

Homewood Herald

Jan – Feb 2026

Management Team

- 🌻 CEO - Bronwyn Heard
- 🌻 General Manager – Tom Pembroke
- 🌻 Care Manager - Sushma Ghimire
- 🌻 Clinical Care Coordinator (Gardens) – Ladrini Arrowsmith
- 🌻 Clinical Care Coordinator (Nursing Home First Floor) – Emma Dongol
- 🌻 Clinical Care Coordinator (Nursing Home Ground Floor) – Praful Bhari

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Message from CEO, Bronwyn Heard

It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of February!

I hope you have enjoyed Christmas and New Year celebrations with friends and family.

2026 looks exciting for Homewood Care. I hope you are noticing lots of special events and that you are enjoying the fun our staff and residents are having together – summer BBQs, corridor cricket on Australia Day, pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, Lunar New Year celebrating all things Chinese. One of the joys of working at Homewood Care is seeing these things flourishing under the leadership of Dyhanne. Tai Chi classes have started the world research Gold Standard about strength and balance and reducing the risk of falls for older people. It's on my wish list to join in.



We have also started to think about a new facility being built next door in Regent Street. Over the next four months, we will be discussing our ideas and plans at staff meetings, resident meetings, and open meetings that we will invite everyone to -we want to gather everyone's thoughts and see if going forward with our dream could be a reality in a few years' time. I hope you will look at our ideas and give us your thoughts over the coming months.

We will also start preparing our budget for the next financial year. High priorities will be our air conditioning in Gardens and a facelift in Homewood upstairs and downstairs. We are committed to making our shared areas homely and a lovely place to spend our day.

We still have a bit of warm weather to look forward to so please take care in the sun and drink lots of fluids on our hotter days.

Message from our General Manager, Tom Pembroke

Happy New Year to all of our residents, families and staff. I hope you enjoyed a joyful and restful festive season. We are excited to begin another year together at Homewood and Gardens.

The very best part of my role is welcoming new families and getting to know our newest residents. There is something incredibly special about hearing life stories, understanding what matters most to each person, and helping them feel truly at home.

The hardest part, without question, is saying goodbye. Each resident leaves a lasting mark on our Homewood family, and we are always grateful for the time we share.

This year, I am particularly excited about continuing to improve our environment and services. Last year, we upgraded the entire Gardens building with new carpet, Vergolas and furniture, creating a fresh and welcoming space. In 2026, we will be focusing on giving Homewood a makeover — enhancing the aesthetics and making it feel more homely and comfortable for residents and families.

We have also recently made small but meaningful improvements to our dining experience, including fresh flowers on the tables to create a warmer, more inviting atmosphere. With our strong cultural diversity and the leadership of our new Lifestyle Coordinator, we are placing an even greater focus on celebrating important cultural days and bringing vibrant experiences into daily life.

As we continue upgrading Homewood and refining our services, we always welcome feedback. Several families have already shared thoughtful suggestions, and we truly value your input. Please feel free to reach out at any time.

On a personal note, by the time our next newsletter is published, my wife Vanja will most likely have welcomed our second child into the world. It is a very exciting time for our family, and we are looking forward to this new chapter.



Message from Care Manager, Sushma Ghimire

Stay Protected This Season: Vaccination Update

As we move into the cooler months, it's important to remember that influenza can occur at any time of the year but is most common during autumn and winter.

Keeping up to date with vaccinations is one of the most effective ways to protect your health and the wellbeing of those around you. Vaccination helps to prevent serious infectious diseases, reduce the risk of hospitalisation, and limit the spread of illness to family, friends, and fellow residents.

Adults are recommended to receive a range of vaccines throughout their lifetime. While some are given annually, others are only needed once or twice.

We're pleased to offer upcoming on-site vaccination clinics for residents:

- **13 April** – Shingles vaccine
- **24 April** – Flu vaccine

These vaccinations are provided **free of charge** for all residents.

If you would like more information, or if you have not yet completed a consent form, please speak with our Registered Nurses, the Clinical Management Team, or your GP during their next visit.

Staying protected is a simple step that makes a big difference to everyone in our community.



Events and celebrations

We have celebrated birthdays of few of our residents:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ahmad Ghada | 🌟 Emmanuelidis, Jolan (Julie) |
| 🌟 Guidi, Glauco | 🌟 Stassi, Sophia (Sophia) |
| 🌟 Kyriakou, Kyriakos (Gary) | 🌟 Vidovic, Vlado |
| 🌟 Pourniotis, Harry (Harry) | 🌟 Johnson, Christine (Chris) |
| 🌟 West, Warren (Warren) | 🌟 Lal, Ana |
| 🌟 Shortall, Marlene (Marlene) | 🌟 Marlow, Marie |
| | 🌟 Panagopoulos, Vasiliki (Vicky) |





Leisure and Lifestyle Update

January & February Highlights – A Wonderful Start to 2026

The first two months of 2026 have been filled with joy, connection, culture and celebration as we shared many meaningful moments together.

