

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

It's hard to believe that we are already half way through February. The beginning of 2021 has been very busy as Warrigal moves into a 'COVID normal' environment. A lot of planning has taken place to ensure our homes remain safe for our residents.

The year ahead will be met with ups and downs, as COVID clusters are identified within the community and restrictions change, but this is becoming our new normal and most of us have adapted to these changes.

A lot of work has been undertaken to identify risks and return the remainder of our volunteer activities and services. A submission has been put to Executive for final approval and I will update you as soon as we can proceed.

In the meantime, I would like to thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support.

OP SHOP RE-OPENS

The Warilla Op Shop has now re-opened and has been very busy over the last few weeks. Operating hours are Wednesday to Friday 9am - 2pm. CLOSED Saturdays.

Our team of volunteers are working hard to ensure the shop is COVID Safe. We're doing extra cleaning, we have hand sanitiser available and are practising social distancing. We have a QR code for customers and safe screening procedures for our volunteers.



Volunteer Mandatory Training



It is now a requirement for all staff and volunteers to complete the following training:

- PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Aged Care Module 5 (Department of Health)
- Infection Control (Warrigal eXplore)
- COVID (Warrigal eXplore)

The above training will take approximately 40 minutes to read and complete.

Why do I need to do training?

At Warrigal we are committed to providing a high level of care to our residents and customers.

Staff and volunteers play a significant role and as such, the above training ensures we have the knowledge and skills to deliver quality care and maintain a safe and healthy environment.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have already completed training.

Volunteer Contact Details

There are still a number of volunteers who receive newsletters and information by mail, which can delay critical information being received. If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and have an email address, please complete the attached form and return it via the REPLY PAID envelope provided.

Latest update on COVID-19

taken from letters to families from Craig Smith (Executive Leader, Service Integrated Communities)

- There are still no positive cases of COVID-19 at Warrigal, which means that for over 12 months we have managed to keep the virus from reaching our care homes. This has been a great achievement and has only been possible with the huge support from our whole community including; residents/customers, who have been patient and understanding; relatives and representatives who have been incredibly supportive and positive; staff who have remained vigilant, caring and dedicated; volunteers who have been a critical part of our response to the pandemic; allied health workers who have continued to provide essential services to residents; and contractors who followed Warrigal policies and procedures in an accepting and collaborative way.
- Reviews by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission on our COVID-19 preparedness continue to be undertaken. Late January our Mount Warrigal home was reviewed, which included reviewing the outbreak management plan, general infection control and related policies and procedures. The assessment team were pleased with the systems and processes that we have implemented.
- The Ministry of Health in NSW continues to provide regular updates to aged care providers on the restrictions that need to be followed. There are no current restrictions on the number of visitors that a resident/customer can have at any one time or during the day, and they can leave the home for medical appointments or social outings.
- All staff and visitors must wear a mask in all residential care homes.
- Physical distancing is being monitored in our care homes and the Government's requirement is you stay at least 1.5 metres away from other people.



- Over the next few weeks Warrigal will be introducing QR Codes in response to COVID Safe Procedures. We ask all visitors and volunteers to sign in using the QR Code when arriving to the care home. The code and instructions will be placed on all noticeboards at entry and exit points of the building. Please note you will still be required to proceed to reception for the remainder of the screening process, including sign in and temperature check.
- We understand some volunteers may not have a smartphone and would be unable to scan in using the code. So to support you we will have an iPad at reception where staff will assist with the scanning process.
- The QR Code is an excellent way to quickly enact contact tracing should this be required and is an important part of Warrigal's approach to continue ensuring we maintain the health and wellbeing of residents, families and visitors, staff, contractors and volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can read the full letters on our website warrigal.com.au under latest communication to families.



Mount Warrigal ~ Valentines Day



Goulburn Coffee Club

Information on COVID vaccinations



- The Australian Government announced its plan to deliver Australia's COVID-19 vaccination program this year. The plan includes the announcement of an additional \$1.9 billion to go towards the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to help hospitals, GPs and pharmacies on the frontline deliver vaccinations to everyone in Australia.
- Aged Care staff and residents are priorities for early access to the free vaccine.
- The Australian Government is responsible for leading the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination, and it is not known at this stage whether NSW Health will make it mandatory for visitors to have the vaccine, similar to the requirement for the flu vaccine.
- We have not been advised of a roll-out date OR if the initial roll-out above will include volunteers working in aged care homes.
- We will continue to keep you updated with information on the COVID-19 vaccination as it becomes available.
- Attached is an information sheet on the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine.

