

grapevine

NEWS

Summer Edition 2024 | Issue 93



IN THIS BUMPER SPECIAL:

- Reservoir's \$1 Million Grant
- Christmas Spirit
- Australia Day Fun
- New J.C. Movie Theatre
- Tales of Generosity
- Brand New 'Café Vibe'



@themayflowergroup



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Navigating the Winds of Change

As we start a new year, I wanted to spend a little time reflecting on the changes in our sector last year and the anticipated continuation of these changes through 2024. The new Aged Care Act is currently in the consultation stage, and importantly, it is designed to ensure that older Australians are central to everything that we do as providers.

So how do we as Mayflower ensure that we deliver the best possible outcomes for both residents and Home Care clients? I strongly believe that if we find the right people to work at Mayflower, if we train and support them, offer opportunities for growth and create the right environment for them, then we will get the outcomes we are looking for. My team and I are totally committed in 2024 to do more to make Mayflower the best place to work. We will do this through various initiatives which support, recognise, and reward people for good work. We will also focus on ways to streamline admin and paperwork so that we can maximise our time with residents and clients.

We have been busy making improvements across Mayflower. Recent initiatives include the introduction of the new movie theatre in Brighton, the welcoming of two new café operators for both Reservoir and Brighton, the refresh in Reservoir's Memory Support Unit through individualised door decals, and cutting-edge technology like the Tovertafel. We are also expanding Lifestyle activities, enhancing the look and feel of Mayflower Edith Bendall, and actively seeking more volunteers.

As a Melbourne-based organisation, our commitment to continuous improvement is unwavering. Our goal is to create a real home for residents, and to empower them to live their best life.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we navigate the complexities of a changing Aged Care world and work towards a better, brighter future together.

Stuart Rodney Chief Executive Officer



Home Care

Mayflower's Home Care services can help you or your loved one enjoy a healthy and independent life, with personalised care and support in the Northern and Bayside suburbs, including the Mornington Peninsula.

From simple daily chores to full nursing support, you can spend your days doing what you love while we look after the rest. Let us help you enjoy your independence.

Call 1300 522 273 or visit [Mayflower.org.au/home-care](https://www.mayflower.org.au/home-care)

Pictured above: Mayflower Home Care team member Raj loves connecting with each client she visits.



Cover: Denise with Gifts and Giving Coordinator Nicole during the Movie Theatre Launch.



Connect with Us

Facebook is a great way to stay 'in the know' and to network with others in your community, and The Mayflower Group socials are no exception!

We share inspiring stories and photographs of our wonderful residents, as well as helpful information and resources to help you better understand aged care and ageing.

You can find, follow, 'like' and share our pages by searching on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn for @themayflowergroup

Pictured Left: Nancy enjoying a visit from team member 'Santa' Sujaan and Elf Fiona at Mayflower Edith Bendall
Learn more: mayflower.news/OhWhatJoy



WELCOME 'CAFE VIBE' TO BRIGHTON



Mayflower Brighton has recently bid farewell to Perla Café, and extends a big welcome to newcomer, Café Vibe.

Exciting news at Mayflower Brighton as the community warmly welcomed Dhan and Usha, the dynamic duo taking charge at the brand new, 'Café Vibe.'

Hailing from Nepal and the Himalayas, respectively, their love for Australia's warm ambience is the perfect ingredient for our community. Their rich experience in hospitality ensures a fresh and vibrant atmosphere at the café.

Café Vibe, under their guidance, is a welcoming haven for all - residents, visitors, and our team.

On offer is a diverse menu, including breakfast and lunch

delights, like fresh focaccia, assorted hot pies, bacon and eggs as you like, and crowd favourite, spaghetti bolognese. For the dessert enthusiasts, an assortment of cakes, tarts and muffins await your selection in the display cabinet.

Adding a dash of excitement, Café Vibe plans theme nights on Thursdays, providing the perfect backdrop for shared moments.

Dhan and Usha eagerly await to meet you, as they strive to make Café Vibe the go-to spot for everyone – a place filled with warmth, good food, and cherished memories.

Pictured above: Dhan and Usha are excited about their new adventure.



Special *feature*



Pictured above: Judy enjoys a spot of gift shopping, assisted by our Mayflower Gift Shop Manager and Gifts and Giving Coordinator, Nicole.

Volunteers Needed

Your opportunity to join the Mayflower Brighton Gift Shop team is finally here!

Our gorgeous Gift Shop is open Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm and Saturday until 1pm, and is generously run by volunteers. If you have a few hours you could spare, we'd love you to join our team. Ask to speak to Nicole on 03 9591 1100 or email her directly, at: nicole.porritt@mayflower.org.au

Our *appeal*



As a not-for-profit charitable organisation Mayflower relies on the generous financial support of donors. All money raised is directed to helping enrich the lives of residents.

Please help us by donating today!

For more information on how you can make a difference, please see the back page or [click here to donate today.](#)



Meet Yaz

Step into the world of culinary excellence at Mayflower Brighton, where Yaz, our talented Chef Manager, orchestrates the creation of delectable meals for both our retirement living and residential aged care communities.

