

Residential Aged Care Home Juniper Hayloft

Connecting our Community Newsletter | December 2023

‘Working in aged care fills my cup’: Juniper Hayloft Lifestyle Coordinator Janelle

As the Lifestyle Coordinator at Juniper Hayloft Residential Aged Care Home, Janelle Johnson plays a big role in keeping residents engaged and mentally stimulated through a variety of fun, fulfilling activities.

Each fortnight, Janelle creates a new lifestyle activity plan drawing from residents’ interests and hobbies. The activities bring her immense joy and has made her realise how much she loves working in aged care.

From partaking in one of their favourite games – bingo – to getting competitive in a round of carpet bowls or versing one another in a round of makeshift air hockey, Janelle ensures there’s plenty of fun and games happening for residents at Juniper Hayloft.

“It gives our residents a sense of purpose, it keeps people physically active and keeps minds stimulated,” Janelle said. “It’s about enabling older people to keep doing what they love. I just love spending time, having fun, and supporting residents.”

Having worked at Juniper Hayloft since its opening in 2018, first as a carer before transitioning into the role of lifestyle coordinator two-and-a-half years ago, Janelle said both the residents and staff at the home have become her family.

“It’s like a family, there’s a real family atmosphere here, and we’re here for the same reason – to support residents to live their best life,” she said. “I work in such a great team who are always supportive.”

For Janelle, she couldn’t imagine working in any other sector than aged care.

“If you like helping people and are passionate about older people, you can’t go wrong. It’s so rewarding but you walk away knowing you’ve made a difference in people’s lives,” she said.

“It’s about enabling older people to keep doing what they love.”
Lifestyle coordinator
Janelle Johnson



Janelle is passionate about working in aged care.

What’s inside:

- Hello from Kirsty
- Take me to the theatre
- Upcoming events



Message from the CEO

It's hard to believe we're just weeks away from the end of 2023!

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on my time at Juniper as CEO since joining last year.

I have had a warm welcome from staff across all our sites and am thrilled to be part of such a wonderful organisation that supports individuals and communities to live a life well lived.

In some exciting news, we recently welcomed Wagin Residential Aged Care Home Waratah Lodge to the Juniper family, as well as taking ownership of all the City of Bayswater Residential Aged Care Homes and Villages we have been managing for the past 17 years.

Juniper strives to make a difference to the lives of older people in regional communities, and acquiring Waratah Lodge is a testament to that as we wait to contribute to and connect older people to the communities in which they call home.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and I wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy Christmas!

Russell Bricknell
Chief Executive Officer

Hello from Kirsty

Hello everyone

Welcome to our first official Juniper Hayloft newsletter! We have had a very busy year so far.

Firstly, I want to thank all our staff for continuing to show their passion and commitment to our wonderful residents here at Juniper Hayloft.

It has been an absolute pleasure to come to work each day and see the smiles on everyone's faces – and it is part of the reason why I love what I do!

Thank you to everyone for your support this year, and I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Have a safe and happy Christmas with your loved ones and enjoy!

Warm regards,

Kirsty Ibbitson
Residential Manager



Take me to the theatre!

In October, Juniper Hayloft's lovely lifestyle coordinator, Janelle Johnson, took five of our residents on a special outing to see a local production of the 1969 musical comedy drama, Sweet Charity.

Residents adored the show and couldn't stop talking about it for hours afterwards!

A big thank you to Janelle for organising such a wonderful day out for our residents!



Residents' birthdays



We look forward to celebrating the upcoming birthdays with our residents!

December 26

Nellie Cuijpers
will turn 90!

January 6

Alvio Timues
will turn 95!



Getting crafty for Christmas

Our residents have been busy creating these beautiful table centre pieces for Hayloft’s upcoming Christmas party on December 14 and also our Christmas Day lunch!

The idea came from a resident’s family member, who also helped us make them. We were lucky enough to have some help from our student, Leah.

Residents also made name tags and stands out of air dried clay which will also be used to decorate tables during the Christmas festivities.



Crafting table centrepieces

Lifestyle and program update

We’ve been busy at Juniper Hayloft over the past few months!

In the kitchen

We recently did our ‘In the Kitchen’ cooking activity where we made chocolate balls.

The residents all worked together with the help of our student Leah and Lifestyle Coordinator Janelle.

Afterwards, residents got to enjoy sampling them with a cuppa, and there was enough to share with fellow residents and staff!



Residents enjoyed making chocolate balls.

Upcoming events



Saturday, December 2

- 2pm - Christmas Carolers

Saturday, December 9 Christmas Carolers

- 10am - Level 1
- 10:30am - Level 2

Thursday, December 14 Hayloft Christmas Party

- 10am onwards - Christmas Games
- 12pm - Lunch
- 1:30pm - Concert on level 2
- 3pm - Concert on level 1

Monday, December 25

- 12pm onwards - Christmas Day Lunch

Friday, December 29 New Year’s Eve celebrations

- 2pm - Dance Party

Wednesday, January 24 Australia Day Concert with Louis Doyle

Meet Juniper Hayloft volunteer Rosario

After retiring as a nurse, Rosario Bunag wanted to find a fulfilling way to spend her free time. Having volunteered for most of her life at her children’s school or at her local church, Rosario began toying with the idea of volunteering at an aged care home.

With Juniper Hayloft Residential Aged Care Home just a 10-minute walk away from her family home, Rosario decided to enquire about becoming a companion volunteer.

While she had no previous experience in an aged care setting, it didn’t take long for Rosario to settle into the role.

From listening intently during a one-on-one session or taking residents for an outdoor stroll, to assisting during celebrations and playing bingo, Rosario has found plenty of ways to keep busy during her weekly visits to the home.

“I just love talking to the residents and hearing their stories. Some of them have families who can’t visit them regularly, so I make sure I go and talk to them and sit down with them one-on-one,” the 69-year-old mother-of-two explained.

“Sometimes they just want someone to listen to them and I enjoy doing that.

“I just get so much personal satisfaction from volunteering. There is something so rewarding about it and it makes me feel so fulfilled knowing that I can help others.”

Since volunteering at Hayloft, Rosario has built a good rapport with both staff and residents, many of whom now know her by name.

“I love it when residents ask for me, it really makes me feel special,” she said.

“It’s just nice to know that they remember me when I come to visit and they look forward to seeing me.”

Rosario added that staff at Hayloft have welcomed her with open arms and made her feel like she’s part of the Juniper family.

“The staff are really good to me and have made me feel very welcome,” she said.



Rosario Bunag is one of Hayloft’s beloved volunteers

Cheep cheep: baby chicks come to Hayloft!

How adorable are these newborn baby chicks?!

They were special visitors to Juniper Hayloft in September and it’s no surprise that our residents and staff jumped at the chance to have a cuddle!

There’s something special about bonding with baby animals, and we love seeing the big smiles on our residents’ faces!



Residents enjoyed bonding with the baby chicks