

# Juniper Retirement Living

Newsletter | Issue 3 | 2026



## Celebrating 70 years at St David's

Juniper St David's has marked a remarkable milestone, celebrating 70 years of care and community in the heart of Mount Lawley. What began in the early 20th century as a grand family home has evolved into a vibrant retirement living community and residential aged care home.

The anniversary was marked with plenty of flair thanks to the expertise of the St David's Resident's Committee who presented a fascinating oral history of site accompanied by historical photographs, birthday cake, high tea and presentations.

Residents, community members and Juniper leadership came together for the special event, with thanks to the St David's Resident's Committee, Social Club and Catering volunteers.

The story of St David's site begins at the turn of the 20th century with architect James William Wright, whose notable works included Woodbridge House, the AMP Building and the York Town Hall. In 1914 he designed a striking Federation-style home at 19 Lawley Crescent for Lewis Oxam Cockram, who named it Sledmere. Set on a large block with gardens, a tennis court and a distinctive conical tower, it was one of Mount Lawley's most impressive homes.

### What's inside

Bill shares spiritual story

Christmas kindness one stitch at a time

What are the top concerns as people age?





As decades passed, large homes like Sledmere became increasingly expensive to maintain. In 1938, Sledmere became a hospital, later renamed St David's under the leadership of midwife Sister Elizabeth Thompson. It served as a much-loved maternity hospital until her retirement in 1954.

A year later, the Presbyterian Church, led by Reverend James Guthrie Thrum, purchased the site for £10,000 and transformed it into an aged care home. By 1959, St David's welcomed its first residents and continued to grow through new buildings, cottages and hostel extensions.



Happy 70th  
birthday, St David's!

With space running out, a 10-storey tower, Thrum House, was built in 1974, bringing independent living units and additional aged care beds. The community flourished with social activities, celebrations and even resident weddings.

In 1977, St David's came under the care of the Uniting Church. Through the late 1980s and 1990s, renovations modernised accommodation as preferences changed.

Since the 1950s, hundreds of people have called St David's home. Some families even represent second generations of residents.

When asked, most independent living residents say the same thing: 'coming to St David's was a good move'.



St David's Resident's Committee.



## Hello from Russell

Happy New Year to all our residents across Juniper's retirement living communities. I hope 2026 has started well for you and that you were able to enjoy some special moments over the festive season.



Late last year Juniper released the results of its independent research, *The Voice of Older Western Australians*, which provides a unique insight into the experiences, attitudes and wellbeing of Western Australians aged 70 and over.

Now in its second year, the findings paint a complex picture: while many older people are happier and more engaged in activities they value, ageism and access to services remain major barriers to wellbeing.

Almost three in four older Western Australians said they have faced age-based discrimination, including being spoken to in a patronising or dismissive way. Sadly, women reported this almost twice as often as men.

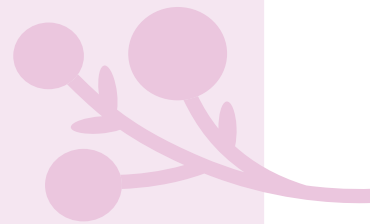
Being made to feel invisible or undervalued can have a real impact on wellbeing, and I firmly believe everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, at every stage of life.

There was also plenty of encouraging news. In 2025, older Western Australians were even more positive than the year before, especially women, as more people spent time doing things that are important to them.

That's something we see every day in our Retirement Living communities. Your clubs, activities, catch-ups and shared interests help create welcoming, lively villages where people can stay connected and enjoy life.

Many of these are run by residents themselves, and I'd like to thank you for the time, energy and care you put into making your community such a special place to live.

**Russell Bricknell**  
CEO Juniper Aged Care



## We want to hear from you!

Your feedback is important to us and helps us to make our services better.

We want to hear from you when things have gone right, and we want to work with you when things haven't.

You can find out more about feedback (and leave feedback for us) through our website at [juniper.org.au/enquiries/feedback](https://juniper.org.au/enquiries/feedback). Otherwise, talk with a Juniper team member about how to provide feedback.