With a team of dedicated chefs and catering professionals, Yaz ensures that all our meals are prepared in-house, guaranteeing freshness and nutritional value.

Residents savour the convenience of having these culinary delights delivered right to their doors, while our team members also have the option to indulge in the same wholesome meals.

"Cooking is not just my profession but also my favourite pastime. My favourite dish Biryani, with its rich blend of spices, aromatic rice, and tender meat, holds a special place in my heart. The satisfaction of seeing my friends and family relish it makes all the hard work and patience worthwhile," says Yaz.

Mayflower Reservoir and Edith Bendall also feature in-house chefs for daily fresh culinary creations.

Pictured: Yaz during the Independent Living Christmas Luncheon. More: Page 15.

Special *feature*



Our Biggest Raffle, Yet!

Thanks to your incredible support, we raised \$6,980 through our Christmas raffle ticket sales. This generous contribution will directly transform our Brighton hair and beauty salon into a rejuvenating haven, providing a delightful pampering experience for all. Thank you.

The five lucky winners were:

- 1st prize – Christmas Gourmet Selection – Stephanie H.
- 2nd prize – Entertainers Wine Bucket & Tray filled with Bubbles – Genevieve B.
- 3rd prize – Ladies Luxury Pamper Hamper – Sally G.
- 4th prize – Kids Summer Fun Activity Pack – Patty C, pictured above.
- 5th prize – Symphony of Sweet Treats – Greg G.

An Artful Escapade to Mornington

A private bus ride to Mornington set the stage for a day filled with 'oohs' and 'aahs' at the Archibald exhibit.

Mayflower Brighton Independent Living community's recent Archibald adventure was truly unforgettable. [Read more.](#)



Volunteering at Mayflower

Across Mayflower, our volunteers help the world go 'round, by [volunteering](#) in many areas, from our Gift Shop, to our Kiosk Trolley, running Quiz sessions, driving our mini bus, pamper sessions and more.

Pictured here is Glenn, who has been a Quiz Master at Mayflower Brighton for many years - during one of his very popular sessions.



The 'Silly Season'

The 'Silly Season' of Christmas was a great excuse for our team to bring a little laughter and fun across Mayflower.

And, our team didn't hold back. They donned themselves with festive cheer and costumes for the occasion, including Chief Operating Officer, Simon pictured above with Carol, our Mayflower Edith Bendall Care Manager.



Top Image: Lindsay during the writing stage of his memoir, had daily diaries from his beloved wife, photographs and documents from over his lifetime.

Been There, Done That!

Mayflower Brighton Independent Living resident, Lindsay Cuming, recently celebrated the launch of his memoir, "Been There, Done That! Life On A Roller Coaster."

The launch was held by the Caulfield Grammarians' Association last November and was a great success.

As a Caulfield Grammar alumnus, Lindsay's remarkable journey began at the school in 1936, spanning roles as a student, and later as President of the School Council.

Qualifying as a lawyer, he had a distinguished career in business, spending nearly 30 years with Australian international pharmaceutical company Aspro Nicholas where he spent 15 years living overseas with his family in five countries before returning to Australia as CEO for 10 years before retiring.

Post Aspro Nicholas, Lindsay chaired or was a member of several company boards. This included giving his time to Epworth Hospital where he was Chairman of the Board and at Caulfield Grammar where, in his role as President of Council, he oversaw transformative developments at the school.

Beyond his professional success, Lindsay's memoir captures the essence of a life richly lived, from yachting triumphs to being recognised with an AM (Member of the Order of Australia), and travelling 62 countries. Key messages include forgiveness of others, and seizing life's great opportunities.

These days, just recently celebrating his 94th birthday, Lindsay is an active community member at Mayflower and takes joy in sharing his life lessons with others.



Pictured above: Photos during the launch event, kindly supplied by the Caulfield Grammarians Association.

If you would like to purchase a copy, speak to Lindsay or visit this link:

[Mayflower.news/BeenThereDoneThat](https://mayflower.news/BeenThereDoneThat)



Special *feature*

Wilma's Journey to 100

A Century of Song

Celebrating Wilma's 100 Remarkable Years

As Mayflower Brighton eagerly anticipates Wilma's centenary milestone, we reflect on the extraordinary life of this vibrant woman.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Wilma grew up in a bustling household of seven siblings. Her sister Nessie, who reached the remarkable age of 110, once held the title of Australia's oldest living person, gaining recognition from major media outlets, including the likes of The Project and the Herald Sun where the pair are pictured together.

Despite the 15-year age gap, Wilma and Nessie shared a unique bond.

As the first-born, Nessie played a pivotal role in raising the brood of siblings. Wilma's arrival was often likened to the start of a party, and Nessie affectionately called her Minnie, symbolising their close relationship. And for a time, they were both residents at Mayflower together.

"When Mum was born, a neighbour told Nessie she had a new 'wee sister', and she marched up to her mother, and said, 'You can bring this one up yourself. I'm sick of looking after your kids!'" says Wilma's daughter, Diana. In her youth, Wilma found joy in singing and dancing. After leaving school, she embraced a split-shift work life, spending breaks at dance halls. Her infectious sense of humour and zest for life earned her the reputation of being the life of the party.

