

THE VILLAGE NEWS



ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS
Village Ltd.

Retirement Village



ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS
Village Ltd.

Residential Aged Care Facility



William Charlton Village

Retirement Village

December 2019/January 2020

Allambie Heights Village Ltd.

44

100 Years

We celebrated Olive Hunter on 10 December 2019 on her 100th Birthday. I had the privilege of interviewing Olive in the morning just after her breakfast with other residents. An amazing 100 years unfolded of growing up in Country Australia and her first job working on her family's dairy farm.

A life of good communities, people helping each other and exchanging food and goods as there wasn't much money about. "No-one had money" said Olive. But she described that "It was a good life".

Olive married Robert who worked as a Principal at St George TAFE. This afforded both Olive and Robert opportunities thorough his work to travel around Europe which Olive said she enjoyed greatly. They had 2 children, a daughter Robyn and a son Graeme and 5 grandchildren.

'Eat well, play sport'

An accomplished tennis player, Olive won many competitions. She said she could have gone on to a higher level but described that her father at the time did not wish her to be travelling around the country as a young woman on her own. Who knows, Olive could have been a forerunner of another tennis great, Margaret Court?

Her advice on reaching 100 years and what she might say to a room of young people, "Eat well, play sport".



Happy 100th Birthday, Olive with son Graeme, Residents and Staff

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian, the Honourable Brad Hazzard, Minister for Health and Minister for Medical

Research, MP for Wakehurst and Ms Zali Steggall, Federal MP for Warringah all sent their kind wishes to Olive on her very special day.

Happy Birthday Olive and Congratulations from us all at Allambie Heights Village Ltd.

A video of the interview by Ciarán Foley, Chief Executive Officer with Olive is on our Company Website, www.alhvillage.com.au

Bushfire Survival Plan

No-one likes to enter the week or day with a forecast of catastrophic weather and a threat of possible fires. Our Team went into action and launched our Bushfire Survival Plan. We encouraged Village Residents to spend time with families or in shopping centres as advised by a range of health and emergency services. Our air conditioners were on in our community halls and we quietly looked in and checked on a number of our village residents who appreciated the contact. Our residential aged care facility residents were well looked after by our very capable staff as always.

My thanks to all my staff and to residents who cooperated so well. We had contact with NSW Health and with the Department of Health, all precautionary but a good exercise nevertheless. Thankfully, the catastrophic weather did not occur.

Our best wishes and thoughts are with our fellow Australians who have been confronted with dangerous situations over past weeks. (See 'Australia Burns' below).



Veronica and June

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Ausgrid Electricity Outage

We were again tested following the forecasts of catastrophic weather conditions with a mini-cyclone that hit Sydney's North Shore and Northern Beaches. I drove through the damage myself from a meeting in Sydney back to Allambie Heights. The damage was pretty excessive in certain areas, whole streets were affected in some instances and others untouched.

'We were tested, we were resilient and my staff and management did a great job'

Our residential aged care facility was without electricity, internet and landline phones for 30 hours as was William Charlton Village, Retirement Village and half of Allambie Heights Village, Retirement Village. Residents from the other part of the Village had to endure for a total of 57 hours.

Our staff and a range of our contractors who when called upon to assist us, responded immediately and were all absolutely fantastic. We opened our Allambie Heights Village Community Hall once power was reinstated there for use by Village residents who had no electricity, provided teas/coffees, a place to socialise and we offered hot showers to them in our residential aged care facility. Our dining rooms remained functional for any resident to enjoy meals there. It was wonderful to hear that the Community Hall became a focus for a resident get-together and a resultant party-type atmosphere. Over the 3 days of 26, 27, 28 November 2019, our management and staff visited our village residents whom we thought might need checking. Services were offered to them caringly.

We were tested, we were resilient and my staff and management did a great job.

Management arranged a de-briefing on 10 December 2019 and we will take from it a number of observations and lessons learned from our experiences.

Christmas Staff Concert

'There was more laughter from the audience than you'd get from a week of comedies on Netflix'

For 14 years, we have been 'entertaining' our residents, (well at least they laugh a lot) at our Annual Christmas Staff Concert & Resident Lunch, an absolute 'sell out' meaning that those who had not bought tickets early enough, didn't get to see our 'Stars' of the present and possibly of the future. For all of us, we were back to work after the Gig!

'We are different at Allambie Heights Village Ltd. and that's why everyone loves it'

This event gets better every year. Okay, so everyone waits for the actors to forget their lines or for the occasional (forget occasional, the ever present) out of tune singers or for the sound system to enter into a life of its own. We know it's going to happen. It's like watching *Fawlty Towers* for the 20th time and you still laugh. We are different at Allambie Heights Village Ltd. and that's why everyone loves it! You know all these goofs are going to happen, you just don't know when. It's the expectation that keeps everyone on the edge of their seats!