Feedback





## Hello from Jacob Hollenberg

What an exciting six months it has been since I've joined Juniper. I've really enjoyed meeting so many of you, visiting each village and attending meetings.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Annual General Meetings in November last year. The strong turnout and thoughtful questions showed just how much you care about the financial management and day-to-day running of your villages.

Our team has already started planning the budget for the 2027 financial year, and your involvement helps shape that work.

I also want to thank you for sharing your views in the Customer Engagement Survey late last year. I was delighted to see that overall satisfaction has gone up. In the coming months, your village coordinator will share the survey results with you, along with the actions we're taking to keep improving.

Finally, I wanted to update you on the Retirement Villages Regulations 2025, which were recently released for consultation, with submissions closed at the end of January. These new regulations follow on from the Retirement Villages Amendment Bill 2024 and are designed to create clearer and fairer rules for everyone.

Juniper supports the intent of these changes. We are currently working through what they will mean for our villages and will keep you informed as the new regulations are introduced.

**Jacob Hollenberg**  
**Juniper Chief Operating Officer**  
 – Accommodation



## Love is in the air

Staff and residents came together over morning tea to celebrate a very special milestone – Kerryn and Bob McDonnell's 55th wedding anniversary.

Kerryn, who lives at Rowethorpe village, and Bob, a much-loved resident of Cygnet Residential Aged Care Home, met just three days after Bob returned from the Vietnam War and were later married at St Pius X Catholic Church in Manning.

Now proud parents of three sons, the couple marked their incredible journey together by sharing a delicious chocolate cake with friends and staff.





(L-R) Resident Bill Henshall and Juniper CEO Russell Bricknell.

## Bill shares spiritual story

The latest woodworking project by Juniper Rowethorpe Retirement Living Village resident Bill Henshall is set to go statewide.

Part of the retirement village community in Bentley, Bill has enjoyed tinkering around in the Residents' Shed "when a bloke feels like it" making bench seats, tables, bookshelves, and more for close to a decade.

When Juniper Chaplain Bruce Grant asked the resourceful 83-year-old if he could create Easter scenes that would take pride of place at 25 Juniper sites across WA, Bill was quick to make it happen.

Bill purposely decided to create the scenes using wood as Christ was a carpenter.

"Pure and simple, it's telling the story of the last three years of the life of Jesus," Bill said.

"The stone rolled back, signifies the resurrection, which is the most important part of the depiction.

"It's a deliberate attempt to tell a visual story – not a nail and no glue was used," he said.

When crafting the more than two dozen Easter scenes, Bill did it all with hand tools, which took "just a few weeks" once he had a series of templates in place.

"It became a bit of a production line – the entire shape of it was all done and finished by hand," he said.

"It has meaning, it's not just an object, but there's a meaning, there's a story to it."



## Christmas kindness one stitch at a time

The Hugs and Stitches craft group at Juniper Chrystal Halliday Retirement Living really got into the Christmas spirit by helping create a beautiful lunch for Grandcarers WA – a charity they proudly support through the sale of their handmade crafts.

Grandcarers WA supports grandparents who have stepped into the role of primary carers for their grandchildren, and the lunch was a special way to show appreciation for all they do.

Held at the Greenwood-Warwick Community Care Centre, Hugs and Stitches members were hands-on from start to finish, helping to set up and pack down, and adding their special touch with gorgeous hand-sewn tablecloths, napkins and lined bread baskets. Adding to the community feel, catering was kindly provided by Hugs and Stitches member Robyn's niece, Kelly Anne.

Grandcarers WA General Manager Loryn Cummings said the event meant so much to everyone who attended.

Hugs & Stitches also held their own Christmas lunch at Juniper Chrystal Halliday, with 16 people coming together in the recreation room to share good food, laughter and festive cheer. The room looked beautiful thanks to Rhonda's decorations, and everyone went home with a special little gift.