Wilma married Willem (Wim) van Die in Holland in 1949. Their journey led them to Australia in December 1952, where they settled into life in Oak Park, after building their own home there.

The couple embraced the joys of parenthood, with Wilma relishing her roles as both a stay at home mum and aunt. After her two daughters, Patricia and Diana started secondary school, she took a job doing some part-time office work.

Through the years, Wilma's love for singing has endured. Today, she is an active member of the 'Mayflower Singers' choir group, led by the talented music therapist, Zita. Known for her lead vocals in the choir's regular concerts, Wilma's performances light up the room, reflecting her enduring passion for music.

Wilma's kind heart, gentle nature, infectious humour, and delightful Scottish accent have made her an invaluable presence at Mayflower Brighton.

In honouring Wilma, we celebrate not only a century, but also a lifetime filled with love, laughter, and the enduring bonds of family and friendship.

Happy 100th birthday, Wilma!

Pictured, Top Left, and Left to Right: Wilma won the golden egg at the Willy Wonka party. Left to right bottom images: Wilma as a young lady, and again with a friend (right). Last image, Wilma with late older sister, Nessie.





Pictured: Mayflower CEO, Stuart Rodney, Jenny's sister Trish, Mayflower Chairperson Mary-Jane, Project Manager Genevieve, and MC, Con at the cutting of the tape ceremony. "It's unbelievable, words can't describe it! To the staff here at Mayflower, my heartiest congratulations!" said Geoff, Jenny's brother-in-law, after the unveiling.

Unveiling the Jennifer Cook Movie Theatre: A Tribute to Family

In spectacular fashion, our Mayflower Brighton Community dressed their best to witness the launch of the new Jennifer Cook Movie Theatre, thanks to the generous bequest by the late resident Jenny Cook, who lived in our community for 25 years and was known for her kindness.

The unveiling of the theatre was a heartfelt tribute to Jenny's legacy, celebrating family, community, and the enchanting world of cinema.

Residents from both Mayflower Brighton Residential and Independent Living Units, along with their families, friends, and our team, gathered to celebrate this milestone in Mayflower's story. The event featured good food, wine and bubbles, cinematic treats, live music and a soundtrack of laughter.

Speeches by Jenny's brother-in-law Geoff, Project Manager and Designer Genevieve, our CEO Stuart, and Independent Living resident Stan added an emotional touch. Con infused humour and showbiz pizzazz by taking on the MC role.

The transformation aimed to create a space where residents and their families could immerse themselves in cinema. In tribute to Jenny's love for the theatre, it was renamed as the 'Jennifer Cook Movie Theatre.'

Geoff, Jenny's brother-in-law, expressed astonishment during his speech, stating, "When I received a message from Genevieve that Mayflower had thought of the 'Jennifer Cook Movie Theatre,' I was knocked off my socks! I thought, WOW, this is unbelievable!"

The Jennifer Cook Movie Theatre has evolved beyond a cinema, offering VIP sessions, weekday screenings, armchair travel, VIP Gold Class nights, sing-alongs, and a classical music appreciation program. It has become a hub of cultural enrichment, creating lasting memories for residents and their families.

Pictured below, left and right top images: Left - Jenny Cook's family: her niece Renee, sister-in-law Claudia, sister Trish and brother-in-law Geoff. Right top: Jenny in her younger years.



Tales of *generosity*

The Jennifer Cook Movie Theatre: Design with Purpose

The theatre now exudes the timeless charm of Old Hollywood Art Deco, meticulously curated with authentic 1930s reproduction wall sconces, a vintage-themed fridge, and opulent red cinema chairs.

No detail was spared, as the entire space underwent a Hollywood-inspired transformation. The retro-style fridge and air conditioning received a designer's touch, adorned with matching art deco decals that effortlessly transport visitors to a bygone era.

Cinema Chairs with a Purpose:

Each cinema chair, bearing Jenny's name, goes beyond being just a seat; it is a considered design focused on comfort, safety and accessibility.

