

Homewood Herald

Oct - Dec 2025

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

- ✦ Message from CEO
- ✦ Message from General Manager
- ✦ Message from Care Manager
- ✦ Events and Celebrations
- ✦ Resident Spotlight
- ✦ Staff Shoutout
- ✦ Photo of the month
- ✦ Notices & Reminders



(02) 9503 1800



(02) 9503 1899



reception@homewoodcare.com.au



60 Regent St Bexley NSW 2207



www.homewoodcare.com.au



<https://www.facebook.com/homewoodcare/>



https://www.instagram.com/homewood_care/

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - AGED CARE QUALITY AND SAFETY COMMISSION

For complaints or enquiries:



1800 951 822



www.agedcarequality.gov.au

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, call the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677 and ask for 1800 550 552.

If you need an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask for 1800 550 552.

Message from CEO, Bronwyn Heard

Our team is getting ready for Christmas. It has been a pleasure seeing residents work with staff to prepare for and enjoy the Christmas season.

I am looking forward to our family Christmas events this year – two for children. On Christmas day we will have close friends from Melbourne with us who are “Christmas orphans” for the first time. This time of year, is so busy and brings joy and sadness for so many – I am reminded of how important it is to show kindness as often as possible.

Early next year, we will start planning in earnest for an exciting future for Homewood Care. We are putting together a team to explore how we can use the two properties we now own alongside us in Regent Street. Over the next 12 months, our plans will develop and we will be sharing our ideas with the Homewood Community.



As we say goodbye to 2025 and welcome in 2026, our Australian summer will include lots of hot days. Please take care in the sun and drink lots of water. We will be reviewing our emergency plans – bushfire season has begun. We want our team and our community to live long and well.

Message from our General Manager, Tom Pembroke

As we approach the festive season, I would like to wish all our residents, families, and staff a safe, joyful, and happy Christmas.

This time of year, gives us a special opportunity to come together to celebrate with our wonderful residents, to share in prayer and reflection, and to remember those who are no longer with us. I also extend a warm welcome to our new residents who have joined the Homewood family; we look forward to sharing many moments of comfort, joy, and connection with you.

The spirit of Christmas has filled Homewood with good food, entertainment, and plenty of laughter. It has been heartwarming to see families visiting, staff getting involved, and our home coming alive with festive cheer.

Most importantly, this season reminds us of the privilege we have in caring for our residents. Thank you to our families for your trust and thank you to our incredible staff for the compassion, dedication, and heart you show every single day.

I am especially looking forward to bringing my daughter Mila in to celebrate with our residents on Christmas Day. It is always beautiful to see how much joy children bring into the home!

On a personal note, my wife and I are excited and a little nervous as we are expecting our second child in April. Our small apartment may feel even smaller, but we are looking forward to the extra love that will fill our home next year.

I look forward to seeing you all in the new year, and I wish you and your families a safe and fun festive season.



Message from Care Manager, Sushma Ghimire

Infection Outbreak Update

Recently, Homewood Care managed an outbreak of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) at Homewood Gardens and Homewood Nursing Home, which involved several residents.

During this time, we worked closely with our local Public Health Unit and followed our Outbreak Management Plan to ensure the safety of residents, staff, and visitors.

Management Measures Implemented

- Residents who tested positive were isolated while symptomatic (no clearance testing was required).
- Symptomatic residents were monitored and tested using a respiratory panel PCR.
- All positive residents were reviewed by their GP.
- Symptomatic staff and visitors were excluded from the facility.
- Staff returned to work only once symptoms had fully resolved, provided they did not have COVID-19 or influenza.
- Enhanced infection prevention and control measures remained in place for seven days after the last identified case.



Ongoing Reminder for Visitors

The Public Health Unit has advised that the risk of Influenza A outbreaks in Residential Aged Care Homes remains high within the community.

We continue to encourage all visitors and resident representatives to:

- Practise regular hand hygiene, and
- Wear a surgical mask when visiting loved ones.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support as we work to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone in our care.

