

Neighbourhood news

Our latest news and favourite moments



Yackandandah Health
Aged Care

June 2026

From the Manager



Aatqa Ameer

At Yackandandah Health, we're privileged to care for residents and make sure they feel at home.

We have a wonderful team of dedicated staff and volunteers all focussed on ensuring residents are supported to maintain ties to their loved ones and the wider community, and continue to enjoy the interests that are important to them.

Our meaningful Lifestyle program is co-designed with residents and includes a range of activities that support purpose, preserve independence and encourage social interaction.

In this edition, you'll read more about our Lifestyle program and the team who creates it.

We're also looking for more volunteers to join our community. If you're interested in making a real difference to residents, please reach out to us for more information.

All our contact details are on the back of this newsletter.



Open Day celebrated our long history of caring for locals



Recently, the community marked 100 years of bush nursing with an Open Day at Yackandandah Health Aged Care.

The day began at the museum with the opening of the bush nursing exhibition titled *Thank God You're Here, Nurse*, created by the Wellbeing Advocacy Yackandandah (WAY).

Then, residents, families, staff and children from Little Yacks Early Learning came together at our aged care community to enjoy entertainment, activities, speeches and a special presentation of photographs that brought the town's healthcare history to life.

WAY President, Geoff Simmons, spoke about the long-standing commitment from the community to keep care local for the past 100 years, and Manager, Aatqa, reflected on Yackandandah Health's bright future.

"We're fortunate to now be a part of Apollo Care, a national alliance that specialises in regional aged care. We are supported by a team of industry experts that make the complex simple, allowing us to stay focused on residents and families."

Aatqa also presented long-service awards to some of our dedicated staff members.

The wonderful day's festivities sparked memories, conversation and connection across generations.

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”.

Aatqa, Yackandandah Community Manager, said the retreat was an opportunity to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practice. “The experience offered valuable insights and learnings, which I intend to incorporate at our community to support continuous improvement and positive outcomes for residents and staff,” she said.



Small visitors have a big impact

Every fortnight a lively group of three- and four-year olds burst into the community, bringing with them all the wonderful joy and colour of a preschool class.

Manager, Aatqa, says the ongoing relationship with Little Yacks encourages laughter and learning for all and, most of all, builds special bonds. “It’s so lovely to watch the animated conversations as the children and residents work and play together,” she says.

They chatter away, immersed in the activities – some cook, whilst others garden or tackle puzzles. The loudest laughter, however, happens when the sensory trays are laid out. When the contents are toy bugs and lizards, the room erupts in giggles as both generations discover the creatures.

Soon enough, the children return to their classroom and the community settles back into a comfortable tranquility, with residents remarking on the children’s curiosity, honesty and boundless energy. Many are reminded of their own parenting years or spending time with grandchildren.

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 wonderful staff at Yackandandah Health Aged Care for their care and kindness. There are many moments that I notice which make a huge difference to Mum.”

– Daughter of resident



A cosy corner keeping the crafters connected

Every Tuesday resident knitters gather for their “Knit and Natter” – an opportunity to catch up and share progress on their projects.

To the rhythmical click of needles, the colourful group shares stories, patterns and support. And, the generous crafters, many of whom have been knitting for decades, love showing off their work. One dedicated resident has created numerous tiny jumpers and booties as gifts for families welcoming new babies at the local hospital, and others have been inspired to knit warm beanies to support those doing it tough as the cooler weather approaches.

The group has even taken one of our staff members under their wing, teaching her to cast on, knit, purl and even fix the occasional dropped stitch.



Family always welcome

At Yackandandah Aged Care, we love helping residents stay connected to their loved ones.

Resident Lucy’s daughter, Ros, is a regular visitor and feels blessed that her Mum is cared for so beautifully in the town. “We visit the park or sit in one of the garden areas here and chat. Sometimes, from one of the tea rooms, we watch the school bus arrive and see if we can spot her great granddaughter heading home from school. Other times, we sit at the window to watch the clouds rolling over the hills or the naughty goats in the paddock over the road,” she says.



3 things I love

Resident, Evelyn, was an active volunteer and member of the fund-raising committee at Yackandandah Health for many years before calling our community home.

The three things Evelyn loves about living here:

1. Staying connected with family and friends out in the community
2. Getting out and about – there are lots of fun local events to attend
3. My ongoing connection with Yackandandah Health – catching up with past volunteers at the opening night was wonderful!



Follow us on Facebook

Like to know more about daily life at Yackandandah Health?

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 team is dedicated to ensuring residents continue to live with meaning and connection.

“The Lifestyle Program is thoughtfully designed with input from residents,” says Aatqa. “We have surveyed residents to make sure we include a wide range of activities that are meaningful to them – group or individual.”

“Our focus is on providing choice, encouraging independence and building confidence, while ensuring the activities are inclusive and accessible. It’s important to me to see residents happy and enjoying themselves,” she adds.

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



We made bunches of bright flowers for Mother’s Day



Eileen keeping our schedule up to date



Cooking delicious ham, cheese and shallot pancakes



ANZAC Day – a moment for reflection