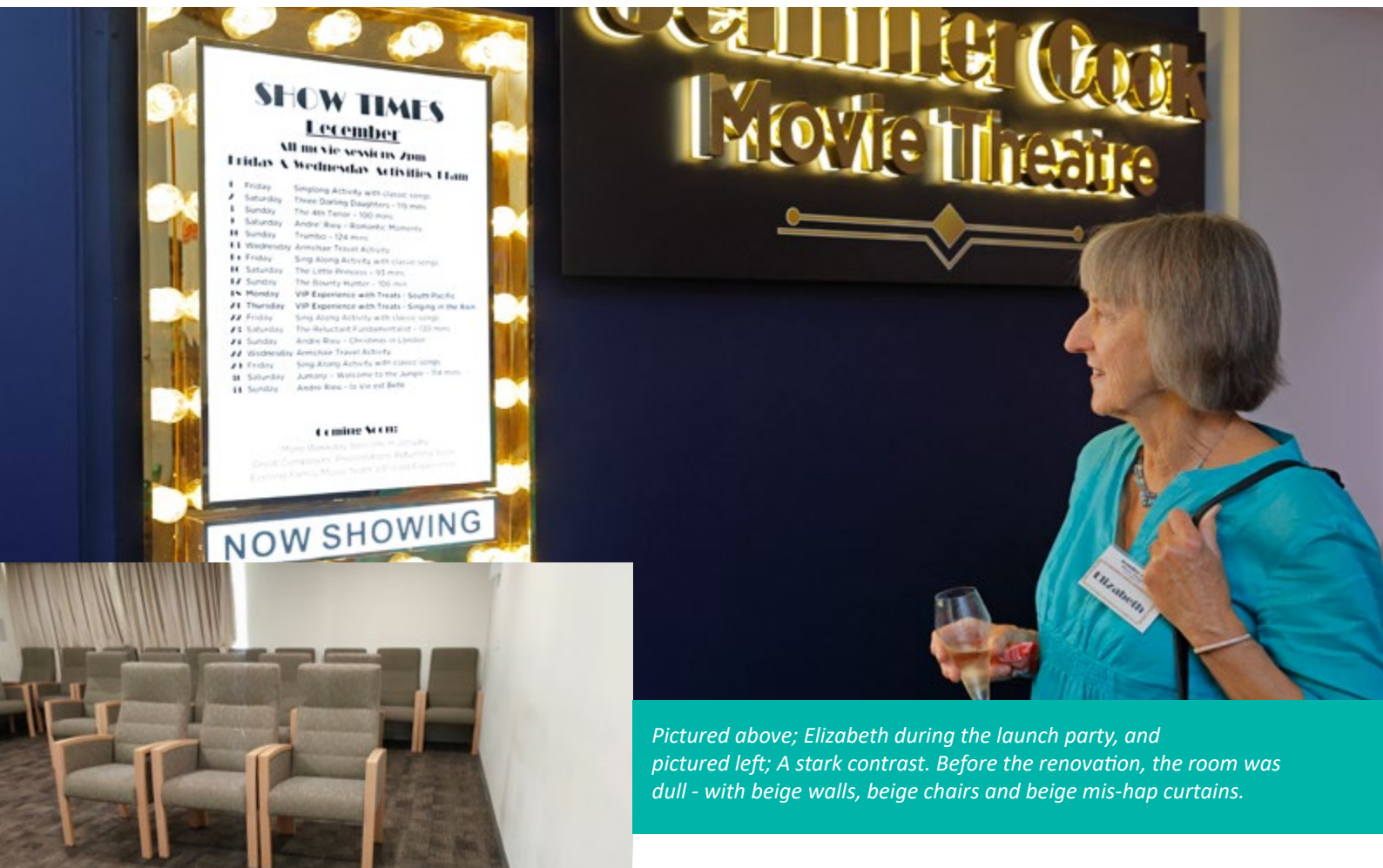
To ensure safe access for wheelchair users, we opted not to raise the floor or add steps. Instead, each row of chairs was elevated to provide the best view, a significant improvement from the previous setup where the back row struggled to see the screen.

The front chairs, designed to be the lowest, offer enhanced benefits for those with low vision or stature. Spacious row arrangements accommodate walking mobility aids without disruption during intermissions. Special features, including built-in cup holders and armrests that raise up for couples, infuse a touch of luxury and romance into the cinematic experience.

Bespoke Wall Treatments:

In-house custom-designed 'wipeable' wallpapers, thoughtfully selected by residents, adorn the theatre. These wallpapers not only reflect the Art Deco theme remarkably, but also prioritise practical cleanability and infection control.





Pictured above; Elizabeth during the launch party, and pictured left; A stark contrast. Before the renovation, the room was dull - with beige walls, beige chairs and beige mis-hap curtains.

Authentic Movie Theatre Signage and Community-Centric Design

Back-lit movie posters proudly showcase the community's favourite classics, as nominated by residents, transforming the theatre into a canvas of cherished memories. A custom-made and in-house designed 'now showing' poster holder, coupled with a beautiful back-lit sign, enhances the Old Hollywood feel, creating a memorable experience from the very entrance.

Every design decision was crafted with the community in mind. Collaborations with occupational therapists, nurses, lifestyle team members, and, most importantly, residents in both residential aged care and independent living units, ensure the theatre is a space of joy, nostalgia, and a sense of belonging.

A Heartfelt Thank You:

Generous bequests, exemplified by the one left by Jenny, play a vital role in elevating the quality of life for residents at Mayflower. These contributions enable us to surpass expected levels of care, fostering an enriching environment - where residents can relish activities like a trip to the movies without leaving the comfort of home. Jenny's selfless gift will leave an enduring impact, enhancing the lives of countless residents for years, and perhaps generations to come.

"We are immensely grateful for this bequest left by Jenny Cook. Her legacy will undoubtedly endure," expresses Project Manager Genevieve Barclay, "thank you for this extraordinary gift."

We also extend our sincere appreciation to our incredible team for their unwavering dedication and significant contributions to this exceptional project, including but not limited to our Electrician Shay, Lifestyle Coordinator Hitesh, General Manager Rumes, Cabinet Maker John, Gifts and Giving Coordinator Nicole, Builder Leigh, Painter Majid, Wallpaper Installers Russell and Adrian, and of course residents who took part in feedback and planning - we thank you.

