

Murray Haven Newsletter



Murray Haven Homes

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Murray *Haven* **Homes**

Note from our President

It has been an extremely difficult time for everyone with COVID-19. As Murray Haven continues in lockdown, the Board wants to thank everyone for your cooperation and support of the decisions that has been made during these tough times.

It has been challenging from the Board perspective as all Board meetings have been suspended. However, we have the most wonderful management team and staff to ensure that Murray Haven continues as normal as possible.

For the last week, it has been pleasing to hear that Gary, the management team and staff have been working hard to implement the changes to protect our residents and staff, which the Board thank them very much.

On another note, it is very great pleasure that Board has changed Gary's position to Chief Executive Officer. The reasoning behind the change was to incorporate a title that more accurately reflects Gary's duties and responsibilities at Murray Haven.

From the desk of the CEO

They say what a difference a day makes, well then what about two months. When the last newsletter issued, I spoke about the upcoming year and what we were going to achieve. This all fades into obscurity now as we tackle the much talked about Coronavirus, or COVID-19.

The Murray Haven Management team have made some difficult decisions in recent weeks, with the one that impacts the most being the precautionary lockdown. Whilst agreeing that there are no cases in this region, we must be vigilant and have measures in place that will protect the most vulnerable members of the community, the elderly. At Murray Haven, it is more than that, it is about protecting the entire Murray Haven Community. It is the home of our residents, and we must take all steps possible to keep it safe. Whilst it is impossible to say what additional measures may be implemented, I want to ensure everyone that these are not done without a great deal of discussion and research. We want to be at the front of the pack and do all we can.

We remain committed to keeping our residents and families up to date with any changes and this will continue through emails, letters and phone calls. Whilst acknowledging some issues with the phone system and we have had to put the upgrade on hold at the moment (which would have enabled phones to be installed in each room) we have purchased some mobile phones and tablets to assist with

Upcoming events ...

- ❖ Easter
 - Good Friday 10 April
 - Easter Sunday 12 April
 - Anzac Day 25 April
 - Mother's Day 10 May

Don't forget ...

- ❖ If you want to stay in touch with a resident, feel free to phone them or, if a resident has an electronic device that enables video calling, please keep in touch with them through their device. Should one of our staff be required to assist them with the video call, we would be only too happy to help. Please contact Murray Haven Homes to coordinate this.
- ❖ 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Vi Wilson

12 March



Joan Chalmers 8 March

Val Windridge 26 March



communication between families and residents. It is a work in progress, but we are doing all we can to maintain this vital aspect of life.

Management are looking at special requests from families to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and other significant events. Whilst we will look at these individual requests on their own merits it is important to note that there will be circumstances where it cannot be allowed. And the previous instructions on numbers of visitors, age, length of stay and other parameters that were in place also need to be factored in.

Around the site we are also doing work in creating spaces for those residents who enjoy being outside. Whilst we are no longer having residents in the front lawn area, we are working on creating covered areas on the large lawn area at the rear of the facility. To that end we have also constructed a fence at the rear boundary to compliment the Wakool lawn fenced area. This is designed to keep people out of the facility.

Our wonderful staff continue to perform under these changed conditions and my thanks goes out to them all. We have implemented some rules to be followed which are designed to minimise risk of COVID entering Murray Haven. These will continue to evolve as more knowledge and best practice information is available.

One pleasing aspect to emerge is the spirit of community. Lloyd, Ali and the entire team at "The Bridge" have been a driving force in having letters prepared and delivered to our residents. This is a wonderful initiative and one that I hope can continue. One thing that I do hope emerges from this is a sense of community and volunteerism and I look forward to the day when we can welcome all these wonderful people back to Murray Haven.

From the business viewpoint it is pleasing that we have all our rooms occupied. This is the first time since the new 20 rooms were added in February last year. It has been a wonderful effort by all concerned to promote Murray Haven as a place to be. It was also timely as we were able to officially open Murray Haven on the 18th March and acknowledge the support of the NSW Government. Whilst this was a very low-key event it does create another milestone in the journey of Murray Haven. It was pleasing to have President Pam Waldron and other board members attend the opening and be acknowledged for their hard work and dedication in bringing the project to life. The opening ceremony was performed by the Member for Albury, Mr Justin Clancy. I look forward to the plaque being installed in the coming months.

Finally, if we can be of assistance at anytime please do not hesitate to contact the team at Murray Haven.

