

# Homewood Herald

Mar - April 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

## Homewood News Highlights

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(02) 9503 1800



(02) 9503 1899



reception@homewoodcare.com.au



60 Regent St Bexley NSW 2207



www.homewoodcare.com.au



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[https://www.instagram.com/homewood\\_care/](https://www.instagram.com/homewood_care/)

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## Message from CEO, Bronwyn Heard

We are starting to see the beginning of winter weather. I hope, like me, you are all keeping warm and able to avoid winter colds and chills.

I have just had my first anniversary working at Homewood Care and am still delighted with the high quality of care, lifestyle and everyday services provided; and the family-friendly culture that thrives here. Every day our people go out of their way to make me and everyone here feel welcome and at home.

A lot of my time is committed to the new Development at 56 and 58 Regent Street. In January, we received support to proceed with our plans from the State Planning Department and we are on track to have our SSD application ready to submit in June. We want to share those plans with all our residents, family, friends and neighbors. We will forward a letter to you about our plans and we want to invite you all to a presentation and discussion of the plans and lunch on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.



## Message from our General Manager, Tom Pembroke

It has been fantastic to see Homewood operating at full capacity for most of the year. This is a reflection of the wonderful community we have built together, and we are also pleased to have a strong and growing waiting list.

Looking ahead, we will be undertaking a facelift of the Homewood ground and first floor, with works commencing in early July, to create a more homely and welcoming environment for our residents, similar to the improvements we have made in Gardens.

We are also currently interviewing for an evening chef, which will help enhance the quality of our dinner experience for residents. We look forward to sharing more on this soon.

I also wanted to keep families informed about the upcoming 2026 Census, which will take place on Tuesday 11 August 2026. In the lead-up, Census staff will be in contact, and we will be working closely with them to ensure all residents are supported to complete their forms. This process helps inform important decisions around healthcare, infrastructure, and community services across Australia.

On a personal note, Vanja and I were thrilled to welcome our son, Maurice, into the world at the end of April. We are incredibly excited and grateful, and already enjoying this special new chapter as a family.



## Message from Care Manager, Sushma Ghimire

Homewood Care recently organised two vaccination clinics in April for the shingles and influenza vaccines. We have now been advised by the Public Health Unit that the RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) vaccine will be available from 15th of May, and we would like to share some important information.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common virus that affects the upper and lower respiratory system. It can cause a range of severe respiratory illnesses such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia.

RSV is a very common illness, but it can cause serious complications and lead to hospitalisation. Even otherwise healthy adults can become very unwell – vaccination is the best protection against severe RSV disease. RSV hospitalisation rates increase with age and people 75 years and over can have the greatest benefit from receiving a vaccine.

The RSV vaccine, Arexvy®, is recommended and free through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for adults aged 75 years and over and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 60 years and over.

Adults aged 60 to 74 years, and those with medical conditions that increase their risk of severe RSV, may also consider vaccination. However, in these cases, the vaccine is not funded and must be paid for privately.

If you would like more information about the RSV vaccine or are interested in receiving it, please speak with a member of the clinical team or with your GP when they are onsite.



## Events and celebrations

*We have celebrated birthdays of few of our residents:*

- 🌻 Abdine, Raif
- 🌻 Berville, Joy
- 🌻 Burgess, Harold
- 🌻 Cotter, Judith (Judith)
- 🌻 Damcevski, Riste
- 🌻 Garratt, Janet
- 🌻 Giacca, Antonio (Tony)
- 🌻 Ibrahim, Mariam
- 🌻 Marks, Sandra (Sandra)
- 🌻 Armour, Mavis
- 🌻 Bent, Colin (Colin/Colby)
- 🌻 Di Ferdinando, Maria
- 🌻 Durgali, Giuseppina (Pina)
- 🌻 Laoundos, Maria
- 🌻 Sokias, Voula
- 🌻 Taylor, Pamela (Pam)
- 🌻 Wilson, Wendy
- 🌻 Cotterill, Noelene
- 🌻 Harding, Gloria
- 🌻 Henning, Marie
- 🌻 Papadellis, Sampson (Sam)
- 🌻 Pon, Jacqueline (Jacque)
- 🌻 Santa-Maria, Joseph (Joe)
- 🌻 Simonovski, Gorgi (George)
- 🌻 Armour, Mavis
- 🌻 Bent, Colin (Colin/Colby)
- 🌻 Di Ferdinando, Maria
- 🌻 Durgali, Giuseppina (Pina)
- 🌻 Laoundos, Maria
- 🌻 Sokias, Voula
- 🌻 Taylor, Pamela (Pam)
- 🌻 Wilson, Wendy
- 🌻 Antonelli, Iolanda (Iolanda)
- 🌻 Christofides, Leah
- 🌻 Du Toit, Jeanne (Jeanne)





### *Leisure and Lifestyle Update*

We kicked things off with a festive St Patrick's Day, enjoying a lively happy hour where residents and staff came together to celebrate with laughter, music, and a touch of Irish cheer.

Our cultural celebrations continued with Greek Independence Day, which was a true highlight of the month. Residents were treated to a delightful Greek morning tea, featuring traditional flavours and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. We also embarked on a special "armchair travel" experience to Greece, exploring the beauty, history, and charm of this incredible country from the comfort of home.

Entertainment was in full swing throughout the month, with the debut of our new entertainer, Frank, who impressed everyone with his fantastic Elvis tribute. His performance had toes tapping and residents up dancing, creating a fun and energetic atmosphere.