Scan or click these QR codes to hear from our CEO, team and launch attendees, as well as see the theatre come to life in video.



Special feature

Pictured above: Drafted during the thrilling AFL event, Kristie-Lee Weston-Turner, a key forward and daughter of Mayflower Edith Bendall's General Manager Martha Weston is set to make waves. Photo supplied by AFL.

EDITH BENDALL IN PASCOE VALE

Mayflowers AFLW Claim to Fame

The 2023 AFLW National Draft was a triumph for the Western Bulldogs, who claimed Kristie-Lee Weston-Turner, a standout player from the Western Jets and a proud representative of the Mayflower lineage, as their top pick.

Selected as the No.1 overall pick at the 2023 AFLW National Draft on December 18th, Kristie-Lee's achievement brought immense pride to her family, friends, Mayflower and the entire Bulldogs community.

Kristie-Lee's journey to the top spot in the draft was marked by a family legacy deeply rooted in Bulldogs pride. The granddaughter of a Bulldogs banner-maker, she received her guernsey from none other than Doggies star Ellie Blackburn, amidst cheers and applause from her loved ones.

"It has been absolutely amazing for her, and we are just so proud," says proud mum, Martha - Mayflower Edith Bendall's General Manager.

"It feels unreal," Kristie-Lee Weston-Turner remarked. "I don't know what to say. I'm just so thankful and grateful to be in the position I'm in."

Coming from a family of devoted Bulldogs supporters, Kristie-Lee expressed her gratitude for being drafted to the team she grew up cheering for. "My nan and my great aunty, who is sadly no longer with us, were in a cheer squad for 30-odd years. They helped make the banners ... it feels unreal."

"It means the world to me and my family, growing up and being a Doggies supporter. I couldn't ask for anything better," she said.

We look forward to witnessing her prowess on the field and the positive impact she'll undoubtedly make for the Western Bulldogs.



Pictured above: Top; Martha, Kristie-Lee and stepfather Rohan. And bottom, Martha's mother and Kristie-Lee's grandmother, Ruth, is also a resident of Mayflower Edith Bendall and an avid doggies supporter. She couldn't believe her eyes when her granddaughter presented her with the blue, red and white jumper!

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, VEGEMITE!

At Mayflower Edith Bendall, a vibrant celebration unfolded as residents came together to commemorate the monumental 100th birthday of an Aussie icon – Vegemite.

The lively festivities featured a Vegemite scroll cooking class, where laughter and camaraderie filled the air as residents embraced the opportunity to try their hand at creating this comforting treat.

The event was a nostalgic journey for many, evoking cherished

memories associated with the iconic spread. Tables adorned with Vegemite toast became a centerpiece, each slice crafted to perfection to suit the unique tastes of each person.

The enticing aroma of freshly baked scrolls and the familiar savoury scent of Vegemite toast enveloped the community, fostering a sense of togetherness and shared joy.

The event exuded nostalgia and a shared sense of joy, encapsulating the enduring cultural significance of Vegemite in the community.

Pictured below, Patricia, holding the beloved Aussie icon during the 100th Birthday party.



R U OK?

Sharing a cupcake, glass of orange soda and a platter of savoury delights gave opportunity to ask, R U OK?

Our team understand by listening and giving someone your attention, you just may save a life or it may be just what a person needs to help them through a difficult time.

And at Mayflower Edith Bendall, our team paused to ask R U OK?

Pictured above: Lifestyle Assistant Lillian with Dorothy.



Pictured above: Ruth during the lively game of armchair 'beach volleyball'.

EDITH BENDALL

Celebrating Australia Together

Australia Day at Mayflower Edith Bendall was a jubilant affair.

Food lovers engaged in an enticing baking class, kneading and crafting the iconic Australian bush bread - damper. The aroma of the freshly baked damper wafted through the air, evoking a sense of nostalgia.

Residents relished the company of a four-legged visitor, Sassy, a gorgeous greyhound - sharing stories, pats and laughter.

The highlight of the day was the traditional Aussie BBQ, by Chef Peter, with the unmistakable sizzle and aroma of 'snags on the barbie' making its way down the halls. As residents gathered around, the sense of community deepened, fostering connections and memories that will endure. Australia Day at Mayflower Edith Bendall was a beautiful tapestry of Australian culture, companionship, and the enduring spirit of celebration.

Special feature



Top Image: Takis and 'Elf' Maureen dance up a storm, embodying the joy and fun of Christmas.

Mayflower Edith Bendall Christmas Joy

Everyone at Mayflower Edith Bendall came together to create lasting memories at a truly fabulous Christmas party. The atmosphere was brimming with Christmas cheer as the day unfolded in a delightful medley of festivities.

A Glorious Feast

The highlight of the celebration was undoubtedly the Christmas lunch, meticulously prepared and served with all the trimmings. The tables and walls were adorned with Christmas decorations, creating a warm and inviting setting for everyone to share laughter and stories.

