

## Welcoming visiting politicians

**Federal Member for Fremantle  
Melissa Parke MP and the Hon Mark Butler MP,  
Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, spent  
time visiting Braemar Presbyterian Care and  
meeting with our CEO Glenn Muskett recently.**

During their meeting, a number of issues relating to aged and community care were discussed.

“We were very pleased to welcome both Melissa Parke and the Hon Mark Butler to Braemar,” says Glenn. “The Minister showed great interest and understanding of the current issues affecting the aged care sector and Braemar is looking forward to additional opportunities to pursue aged care matters with both the Minister and Melissa in the future.”



## The dog that volunteers at Braemar House

**One of the most popular visitors to Braemar House is one of the youngest, possibly the shortest and, according to residents, definitely the cutest. He is also perhaps the most famous, as he was featured in the local paper earlier this year.**

Six-year-old cardigan corgi Sam visits dozens of residents at Braemar once a week with his owner Pauline Sweeny, as part of the Animal Companions volunteer program.

Braemar House Residential Care Manager Helen Falkiner said the program had been a huge hit at the facility over the past two years.

“Sam has been an incredibly positive influence on our residents and definitely has a very therapeutic affect on them,” she says. “We are extremely grateful to both

Pauline and the gorgeous Sam for volunteering their time every week.”

Pauline, who dedicates her Saturday afternoons to volunteering at Braemar House, said she enjoyed the visits as much as Sam and the residents.

“It brings me great joy to see the residents’ faces light up whenever I bring Sam around,” she says. “And Sam really loves his visits too, most likely because the residents enjoy spoiling him.”

## Senior and teenager's brush strokes created ANZAC work of art

The collaborative artistic efforts of Jake Leicester, a 17-year-old student and Jean Ross, a 96-year-old resident at Braemar Village have been combined in the form of a work of art that represented one of the most iconic symbols of the Battle of Lone Pine at Gallipoli.

Christian Brother's College art student Jake first met Jean two years ago when he began to volunteer at Braemar Presbyterian Care as part of his school community service program.

As a result, the duo formed a firm friendship and Jake continued to visit Jean on a regular basis. Jean has now also become a keen painter after much encouragement and support from Jake.

The pair's most recent painting was of the iconic Lone Pine, the solitary tree in Gallipoli that marks the Battle of Lone Pine. Both Jake and Jean worked together on the painting, which had been completed and was officially unveiled by the pair to coincide with Anzac Day.

Craig Carter, Christian Brother's College Head of Society and Environment explained Jake was moved by the famous tree when he visited Gallipoli as part of an educational school trip.

"Jake's school trip to ANZAC cove in 2008 inspired him to work on this wonderfully detailed piece of art with Jean," he says.

"We are very proud of the friendship and partnership he has formed with Jean and are justifiably proud of the painting that has been produced as a result of both of their efforts."

CEO of Braemar Presbyterian Care Glenn Muskett said both Jean and Jake's enthusiasm for art was captured in the painting.

"Jake has encouraged Jean's passion for painting over the last two years and she has really thrived as she has increased her skills by practicing her art pretty much on a daily basis for the past two years," he says.

"Braemar is committed to the partnership with Christian Brother's College; it's rewarding for both our residents and the students. The community service that takes place is a great opportunity for positive relationships to be built between our residents and younger members of the community."



## International Nurses Day commemorated at Braemar House

International Nurses Day was celebrated at Braemar House this year, as retired nurse Peggy MacDonald revisited the Fremantle-based care facility for the first time in over forty years.

According to Braemar House's Residential Care Manager Helen Falkiner, the last time Mosman Park resident Mrs MacDonald visited Braemar House the year was 1979 and she was Sister in Charge at the facility.

"At 83, Peggy is older than some of our residents, but she welcomed the opportunity to visit our residents to help celebrate International Nurses Day and share her past experiences of working as a Sister in Charge here, all of those years ago," Helen says.

"The residents had very much looked forward to her visit and I think we all enjoyed hearing of her nursing experiences over what was close to four decades."

Peggy worked as a trained nurse for nearly 40 years. She trained and has worked at Royal Perth Hospital, King Edwards Memorial Hospital and also Princess Margaret Hospital. She also worked in infant health and at Lady Lawley Cottage, prior to her career in aged care.

