



## MESSAGE FROM CEO

### 'CHANGE IS IN THE AIR'

I'm sure you all know the song 'LOVE is in the Air' but now let me suggest a variation to that title to 'CHANGE is in the Air' which better reflects our current circumstances! I'm sure that the talented musicians amongst us could come up with a catchy song to better suit the times we are in.

As you would all know the Federal election, which felt like the never-ending story, is over and we have a new Labour Government. The political atmosphere is changing to embrace the very strong message the Australian electorate sent to Canberra requiring a return to our long-held values of integrity, decency and respect. And for only the first time in my entire Health and Aged Care career, which now spans some forty-six years, our very broken Aged Care system and specifically older people in care, became central to the election campaign and have remained a priority for the immediate future. The newly elected Albanese Government have leapt out of the starting gate to drive reform in Aged Care along with commitments to an Integrity Commission, Regional geopolitical stability, giving Voice to our First nations People, Equality for Women and Climate change.

Indeed, 'Change is in the Air' and the Maroba team intend to keep Aged Care and issues confronting our ageing population front and centre. On the night of the election, I wrote to our Local Member Sharon Claydon as follows:

'I want to congratulate all of you on your excellent result for our electorate. It is such a wonderful result for all Australians but especially for Older Australians in care and for the women of Australia to now have a Prime Minister who has listened and who desires to bring the Nation together and address so many past wrongs. I am very eager to meet with yourself and the new Minister for Ageing / Health at the earliest opportunity to ensure action is not delayed to start fixing the brokenness of our sector.

If too much time passes, we will see more closures of vital local aged care services and I am confident that is not an outcome your Government will be prepared to tolerate.'

Likewise, the day the New Ministers for Health and Aged Care were announced I wrote to Anika Wells as follows: 'I would like to invite you to visit my residents and staff at our Not for Profit organisation, Maroba in Waratah NSW as soon as you are able. The Maroba family would have much to share with you to support your entry into your new portfolio.'

Friends, you are never too old to be an 'Activist'! Neither are you too young, too inexperienced, too junior or too old to be an innovator here at Maroba. In past years, together we have witnessed so much active creativity and productive innovation and it's time to release it afresh for the benefit of our community. While many of our staff and visiting students continue to generate some fantastic ideas, Covid has inhibited us getting together in person to share and activate many of them. However, very soon we will launch a new program for staff and students to test their dreams, ideas and aspirations for a better tomorrow. So stay tuned for what comes next as we fully immerse ourselves into the renewed atmosphere of 'Change is in the Air'.

You can cheer on your carers as they dream up better solutions to make your life at Maroba even more satisfying. You too can contribute to the recharged receptivity for a positive change atmosphere by putting your own ideas and suggestions forward. You have done this for decades and we love that about you! You know how to change the world to make it a better and happier place for us all!



Viv Allanson

# ANZAC BATTLES OF CRETE & GREEK CAMPAIGN 81ST ANNIVERSARY

Every year the Anniversary of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign (April-May 1941) is celebrated with a wreath laying ceremony and church service at the Cenotaph, Martin Place.

During this campaign over 17,000 Australians fought in mainland Greece and on the island Crete, and 646 were lost. More than half of these Anzacs were not found or their remains identified.

Our veteran Alf Carpenter played a major part in this campaign and unfortunately was unable to attend the service on 18 May in Martin Place this year. However at the local RSL meeting on 28 May, Alf was presented with a quilt in recognition of his service.

A big thank you to the Lodge team, Adamstown, Merewether and Hamilton RSL and 2/4th Battalion for helping Alf get ready and attending to his needs, including bringing him home after his lunch.



## POPPY WATERFALL

Our Poppy Waterfall was unveiled on Anzac Day and will be a highlight of Anzac Day celebrations into the future. The waterfall boasts more than 1000 poppies and it was truly a team effort. We have many people to thank with residents, families, friends of Maroba, staff and community members not connected to Maroba contributing to the project. Unfortunately too many to list!

In particular we thank Linda Winn, Director of Care for instigating the project.

If you would like to read more on this project, the Newcastle Weekly and the Newcastle Herald featured stories on this and veterans.





# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY - 12 MAY 2022

On 12 May, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday and as we do every year, we acknowledged International Nurse's Day. This day traditionally highlights the important contribution of our Registered and Enrolled Nurses across the globe. On this day we also acknowledged the heavy toll that all the restrictions and additional load has placed on every role at Maroba and especially those on the front line in our Covid positive wing.

This year we were not able to celebrate Nurses Day in the Maroba traditional way, however once our Waratah wing was out of lockdown, we celebrated belatedly with a good old Aussie BBQ.

Rhys and Ann were the BBQ King and Queen for the day and cooked up a storm. It was delicious and our way of saying a big thank you to each and every one of our Maroba family for staying the course and being the difference for our residents and each other.

To read more of Viv's message, please go to our website and navigate to the News tab.



## STAFF UPDATE

On 26 May we said goodbye to Shannon in an official capacity. Shannon was a Social work student on placement from the University of Newcastle. Shannon loved her time at Maroba, and we loved having her so much that she is now a casual staff member on our Social Engagement Team.

So it's not quite goodbye - we will be seeing Shannon around the facility in the future.

## NATIONAL SORRY DAY - 26 MAY

On National Sorry Day, Maroba came together to acknowledge and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation.





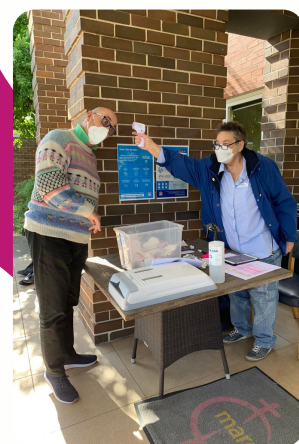
# SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



This last month, small groups of residents have ventured out in the bus with some enjoying a delicious lunch at Pelican RSL and an ice cream on the way back.

Thanks to our volunteer Carolyn Gibbins, a group of ladies also ventured out to the movies to see Downtown Abbey. Choc tops were also a highlight!

Mother's Day on 8 May was a happy occasion with many visits from family and friends. We were thrilled we could open up for visiting and thank everyone for their patience with check in.



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