

Murray Haven Newsletter



Murray *Haven* Homes

From the Manager's desk

2019 has been and gone which also heralded the completion of my first full year in the manager's chair. We have achieved plenty in this time, including the completion of the twenty-bedroom extension, as well as the very expansive administrative, treatment and training centres. Whilst this project has been many years in the making it has been a privilege to be in the chair at its completion. This could not have achieved without the dedication of the Board of Directors and of course the funding of both New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments.

These new beds have brought about their own set of challenges in attracting new residents and in ensuring the promotion of Murray Haven as a key member of the Barham Koondrook communities. We have been fortunate to have some articles in 'The Bridge' and look forward to many more in 2020. An open day, which was a first for Murray Haven was also a great success and all these things help to remove the stigma that the community can see in relation to aged care facilities in general.

The empty beds have caused some issues however there is a very bright light now at the end of the tunnel. As I write there are currently 53 residents calling Murray Haven home. Rosters, budgets, funding, ACFI and room refurbishments are much easier to achieve with full rooms and a newly created waiting list.

We have been able to welcome many new residents in the last month and one of my barometers in this is the newspaper deliveries. Each morning I make a point of delivering the papers as I find that this is a good way to meet the new residents, and of course catch up with the old. And it helps me know where the new residents sit in the dining room! It still just amazes me each time I was at a meal service and see the kitchen staff rattle off names, meals, drinks and preferences, all without error or fuss.

I have been pleased to meet many new families and assist with the sometimes daunting task of having a relative or friend move into Murray Haven, either on a respite or full-time basis. The most pleasing part is hearing the positive feedback in relation to the atmosphere, meals and our staff and care provided.

The 2019 year also saw a major expansion in staff numbers across all teams. Again, while introducing its own set of new challenges including interviews, rosters, planning, orientations and integrating the new with the old this also has, on the whole, been a success. Whilst there are still some issues to work through 2020 will be a year of staff consolidation in all areas. The last year did see some staff departures but overall the feedback provided by staff is that Murray Haven is a great place to work.

Personally, I want to extend a level of thank you to all staff who have assisted in making Murray Haven the facility that it is. It is actually not a facility, it is a home and whilst we continue to have that mindset it will remain a key member of the community.

Finally, I welcome any resident, family member or staff member to call in and say hi and raise any concern or provide compliments at any time.

Donation

December came with another Christmas delight this year with Geoff Elliot from the Men's Shed coming and presenting Murray Haven with a cheque for \$1000. Thank you Men's Shed we will put it to good use.



Koondrook Primary School Christmas carols

It was with much delight that we all gathered in the lounge and waited a visit from the Koondrook Primary School kinder, grade 1 and 2's. They entertained us with an array of delightful Christmas carols that had us remembering back to yesteryear when we watched our own children at their school concerts.

The children presented some of the residents with a soft toy and a handmade Christmas wish which bought a tear to a few. The children enjoyed an icy pole before heading back to school on the bus.





Craft morning

In the spirit of Christmas, at one of our regular craft mornings, some of our residents learnt how to make Christmas Angels and had a fun morning was had by all and what beautiful Angels they were!



Christmas party

Well the 13th may be unlucky for some but to us here at Murray Haven it's very lucky. On a warm summer day, the residents, family , staff and members of the board gathered to celebrate Christmas the Murray Haven way. With a bounty of delicious nibbles, the joyous sounds of chatting laughter and the clinking of glasses. Finishing off with the Murray Haven choir filled with residents, Barham Primary School students, the Anglican Church choir and Murray Haven staff complete a repertoire of good old Christmas classics that had the crowd smiling and singing.

While the choir has a small break to rest their delightfully voices, Murray Haven were extremely lucky to have David Chalmers sing to everyone at the Christmas celebrations. Murray Haven felt extremely honoured to have David sing for us.

Finally, to end celebrations, the big jolly red man arrived with a bag full of goodies which thrilled everyone especially the children. Santa handed out a bag of lollies to everyone.

Murray Haven wished all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2020.



Christmas Day at Murray Haven

When the residents arrived for their Christmas breakfast, they were surprised that Secret Santa had been, as there were gifts for each resident which thrilled them all.

During the week, the residents and Wendy had made shortbread and rum balls, which was given to each resident in a bag for them to enjoy.

Then everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch and as usually on Christmas Day there was too much to eat and everyone was full from a delicious roast and the usual plum pudding with no six pences.