UPCYCLING from the Op Shop

Sensory Mats or Fidget Blankets are a lap quilt that provides sensory and tactile stimulation for the restless hands of someone with Alzheimer's and/or other forms of dementia.

Sonya (volunteer) has been busy carefully selecting suitable materials from our Op Shop and upcycling them to make beautiful fidget blankets.

These blankets are now being enjoyed by the residents at our Warilla home.



Living Connected runs a FREE service helping seniors along the NSW South Coast to overcome isolation by upskilling their use of digital technology. The team of volunteer mentors guides people in aged-care facilities, community groups and at home, to use digital devices and get online.

Living Connected work on an individual basis, and focus on what each person wants to do, not on the technology.

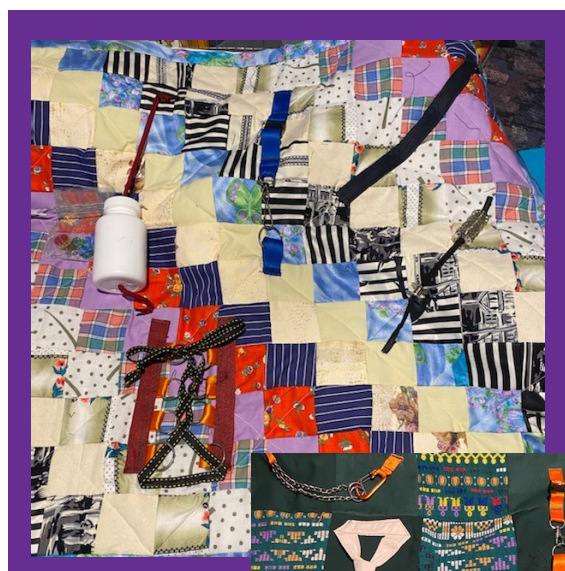
They deliver services at Unanderra Community Centre, iAccelerate Innovation Campus, Woonona-Bulli RSL, Albion Park Rail Community Centre and in-home visits.

To book into a free session or arrange an in-home visit to assist with digital technology, please contact Living Connected on:

Telephone: 0409 753 808

Email: admin@livingconnected.org.au

Website: livingconnected.org.au



POSITIONS VACANT

Role: BUS DRIVER

Hours: 4-6 hours



Duties:

- Drive customers to and from their home to various destinations as scheduled by the Village Community Coordinator or Service Manager.
- Assist customers under staff supervision.
- Police Check (*paid for by Warrigal*)
- NDIS Worker Screening Check (*free for volunteers*)
- Report vehicle maintenance issues to the Fleet Officer.

Essential:

- LR licence (*or equivalent*)
- Driving Assessment with ABC Driving School (*paid for by Warrigal*)
- Completed relevant volunteer training or willingness to complete (PPE Module 5 (Department of Health), Infection Control (eXplore), COVID (eXplore)).

If you are interested in any advertised positions, please contact Michelle Chate, Volunteer Coordinator, 0436 806 723.

Happy Retirement David



It is with sadness that we say goodbye to wonderful and dedicated volunteer bus driver, David, who has worked tirelessly as a volunteer driver for the past 10 years. Over the last 10 years, David also assisted with crafts, bingo, quizzes, music and other activities for our Warrigal Social customers to enjoy. Whilst Warrigal Social has been on hold due to COVID-19, he has continued to volunteer driving our Albion Park Rail residents on short outings. David has always been happy and willing to help out where needed with a smile and a greeting for everyone. You will be greatly missed.

Mercer bring Christmas lights to Warrigal

A BIG thank you to our Corporate Volunteers from Mercer for bringing Christmas decorations to our Mt Terry and Warilla residents at Christmas. Residents watched on and gave helpful decorating tips, with resident Bob also getting busy helping our volunteers. At sundown the lights lit up the courtyards providing a colourful display. It was also wonderful to see our residents admiring the sprinkling of tinsel and baubles from their verandas before settling in for the night. *Photo credit: Viraj Keer (Mercer)*

