

A TRIBUTE TO *Barry Glover*



 ILLAWARRA
DIGGERS
CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY'S AGED
DECEMBER 2017 EDITION



CEO's Message

Hello and welcome to our Remembrance Day 2017 Newsletter.

Illawarra Diggers is very proud of our origins as a service to post World War 2 veterans since 1946. This has continued to define the core values of our organisation as, over the last 71 years, we have evolved to support the whole community.

Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day are cornerstone events whereby our current Illawarra Diggers community can acknowledge the service and sacrifice of our armed services, not only in the past but also those currently serving.

This year our service was wonderfully attended by our veterans, residents, their families and many staff. We were also very pleased to have the services of Lte Neale Hayes and his cadets from the 26th Australian Cadet Unit in Wollongong, who formed our catafalque party. Our thanks also go to our long-time supporters and contributors Mr Ray Morgan of Corrimal RSL, Pastor Matt Douglas and Barbara Douglas for her music.

Three beautiful wreaths were laid by Susan Farebrother and Peter McNamara on behalf of the residents, Ray Morgan, on behalf of the service personnel and Maxine Caldwell on behalf of the staff of Illawarra Diggers. Fortunately, the mild weather meant they lasted many days and brought a lot of ongoing pleasure.

Another milestone event in November has been the completion of Stage 2 of our major building works.

Stage 2 included the renovation of the Keira Wing, which is the dementia specific wing, as well as the Warilla Wing upstairs. All rooms in both these wings now have individual ensuites, wall mounted digital televisions, air conditioning and plantation shutters on the windows. The Warilla Wing has been reduced from 11 rooms to just 6 with the additional space being used for a visitors' bathroom, kitchenette and large common area lounge and television.

We have now commenced work on the Wollongong and Corrimal Wings, which have been closed until about March 2018, when they will reopen with six large suites on each floor. Stage 4, which will incorporate the Auxiliary Wing as well as the Recreation Room and Physio Room, is programmed for completion in May/June 2018.

With all the other wings getting a major upgrade and the Woonona Wing already having a repaint because of some wall cracking, Caringbah and Albion Park Wings are looking like the poor cousins. So, we have decided to give both the corridors, ceilings and common areas in both those wings a repaint. Caringbah dining room will also get new vinyl flooring shortly, although this dining room will not reopen for a few months.

Our next edition will be our special Christmas edition featuring photos from our joyful Christmas afternoon tea for residents and their families on December 16.

All the best
Peter Whittall

A MESSAGE FROM *The Lifestyle Team*

Festive tidings to all from the Lifestyle Team as we begin the approach to Christmas and all the joy and happiness it brings to us all. The December Lifestyle program is bursting with celebratory events and activities and it would be wonderful to see you there. We have our annual Christmas Afternoon Tea which will be held on Saturday 16th December and our Christmas Day luncheon which families are invited to attend. Invitations went out to families via post and email with RSVP's due back to admin by Friday 8th December so if you will be joining us, please be sure to respond by the deadline to enable us to cater accordingly.

We have various types of entertainment throughout the month including St Columbkilles Primary School coming to sing for us, the Arcadians Theatre Group coming to perform and a Carols by Candlelight singalong the week leading up to Christmas.

Our bus outings include a luncheon at Panorama House and an afternoon tea at Woonona Bulli RSL which includes some entertainment and dancing. We also have two Christmas light tours around the local area to marvel at the extraordinary efforts people go to with decorating their homes to celebrate Christmas.

In other news, the Lifestyle team has recently expanded by one! We would like to formally introduce and welcome Amanda who has joined our team to work with us each Monday and Friday. Amanda is a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and her primary role is to work closely with individual residents to develop and implement specialized therapeutic programs. We are very excited to have Amanda on board.

We sincerely hope to see you all at the various events we have planned throughout this month and look very forward to sharing in the Christmas spirit with you.

Our warmest wishes,
Joanna, Denise, Debra, Hannah & Amanda

Chairman Barry Glover RFD, ED



Barry Glover joined the board of Illawarra Diggers, then the Diggers Rest Home, in 1998.

Throughout the last 19 years Barry has given his time to supporting the operations and development of Illawarra Diggers in many capacities.

Barry has been an avid supporter of the expansion and development of our home and served on a number of building sub-committees to expand the Keira Wing, extend Caringbah Wing to connect back to the main building, and build the Woonona and Albion Park Wings in 2007.

For the last 10 years he has served as the Chairman of the Board and has supported the current development of the new Bundeena and Austinmer Wings and the major refurbishment works to our original building.

Barry has always been a strong advocate of our residents and during his time on the board has been characterized by his commitment to the excellence of the services provided to our residents.

On the 19th of November, Illawarra Diggers Board and Management got together with representatives of Barry's three other passions to hold a Testimonial Lunch in his honour. These groups were Barry's family; the Illawarra Live Steamers and the RSL. A luncheon for about 120 guests was held at Corrimal RSL to honour a man who has given so much to his community.

Illawarra Diggers is very proud to have Barry as our Chairman and very appreciative of the many years he has given to our home and our residents.





Meet the Staff

Deb Grozdanovski

Having joined Illawarra Diggers nearly two years ago, Deb forms part of our administration team. Deb's primary role is to look after the rostering of all our staff but can also be called upon to provide some support and training with our software programs and other IT requests. Deb came to us with seventeen years experience in rostering and personnel support with her last role requiring her to roster as many as three thousand staff!

Born in Melbourne, Deb moved around Australia quite a lot due to her Dad being in the Air Force. The family settled in Queensland however, where Deb completed her high school years as well as two university degrees, one in Human Resources and the other in primary school teaching. Deb's family moved to Wollongong however she decided to stay and continue her primary school teaching position at Currumbin Public School. Being one of eight children, family is a very big part of Deb's life and after a few years of living so far from her family, Deb decided to follow them to Wollongong where she has lived ever since. A large part of Deb's spare time is spent with her family, as well as the large extended family she inherited when she married a Macedonian! Another passion of Deb's is to travel and explore other countries and cultures, choosing to go off the beaten path and experience the true culture of the place she visits. To date, Hawaii is a favourite destination, especially if it's your honeymoon apparently, and the islands of the South Pacific are also a big favourite. When she's not hanging with the fam or jet setting off around the world, you'll find Deb tending her garden, be it the huge veggie patch or her prized collection of orchids, lilies and roses.



Happy 65th Anniversary

Peter and Eileen McNamara

It was around 1950 that Peter McNamara, a post war patient at the Grosvenor Sanatorium in the English County of Kent, met the new Sister of the Ward, Sister Eileen Russell. On the 6th of September 1952 they married in Hitchin in Hertfordshire.

Bringing four children into the world in Hitchin, Peter and Eileen briefly emigrated to New Zealand and lived in Ellerslie, Auckland, before returning to the UK.

Again, succumbing to a lust for adventure and hating the weather in England, they emigrated to Australia (Wollongong) in January 1967 and this time they stayed.

Peter and Eileen, who both came to live at Illawarra Diggers in January 2017, are a delightful couple who it is our privilege support in whatever ways we can.

Congratulations on your 65th wedding anniversary.





Remembrance Day *Lest We Forget*