



MEET THE STAFF

NAME:

Dianne Turnbull

BORN:

11/12/1966

YEARS WITH DIGGERS:

10 years

FAMILY:

3 sons, 1 daughter and 1 grand-daughter

FAVOURITE FOOD/RESTAURANT:

Pepper T-bone Steak (well done!) from Albion Park Hotel (Monday night special!!)

FAVOURITE ALL TIME MOVIE:

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

FAVOURITE TV PROGRAM:

Home & Away and Neighbours

PERSON MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH:

My family

BEST PLACE VISITED:

Greenpatch

HOBBIES:

Listening to music and mowing the lawns

MOST HUMILIATING MOMENT

Walking into a closed glass door in front of friends



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CEO'S MESSAGE

Hello to all our residents, their families and visitors to Illawarra Diggers and welcome to those new residents and families who have joined us this year.

Also welcome to the 70th year of Illawarra Diggers! Started in 1946 as the Diggers Rest Home in Mt Keira to offer support and care for soldiers returning from WWII, community needs saw us move to the present site in 1979. Our home has undergone a number of expansions since then and also expanded its mission to include the greater community of aged men and women and others in need of residential support within our community.

The larger issues of global warming aside, we have been very much enjoying a glorious Autumn, interspersed with some pretty big downpours.

The weather has suddenly become a daily interest of ours, not just for the activities programme and general wellbeing but, as you will have noticed, we have commenced the demolition and excavation for our new extension.

Demolition of the adjacent houses commenced in mid-January and then we demolished our car park in February. Since then we have removed about 2,500 tonnes of soil to allow for the underground carpark and water storage tanks and have also had to truck better quality soil back on to site to build up other parts. The daily activities of trucks, excavators and heavy impact rollers have provided ready entertainment for many

of our residents who can sit on the various verandas and watch the comings and goings.

I noticed one of our most senior ladies watching the work with interest every day from her balcony. I asked if she was watching the trucks or the men. Both! She relied with a wink and a grin.

Despite about a week of wet weather delays the project is progressing well. The new wing is still scheduled for completion in December this year. During the build of the new wing we will also completely renovate the entry foyer, administration areas and main dining room. In the new year we will start on the upgrade of Keira and Warilla, followed by Wollongong & Corrimal and then finally the Auxiliary wing. The upgrade will finish later next year.

During this year we will also be installing a sprinkler system into all areas of the current buildings and modifying a number of existing room sprinklers and lights to comply with current legislation.

A milestone I am sure everyone will be looking forward to achieving, along with the completion of the new wing, will be the completion of the car park. The loss of our car park for 12 months is a big inconvenience to our families and visitors as well as our staff and other service vehicles. I thank you all for your understanding and perseverance during this year.

As Denise will detail elsewhere in this newsletter, we have had some lovely events already this year. In March we celebrated Nell John's 105th birthday. Nell never fails to impress me as she does the crossword most days, goes to physio and always gets herself to morning tea and any other event that is going on. A great inspiration to us all and a wonderful lady we are privileged to know.

ANZAC day was again attended by many residents, families, friends and staff. The service was well organised by Denise and her team and ran smoothly with involvement by many. I would like to thank Warrant Officer Brian McGrath and his Cadets for

their attendance and involvement in the ceremony as well as our pianist Gwen Federici, bugler Ron Overs and pastor Matt Douglas who give their time to make a significant event very special for all who attend. And a special thankyou to our returned servicemen and women who don their suits and medals and sit proudly in the front row and remind us all of their service and that of many others.

This year will continue to be busy with the normal daily life of Illawarra Diggers running in parallel to our construction project. As we continue to hopefully enjoy a long warm Autumn, we will also continue to do our best to provide the best home for our residents and to support them in their independence and enjoyment of life.

Kind Regards

Peter Whittall - CEO

THE LIFESTYLE CREW

Hi everyone,

What beautiful Autumn weather it is amazing how warm it is for this time of year, enjoy it while you can!

Welcome to all new residents may you find comfort and friendship in your new home.

There have been lots of events since the last newsletter New Year's Eve party, Australia Day, Saint Patrick's Day, Easter services and ANZAC all celebrated with lots of laughter, jokes, drinks, prizes, special meals/treats to suit the occasions.

A special 105th birthday celebration for resident Nell John. Family, staff and residents enjoyed celebration her special day.

Easter Raffle was drawn and won by RN Jan. Congratulations and we hope you and your family enjoyed the chocolate goodies.

April is always a busy time with marches and services to attend in the community and Illawarra Diggers Service held in house on Anzac Day. We welcomed

and thank everyone who joined in this very significant time as we showed our respects for those who served and currently serve in the defence forces .

Mothers Day will be next – a special afternoon tea will be held for residents and families on the Saturday before Mothers Day. Invitations have been sent out to families so please ensure you respond by the due date.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Saturday 7 May

Mothers day afternoon tea

Sunday 8 May

Mothers Day

Friday 27 May

Biggest morning tea

The Mothers Day raffle is out and will be drawn on Friday 6/5/16 - good luck.

The biggest morning tea to support the cancer foundation will be held on Friday 27th May. Come and enjoy a cuppa and cake and make a donation.

The Electoral office will be holding a voting poll this year here at Illawarra Diggers for the convenience of residents. This date will be confirmed.

Well that's it folks till next time.

Take care and God bless from your Lifestyle crew.

QUOTE

*Our wisdom is always with us.
The secret is to listen to it.*





ANZAC DAY 2016



ANZAC DAY MONDAY 25TH APRIL 2016

HAPPY 105TH BIRTHDAY NELL