The Allambie Entertainers, Christmas 2019

'It's like watching Fawlty Towers for the 20th time and you still laugh'

Continued...

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Well done to all staff who contributed to the Concert and for your courage (or otherwise) to step up and entertain our residents, visitors and staff. The Nepalese Dancers, outstanding precision. Costumes, top class. Acting and singing, we are coming back next year! The MC, Wendy Kramer, President of the Board, great job. The Catering team, the Ritz Carlton are coming over to take lessons, simply beautiful food as always. You all did great, again.

We don't expect any Oscars but there was more laughter from the audience than you'd get from a week of comedies on Netflix!

LASA Membership Charter

It gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to share that on 17 December 2019, I signed the new LASA (Leading Age Services Australia) Membership Charter on behalf of Allambie Heights Village Ltd.

LASA is the leading lobbyist and our representative for the Home Care, Residential Aged Care Facility and Retirement Village Industries in meeting with governments and providing advice and support to our Industry Operators. The Charter Principles are: Consumer-informed and community based values; Ageing well and integrated models of care; Governance leadership; Best practice sharing; Workforce development; Workforce planning; Open disclosure and continuous improvement.



Ciarán with Residents & Guests at the Christmas Concert

Australia Burns

Australia has been the focus of the World and our support and sympathy goes out to our fellow Australians enduring the horrendous bushfires most recently on the eastern coast of New South Wales and Victoria. We have to learn from this, be less polarised politically and to work together.

People have died. At time of writing almost 2,000 homes have burnt down and an estimated 1 billion fauna and animals have perished. Many Australians know that much of this could have been avoided. However, weak government at Council, State and Federal levels across all colours of the political spectrum over the past 10 years plus, has contributed to this.

'We have to learn from this, be less polarised politically and to work together'

Locking the National Parks and not permitting dedicated locals access to reduce fuel on the ground along with absences of backburning programs have allowed Nature to do what Nature does best, it grows, it expands and it wins, always. To the biodiversity experts and the fundamentalist conservationists, where is the conservation in this? No fuel, no fire, it's simple. We are heading towards 1 million hectares of burned flora and forest.

Let me put that into perspective for the average person, that's 1 million football stadia.



The Wizard of Oz, Christmas 2019

Continued...

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The average stadium is 1 hectare (10,000 square metres) in size. Imagine, 1 million Brookvale Ovals, gone! Or 1 million ANZ Stadia, gone!

Our Aboriginal brothers and sisters have known about bushfires for thousands of years and they have managed the land well with backburning to maintain and clear hazards that destroy and kill if neglected.

How have we Australians allowed for elected representatives and non-elected minorities, some working in public service to dictate this disastrous approach while progressing their own narcissistic and self-indulgent agendas and blinkered beliefs?

***'Imagine, 1 million Brookvale Ovals, gone!
Or 1 million ANZ Stadia, gone!'***

We do not need another Royal Commission to look into this. Australia does not have 2-3 years to have lawyers grow rich while Australians wait and remain vulnerable. We know the causes and we know the solutions. We need to respect and manage Nature if we wish to continue to live near to it. And with regards to this, we have to remove trees and manage forests/bush appropriately. Otherwise, stop immigration, stop population growth, arrest living standards and watch Australia lose and fail. Because, Australia's future economy is dependent on immigration and people need to live somewhere.

'We do not need another Royal Commission'

Australia will recover, Nature will re-grow, Animals will give birth again. Australians, we need to do better!

Our thoughts and support are with all Australians and particularly you who have lost loved ones, animals, properties and with you who are fighting fires and rebuilding communities. You are not alone!



Joan Henderson and Family



Ciarán, Dennis,
Rob and Jodie



James 'Santa' Wheeler

Aged Care at Financial Risk in 2020

As 2019 came to a close, alarm bells were ringing loudly that 54% of all residential aged care facilities are operating at a financial loss.

Industry analysis of Department of Health data indicates that almost 200 Operators caring for up to 50,000 older Australians are operating at a high level of financial risk. Some RACFs will close in 2020!

It's time for all our readers to be in contact with your Federal Members of Parliament and to keep asking them what they are doing about ensuring that the Industry is being funded appropriately.

A Happy New Year

And finally, to all our people, I wish you on behalf of the entire Company of Allambie Heights Village Ltd. a wonderful New Year!

Ciarán Foley, Chief Executive Officer.