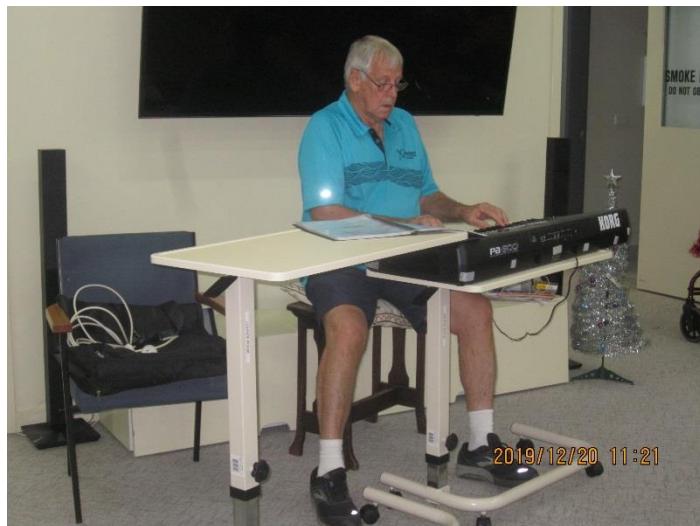
Thank you to Steven for cooking the Christmas lunch.





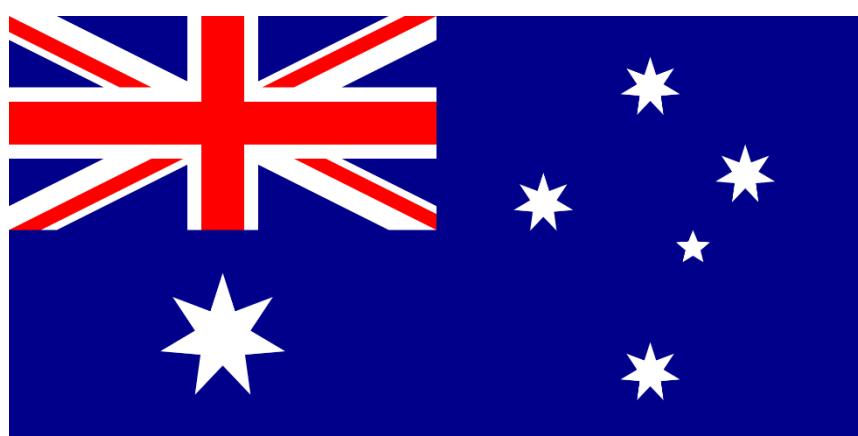
Music afternoon

On 20 December Murray Haven were lucky enough to an impromptu musical afternoon with new residents Kevin and Barb Parkes' friend Max. He entertained our Happy Haven community with tune after tune of all our old favourites. Max didn't get much of a break with Ben requesting song after song. Thank you, Max, from us here at Murray Haven, we hope you visit again soon.



Australia Day

Australia Day celebrations were a lot of fun. The residents enjoyed the Aussie sing-along in the morning. The good old Aussie meat pie, chips, cocktail frankfurts, which the residents were calling 'little boys' and pavlova for lunch which the residents loved. Fun and games with drawing lessons in the Wakool kitchen with Wendy trying to draw a kangaroo. It was drawn on the menu board with a resident assuming they were eating kangaroo meat pies. Fun and laughter continued with the Aussie quizzes and trivia in the lounge. A fun day was had.



Rocking with Dave

Once again, we were lucky enough to all be treated to the melody sounds of Dave Shannon who appears to be busier in retirement.

We all thanked Dave and wished him and his wife a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing him again in 2020.



Echuca movie day out

On Saturday 11 January a group of ladies trotted off to Echuca to the movies. The old re-adapted favourite 'Little Woman' was showing on the big screen, so with our choc top in tow we sat for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours and enjoyed the story of the March Sisters with all their trials and tribulations. We then headed to our favourite spot for a bite to eat 'The Blue Jam Café' with milkshakes and toasted sandwich being favourite of the day. After our tummies were filled, we loaded back into the bus and car and headed for home after a long and enjoyable day. A huge thanks to Jan Lodge who volunteered her time, we really appreciate it.



Birthday celebration with a twist

Mary Nicolls celebrated her birthday with us before Christmas and a little bird told us that her favourite song is Halleluiah. We happened to know that Chrissy Long's daughter had just performed that song at the Barham High School awards night, so with a little prompting from her mum, Jess Marie Long and Lexi Forster gave Mary an angelic rendition of Halleluiah which stopped Murray Haven dead in its tracks. Thank you, girls.



★ H A P P Y ★
B I R T H D A Y !



Annie Faul

December 6

Mary Nicolls

December 19



Don't forget ...

- ❖ Residents are reminded to notify staff when leaving Murray Haven.
- ❖ As residents receive new clothing and their care needs change can residents and family be mindful to re-organise and move items that no longer fit or are not practical for comfort anymore.
- ❖ All new items are to be named and handed to the laundry for tagging.
- ❖ All family and friends, if you would like to be on the mailing list at Murray Haven could you please provide us with a current email address. This will allow you to receive a bimonthly newsletter plus any other relevant events that may be happening throughout the year.
- ❖ Anything for sale? Please advise Murray Haven so your item can be put into the newsletter.

Upcoming events

- ❖ 8 February – Eliza and her horse
- ❖ 14 February – Valentine's Day
- ❖ 25 February – Shrove Tuesday, Pancake day
- ❖ 26 February – John Doyle
- ❖ Easter
 - Good Friday 10 April
 - Easter Sunday 12 April



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