



ILLAWARRA
DIGGERS
CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY'S AGED

May 2017 Edition





CEO'S MESSAGE

While Shakespeare may have written of the “darling buds of May” and the northern hemisphere celebrates Spring, now that the rains have mostly gone here in the southern hemisphere we are able to enjoy some beautiful autumnal weather.

The warm weather has allowed our residents, and staff, to re-emerge into the courtyards and enjoy the sunshine as well as some great outings Long may it continue.

Last Tuesday we had another wonderful ANZAC Day at Illawarra Diggers. It was very well attended by residents and their families. I am always very pleased to see off-roster staff attending, some with their families. We were again very appreciative to have the cadets of the 26th Australia Army Cadets as well as our guest speaker Mr Brian McGrath, Warrant Officer Class 2 support our service and provide the catafalque guard party. Also thanks to Matt and Barbara Douglas for their ongoing support and words and music, and our residents Susan Farebrother, Ron Corry and Graeme Kerr who represented their fellow residents so ably.

I acknowledge the tremendous work of our lifestyle, care and support services staff and management who work so hard to plan the event and to help our residents to turn out so smartly on such a special day.

In the last few months we have welcomed a couple of new senior staff to our team. Joanna Limpic, who has joined us as the Lifestyle Manager. Joanna will add great value to our well established team of Denise, Debra and

Hannah to ensure we support our residents to get the most out of calling Illawarra Diggers home.

Also joining our senior team is Chloe Darragh. Chloe is the Organisational Systems Manager and will support our business to ensure compliance in several areas which are critical to ensuring Illawarra Diggers operates effectively and in accordance with the many laws and statutes which govern our industry.

As we move towards relocating residents with the opening of the new wings we are also increasing staffing on several shifts. While we do not initially have more residents, we do grow in the physical layout of the buildings and so we need to ensure our staff are able to remain responsive to the needs of our residents 24 hours a day. There will be two new care stations in the new wing: one on the top floor (Austinmer) and on the lower floor (Bundeena). There will also be an additional Team Leader for the new wings giving us four Team Leaders in total.

The new wings are looking wonderful and while we continue to be frustrated by some building delays, we are currently planning to relocate 26 residents into the new wings on (or about!) 23 May. Then we will be able to clean and tidy Caringbah wing ready to receive our Keira residents for several months while their wing is renovated. We have had offers of help on the day from many families and I would encourage you to support your family members over the moving week as it may be a little busy and disturbing to some. We have also been generously offered help on the moving days by the Austinmer-Thirroul Lions Club and the Thirroul Men's Shed some other individuals as well. Thanks, in anticipation of your assistance.

Good things come to those who wait. And wait we all have, especially for the car park! Thank you once again to all our residents, families, friends and staff who have had to suffer the inconvenience of the building works and the lack of parking. I am confident the new building and the subsequent renovations of the other wings will set a great new standard for our accommodation at Illawarra Diggers.

To all our mothers, grand-mothers and great grand mothers, have a wonderful Mothers' Day on the 14th.

Peter Whittall CEO

THE LIFESTYLE TEAM

A very warm hello from the Lifestyle Team to all our residents, families and visitors at Illawarra Diggers, we hope you are enjoying the glorious weather that this year's Autumn has bestowed upon us. Autumn is such a beautiful season with its grand kaleidoscopic splashes of colour.

As French Philosopher and Nobel Prize winner Albert Camus said, “Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower” and we certainly aim to take full advantage of this annual show by taking the ‘scenic route’ on all our bus outings over the coming weeks.

Before I continue, I'd like to introduce myself as the newest addition to the Lifestyle Team. I have come onboard as the Lifestyle Manager and my role is to provide support and guidance to the existing team who have been dedicated to enriching the lives of residents at Illawarra Diggers for many years, and doing a wonderful job of it.

Along with the changing face of the team comes a slightly new look to our program which now, in addition to our monthly edition, includes a weekly edition which provides more detail about scheduled events.

The weekly program will list details of what group activities are programmed, for example a quiz or perhaps a discussion group, where it will be scheduled and who will be hosting it.

Both the monthly and weekly programs can be found pinned to all the noticeboards in each wing and the monthly program is available on our website.

In addition to the regular items such as the bus outings and various entertainers, we have added group activities and individual interventions to our program each week to ensure that we provide all our residents an opportunity to engage in something which brings a smile to their face and a sense of happiness and contentment.

The month of May will see us celebrating Mother's Day by hosting a High Tea on Saturday 13th May. Invitations have gone out and as spaces are limited, be sure to RSVP by the 5th May to secure your place.

We are also looking forward to a variety of entertainers who will be performing throughout the month including the most melodious Steve Murphy and the symphonious Dutch Choir, to name a few.

I eagerly anticipate getting to know all our residents and their families so, if you so see me floating around during your next visit, please say hello!

With warmest regards,

Joanna & The Lifestyle Team



WELCOME

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new Lifestyle Manager Joanna Limpic who joined Illawarra Diggers two months ago.

Joanna is an accredited Diversional Therapist and comes to us with over ten years experience in health service related fields, four of which were in Aged Care.

Having worked as a Recreational Activities Officer at Bodington Aged Care in the Blue Mountains, Joanna honed her skills implementing lifestyle programs with a focus on individual interventions and tailoring programs to suit resident wants and needs, bringing the concept of ‘client centred care’ to the forefront of the lifestyle programs. Joanna is excited to bring the success of that approach to Diggers and add a new dimension to the current programs.

Joanna has just moved to the Illawarra region from the foothills of the Blue Mountains and continues to be awed by the beauty of this region. As an avid outdoors enthusiast Joanna is looking forward to hiking the myriad of scenic trails and even considering a surf lesson or two. Otherwise you'll find her sipping coffee at one of the many exceptional cafés in the region thinking about venturing down to the nearest pub to make a local and ‘tie one on’!