Pictured below: Maureen with 'Elf' Lifestyle Coordinator Natalie, and 'Santa' Sujana continue their mission to spread joy across Mayflower Edith Bendall.



Make a Joyful Sound!

A piano singalong added a special touch to the celebration, with residents and guests joining in the joyous melodies that filled the air.

The popular Christmas carols were lead by Music Therapist Fleur, who got many toes tapping and feet dancing.



"Merry Christmas!"

It was a momentous occasion where bonds were strengthened, and the sense of community flourished.

'Santa' and his 'Elves' spread joy with gift-giving.

Pictured above: Fred was delighted to receive his Christmas gift surprise.

Special feature



Top Image: Mary, Ailsa, and Deirdre enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with their neighbours and friends.

Independent Living Christmas Luncheon

Our Mayflower Independent Living Christmas fine dining experience was a real treat!

Executives and managers played the role of wait staff, The tables were adorned with a captivating blend of purple and gold, accompanied by charming garlands, creating an inviting atmosphere. A stunning Christmas tree glistened and incredible food was served courtesy of our in-house chef Yaz and his team.



Special Treat

Our Independent Living Coordinator Heather enjoys connecting with residents and helping make their special events extra special.

Even our Chief Executive Officer Stuart and Chief Operating Officer Simon got in on the action, serving wine and meals to residents.

Check out page 22 for a photo of our CEO Stuart, spotted while serving wine.

A Happy Christmas Crowd

Amidst the feasting and festivities, the room buzzes as new friendships blossomed between residents, and laughter echoed throughout the gathering, adding an extra layer of joy to this special luncheon.



Special Moments of Connection

Memorable meals, newfound friendships, and laughter made this luncheon truly special. It was also a great opportunity for neighbours to get to know each other better.

Pictured: Peter and Merv enjoy a chat.

Special *feature*



Top Image: Charles, Elizabeth and Janet prepare to delight with song.

Mayflower Brighton Christmas Carol Night

Now an annual tradition, families, residents and team members come together for a Christmas Carol Spectacular, with live performances and Santa hats galore making it a popular event.

The night was made complete with refreshments, including wine and nibbles, provided a lively atmosphere for residents to share in the Christmas cheer with family and friends.



A Candlelight Experience

Simulated candles added ambience and an opportunity for audience participation.

As the lights went down for carols such as Silent Night, the candles were raised - giving an almost star-lit atmosphere.

Pictured above: Anna glows by candlelight

The Mayflower Singers

The Mayflower Singers, the choir group of Mayflower Brighton, championed festive ambience with a captivating carol performance at the family Christmas Carol Spectacular.

Pictured below: The Mayflower Singers were lead by registered Music Therapist Zita. The group meet fortnightly to practice and strengthen their vocal chords.



The Little Children

The evening continued with a lively performance by Mandy, a regular and beloved entertainer, with families and little children joining in the joyous celebrations.

Special *feature*



Top Image: Rosa and lifestyle team member Aman hit the dance floor.

Reservoir Christmas - a Delightful Party

The Mayflower Reservoir community also launched its Christmas festivities with a memorable party, graced by the joyful melodies of returning Italian singer Frank Rizzo.

Santa, embodying the true spirit of giving, personally delivered pampering gifts to each resident, ensuring no one was left out — including those unable to attend the party.

Cheerful Attire Delights

Embracing the festive spirit wholeheartedly, our team and charismatic performer Frank adorned themselves in lively attire, creating an atmosphere filled with boundless joy.

Pictured: Care team members 'Elf' Chandra and 'Santa' Ronald, singer Frank and care team member 'Elf' Sita.



Merry Moments

Everyone connected over a delightful afternoon tea filled with laughter, dancing, and festive cheer.

The joyous gathering reached its peak with a heartwarming Christmas raffle, creating lasting memories for everyone present.

Pictured: Janice was thrilled to win a Christmas raffle prize.



Generations United

The special occasion became even more extraordinary with the presence of beloved family members who enthusiastically participated in the festivities.

Pictured above is Francesca with her great-granddaughter, sparking joyous conversations and evoking cherished memories of both parenthood and childhood.



Special *feature*

Pictured above: Care team member Harsha, resident Rosa, Care team member Korpila, Lifestyle Coordinator Helen and Care team member Bhawana.



RESERVOIR

Diwali Festival of Lights

Mayflower Reservoir is a delicious melting pot of diversity, where team members and residents weave a rich tapestry of cultures and experiences.

Among the cherished celebrations is Diwali, the festival of lights, symbolising the triumph of light over darkness and new beginnings.

Our community, comprising of people from various backgrounds, comes together over the five-day festival to share stories and revel in the culinary delights associated with the occasion.

Residents and team members joined in the joyous Diwali festivities, dressed in colourful suits and saris. The residence was transformed with radiant lights and earthen lamps, fostering a shared experience. A Bollywood-style dance performance, a hit among residents, brought them together with team members.

Post-dance, everyone savoured a feast of delectable Indian dishes by our in-house chef, Lionel, enhancing the cultural richness of the celebration.