We were also delighted to welcome back Miss Eleni, who showcased her incredible vocal range with a heartfelt selection of Greek, Italian, and English songs. Her performance was both moving and uplifting, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

April has been a wonderfully busy and vibrant month for our community, filled with meaningful celebrations, music, and connection. We were delighted to honour both Roman Catholic Easter and Orthodox Easter, bringing residents together to share in traditions, reflection, and joy across both occasions.

Our bi-monthly concert series continued to be a highlight, and this month we welcomed a new performer, Karyn, who brought a fresh energy to the room. Her beautiful voice and selection of timeless classics had everyone singing along and reminiscing. We were also thrilled to welcome back one of our much-loved regular performers, Murray, who marked the lead-up to ANZAC Day with a heartfelt performance of classic songs that resonated deeply with residents.

In honour of ANZAC Day, we held a commemorative ceremony, providing a moment for reflection, remembrance, and gratitude. It was a touching gathering that allowed residents and staff alike to pause and pay their respects.

To round out the month on a relaxed and cheerful note, we hosted one of our all-time favourite events – a community BBQ. With great food, laughter, and time spent together outdoors, it was the perfect way to close out such a full and meaningful April.

As we look ahead to May, we are excited to celebrate some very special occasions here at Homewood Care.

We will be honouring all the wonderful mothers in our community with a beautiful Mother's Day High Tea. This will be a lovely opportunity for residents to come together, enjoy delicious treats, and celebrate the important women in their lives in a warm and elegant setting.

We are also looking forward to hosting a vibrant Eid celebration. This special event will include a live drummer, along with traditional food and refreshments, creating a joyful and culturally rich experience for our residents. It's a wonderful way for us to recognise and celebrate the diversity within our Homewood community.

We look forward to sharing these memorable moments with everyone.





## Resident Spotlight

### Welcoming new residents to Homewood Care Family

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

- 🌻 Damcevski, Riste
- 🌻 Doukas, Harry
- 🌻 Durgali, Giuseppina
- 🌻 Grey, Jean
- 🌻 Laoundos, Maria
- 🌻 Marks, Sandra
- 🌻 Santa Maria, Carole
- 🌻 Schroeder, Edwin
- 🌻 Yeki-Dounyayan, Marie

### Paying tribute to our wonderful residents

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

#### Deceased

- 🌻 Bela, Vera
- 🌻 Canale, Silvana (Silvana)
- 🌻 Canosa, Bambina (Bambina)
- 🌻 Fernandez, Maria (Olivia)
- 🌻 Pon, Stanley (Stan)
- 🌻 Webster, Ronald

#### Discharged

- 🌻 Pourniotis, Harry (Harry)
- 🌻 Canale, Silvana (Silvana)

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



*Nerilyn Stark*

### Staff Shoutout

Few more addition to Homewood

- 🌻 Pradip Adhikari
- 🌻 Lokendra Katuwal
- 🌻 Shresti Shah

### Staff farewells

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

- 🌻 Bipana KC
- 🌻 Shanti Poudel
- 🌻 Maggy Cabrera Huanca
- 🌻 Ghie Evangelina Dela Vega
- 🌻 Chungdak Gurung

### Staff Spotlight: Binu Yadav



Binu Yadav started at Homewood in 2019 as a care worker while studying to become a Registered Nurse. She has always been passionate about working at Homewood and continuing her career with us. After completing her studies, Binu was thrilled to accept a role as an RN.

Binu's brother, Mithlesh, also joined Homewood last year, making Homewood a special place for their family.

Binu says her favourite part of being an RN is interacting with the residents, something she feels she did not get to do as much while working as a care worker. Building relationships with residents and supporting them each day is what she enjoys most about her role.

Outside of work, Binu enjoys going to Westfield, browsing the shops, and reading. She is especially proud of how much her confidence and



Nerilyn dedicated an impressive 50 years working in journalism, a career that kept her connected to the world around her through storytelling and the written word. Her love of people and communication continues to shine through in her daily conversations here at Homewood.

Originally growing up in Cronulla, Sydney, Nelly later took a leap of adventure and travelled to England in 1961. She fondly recalls this time as a wonderful experience, filled with new opportunities and memories that have stayed with her ever since.

Among her proudest moments, Nerilyn speaks of her family with great love, particularly remembering her father's achievements. She was also honoured with a Gold Medal for Bravery, a remarkable recognition that reflects her strength and character. In her free time, Nerilyn has always enjoyed staying active and social. From playing tennis and swimming to simply chatting with those around her, she finds joy in connection. She also has a passion for cooking and has always loved meeting new people. Over the years, she shared her life with three beloved dogs, who brought her much happiness.

Family remains at the heart of Nerilyn's story. She is a proud mother to three daughters — one a teacher, and two who have followed caring paths as nurses.

When asked what advice she would give to younger generations, Nelly's words are simple yet meaningful:

"Travel, and always be kind and generous."

We are so grateful to have Nelly as part of our Homewood community. Her warmth, life experience, and love of conversation continue to enrich the lives of those around her every day.

communication skills have grown over the years, and she is very thankful to her managers for their guidance and support in helping her develop as an RN.

Originally from Nepal, Binu hopes one day to travel through Europe, especially Rome, where she would love to experience the culture and enjoy authentic Italian food.

Binu says she loves Australia and the acceptance of people from all backgrounds, as well as the opportunities Australia has provided for both her and her family. While she is grateful for the life she has built here, she deeply misses her mother, whom she was very close with.

Binu can be found every weekday from 7am–3pm on the Homewood Ground Floor, helping lead the care team with her warm and caring nature. If you see her around, make sure to say hello to her smiley face!

### Photo of the Month



This time, Photo of the Month was beautifully captured by our talented care worker, admin team member, and Medication Manager, Rhiannon. This stunning rainbow over Homewood reminded us that Homewood is truly blessed. A beautiful real moment captured perfectly.