represent a certain country.

Every day for the duration of the Tokyo Olympics an event is organised between residents and between staff.

Pictured with the official torch are Mel and Shane.



Last week Aberlea residents went for a drive to Hopkins Falls prior to lockdown, enjoying clear blue skies, fresh air and some sunshine.



Jo Jo and Annette relaxing while enjoying Happy Hour.



The latest COVID-Safe visitation restrictions ...

Residents may receive two visitors at a time. There are no restrictions on the number of visitations that may occur in a day.

Visitors are to remain in residents' rooms, or in outside areas. As per government directions, visitors are not permitted to spend time in communal areas.

Aberlea visiting hours remain at 10am–12 noon, and 1pm–4pm daily; we thank you for your co-operation. If you would like to request a visit outside these times, please call us to discuss.

Social distancing requirements, visitor screening and the mandatory wearing of face masks remain in place.

Please note that this is correct information at the time of printing the newsletter. Please visit our Aberlea Face Book page or our website <https://aberlea.com.au> for updated information on visitations.

We currently have respite and permanent beds available at Aberlea Mortlake.



Respite & Permanent Beds Available

CONTACT RESIDENT LIAISON OFFICER DEB ON 03 5599 2901
FOR MORE INFORMATION

At Aberlea Inc. we offer permanent care to people who are no longer able to live unsupported on their own. We offer a range of services to suit High and Low level care and as your needs change we will continue to support you by adapting the care we provide. Also, when you become a resident at Aberlea Inc. you will have access to our in-house dietician, physiotherapist, speech therapist, diabetic educator and hearing specialist as well as daily activities and regular bus trips.

To find out more about living at Aberlea, contact our resident liaison officer Deb on 03 5599 2901.