







# Merry Christmas

## TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS, STAFF AND ALL YOUR FAMILIES

There's only a few more sleeps till Christmas and our residents and staff have been enjoying a wonderful lead into Christmas. In this issue we are showcasing the photos taken at our Christmas family afternoon tea last Saturday. Santa and Mrs Claus were in fine form too.

Our residents are being kept busy with a lot of functions and outings as well as trips to see the fabulous Christmas light displays around the area.

2017 has been a wonderful year of opening our new Austinmer and Bundeena wings as well as reopening our Keira and Warilla Wings.

2018 will be another busy year as we complete the renovation of Corrimal, Wollongong and Auxiliary Wings and finally complete our building program after more than 2.5 years of on-site building works.

That will be a red letter day for EVERYONE I am very sure.

Thank you to our wonderful staff for your dedication to our residents and for helping make Illawarra Diggers such a wonderful home for our residents.

Thank you also to our families for entrusting us with the care and support of your precious family member and for working with us to support them each day.

And finally, to all of our wonderful residents, thank you for the gift of sharing your life with us and allowing the privilege of supporting you in your day to day life.

One of my favourite quotes comes not from some sage famous philosopher but from that modern animated classic Kung Fu Panda. To quote Dustin Hoffman's character Master Shifu:

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That's why we call it the present".

So, all that is left then is to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and safe and happy New Year.

All the best

Peter Whittall, CEO



## Meet the Staff

### JUDY DENGATE

Commencing with Illawarra Diggers in 2005 and having worked in the laundry since the day she started, Judy is well and truly woven into the fabric of everyday life here. Although the daily routine consists of washing and ironing everything from clothing to linen to slings for the lifters, Judy's role consists of so much more. Many of our residents cherish the clothing they move in

with, especially some of the more fashion conscious. Taking care of these prized garments requires not only tender care but an appreciation and understanding that sometimes, an item of clothing is so much more than a collection of thread and buttons, but a symbol of someone's identity or a relic of a life lived. Judy not only knows which garments belong to whom but how each person likes their garments to be ironed and folded. If there is a button lost or a loose thread, Judy often tends to those too, knowing that the little things often count the most for our residents.

Originally from Muswellbrook, a town in the Upper Hunter Region, Judy and her partner Barry moved around for a few years spending time in Frankston VIC, Newcastle and Cobbity in NSW before finally settling in Wollongong twenty years ago. With three children, ten grand-daughters and one great grand-daughter, Judy has a large extended brood spread far and wide around Australia, some as far as Cairns! Judy loves to relax at home, whether it's reading about human experiences over the generations including the Holocaust, Changi Prison Camp and Australian war history or watching her beloved show Heartbeat! Otherwise you might find her out for dinner with some of her good friends from work or rolling her eyes at Barry as he 'wins' another card game which he always insists was a fair victory!