## Anzac Day veterans honored at Braemar House

The Anzac Day service at Braemar House in Fremantle took on extra significance this year, with three veterans among the residents in attendance, in addition to an ex-Women's Royal Australian Air Force corporal who is now a staff member at the not-for-profit aged care organisation.

According to Braemar House's Residential Care Manager Helen Falkiner, the annual Anzac Day memorial service, which was held on Thursday April 21, has always been special for residents, given many of them lived through World War II.

"It's important for us to have a service for our residents on Anzac day, so they can spend time reflecting on the war, reminisce about those years and also remember those who lost their lives," she says.

"Having two residents who are ex-service men and one female resident who was a nurse in the second world war, as well as a staff member who was a member of the Women's Royal Australian Air Force, also makes the occasion significant for everyone at Braemar House."

Aged Care Funding Instrument Coordinator Laurel Rasmussen was only twenty when she began training for the Women's Royal Australian Air Force, which she described as tough but disciplined.

"I'm glad that I was able to share this special occasion with the residents this year," Laurel said. "I really enjoy my job at Braemar; helping others is extremely rewarding and I love spending time with residents."

Braemar House residents and staff were delighted to meet with Peggy, who told us what nursing was like in the 70's.

"There was less technology then but the care of the residents was always good and we were dedicated to making residents comfortable," she says.

Peggy was very impressed with the bright spacious rooms at Braemar House and the variety of activities that were organised to keep the residents occupied.

Peggy came from a family of 14 who attended church three times on a Sunday. "It's disappointing that children don't learn about the Lord these days," she said, "It's not surprising they go astray."

As an active member of the Peppermint Grove Congregation, Peggy seeks to serve the Lord in whatever way she can. Her enthusiasm in care continues, for she is much occupied with her four grandchildren. Peggy sees each day as a new day to serve the Lord. Keep on nursing Nanna.

"The wonderful roles that nurses have in our community can often be overlooked, so I was very happy when I heard there was an event at Braemar House that recognised the contributions nurses make to society today," Peggy says.

"I became a nurse because I loved caring for people and still do, and it was my pleasure taking a trip down 'memory lane' to talk to current residents about what nursing was like in my day."



Norma, Laurel and Ron



Bugler at the ceremony



Peggy MacDonald (left) with Gertrude Phiri, Clinical Nurse Manager

## Sydney students a blessing

**Eight students from Presbyterian Theological Centre in Sydney visited Braemar House and Braemar Village as part of their practical outreach studies during April.**

The purpose of the students' visit was to share the Gospel of Christ in varied settings. Braemar Lodge residents were led in Gospel singing in the morning and Village residents with a Bible Study and a Gospel Concert in the afternoon.

Residents from both facilities commented that it was good to see and hear young people so enthusiastic and vibrant about their faith.

Principal Ian Smith who accompanied the students as the faculty adviser was delighted to see such a good response. "The Students have been preaching, teaching and involved in gospel outreach in and around the churches this week. We are glad they have been such a blessing."

Chaplain Paul Bloomfield anticipates another visit next year. "We look forward to their return" he said.

The Braemar/Presbyterian Theological College initiative is part of an ongoing partnership between the school and the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia. The program aims to diversify the students' understanding of the aged care sector and also help them to develop positive relationships with seniors.

**Author: Rev Paul Bloomfield**



In touch: Year 11 student Cameron McCowan helps Braemar resident Joy Howard improve her computer skills

## Scotch College students go surfing with residents at Braemar Village

**Residents at Braemar Village in Willagee learnt to surf – so to speak - with the help of four students who are studying for their International Baccalaureate Diploma at Scotch College.**

The group of students visited several of the Village's residents to teach the seniors basic computer skills, including how to navigate the internet, send emails and access information online.

Bill Cordner, Head of Community and Service at Scotch College, explained that all students completing their International Baccalaureate Diploma course are expected to undertake a community service component as part of their study.

"The program with Braemar is going very well and the boys

thoroughly enjoy the experience and get a lot out of their interaction with seniors," he says.

Residential Manager Care at Braemar Village Pam Wilson said the initiative was hugely successful and was rewarding for both the residents and the students.

"Because the boys are visiting our residents on a regular basis, they have a real opportunity to build up a positive relationship and really get to know them," she says.

The computers being used at Braemar have been supplied as part of the Broadband for Seniors initiative.