The Christmas raffle was also a highlight, with seven lucky winners and an impressive \$1,102 raised for Grandcarers WA. Thanks to Cavell's wonderful work organising the raffle, the funds will help support grandparents and their grandchildren as they head into the 2026 school year.



“The day was without a doubt the best Christmas lunch we have ever experienced. It made everyone feel valued, cared for and truly special.”

– Grandcarers WA General Manager Loryn Cummings





## Coming together

Chrystal Gardens, Euroka Village, and Chrystal Halliday Retirement Living communities came together for a special Christmas lunch.

Hosted at Chrystal Halliday, the lunch for 30 people included an incredible spread of roast pork and turkey, ham on the bone, and roasted vegetables, with plum pudding, trifle, and fruit mince pies for dessert.



### Friday nights at Crystal Halliday

Friday nights are always a favourite at Chrystal Halliday Retirement Living Village. The community comes together for a relaxed, lively evening complete with a classic sausage sizzle and plenty of good company.



## What are the top concerns as people age?

Juniper’s recent independent research, *The Voice of Older Western Australians*, has shed light on the challenges that can stand in the way of happiness for older Western Australians, revealing a mix of health, independence, financial security and social connection.

While many people continue to live active and fulfilling lives as they age, the findings show that for a significant number, issues such as health concerns, feeling undervalued, concerns around accessing services and a loss of independence can make everyday life more difficult — highlighting the importance of strong, supportive communities and the right support at the right time.

Eight in 10 (80%) were concerned about falls and injury and not being able to stay in their own homes as they get older. Women (28% worries me a lot) report this more than men (19% worries me a lot).



Almost eight in ten (78%) are worried about not being able to remain at home as they age.



Almost seven in ten (67%) report not understanding the aged care system.



Almost seven in ten (66%) are worried about being a burden on their family.



More than six in ten people (64%) do not understand what government funded support they are entitled to.



Half of older people (52%) have concerns over loneliness and isolation.



Half of people feel uncomfortable asking family for help. Women (25% worries me a lot) report this more than men (17% worries me a lot).



Less than half of people (44%) did not feel safe in their home.