We began the year with a lively New Year Concert and BBQ, bringing residents, families and staff together for an afternoon of music, laughter and delicious food. This was followed by a Catholic Church Service, which was warmly attended and will now continue monthly, supporting residents' spiritual wellbeing.

Our Greek Morning Tea was another beautiful highlight, with families joining us to enjoy traditional treats, warm hospitality and wonderful conversation. It was lovely to see residents reconnect with their culture and share these moments with loved ones.

To celebrate Australia Day, residents enjoyed a fun-filled day with a concert and a friendly game of cricket. The competition was fierce, and the laughter was even stronger as everyone joined in the spirit of the day.

February continued the celebrations with a delightful Italian Morning Tea, once again welcoming many family members who joined residents to enjoy delicious food and great company.

Residents were thrilled to welcome a new entertainer, Eleni, who captivated everyone with beautiful covers of Italian, Greek and English songs, creating a joyful and uplifting atmosphere. We also enjoyed another energetic and vibrant concert by Dylan, who brought his usual pizzazz, keeping residents singing and smiling.

We proudly celebrated Lunar New Year, with all floors coming together for a special morning tea, creating a wonderful sense of unity and cultural appreciation.

Residents at Homewood also took part in an informative Senior Rights Seminar, empowering them with valuable knowledge about their rights and wellbeing.

January and February have truly set the tone for a year filled with engagement, inclusion and memorable experiences, and we look forward to many more wonderful moments ahead.

Australia Day at Homewood

We marked Australia Day at Homewood with a relaxed and enjoyable celebration shared by residents and staff. The day included Aussie favorites, music, and plenty of conversation as residents reflected on what Australia means to them. For many, it was a chance to share memories from childhood summers and backyard cricket to stories of coming to Australia and building a life here.

At Homewood, we recognize Australia Day as a time to come together, acknowledge our shared history, and reflect on the many cultures and experiences that make up our community today



Italian Morning Tea at Homewood

What a beautiful morning we had celebrating our Italian Morning Tea at Homewood!

Residents gathered to enjoy delicious Italian treats, rich coffee and wonderful conversation. There's something special about sharing food that brings back memories — stories of family kitchens, Sunday lunches and time spent around big tables filled with laughter.

The room was full of warmth, connection and plenty of smiles. Music played softly in the background, sparking a few singalongs and lots of reminiscing.

Grazie to everyone who helped make the morning so special! 🍰 🍷 🍷 ❤️



🎵 Time with Dillon 🎵

There's never a dull moment when Dillon is in the building!

Dillon has quickly become a resident favourite, bringing laughter, energy and plenty of entertainment to Homewood. Whether he's singing, chatting or getting everyone involved, he has a wonderful way of lifting the room.

Here he is pictured serenading Sophie — a very special moment that had plenty of smiles all around.

♥ Thank you, Dillon, for the joy and music you bring to our community!



🇨🇳 Chinese New Year at Homewood 🇨🇳

We had a wonderful time celebrating Chinese New Year at Homewood, bringing colour, culture and community together.

Residents enjoyed delicious Chinese favourites including dumplings and pork buns, shared good luck cards with one another, and cracked open fortune cookies to see what the year ahead might bring. There was plenty of laughter, conversation and joy throughout the day.

A very special thank you to Candy, who generously came in during her own time to celebrate her culture with us. It was so meaningful for our residents to learn more about the traditions and significance behind the celebration.

Moments like these reflect the warmth and diversity of our Homewood community — where we come together to celebrate cultures, stories and traditions from around the world.

Happy Chinese New Year to all! 🐯 ✨



Resident Spotlight

Welcoming new residents to Homewood Care Family

We have recently welcomed the following residents to our Homewood Care family:

- 🌻 Antonelli, Iolanda
- 🌻 Balfour, Teresa
- 🌻 Cassidy, Denis
- 🌻 Giacca, Antonio
- 🌻 Marks, Sandra
- 🌻 Pourniotis, Harry
- 🌻 Roditis, George
- 🌻 Zannino, Pietro
- 🌻 Zannino, Teresa

Paying tribute to our wonderful residents

In loving memory over the month, we have said a sad farewell to:

Deceased

- 🌻 Woodward, Wavie
- 🌻 Wong, Kwan Ching
- 🌻 Warren, Helen
- 🌻 Nardella, Raffaele
- 🌻 Long, Jocelyn (Joy)
- 🌻 Henderson, Colleen
- 🌻 Callaghan, Anna

Discharged

- 🌻 Grima, Victoria
- 🌻 Talevski, Rada
- 🌻 De Sousa, Libentina (Tina)
- 🌻 Pavlovski, Petra
- 🌻 Stewart, Elizabeth (Liz)

We miss them every day and our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.