## 2011 ACSWA Excellence in Care Awards

The Aged and Community Services WA (ACSWA) Excellence in Care Awards celebrate and recognise excellence in the not-for-profit aged care and community care sectors, and specifically individuals who contribute to the quality of life of older people.



To be nominated in the Employee category the *'employee will have excelled in the care they have provided and demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication.'*

And so it is with great pleasure that we announce that **Vic Leonard** is Braemar Presbyterian Cares' nomination for the Employee Category.

Vic has worked as a Carer at Braemar House for over nine years and there are many outstanding aspects of Vic's provision of care.

He always exhibits courteous and gentlemanly behaviour and maintains the expected professional standards of a Braemar employee.

We have always found that Vic communicates openly and honestly and has a unique capacity to not only make the

residents feel happy but also other employees.

He provides support to all members of staff as they require it and is extremely conscientious in his work. Vic certainly has an uncanny capacity to anticipate resident's needs and ensures they are kept as comfortable as possible.

In Vic's own words: "I wouldn't swap this work for anything – I am here until I retire; I love being with people, caring for people and trying to bring a bit of happiness into their lives each day."

Congratulations to Vic for his excellent work over many years and I am sure all of his colleagues fully support his nomination.

Finalists and winners of this Award will be made at a Gala Awards Dinner on Friday 10 June.

**STOP  
PRESS!**

In news just in, we've just heard that Vic has been named as a finalist in the Awards. And on top of that, Braemar has also been nominated as a finalist in a second category – the Media Award. Winners will be announced soon, so watch this space for more details in the next edition.

## Braemar to implement iCare

**Braemar Presbyterian Care has chosen iCare's Clinical and Care Management Software Solution to record the majority of resident's care documentation.**

According to Quality and Risk Manager Geraldine Nunis, Braemar's objective is to maintain an integrated computerised care and clinical record system which will save time and money, and provide residents with a higher quality of care.

"Over the coming months we will be undertaking training for all our care, nursing and allied health staff," Geraldine says.

"There will also be minor fit-out works undertaken and changes to our office layouts to provide appropriate kiosks to install the computer workstations," she adds.

Once the iCare project is completed, residents' health care information will be more accessible and manageable for staff. This will increase the efficiency of workflow and communication between staff and, in turn, increase care and wellbeing for Braemar residents.

## Welcome from Glenn Muskett

Welcome to this, the latest edition of Infoline. Unbelievably, we're now well and truly into the middle of the year and the short (but mostly sunny, at least at the moment!) winter days are most definitely upon us.

But at Braemar it seems to be the start of many things - not just the beginning of our mild winter months. Indeed, we are firmly focused on each day, although we continue to keep an eye on the future.

For example, since 2006 Braemar has been conducting **Staff Perception Surveys** to seek feedback in relation to areas

including morale, our work environment, teamwork, learning, development and technology.

This feedback provides our Executive and Leadership Teams with insights in regards to what is important to staff, including their concerns and their satisfaction-at-work levels. Furthermore, such surveys adopt a long-term approach to cultural change and highlight the transformations in staff perceptions over the years.

**By better understanding what is important to staff and what they value most, we will be better able to develop initiatives to meet this strategic direction.**

Since the last survey, Braemar has developed its *2010-2015 Strategic Plan*, which was approved by the Board early last year. Contained within the plan is a commitment to: *"Shape a workforce of competent and passionate people*

*who love being connected with the clients and wider community."* This survey serves to address that strategic priority. By better understanding what is important to staff and what they value most, we will be better able to develop initiatives to meet this strategic direction.

Part of the survey was also designed to better understand which job aspects are most important to staff. The 2010 results have proven again to be very interesting. It has shown that over the past four years "job satisfaction" and "job security" have remained as the top aspects of importance to staff. Interestingly however, the importance of work/life balance has moved up to the third position and has steadily increased in importance since 2006.

Overall, the 2010 Survey has revealed positive results and has provided some key recommendations for ongoing improvement. These recommendations will be steadily introduced over the next two years and we look forward to bringing you further news on them as they are introduced.

In closing, we hope you find this issue of *Infoline* both an enjoyable and informative read. And it goes without saying that we would love to hear from you with any story ideas, photos, suggestions or general feedback you have for future editions of our newsletter.