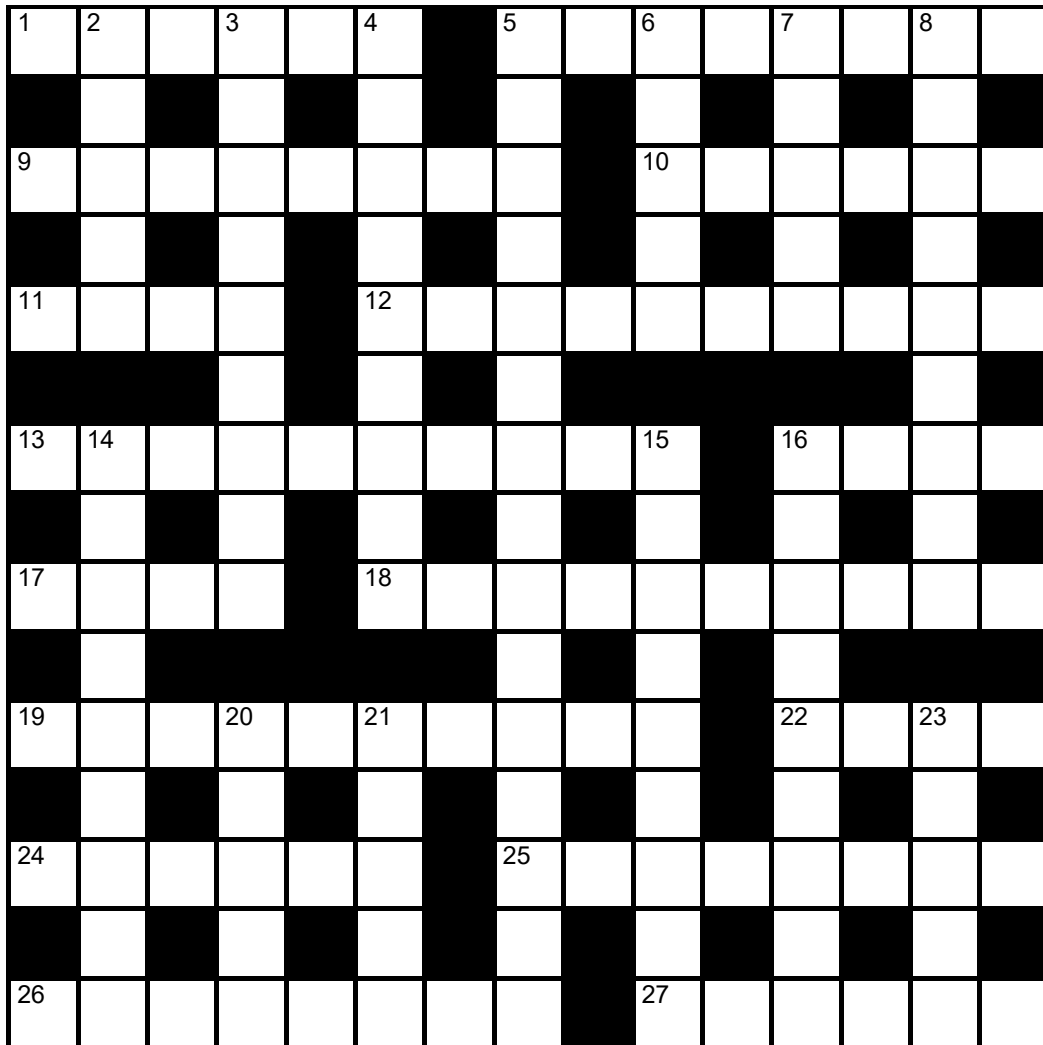


Want to learn more from our research?

Find more here



# Crossword



## Across

- 1 Computer threat (6)
- 5 Queensland National Park (4,4)
- 9 Coastal rodent in southern and eastern Australia (5,3)
- 10 Court sport (6)
- 11 "Yes" votes (4)
- 12 Leaving home (6,4)
- 13 Everything considered (10)
- 16 Pigeon talk (4)
- 17 Slip (4)
- 18 Like some costume jewellery (4-6)
- 19 Start of a piece of advice (2,1,4,3)
- 22 Letters (4)
- 24 Duplicated (6)
- 25 Simon ---, leading cricketer and footballer (8)
- 26 Student's reading (8)
- 27 Try to make ends meet (6)

## Down

- 2 Rough and disorderly (5)
- 3 007 (5,4)
- 4 German city noted for trials (9)
- 5 Tall widespread herb, with large showy flowers (6,9)
- 6 Boarded (3,2)
- 7 Japanese assassin (5)
- 8 Proceed independently (2,2,5)
- 14 Large salt pan near the Flinders Ranges (4,5)
- 15 Ecstatic (9)
- 16 Underground worker (4,5)
- 20 Narrowest part of the torso (5)
- 21 Electromagnetic telecommunication (5)
- 23 Five Pillars faith (5)



Crossword answers are on page 10.

## What's on this summer: Major free events



### Perth Festival: Casa Musica

Free live music and light show set around the iconic East Perth Power Station. Food trucks and bars to enjoy with friends and family.

**Where:** East Perth Power Station

**When:** February 6 – March 1  
Thursday to Sunday

**Details:** perthfestival.com.au



### Lighting the Sound

The largest light installation on earth by Finnish artist Kari Kola will transform Albany's natural coastline and landmarks into an immersive and meditative light experience. It will be visible from key locations around the Albany townsite.

**Where:** Albany

**When:** March 13-15, 20-22, 27-29  
from sunset

**Details:**  
<https://form.net.au/lighting-the-sound>



## Pool to revive competition at Elimatta

The Elimatta pool table is set for some friendly rivalry, as the annual pool championship makes a welcome return.

Fifteen contestants will battle it out for a place on the honour board and, of course, bragging rights.