Events and celebrations

We have celebrated birthdays of few of our residents:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 🌻 Apostolovski, Metodija | 🌻 Dong, Xianting | 🌻 Caldwell, Zeta |
| 🌻 Bela, Vera | 🌻 Gardner, Jill | 🌻 Carlyon, Renee |
| 🌻 Giusti, Androniki | 🌻 Giunta, Rosa | 🌻 Cross, Mary |
| 🌻 Long, Jocelyn | 🌻 Ho, Yuk-Kit | 🌻 Drake, June |
| 🌻 Clements, Janet | 🌻 Middleton-Sharpe, Timothy | 🌻 Karagiannis, Foni |
| 🌻 Glebe, Patricia | 🌻 Serci, Antonietta | 🌻 Parameritis, Dennis |
| 🌻 Paneras, Artemis | 🌻 Twentyman, Muriel | 🌻 Tsekas, Maria |
| 🌻 Ralevski, Milan | 🌻 Nieddu, Raffaella | 🌻 Webster, Ronald |
| 🌻 Torres, Luis | 🌻 Warren, Helen | 🌻 Sedmak, Stephanie |
| 🌻 Di Meo, Mario | 🌻 Baldas, Penelope | 🌻 Zachariadis, Mary |



Leisure and Lifestyle Update

This Christmas season was filled with warmth, joy, and togetherness as we celebrated with our residents in a variety of meaningful and festive ways. Residents enjoyed a lively Christmas music concert, with staff coming together to sing much-loved Christmas carols. The atmosphere was full of smiles, laughter, and festive cheer, creating special moments that truly captured the spirit of the season.

Our Catholic Christmas Mass was another highlight, warmly attended by residents and led by members of the local Catholic Church. This service provided a



comforting and spiritual experience for those who wished to participate and was deeply appreciated by residents. Due to its positive response, we are delighted to confirm that monthly Mass services will continue throughout the coming year.

Adding a fun and interactive element to our celebrations, the Ma and Pa's fashion stall visited our home, giving residents the opportunity to browse, shop, and explore clothing and fashion items they may want or need. Residents thoroughly enjoyed the chance to engage, choose items for themselves, and



connect through conversation and shared excitement.

As we farewell the year, we will be welcoming in 2025 with a festive New Year's concert and happy hour, providing residents with an opportunity to celebrate, socialise, and start the new year on a joyful note.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to continue building on these successful events. Our goal is to deliver bigger, better, and more innovative experiences, introducing fresh and exciting activities that enhance wellbeing, connection, and enjoyment for our residents. We look forward to creating even more memorable moments together in the year ahead.

Homewood Highlights – The Last Three Months of 2025

As we draw closer to the end of the year, Homewood and the Gardens have enjoyed a rich variety of celebrations, cultural experiences, spiritual moments, and community entertainment. Here are the standout events from the past three months:

Kindy Farm Visit

A wholesome favourite — residents spent the morning cuddling guinea pigs, piglets, ducks, and fluffy ducklings. The unforgettable highlight was Prافل confidently carrying a goat almost bigger than himself! Staff bringing their little ones added extra joy to this heart-warming day.



Dylan's Concert

Dylan once again brought incredible energy to Homewood. Residents were clapping, singing, and dancing, with many saying they want him back every week. His performances have become a true highlight.

Remembrance Day Service

Our Remembrance Day service was a deeply meaningful and respectful moment. Residents and staff gathered to honour and remember those who served, sharing a powerful moment of reflection and gratitude.



Melbourne Cup Celebrations

Cup Day was filled with colour, excitement, and laughter. Residents dressed up, cheered for their horses, and enjoyed the festive spirit of the day.

Sound Healing Sessions

Our Sound Healing sessions have become a calming favourite for many residents. The gentle tones, soft rhythms, and peaceful atmosphere created a beautiful space for relaxation.



Diwali Celebration

We proudly celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights, symbolising the triumph of light over darkness. Residents enjoyed singing, dancing, bright colours, and an afternoon full of fun. It was wonderful to see everyone have an absolute blast.



Lunch & Coffee Outings

Residents have loved heading out for lunch and café visits at beautiful local spots. These outings remain one of the most enjoyed activities, giving residents a chance to socialise, explore, and enjoy delicious food together.



Greek Welfare Community Visit

We were also lucky to welcome the Greek Welfare Community, who came in and sang for our residents. Their music filled the home with joy, nostalgia, and cultural pride. It was a truly special experience, and we feel incredibly fortunate to have them visit and bring so much happiness to our community.



First Mass at Homewood

We were honoured to host our first Mass at Homewood, led with warmth and care by Father Yacub. The service was deeply appreciated by residents and brought a sense of comfort, community, and spiritual connection. We extend a heartfelt thank you to Father Yacub for supporting our residents so beautifully.



✨ *What an absolutely beautiful day at Homewood!* ✨

Today we celebrated a truly remarkable milestone, Mary Zacharidis turned 103, making her our oldest resident.

Mary was surrounded by love as she celebrated with her three children George, Elizabeth and Kathy, along with the rest of her wonderful family.