Staff Shoutout

Few more addition to Homewood

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 🌻 Paronis, Georgina | 🌻 Karki, Laxmi |
| 🌻 Prazeres, Rosalina | 🌻 Williams, Joanne |
| 🌻 Dela Vega, Evangeline | 🌻 Basnet, Amisha |
| 🌻 Bam, Anjila | 🌻 Patel, Deepak |
| 🌻 Issa, Racha | 🌻 Oli, Priyanka |

Staff farewells

We bid a goodbye to few of our loving and caring staffs:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 🌻 Shrestha Dahal, Shradha | 🌻 Dahal, Subhechhya |
| 🌻 Chhetri, Kabita | 🌻 Ilagan, Mary |
| 🌻 Thapa, Dibisha | 🌻 Bimali, Prasna |
| 🌻 Stafurin, Sergiy | 🌻 Tuiloma, Seini |
| 🌻 Fernandes Cruz Martins, Larissa | |

Staff Spotlight:

🌟 Meet Sabina Khatri 🌟

Sabina brings incredible spirit, generosity and enthusiasm to Homewood.

She joined us as a Care Worker and has consistently shown assertiveness, wonderful people skills and a great sense of humour. Over time, Sabina has expanded her role across care, activities, supporting residents at appointments, and even helping at reception always stepping in wherever she is needed.



Sabina loves being like family to our residents. She says Homewood truly feels like her home, and that warmth is something everyone around her feels. She is someone who cherishes relationships and is always smiling even on the tough days. Although she misses her family in Nepal, she makes sure to visit them each year and stay closely connected.


Resident Profile: Kenneth Keenan

Ken has been a wonderful new addition to our Gardens community, and we feel very lucky to have him at Homewood. From the moment he arrived, Ken has embraced our activities and loves interacting with residents and staff. He genuinely loves people and people are naturally drawn to him. And watch out for that smile... you'll be instantly impressed by his charm.

Ken started to work as a clerk in the state treasury when he was 17. In 1973, he left the Treasury to work for the Public Service Association as an Industrial Officer. Later, Ken worked for several other unions. He was always passionate about advocating for women's rights. During these years, Ken's two mottos that he lived by were "laugh and you'll live longer" and "laugh to keep your sanity".

Family has always been important to Ken. He speaks lovingly of his disabled daughter, Alina, who he describes as an absolute sweetheart. Alina lived till she was 28. Ken was a devoted father visiting her most days in the Group Home and always checking on her welfare.

Ken says he loves being at Homewood and feels his health has improved since joining us. His dear friend, Joy, her daughter, Catherine, and Ken's step daughter, Juliana, keep him smiling and bring him comfort and happiness. He enjoys spending time with Joy and her family, watching movies and reminiscing about holidays and good times shared with friends.

And here's a fun fact — Ken once appeared on the TV show Letters and Numbers! Every now and then his episode is re-run, so keep an eye out — you might just spot a familiar face on screen. Ken, we are so glad you are part of our Homewood family. 



Snapshots of some activities at Homewood Care



 **Photo(s) of the Month:**

 **Ashes Fever at Homewood!** 

Across the many photos from the day, this one really stood out. It captures a great moment of Carmel sending down her medium-pace seamers with plenty of enthusiasm.

It was clear that Puspha was having a bit of trouble at the crease, with Carmel's uneven seam making the ball just that little bit harder to handle. It's always wonderful to see our activities team creating moments like this, keeping residents engaged, active, and smiling. The friendly competition and great turnout made the cricket session a real highlight of January.

This has to be our Photo of the Month!  



Celebrating Australia Day the Homewood Way!

Another special moment captured was Ana Fotu Lal, who always brings wonderful energy to Homewood.

Ana had everyone smiling with her beautiful singing of I Still Call Australia Home which she cleverly turned into her own version, I Still Call Homewood Home.

Dressed proudly in green and gold for Australia Day and wearing her verdoura hat, Ana sang with great joy and confidence, her smile lasting all day.

Moments like these remind us how much warmth, personality, and happiness our residents bring to the Homewood community.