Recent champions Jim Crockett and Kerry Craig have had the upper hand in past years, but new challengers are ready to give them a run for their money. No matter who wins, it's sure to be a fun-filled event bringing residents together.

### Crossword Answers

1	T	R	O	J	A	N	5	N	U	G	A	7	N	U	G	A
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9	S	W	A	M	P	R	A	T	10	T	E	N	N	I	S	
	D	E	E	I	O	J	T									
11	A	Y	E	S	12	M	O	V	I	N	G	A	W	A	Y	
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13	A	L	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	15	C	O	O	S	
	A	N	R	O	A	O	N									
17	S	K	I	D	18	G	O	L	D	P	L	A	T	E	D	
19	I	F	I	20	W	E	R	E	Y	O	U	22	M	A	I	L
	R	A	A													
24	C	O	P	I	E	D	25	O	D	O	N	N	E	L	L	
	M	S	I													
26	T	E	X	T	B	O	O	K	27	S	C	R	I	M	P	

## What's happening around Juniper

### Celebrating volunteers

They bring joy, laughter, and companionship to our residential aged care residents, whether it's sharing a story, joining a bus outing, or simply offering a kind interaction. Juniper volunteers are at the heart of what we do at Juniper and throughout November and December we were able to officially say thank you in a series of events. Many of our wonderful retirement living residents act as volunteers for Juniper – thank you!



### Generosity for Christmas appeal

Customers, families and staff have generously contributed to collection points at our Juniper sites across Perth and Northam for the Uniting WA Christmas Appeal. The donations resulted in a massive haul that our Juniper Pastoral and Spiritual Care team sorted before delivery to Uniting WA.

### Juniper resident receives OAM

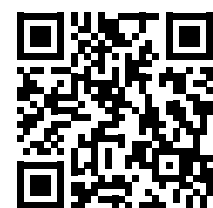
A Kwini man from the Kimberley, Ambrose Mungala Chalarimeri has received an Order of Australia medal for his services to Indigenous heritage. The Juniper Gerdewoonem resident (pictured with partner Traudl Tan) travelled from Kununurra to Perth to accept the prestigious honour from WA Governor Chris Dawson.



### Big crowd out to Have a Go

There were eventgoers and fun aplenty at the recent Have a Go Day held at Burswood Park. A great way for Juniper to connect with the community, the event enabled staff to share information about the newly introduced Support at Home program and eventgoers to sample delicious eats prepared by Juniper's own Hospitality team.

Keep up to date.



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## Margaret's book review

Rowethorpe Retirement Village resident and Rowethorpe Writers Group member Margaret McMath shares her review of *The Wife and The Widow* by Australian author Christian White.

What a pleasure to read this book. It is full of well-hidden secrets and makes us stop and look at the question "How well do we know the people we love?"

As we go about our everyday lives, beneath the surface secrets hidden in our past begin to appear, little nudges, photos, memories stir until they can't be quieted any more.

The widow Kate is happily married to John, they have a daughter Mia, life is good. John sometimes travels due to work commitments; he is employed by a Health Centre for palliative care as a physician. Kate is a stay-at-home mum. Mia and Kate are waiting at the airport for John who is due to return from his latest trip to London. Kate checks the landing



board flight details, checks the paperwork in her hand... so why is he not coming off the flight?

The wife Abby is married to Ray who operates his own business "Island Care" which does security for unoccupied homes during the off-summer season and general maintenance. The business struggles to keep afloat so Abby works part time at the local Buy and Bye. They have two teenage children. Abby has become fascinated with taxidermy, with roadkill helping her learn the tricks of the trade. She has a bench set up in the garage with all the tools of her trade, including a freezer.

Find a nice comfortable reading nook because you won't want to put this book down until the last page. Every twist and turn will surprise you. You will see your normal life in the story and in the end will you be able to answer the question "How well do I know the people I love?"



"Juniper helped me get my husband dancing again. Couldn't stop him standing on my toes though."

## Supporting you at home

Clinical Care | Everyday Living | Independence

[juniper.org.au](http://juniper.org.au)