

Neighbourhood news

Our latest news and favourite moments

PresCare
AGED CARE COMMUNITIES

Groundwater Lodge
Yaralla Place

May 2026

From the Managers

Rozina Hegarty,
Yaralla Place

Celin Thomas,
Groundwater
Lodge



At PresCare Maryborough, it's our privilege to care for residents who call our two communities home and to support them to find happiness, meaning and fulfilment.

Our Lifestyle programs include activities that support purpose, preserve independence and encourage social interaction. They're co-designed with residents, and we all work together to continue to broaden the program and build connections and friendships across both communities. In this edition, you can read more about our Lifestyle programs, our dedicated Lifestyle teams and some of the recent activities we've enjoyed.

Thank you to all our dedicated staff, volunteers, partners and families who continue to make these activities possible through their care and commitment.

Enjoy!



Men's groups show the power of connection

Male residents from Groundwater Lodge and Yaralla Place are rediscovering the power of connection and forming strong friendships through a partnership with Older Men Unlimited.

The community support group and residents gather twice a month – sometimes it's over a relaxed cuppa in the garden or lounge; other times it's heading out on a bus trip when the weather is good.

These informal get togethers have become a highlight, offering space to talk, listen and reconnect with familiar faces. As one resident said, "It's good to be around the blokes again – just having a chat like we used to." Another shared, "I feel like I belong."

For Yaralla Place residents, the connection extends further, with monthly visits to Raven's Hill, a culturally significant site nearby. Guided by the Butchulla Elders, and joined by other men from the Maryborough community, these outings offer a safe space for reflection, respectful conversation and shared learning.

Manager, Rozina, says the partnership and outings foster a sense of belonging and show a commitment to culturally safe, person-centred practices. "The experiences are grounded in inclusion, dignity and meaningful participation – everyone is supported to engage in a way that feels right for them."

Annual Leadership Retreat building a stronger future

Managers from Apollo Care's alliance of communities came together for two days to reflect on our journey so far, and plan for the future.

With the new Aged Care Act now in place, it was an opportune time to share learnings and insights on how we are continuing to meet and exceed the Strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards. Key topics of the retreat focussed on how each community is improving resident care and wellbeing services, as well as building staff engagement through a positive culture.

Apollo Care CEO, Stephen Becsi, said the event "was a special time to celebrate the past six years and discuss how we are working hard to support residents and clients to live their best lives".

Celin Thomas, Groundwater Lodge Manager agrees. "The highlight for me was taking away practical learnings that I can apply to further strengthen our teamwork and continue to improve the quality of resident care and experience". Yaralla Place Manager, Rozina Hegarty, said attending the event was extremely positive. "It was exciting to learn more about how Apollo Care's investment in technology will further streamline workflows, reduce administrative burden and enable staff to spend more time to focus on meaningful resident care".



Bus trips down memory lane

Our regular bus trips are popular with residents from both communities who love an opportunity to get out and about and explore our region.

Yaralla Place residents recently explored Maryborough's unique connection with PL Travers, creator of Mary Poppins. We visited heritage-listed The Story Bank and soaked up the stories, characters and settings as well as the beautiful building she was born above. The charming interactive displays delighted residents. "It brought back so many memories – it felt magical!" said Irene, while Lorna said, "It made me feel young again!"

Residents from Groundwater Lodge's Memory Support household are also enjoying regular drives through the town, with familiar streets sparking recognition and conversations about the past.

"We've been an integral part of the community for four decades, says Celin, Manager at Groundwater Lodge. "It's wonderful that we're able to help residents get out and about exploring and staying connected to the town they've called home for many years."

Feedback

Feedback from residents and families is important to us so we can make positive changes.

We also love hearing when we're doing something well.

To provide feedback, you can:

1. Tell us in person
2. Fill out a feedback form (located in each lounge room), and place in the mailbox outside the Manager's office, or hand it to a staff member
3. Email Apollo Care's Chief Governance Officer at feedback@apollocare.com.au

"Thank you to all the staff for the amazing care provided to us at Groundwater Lodge. We're very happy here."

Resident



Crafted with care

Resident Joe has designed and built a beautiful menu stand for the Groundwater Lodge dining room. Joe loves spending time in our hobby shed and jumped at the opportunity to create the stand that welcomes residents as they arrive to enjoy mealtimes.



3 things I love

The three things Betty loves about living at Yaralla Place, particularly the outings we go on:

1. Visits to Queen's Park – I've so many fond memories of playing in the park with friends as a child.
2. Shopping for fresh fruit and vegetables at the local markets – I'm so grateful I can continue to do this as it's long been a part of my routine.
3. Beach trips – they remind me of travelling to the beach by bus with friends and, of course, ending the day with an ice cream.



A lasting tribute

Yaralla Place resident Betty recently celebrated her 100th birthday at a special ceremony at Elizabeth Park Rose Garden. Joined by family, friends and the Mayor, Betty proudly watched as a tree was planted in her honour – a wonderful celebration of her life and love.

Family always welcome

At PresCare Maryborough, we love helping residents stay connected to their loved ones.

Resident Rex recently celebrated his 94th birthday surrounded by family, friends and staff. The outdoor space was filled with cheerful chatter and so much love as the group came together for the occasion.

Family members commented on how much they valued the chance to get together for such a large, special occasion, and how welcome they feel just being there for everyday moments too. "It means everything to be able to come together like this. It just feels right," said one.



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Visit our website and follow our Facebook page to read more stories like these. Find out what residents have been enjoying and how staff are supporting them to live their way.



Staff profile

Meet the team bringing purpose and possibility to every day.

Our Lifestyle teams are dedicated to ensuring residents continue to live with meaning and connection.

“The Lifestyle Program is thoughtfully planned by the residents,” says Aiswarya, Lifestyle lead at Yaralla Place. “Residents meet monthly to plan their activities and ideas and the Lifestyle team assists in implementing their preferences. Some residents choose to run some activities.”

Tracey, Lifestyle lead at Groundwater Lodge agrees. “Our program is flexible and truly centred around the individuals. Some residents love being part of a group, while others prefer individual engagement - it’s about creating moments that feel right for them.”

Marianne, Apollo Care’s National Lifestyle Co-ordinator, says the approach is deeply personal.

“Every person has a story that deserves to be known and honoured. It’s about understanding their journey and helping them continue to shape it. Our teams intentionally design programs that support reablement, wellbeing and meaningful engagement. Each experience is carefully planned to maintain skills, build confidence and encourage independence. Through thoughtful adaptations and inclusive practices, we ensure residents can participate in activities that feel empowering and meaningful so they can thrive!”

Marianne runs a forum that brings together Lifestyle Leads from all 14 Apollo Care communities to share fresh ideas and explore solutions. This teamwork ensures programs remain innovative and aligned with best practice in aged care engagement.

Favourite moments



Creative moments



Enjoying a very special BBQ



Browsing the interesting exhibits at Gatakers Artspace



Dressed in green for St Patrick's Day



Fish and chips at the beach

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