

**Celebrating Aged Care Leadership Award finalists:**

***Nathan Willoughby, Benalla Health***

Nathan has sustained a culture where his staff, residents and their families feel valued and respected. This is evidenced by a committed and engaged workforce as well as a resident feeling empowered enough to volunteer to Chair the 'Residents and Relatives' meeting, enabling Benalla Health to actively engage with the local community. He has also significantly helped with improving resident privacy and dignity at Benalla Health.

When Nathan commenced as NUM of MEW, the occupancy rate was at 40%. Over the past 12 months MEW has continued to undergo significant refurbishment and for the first time in 15 years it has reached 100% occupancy. Nathan's strong advocacy for the residents and staff was instrumental in Benalla Health receiving a grant under the Rural Health Infrastructure Fund.

***Deborah Everleigh, Bairnsdale Regional Health Service***

Deborah was appointed as manager in 2012; Deborah has built a sound team with minimal staff turn-over. She re-structured and created a leadership team, improved the work environment and conditions for staff and care standards for residents. Occupancy across the facility has been at 99% for the last five years and is recognised in the community as the place of choice. Standards of care have improved with no recommendations from announced or unannounced visits in the last five years.

Deborah has implemented new models of care including a social inclusion program, a pain management and mobility program, the Montessori approach to dementia care and a new resident centered and expanded activities program.

***Paul Mark, Wimmera Health Care Group – Winner, Leadership Award***

Paul's initiative was demonstrated when he was caring for a resident in palliative care. Her family was with her in Horsham but her husband was recovering from a lung transplant in the Royal Alfred Hospital. Paul instigated a short-term transfer for the resident's husband by contacting a social worker at the Royal Alfred Hospital and arranging for a doctor to oversee his care, ultimately gaining approval and enabling the husband to see his wife.

With the help of the Royal Flying Ambulance services, the couple spent two precious days together. The resident was able to pass away peacefully whilst holding her husband's hand.

Paul inspires aged care workers to stretch the boundaries in advocating for residents and ensuring person centered care always remains at the forefront.

**Celebrating Aged Care Volunteer Award finalists:**

***Robert Cooper, Echuca Regional Health***

Bob, the resident handyman, assembled furniture to transform some of the Glanville Village communal areas and spruced up the outdoor furniture. Aside from this, Bob has built up wonderful relationships with some of the residents in the dementia ward, who thoroughly enjoy their time with him. He has great people skills and a gentle caring nature which is admired by the staff, residents and their families.

Bob is the lead organiser of the monthly men's group BBQ, providing the male residents with an opportunity to build relationships with other men within the facility over a BBQ lunch. He also coordinates the weekly woodwork outing, which allows residents the opportunity to engage in woodwork activities offsite at the local Men's Shed. Programs like the woodwork group would not go ahead without Bob driving it.

***Valerie Cook, Echuca Regional Health***

Valerie has been volunteering at Glanville Village 4 days per week since she started in 2012. Valerie supports the residents by running activities that provide opportunities for interaction improving health and wellbeing.

Valerie runs the bi-weekly local newspaper reading session, giving residents the chance to hear the local news connecting them to their community evoking conversation and discussion. Valerie also leads the 'Tuesday Nails Day' program. Where she spends time with residents who love to get their nails painted, or a hand massage and a general chat.

The residents really value Valerie's friendship and companionship and adore when she brings her four grandkids in during the school holidays.

***Raymond Miller, The Kilmore & District Hospital – Winner, Volunteer Award***

Ray has volunteered at Dianella Hostel for six years, he is a quiet conversationalist, a 'doer', meticulous, and a skilled handyman.

Ray built housing for two resident goats bringing people together to visit, feed and laugh about billy-goat antics.

Ray has also built a garden fountain that includes wall mosaics created by the residents. Residents observe, chat and participate throughout project completion. Ray's garden works have created a beautiful and dynamic space for residents, friends and families.

Ray compiles the bi-monthly Dianella newsletter, engaging residents and families with news and photos about recent and upcoming activities, encouraging and inviting reminiscing, participation and enjoyment of events.

**Celebrating Aged Care Volunteer Award finalists:**

***Susan Ritchie, Gippsland Southern Health Service – Winner, Passion for Aged Care Award***

Sue frequently comes in on her own time, including weekends, to provide high tea, bringing in memorabilia and news items for particular individuals matching their current or past interests.

Sue also sews labels on and provides special care to stains on residents clothing. When the individuals are in need of clothes and slippers, Sue will shop at her local Op Shop supplying these basic needs.

Sue goes out of her way to spend quality time with residents, performing extra tasks like tidying wardrobes and attending to any special requests. On special days such as Mother's Day and Melbourne Cup day when there are no DT's around she will decorate drink glasses just to add a touch of celebration. The wellbeing of residents at Hillside is Sue's passion.

***Paul Simonsen, Lorne Community Health***

Paul was nominated for his passion in providing choice for residents and improving the dining experience. He changed the breakfast service from an individual tray to residents to a buffet style breakfast, increasing choice for residents with the chef preparing breakfast in the dining room according to individual's preferences. This has increased the number of residents attending the dining room for breakfast being a more sociable and enjoyable experience. This new process involved a change to the chef, catering and nursing staff routine but Paul's determination and persistence encouraged other staff to support the breakfast.

Paul is an active participant in Montessori program currently being implemented, and in interactive baking sessions with residents. Residents also identify a weekly favorite recipe from their family.

Paul's passion to raise the bar with food services at Lorne has been an inspiration for the team.

***Jacinta Onans, Maldon Hospital***

Jacinta has worked in aged care for 25 years and has developed deep and meaningful relationships with residents. She has completed training in palliation and bereavement, building a positive team culture, exercise programs for older people, and Montessori.

Jacinta believes that all people have knowledge and skills to actively contribute to their community. Jacinta advocated for the "activities program" to be renamed "Health and Wellbeing". She promoted that lifestyle programs should not just be about recreational activities but encompass emotional and physical health while creating an environment of personal growth and achievement. This was demonstrated by supporting a 91-year-old resident to learn the piano for the first time in her life.

Jacinta takes pleasure in the love and friendship she receives from residents and their families.