Until next time, enjoy the read and feel free to pass this newsletter on to family and friends.

**Glenn Muskett CEO**



## Count your blessings

The above song title is a great favorite with our singing groups at Braemar. This song written by Johnson Oatman, Jr. in 1897 encourages us to shun complaining and be thankful to God for His providential dealings with us. Yes it's true we need more rain. There are wars and rumors of war and the crime rate is increasing. We are paying more for our electricity and petrol.

Earthquakes and tsunamis abound and dictators dictate. We might quote the Apostle Paul who wrote the following when dealing with such matters:

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28.*

The Apostle himself suffered much for the cause of Christ - in fact he was burned to death for his stance. Nevertheless none of these difficulties hardships and problems is beyond the loving compassion of our Lord who was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. As a Man of sorrows acquainted with grief, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross despising the shame, has sat down on the right hand of God (Hebrews 12:2) and He looks upon His people and prays for them.

Remember we are not alone whether young, looking into life's adventures, or old: a breath away from eternity.

Count Your Blessings:

*When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings - wealth can never buy  
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done!*

**STOP  
PRESS!**

## 2011 Federal budget leaves aged care in limbo

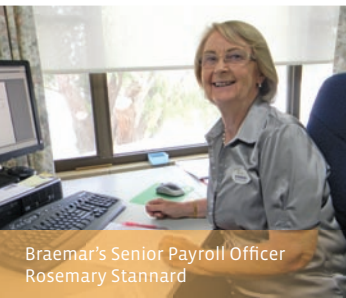
**The peak body for Australia's not-for-profit aged care service providers says this year's Federal Budget has left aged care in limbo.**

Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) Acting CEO Pat Sparrow said funding for critical aged care services remained unchanged despite appeals for modest increases in subsidies in the midst of rising costs and greater demand.

"While ACSA acknowledges the constraints on the Federal Budget at a particularly challenging time, the industry is putting the Government on notice that 2012 must be the aged care budget," Ms Sparrow said.

"Only 40% of aged care providers are operating in the black, hours of community care are continuing to fall and aged care facilities are not being built.

"There can be no doubt that aged care must feature as a major component of next year's Budget so that older Australians can be assured of a system able to meet their needs and the reforms proceeding in accordance with the Government's commitment to aged care as a second term priority."



Braemar's Senior Payroll Officer  
Rosemary Stannard

## Employee contribution and achievement

Braemar Presbyterian Care values the principle of providing recognition and reward in situations of loyal and substantial length of service. This is just one component of Braemar's recognition and reward program. We acknowledge the valuable contribution made by employees at five, 10, 15 and 20 years of service.

This year a very important employee has reached the 15 year milestone. Rosemary Stannard, our Senior Payroll Officer who, in her time with us, has made approximately 58,000 payments into employee's bank accounts is one of the often unseen employees who we just cannot do without.

Rosemary recalls when she first started at Braemar she was located in the 'old Braemar' on Canning Highway and literally watched the 'new Braemar' being built from her office window. Rosemary has also had other functions including working in accounts and undertaking resident billing. Of course there have been many changes in the past 15 years and Rosemary proudly points out that she has witnessed the supposed millennium bug, numerous changes in superannuation, taxation, salary packaging, industrial legislation and the GST.

Rosemary has also decided that it is time to retire and has announced that this will be happening at the end of this year. She and husband Barry will take an overseas trip back to the UK to catch up with many family members and also some side-trips to Europe. They are also planning to do some travelling around Australia – but there is no hurry.

It is easy to forget just how important the payroll function is. The necessity for absolute accuracy and preciseness are attributes that are essential and Rosemary's knowledge and skills across a broad range of accounting functions are legendary. We thank Rosemary for her extremely valuable contribution over the past 15 years and for her patience, persistence and diligence.

FORGE CREATIVE

## How you can help

**Yes**, I would like to donate and make a difference

- A specific donation to Braemar Presbyterian Care or facility (please specify)
- A general donation to Braemar Presbyterian Care
- A bequest to Braemar Presbyterian Care (we will contact you to discuss this arrangement)

\$100     \$250     \$500     \$1000     or \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:  Money Order     Cheque

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Please send to: **Braemar Presbyterian Care**, PO Box 40, Palmyra WA 6957  
Thank You. A gift to Braemar Presbyterian Care of \$2 and over is tax deductible.