Residents delighted in the vibrant cultural exchange, as team members, dressed in their colourful suits and saris, inspired conversations - helping to build stronger connections with residents and brightening their day.

In these celebratory moments, Mayflower Reservoir became a home where diversity was embraced, connections flourished, and joy abounded.



Pictured above: Lifestyle Assistant Annabel dons a gorgeous sari, and distributes the marvellous treats. Care team member Harsha, resident Angela and care team member Korpilla dance together to Bollywood-style music.

DECALS BRING HOMES RESONANCE



Mayflower Reservoir is undergoing a positive transformation, courtesy of the \$1 million grant highlighted in our previous edition

- awarded by the Department of Health and Ageing.

One notable initiative is personalised door decals in Murray House, benefiting residents, particularly those living

with dementia, by enhancing way-finding and individualising spaces.

The door skins, chosen by residents, serve as visual cues, making navigation familiar. Beyond practicality, the skins inject vibrant colours, creating a unique identity, conversational points and evoking nostalgia.

The community and team feedback is overwhelmingly positive, with residents now immersed in a homely environment that fosters a sense of belonging and abundant possibilities.

Enrolled Nurse Theresa notes, "They look fantastic," echoing the sentiment shared by family members.

Pictured: Angelo with Enrolled Nurse, Theresa, among two striking doors chosen by residents.

Tovertafel a Hit - at Mayflower Reservoir



Pictured left: Giovanni enjoys interacting with the fish, which respond to touch and movement.

Among the recent enhancements at Mayflower Reservoir is the introduction of an interactive games table known as a Tovertafel.

This innovative addition has garnered popularity, particularly among residents residing in Murray House. They have been delighting in various games, including the leaf game and the very popular fish pond game.

The incorporation of technology, such as the Tovertafel, represents

a dynamic and engaging solution that brings joy and interaction to numerous residents. Notably, visitors have eagerly joined in on the fun, amplifying the sense of family and community engagement.

The benefits are many, including maintaining and building hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills and social skills.

A truly interactive and multi-sensory experience, the Tovertafel responds to touch, and uses sound, light and movement to keep participants engaged.

The million-dollar grant continues to make a big impact at Mayflower Reservoir.

Scan or click QR code for a video demonstration.





Tales of generosity

Pictured: Christina in front of one of her many beautiful and colourful installations which reads: "As you share your walk along life's journey, stop and remember those you loved. Take them amidst your care and connect with the garden, beautiful we have made. In your thoughts, you will treasure the memories in your hearts. Love those you treasured, go with stars in your thoughts."

'Christina's Gardens' - Making Mayflower Beautiful

Nestled within the serene borders of Mayflower Brighton, an enchanting new space of greenery and colour is taking shape, capturing the heart of Christina Andersen's love for gardens.

As the mind behind 'Christina's Garden Extension Project', Christina paints a narrative of resilience, mindfulness, legacy, and the eternal beauty of life.

Starting modestly, as Christina recalls, the project's ambition grew alongside her passion. "Initially just the first section in the corner, then someone mentioned doing the rest of it – and eventually, I undertook to do the whole lot!" she exclaims. The project took on the entire side of the Mayflower Brighton residence, alongside our retirement living unit car park.

The scent of the *Murraya Paniculata*, more commonly known as Orange Jessamine, which once surrounded her former home in East Bentleigh, holds a special place in Christina's heart. Each window there opened to the perfume and view of this charming flower hedging.

At Mayflower Brighton, she sought to recreate the essence of that special garden. Christina's vision sees the *Murraya Paniculata* forming a hedge on the back wall, while the garden's front invites family members to commemorate their lost loved ones with plants in their memory.

Christina's heartwarming reason for creating the garden is simple: "I wanted to leave this as my final resting place, a beautiful legacy to myself and to my thoughts and to my heart." Her vision is one of happiness for every individual at Mayflower Brighton.



The collaboration with Display Makers in Cheltenham added a vibrant touch to this green canvas.

“Lauren, daughter of Ross, who manages Display Makers, has crafted exquisite artworks of birds and butterflies,” says Christina. But why birds and butterflies? “Birds give us happiness. They bring us peace,” explains Christina, “like the symbolic representations of birds such as the dove of peace,” she says.

Strikingly beautiful and colourful birds are purposeful additions to remind visitors of tranquility. As for the butterflies, “they help the plants grow and it’s important to have butterflies visiting your garden, so I wanted to represent that.” These intricate creatures welcome all, whether on foot, wheelchair or by car, “as people leave the car park, or walk past Mayflower they can also enjoy the garden,” says Christina.

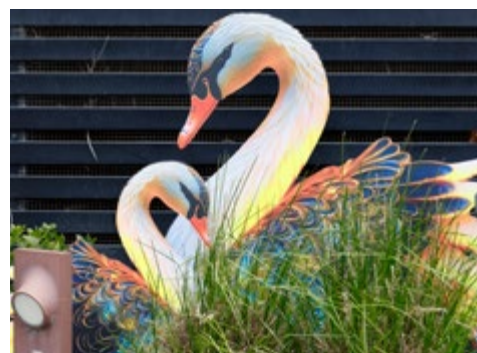
Christina’s life journey has been nothing short of miraculous. Once pronounced dead 24 years ago, she survived against all odds. Despite the hurdles, including her current battle with a terminal illness, her spirits remain high. “Thank the Lord I still have my marbles,” she jests, proving that her spirit is indomitable.