Mary keeps herself fit with daily walks, speaks more than four languages, and greets everyone with her warm smile every single day.

Her children shared that she has truly lived a great life and it shows.

Happy 103rd Birthday, Mary.

You are an inspiration to us all.



Resident Spotlight

Welcoming new residents to Homewood Care Family

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

- 🌻 Anna Callaghan
- 🌻 Libentina De Sousa
- 🌻 Milan Ralevski
- 🌻 Kenneth Keenan
- 🌻 Colleen Henderson
- 🌻 Nerilyn Stark
- 🌻 Jocelyn Long
- 🌻 Christine Johnson
- 🌻 Milan Ralevski
- 🌻 Kenneth Keenan
- 🌻 Finau Taufa
- 🌻 Jocelyn Long
- 🌻 Jeanne Du Toit
- 🌻 Jill Gardener
- 🌻 Kathleen Neason
- 🌻 Emilia Algati
- 🌻 Colin Bent
- 🌻 Gisela Isgro
- 🌻 Joseph Santa-Maria

Paying tribute to our wonderful residents

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

Deceased

- 🌻 Tasia Giannakakos
- 🌻 Carmella Cavallaro
- 🌻 Ignazia Monaco
- 🌻 Beverly Beale
- 🌻 Ursula O'Shea
- 🌻 Mladen Cvetkovski
- 🌻 Ian Legge
- 🌻 Vincenzo Trimboli
- 🌻 Ronald Miller
- 🌻 Hilda McCarthy



Discharged

- 🌻 Finau Taufa
- 🌻 Norma McDonald
- 🌻 Elizabeth Mitchell

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

Staff Shoutout

Few more addition to Homewood

- 🌻 Srijana Century BK
- 🌻 Prasanna Basnet
- 🌻 Sushma Shrestha
- 🌻 Anju Maharjan
- 🌻 Aachal Sijapati
- 🌻 Jyoti Rayamajhi
- 🌻 Reshmi Shrestha
- 🌻 Anshumi Bishwakarma
- 🌻 Angita Kandel
- 🌻 Mokshya Shrestha
- 🌻 Racha Issa
- 🌻 Subhechhya Dahal

Staff farewells

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

- 🌻 Suyogya Chaudhary
- 🌻 Swechchha Baniya
- 🌻 Elesi Naulivou

🌟 Staff Spotlight: Smita Singh

Smita Singh is one of our wonderful Care Workers and also a much-loved Activities Officer here at Homewood.

She has been part of the Homewood family for almost three years and especially enjoys her time in activities where she gets to have fun, dance, laugh, and spend quality time with our residents every day.



Originally from Janakpur, Nepal (not Kathmandu, as many people assume!), Smita brings warmth, energy and a constant smile to everyone she meets. She's known for staying calm under pressure and keeping a positive attitude even if her husband may jokingly disagree!

Smita also loves travelling and recently enjoyed an amazing trip to Thailand with her family. When she's not exploring new places, she loves dancing and spending time with those she loves. In ten years, she envisions herself retired on a beach relaxing hopefully after winning the lotto!

Her manager, Dyhanne, shared:

"Smita is passionate, calm, and above all a real 'yes' woman always willing to help in any way she can."

We are so grateful to have Smita as part of our Homewood team.

🌿 Resident Profile: Stamatia Psiroukis

Stamatia Psiroukis is one of our beautiful Greek residents, with family members lovingly spread throughout both Homewood and the Gardens. She came to Australia in 1964 and worked tirelessly in a variety of roles—from factory work to cleaning—to support her family. Later in life, she spent 15 years volunteering in a soup kitchen, always giving back to her community. Family has always been at the heart of Stamatia’s life. She loved cooking, welcoming people into her home, and caring for her parents for ten years after they migrated to Australia. Her warmth, generosity and strong family values shine through every story she shares.

Stamatia adores the atmosphere at Homewood and enjoys being part of the activities and daily life here. We are also incredibly lucky to have her daughter Maria volunteer with us. Stamatia’s face always lights up when she sees her grandchildren visiting the site.



Snapshots of some activities at Homewood Care





 **Photo of the Month:**

Photo of the Month goes to our fabulous new resident, Ken Keegan, who was spotted checking in with the South Pole to confirm that the real Santa had indeed come to see him. Ken was making sure his friends knew he'd been good this year and was well and truly on Santa's nice list for presents 📺 ❄️

Santa was joined by Angela, our wonderful activities lady, who continues to visit and volunteer her time because she truly loves seeing and spending time with our residents.

