

Lifestyle & activities ...

What a whirlwind start to the year we have had.

We have been able to start enjoying the music stylings of Graeme and Jo which all the residents were excited about. We have also had chair dancing, outings, balloon volleyball, walking group to mention just a few of the activities that residents have enjoyed.



Our residents and staff decided that they wanted to share their meaning of love with some very sound advice.

But what made Valentine's Day so special was some valentines kisses from the gorgeous little puppy Jasper. Jasper is only 10 weeks old but came to visit all residents and share his love.



The latest COVID-Safe visitation restrictions ...

I would like to provide a further update regarding the evolving current COVID-19 restrictions for Aged Care.

With the current outbreaks throughout the regions, we are required to implement further measures to ensure that all our residents remain safe.

As of Wednesday 12th January, residents will be limited to 2 visitors per day.

All visitors will be required to:

- * Pre-book the visit with Debi on 0475 055 394
- * Upon arrival for visit, please ring Debi on 0475 055 394 to arrange for a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to stepping on the premises of Aberlea. This test must show a negative result in order for the visitor to be permitted entry to Aberlea.
- * Wear masks at all times during visits; visits must be held in the resident's room.

Residents are still able to go on outings, however this outing will be classed as one of their 2 visitors. The person taking the resident for the outing will be required to have a RAT done prior to taking the resident out, and must also wear a mask in the resident's presence.

We also have had to implement the requirement that all staff members must have a Rapid Antigen Test once per week.

Again, we thank you all for your understanding and support and will continue to provide updates to you all.

Kind Regards,

Leonie Kelly
Director of Care and Operations
Aberlea Inc.

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.

Become a MEMBER

We invite you to be a member of our community owned facility.

\$5.00 per year will give you voting rights at the annual meeting, any newsletters, publications, member's correspondence, etc., as well as a sense of 'ownership' of Aberlea.

Please contact Judi on 5599 2901 or email admin@aberlea.com.au to become a member today.



Aberlea Inc.
MORTLAKE

Member's Newsletter

A three-monthly newsletter for residents, families and members

Summer 2022 Edition



www.aberlea.com.au

Christmas Festivities

Aberlea residents enjoyed preparations for Christmas week as well as visits from friends, family, furry friends and Santa.

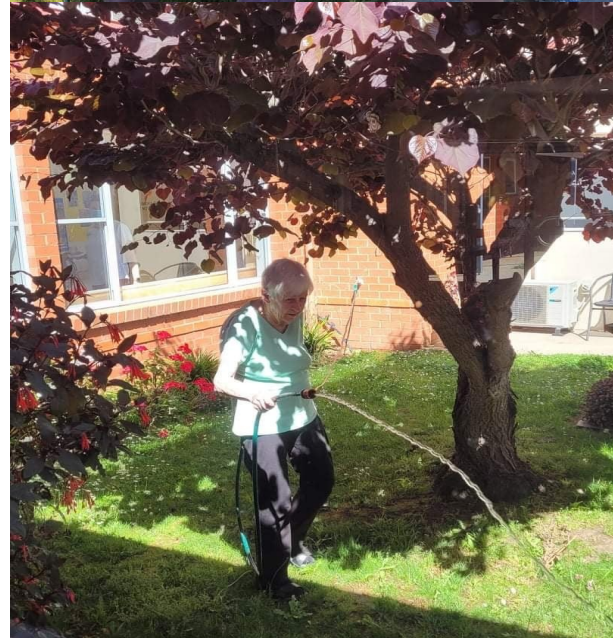


Staff performed '12 Days of Christmas' for the residents.



SUMMER Fun in the Sun

Gardening and outings have been at the top of the list of activities over Summer.



WELCOME Summer 2022



From your Chairman

We continue to operate in a COVID constrained environment. A big thank you to everyone, residents, clients, staff, volunteers, friends and family members for your understanding and support.

Following our Annual General Meeting in November, a number of changes have been implemented at the Board. Retiring Members – Doug Parker, Morris Clarke and Martin van de Wouw were unanimously re-elected by the members, for terms of one, two and three years respectively. Thank you to each of them for their past service and ongoing commitment to Aberlea. Following the AGM the Board met and appointed office bearers for 2021-22:

- Chairman Mick Murphy OAM
- Deputy Chairman Colin Ryan
- Treasurer Martin van de Wouw
- Secretary David Knight

I wish to acknowledge the wonderful work of Doug Parker as Deputy Chairman and Morris Clarke as Treasurer over what has been a critical 5 plus years for the survival of Aberlea.

We are also very pleased to inform members we have reached an agreement to extend David Knight's term as our CEO for a further 3 years. This means we now have a stable executive team to assist us in further developing our long term plan for Aberlea, a brief overview of which was provided at the AGM. To this end the Board will be holding their February meeting in Timboon, to better understand opportunities in that community.

All this is at a time when the day to day operations of our existing services have never been more demanding. Unfortunately Board Member Spike Pilcher tendered his resignation at our December meeting, due to an ever increasing workload. He has made a significant contribution to strengthening Clinical Governance at Aberlea during his time on the Board. Fortunately he has agreed to continue membership of the Clinical Governance Committee as a co-opted member, so we will not lose his expertise entirely. With Spike leaving, we have reviewed our skill mix and looked at what we need to achieve our long term plan.

The appointment of an Accountant to the Board would be very helpful. If members have any suggestions, please contact myself or any other Board Member.

Best wishes to all for 2022, together we will make it the start of a new era for Aberlea.

Mick Murphy OAM
Chair



From your CEO

Hello all, unfortunately my message to you all is once again Covid themed.

When we all began our Covid journey in February 2020, I am sure we all imagined that by February 2022 we would have long dealt with the issue. However, as I write to you all unfortunately, the Aged Care Industry is in dire need of help. We currently have more than half of all aged care facilities in Australia dealing with Covid outbreaks. Combined we are meeting the current Omicron variant challenge with staff that are exhausted and with a lack of regular PPE supplies.

We here at Aberlea have not been immune, with various staff and visitors testing positive leading to us enacting our Covid management plan on two occasions. I am certain they won't be the last occasions. To date we have not had any residents test positive, which has been fortunate. To aid in our Covid defences, all residents and staff have received a Covid vaccine and booster if they were able to.

Currently all visitors are required to complete a RAT and all staff are being monitored daily, along with taking a further RAT weekly. This methodology has proved successful with numerous positive tests recorded before individuals have gained access to the facility.

Amongst all the above we continue our preparation for accreditation. Our accreditation is run on a three-year continuous improvement cycle, with our current accreditation expiring mid-year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders for their help and support throughout this tough recent period. It is only through our combined efforts that we will be able to continue to protect our residents from Covid. I am certain that as we move forward, we as a facility and a community are excellently placed to meet the challenges that Covid with present us with.

Stay Safe

David Knight
CEO