This latest addition is Christina’s third and final garden, following the ‘Maple Trees – an Expression of Peace and Joy’ and ‘Christina’s Garden Project, A Legacy of Peace’ around the back of Mayflower Brighton. You can read more about these and about Christina’s life story by visiting: mayflower.news/Trees and mayflower.news/LegacyofPeace

Christina believes that we are all here to do good. “And if we do that, we can leave the world for the better, and show those still here there’s a place for them to find peace and happiness.”

As we reflect on her journey and her gift to Mayflower, Christina’s concluding thought resonates deeply: “It is hard for me to say this, but I know my days here aren’t long, but I am leaving this garden as a legacy to my thoughts, to send peace and joy to those who visit.”

At Mayflower, a not-for-profit charitable organisation, we deeply cherish and are grateful for the generosity of community members like Christina, who help us make the world a little brighter and more beautiful for all.



Each installation is a symbol of colour, peace and joy, “Birds give us happiness. They bring us peace,” explains Christina.

Social Media *roundup*



Two Gentle Giants Visit Mayflower Brighton

Mayflower Brighton was graced with the presence of two majestic draft horses in the sensory garden, courtesy of a generous gift.

Everyone was overjoyed to interact with these gentle giants, offering them carrots and creating unforgettable moments.

A heartfelt thank you to W.D. Rose for this wonderful experience!

Pictured above is Lotta enjoying the special moment.

CEO Stuart Spotted

Here is a heartfelt moment, where our CEO Stuart was spotted getting into the Christmas Spirit - serving at the Independent Living Christmas Luncheon.



Clare Turns 97!

A big happy birthday to the vivacious Clare who has just recently celebrated her 97th Birthday - at Mayflower Edith Bendall.



AFL Day

Residents of Mayflower Reservoir enjoyed a jam-packed day full of footy fever! Their annual event included footy franks, a handball competition and the footy tipping winner announcement.

Pictured: Lifestyle Coordinator Helen with Jan donning their teams colours.



Grandparents Day Fun

Grandparents day was pure joy as residents and grandchildren came together to play games, dance, and share stories.

Plus, our team prepared vintage show bags brimming with treats such as puzzles, toys, chocolates, and delightful surprises. These moments truly illuminate our wonderful community at Mayflower Edith Bendall.

Animal Farm Delights Generations

We couldn't resist sharing this heartwarming photo of Neil and his great-grandson, Charlie, pictured here with Mayflower Brighton Lifestyle Coordinator, Hitesh.

The special bond Neil and Charlie share is simply undeniable, and we can't help but find both the lamb and little Charlie absolutely adorable!



Happy Birthday, Joyce!

We love delighting our Mayflower Home Care clients, and Joyce was pleasantly surprised to receive a special birthday card from us - hand-delivered!

Pictured here is a beautiful snapshot of the joy and connection shared between Joyce and our dedicated Mayflower Home Care Registered Nurse, Jenni.



ILU Pool Champs

The pool table just outside the Independent Living lounge at Mayflower Brighton has been getting some good use recently, with regular lessons, games and practice sessions taking place. Fun!

OUR APPEAL

Mayflower would not be the organisation it is today without the financial support of individual donors, community groups and schools, businesses, philanthropic trusts and foundations. We are grateful to these benefactors for contributing much needed funds to Mayflower.

As a not-for-profit charitable organisation we rely on the generous financial support of donors. All money raised is directed to helping enrich the lives of our residents.

Yes, I want to make a gift to Mayflower:

\$

Donations to Mayflower are tax deductible.

My details for payment

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7 Centre Road, Brighton East VIC 3187

T: 03 9591 1100 | E: info@mayflower.org.au

Alternatively, click or scan the QR code to make a donation today.



At Mayflower, as a not-for-profit charitable organisation, we thrive on the generosity of our community to help us empower residents to live their best life.

One unique way you can contribute is by hiring our Jennifer Cook Movie Theatre for your next function.

Our exquisite theatre features 16 plush cinema chairs, designed for both comfort and inclusivity, with ample space for wheelchair users. The room exudes charm with its tasteful old Hollywood-style decor, creating an inviting atmosphere. The theatre is well-equipped, offering a fridge for your favourite beverages and glassware, making it ideal for hosting memorable events.

Whether you're in the mood for the latest releases or want to indulge in the nostalgia of a classic film, our theatre promises a cinematic experience like no other. Stay tuned for upcoming catering options and packages that will complement your event seamlessly.

Your contribution not only enhances the lives of residents but also ensures Mayflower continues to be a beacon of care and enrichment in the community.

For more information on hiring the Jennifer Cook Movie Theatre please contact our reception team on 03 9591 1100.

To discuss bequests or to learn more about making a tax-deductible donation, connect with our Gifts and Giving Coordinator Nicole at nicole.porritt@mayflower.org.au, or [visit us](#).