



## St Vincent's Care Services **Eltham**

### **A message from Elzette Lategan – General Manager Vic and NSW**

Hello everyone,

At the end of August we were sad to announce the resignation of Susan Wray from her position as Facility Manager, we wish her all the best for the future. I am currently in the process of recruiting and interviewing for a new Facility Manager who hopefully we can appoint soon.

In the meantime, all staff at Eltham are doing an amazing job in operating the facility and taking great care of our residents. I will be on site as much as I can, and Julia Lawrence will relieve me for some of the time. Julia is a familiar face at Eltham, she has helped us in the past with recruitment and rostering processes. Please welcome Julia back on site.

Our refurbishment program at Waratah is on schedule to be completed by the end of September, providing excellent new facilities for our 15 residents living in this wing. Thank you so much to all staff, residents and relatives for your patience and support during this time. We have commenced with weekly updates to ensure all

stakeholders are informed, however, do not hesitate to contact the front office for more information.

Spring has finally arrived and we are all shaking off the “winter blues”. Hopefully it also means the end of the flu season, which luckily did not have a huge impact on us this year—cross fingers!

Your next newsletter will hopefully be from your new Facility Manager

Enjoy the lovely month of September.



**Elzette Lategan**  
**General Manager, Victoria**  
**and New South Wales**  
St Vincent's Care Services



## Day Therapy Centre

The men from our Social Support Group recently visited Arthurs Creek Primary School, where we have donated several marimbas over the past 10 years, which have been handmade by our wonderful men. The children again put on a wonderful concert, not to mention a delicious afternoon tea for our fellas.

Our men have been working very hard for many years to provide toys, marimbas etc to disadvantaged children and especially asylum seekers. At the moment they are building another marimba which will be delivered to a primary school in Caroline Springs which has a high proportion of disadvantaged and non-English speaking children, to aid the music program.

### September birthdays

**Ruth Decker**  
3 September

**Gregory Cuthbert**  
5 September

**Lorna Swanson**  
6 September

**Anne Arkell**  
7 September

**Brian Devenish**  
10 September

**Charles Raphael**  
11 September

**Joan Leech**  
13 September

**Enid Milne**  
13 September

**Nora De Silva**  
15 September

**John Ferris**  
22 September

**Layla Nassar**  
23 September

**Gwenneth Fisher**  
27 September

On August 26 the Day Therapy staff joined our inspiring Parkinson's clients on the Walk in the Park for Parkinson's Disease. How amazing was it not only to see some of our clients, but so many people affected by Parkinson's Disease walking the 4kms around our beautiful Melbourne parks. It was an honour to support our clients and to be a part of such a special day.



Well done Jenny, you made the walk and also achieved that elusive purple t-shirt for all your fund raising!

### Resident and relative meetings – save the date

Wednesday 26 September, 2.30pm  
Metzner Hall

Wednesday 28 November, 6pm  
Metzner Hall

## Leisure and Lifestyle at Eltham Lodge and Willandra



Happy Hour



Interactive Games



Yoga with Sue



Out and about



Visit to Montsalvat Café and Art Gallery



One to one requests

## Pastoral Care

Throughout our lives we often experience the majesty, peace and solace that only nature can offer. Sometimes we long for the stillness and refreshment it provides and that feeling of being in the presence of something much greater than ourselves. In nature we can find a sanctuary where our souls find connection and rest. Such experiences can be deeply spiritual and people truly feel the presence of God. Celtic spirituality refers to this as 'thin places'.

Sylvia Maddox reflects that in the Celtic tradition such places that give us an opening into the wonder of that presence are called "Thin Places." There is a Celtic saying that heaven and earth are only three feet apart, but in the thin places that distance is even smaller. A thin place is where the veil that separates heaven and earth is lifted and one is able to receive a glimpse of the glory of God. Contemporary poet Sharlande Sledge gives this description:

*"Thin places," the Celts call this space,  
Both seen and unseen,  
Where the door between the world  
And the next is cracked open for a moment  
And the light is not all on the other side.  
God shaped space. Holy.*

A thin place requires us to step from one world to another and that often means travelling to a place where we have less control and where the unpredictable becomes the means of discovery. These sanctuaries of creation help us as John O'Donohue writes, "to anchor our longing in the ancient longing of Nature."

We return from thin places refreshed and renewed. We are graced with a new awareness of the thin places in all of life. Having seen the

glimpses of glory in those sacred landscapes, we begin to see glimpses all around us. Soon the birds outside our window sing of the mystery we might have passed over in our busyness.

The prayerfulness of this "one small part of earth" encourages us to seek out thin places from time to time on our spiritual journey. One of the beautiful gifts of our understanding of eternal time and space is that when we cannot physically go to these places, or when overcome with small tedious details and endless tasks or struggle, we can return to them in our thoughts and imagination.

Where is a place that refreshes your spirit and opens the door to the threshold of the sacred? In your mind's eye, can you return to experience God's presence and receive the peace of this Celtic blessing?

*Deep peace of the running wave  
Deep peace of the flowing air  
Deep peace of the quiet earth  
Deep peace of the shining stars  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace.*

*Tricia and Janet  
Pastoral Care*



At St Vincent's Care Services, we make you the priority — and we welcome your feedback. If you have compliments or suggestions about our services, or wish to raise a concern, please fill out a feedback form at reception, or email the facility:

**[svcs.eltham@svha.org.au](mailto:svcs.eltham@svha.org.au)**

The Australian Government's Aged Care Complaints Commissioner provides a free service for anyone wishing to raise their concerns about the quality of care or services being delivered to people receiving aged care services at a government-funded facility.

**[www.agedcarecomplaints.gov.au](http://www.agedcarecomplaints.gov.au) | 1800 550 552**