Visiting horses

On Saturday 8 February, Eliza, her daughter Brooke and friend Sandra generously donated their time to give our residents a wonderful new experience. At 10:00am, they pulled up at Murray Haven Homes with float towing behind and out trotted 2 horses Huey and Genesis. As the residents gathered in the sunshine, it brought back memories of yesteryear. Linda Storm recalling how her husband Jack had a plaque laid in honour of him opening Barham's first Pony Club. The horses seemed to have a strange attraction to our Annie Faul who was willing to keep them here on the back lawn, the biggest worry was who is going to clean the poop !!!

Thank you to Eliza , Brooke and Sandra it was a lovely treat. See you again soon.



Bunyip's Fish and Chip lunch

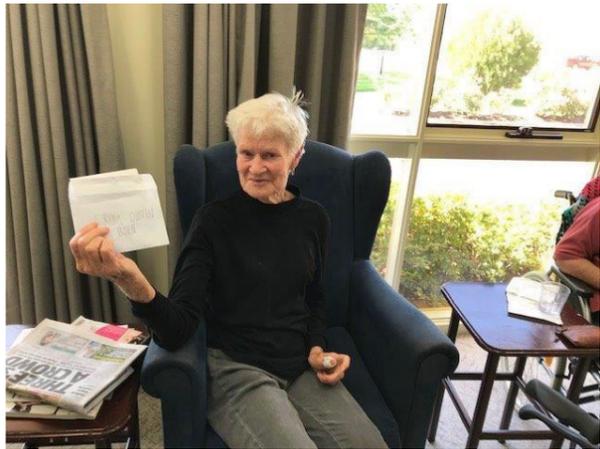
On 10 February we here at Murray Haven were lucky to be treated to another Bunyips fish and chip feast, giving the kitchen time to catch up on some other jobs. As usual the wonderful Neville Hird serenaded the residents with tunes of yesteryear as our toes tapped and hands clapped to his melodious tunes there was a very unusual sound coming from the back of the crowd as we turned to investigate, it was realized that Wendy had chosen the perfect career in caring and didn't take up singing??



Special mail delivery

Over the recent weeks with the constant changes due to the coronavirus, Murray Haven has seen firsthand the kindness of our small community. This week Murray Haven saw a delivery of special letters written by young and old to keep us in touch with the community these small acts of kindness have provided much enjoyment for the residents.

THANKS BARHAM AND KOONDROOK.....



Rollicking tunes

It was with much excitement we welcomed back one of our most loved entertainers. Mr Johnny Doyle. As the residents gathered in the lounge some of our new community members were wandering what all the fuss was about. It wasn't long before they discovered what all the chatter was about as we tapped our toes and clapped our hands, we thought about the songs we would request next time.



Mail delivery at Happy Haven

As you may have noticed there is a new addition to the resident's doors, brand new individualized mailboxes. It was with much delight that the residents chose their preferred colours and the maintenance team promptly put them.

Along with the new post boxes comes a job requirement and Evelyn Buys and Barb Parkes have nominated themselves for our new postie ladies, so keep your eyes open for the Fluro jackets or a whistle at your door!!!!



Mayhem on the Murray

On Saturday 14 March, the Murray Haven fellas were lucky enough to have a day on the Murray River. Perched in chairs on the Barbie Boat all the men agreed that 11:00am was the perfect time to open a tinny and go for a cruise to find the perfect fishing spot.

The first catch of the day was John's hat as a strong wind blew it off, but as quick as a whip Cheryl turned the boat like a professional and John scooped it up in the net without missing a beat.

One fish was caught for the day a teeny tiny brim, but it seriously brought the excitement of a 50-pound cod.

Murray Haven would like to extend they're thanks to Mark and Anne Wilson, Cathy and Luke Sims and Vicki and Terry Scott for the loan of the barbie boat and to the Barham Hotel for the discount on the beer and some free stubby holders. We are so lucky to live in our small community.



Decoupage

With the recent developments of the coronavirus, Jo and Wendy have been coming up with some new crafting ideas and this week we tried decoupage. We would like to send our thanks to Tanya Heffer who put her hand up to go craft shopping. Much fun was had by all and we are happy to show you our finished products.



Chinese restaurant evening

On Friday 28 January the residents enjoyed a Chinese Restaurant evening. The ladies and gents dressed to the nines; the mood was set with the melodious tunes of Father Neale on the piano. Beer, wine and champagne flowing and the much anticipated wait of the delivery from the Barham Chinese kitchen. The meal was enjoyed by all as we carried on into the evening with some topping up their glasses a couple of times.

Our apologies to the local police who were called for a noise complaint requiring the party table to have a severe warning with the threats of a night in the clink.

Murray Haven would like to extend a huge thanks to our volunteers for the evening (and throughout the year) your small slice of kindness put a smile on all the residents faces, thanks Barham Chinese Kitchen, FR Neale, the dedicated staff and Officer Jane.

