

Neighbourhood news

Our latest news and favourite moments



Harden Grange
AGED CARE COMMUNITY

April 2026

From the Manager



Laura Knight

Welcome to this edition of Neighbourhood News.

Here at Harden Grange, it's our privilege to care for residents who call our community home and to support them to find joy, fulfillment and happiness.

Our dedicated team strives to enable individuals to maintain ties to people and places they love and continue to enjoy the interests that are important to them. Our meaningful Lifestyle program is co-designed with residents and includes individual and group activities that support purpose, preserve independence and encourage social interaction.

We also encourage residents to continue to contribute to their household with light activities like setting the table, if they choose.

In this edition, you can read more on our Lifestyle program and the wonderful team who creates it, as well as some of the interesting things we've been up to recently.

Enjoy!



A magical night showcasing country life

When residents heard popular country star, Tom Curtain, was in town, they were eager to attend his "Here's to You" show – a celebration of life on the land, complete with music, horses and working dogs.

An excited group of residents, family and staff took their seats in prime position next to the stage, soaking up the atmosphere.

It was an unforgettable evening for all – fantastic music, talented horses and riders, and clever working dogs impressed the crowd with their skills. A delicious picnic, packed by the Chef, topped off a splendid night.

For many, the event sparked fond memories of life on the land and for others it was the thrill of seeing such a uniquely Australian performance up close and personal that made it special.

"Magical!", said one of the residents. "Thrilling!" said another. "Particularly when he sang and played the guitar while riding his horse!"

As the residents headed back home, sharing their favourite moments from the event, it was clear that this was a celebration of community and connection.



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".

Laura Knight, Harden Grange's Manager, said that the conference was a great learning experience. "I found the sessions extremely informative with plenty of practical strategies, insights and fresh ideas. I'm excited to implement these with my team to further enhance the care and living experience we offer residents in our community."

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



Friendships that bridge generations

Residents recently welcomed the Murrumburrah Primary School kindy class for their first visit to Harden Grange.

The lounge filled with lively chatter and laughter as the children arrived and joined the residents in energetic games of balloon tennis, quoits, and parachute, encouraging each other to 'give it a go'.

Manager, Laura, says the visit bridged generations, encouraging laughter and learning for all and building special bonds.

Resident Keith said it was lovely seeing the children in Harden Grange. Resident Susan agreed, saying it was a wonderful morning. "I loved the innocence and enthusiasm of the children".

For one teacher, the visit was especially touching, having once been taught art by one of the residents – a beautiful reminder of the lasting connections that can be built in our little community.



Lunch and live entertainment for Seniors Month

March was Seniors Month in Harden and residents enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate and connect with around 120 others from the local community at an extra special event.

Hosted by the Harden Country Club, residents enjoyed a delicious two-course meal and some toe-tapping entertainment by local duet 'Ged Up N Dance' and the Coota Line Dancers.

"It was a wonderful day," said resident Tony, adding that he'd go everyday if he could. Judy loved the music, remarking that it would be fabulous if they could perform at Harden Grange, too.



Three things I love

The three things new resident, Margaret, loves about living at Harden Grange:

1. Staying in my home town – I'm a Harden local and I'm so pleased I'm able to live at Harden Grange in these beautiful surroundings and stay connected with old friends.
2. The outings – we're always going off to do something different. It's wonderful!
3. The friendly community – I've made some lovely new friends here and the staff are lovely. They're always available to have a conversation and a laugh, and they make me feel so cared for and safe.



Family always welcome

At Harden Grange, we love helping residents stay connected to their loved ones.

There are plenty of welcoming indoor and outdoor spaces where residents can enjoy spending time together with family and friends.

Resident Sandra loves it when her daughter, Melinda, arrives with a big smile. They spend quality time chatting together, often reminiscing about Sandra's years of foster caring and the Order of Australia award she received for her efforts.



Staff profile



Meet the team bringing purpose and possibility to every day.

Harden Grange's dedicated Lifestyle team is passionate about ensuring residents continue to live with meaning and connection.

Merryl, Lifestyle team leader says, "The Lifestyle program is co-designed between our team, residents and their families. We listen to what matters most, then create opportunities for them to continue long-held hobbies or try something new.

"For example, we've recently started indoor croquet at the residents' request and we're teaching them to play Wii games too. Whatever we do, we try to make it inclusive, accessible and entertaining."

Marianne, Apollo Care's National Lifestyle Co-ordinator, says the approach is deeply personal. "Every person has a story that deserves to be 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. Thoughtful adaptations and inclusive practices 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 aged care engagement.

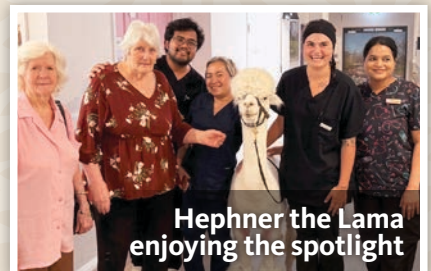
Favourite moments



Bunny snuggles



Farmyard visitors



Hephner the Lama enjoying the spotlight



Old friends, Tony and Marie, reconnecting at Harden Grange



Ray in his element at the Truck and Tractor show

