mayflower

grapevine

Spring Edition 2026 | Issue 101

Read how *Generosity has always been part of us.*

IN-HOUSE CHANGE

Delivering BIG Benefits!



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS *EARLY*

Raffle & Christmas in July

@themayflowergroup



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Generosity, Connection & Community

Spring is always a welcome reminder of renewal, and across Mayflower there is much to celebrate.

What stands out in this edition of Grapevine is the strength of our community.

Across our homes and Retirement Living community, residents, families, volunteers and team members contribute in many ways - through celebrations, fundraising, sharing stories, volunteering and simply spending time together.

Generosity has always been an important part of Mayflower's story, and we recently recognised this at Brighton with the dedication of our refurbished Gift Shop in memory of Christina Andersen.

A plaque was unveiled in recognition of Christina's generous bequest, which made the transformation possible and will benefit residents for years to come.

Throughout these pages, you will see many examples of what makes Mayflower special - from 'Italian Day' at Reservoir and Christmas in July at Edith Bendall, to Father's Day and AFL celebrations, resident stories and the contribution of our volunteers and team members.

Shortly each of our 3 homes will hold its own Christmas raffle, raising funds for activities and experiences that enrich residents' lives. I hope many of you will get behind them.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to life at Mayflower.

Together, residents, families, volunteers, supporters and team members create the strong and connected community we are so proud of.

Paul Gregersen | Chief Executive Officer



Our *appeal*

As a registered not-for-profit charitable organisation, Mayflower relies on the generous financial support of donors.

Every contribution, big or small, directly helps enrich the lives of residents, through compassionate care, services such as Music Therapy, enhanced activities, and meaningful resources that empower connection and wellbeing.

Please help us continue this important work by *donating today!*

For more information on how you can make a real difference, please see the back cover.

Please note our new account details (also found on the back cover).

On the cover:
Team member Pema with Frank holding the 'Premiership Cup' at Mayflower Edith Bendall.



Generosity has always been *part of Mayflower.*

Did you know that Mayflower is a not-for-profit organisation?

It is an important part of who we are.

Unlike organisations that distribute profits to shareholders, Mayflower reinvests back into our people, services, environments and the experience of those who live in our communities.

For more than 60 years, the generosity of the Mayflower community has also helped us do more.

Gifts, donations and bequests have supported projects and initiatives that enhance the lives of residents and help create welcoming, connected communities.

One meaningful example is the Jennifer Cook Movie Theatre at Mayflower Brighton.

Jenny had a great love of the arts, and through her generous bequest, that passion became part of her lasting legacy at Mayflower.

The theatre created in her name gives residents a dedicated space to enjoy films, performances and shared experiences - continuing to bring enjoyment and connection to the Mayflower community in a way that reflects something Jenny herself deeply valued.

What does being 'not-for-profit' mean?

For Mayflower, being not-for-profit means our **purpose comes first.**

Guided by our vision of *Care without Compromise*, we exist to enhance quality of life for the people and communities we support.

Any surplus we generate is reinvested into Mayflower, while the generosity of our supporters can help us provide additional experiences, amenities and opportunities that go beyond everyday care.

It is one of the ways our community can help make a meaningful difference - today and for generations to come.

This Christmas, there is another simple way to be part of that tradition of generosity.

Our Mayflower Christmas Raffle will give residents, families, team members and supporters the opportunity to join in the fun while helping support the Mayflower community.

You can find details of this year's raffle, including prizes and how to purchase tickets, on page 18.

Over the coming editions of Grapevine, we will share more stories about the role generosity has played throughout Mayflower's history and the difference giving continues to make for residents and communities.

As a not-for-profit, Mayflower exists to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the people and communities we support.

Pictured below; Jenny Cook in her youth; and inside the old-hollywood art deco themed theatre.







Pictured above: Mayflower Edith Bendall volunteer, Jodie, with Norma enjoying a lovely high tea together.

Volunteers *Needed*

Your opportunity to join our friendly team of Volunteers is here! From running our gorgeous Gift Shop, pampering residents, to driving our minibuses, and running an activity - our volunteers across Mayflower help the world go round!

If you have a few hours a month you could share, we'd love you to join our team. Speak to reception at your local Mayflower home or email info@mayflower.org.au with your location preference and how you would like to help us.



Retirement *Living* – at it's *finest.*

Retirement should be a time of comfort, choice and new experiences.

At Mayflower Brighton, retirement living is designed to support people to enjoy life at their own pace, in a welcoming and connected community.

Our contemporary one and two bedroom apartments offer a beautiful balance of cosiness and quality, with light-filled living spaces, modern finishes and thoughtful design throughout. Each apartment provides the privacy and independence of your own home, with the added reassurance of support close by if ever needed.

Residents also enjoy access to shared spaces that encourage social connection, from inviting lounges and landscaped gardens to a café and regular lifestyle activities. It is a place where neighbours become friends, and where every day brings opportunities to relax, connect and truly live your life, your way.



Meet Aman

Since joining Mayflower Brighton in May 2026, Aman has enjoyed getting to know residents, families and the team, while becoming part of the Mayflower community.

As a Care Manager, Aman helps ensure each resident receives safe, respectful and individualised care.

"For me, care is not only about meeting clinical needs; it is also about helping residents feel heard, comfortable, respected, and at home," says Aman.

Aman has worked in nursing and aged care for 10 years - although she originally planned to become a dentist! Her father encouraged her to recognise her caring nature and use it to serve the community. "He told me, "Whatever you choose, give your best to the community and serve people. We will always be proud of you.""

Aman's decision was affirmed during a flight from India, when she responded to a call for medical assistance, helping an older gentleman who had become unwell.

Aman values how team members support and learn from one another.

"What I love most is the people," says Aman. "Everyone shares the same purpose of supporting residents."

Outside of work, Aman enjoys travelling (especially exploring Victoria!), gardening, spending time with family and friends, and watching forensic programs inspired by her interest in psychology.



Connect *with Us*

Social media is a great way to stay ‘in the know’ and to network with others in your community, and our socials are no exception!

We share inspiring stories, wonderful photographs of residents, news from Mayflower, and stories about our dedicated team. You’ll also find helpful information and resources to better understand dementia, aged care, and ageing.

You can find, follow, ‘like,’ and share our pages on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn by searching for **‘The Mayflower Group.’**

Pictured left: Resident artist, Ernie, with his newly installed gallery wall where he is able to share, rotate and showcase up to 18 of his latest artworks - at Mayflower Brighton.

A CUT ABOVE: SALON SERVICES ARE TURNING HEADS



Pictured above: Indpendent Living resident Joan, with hairdresser Christina, at Mayflower Brighton.

The expanded salon services at Mayflower Reservoir and Mayflower Brighton are proving popular.

Residents can enjoy a range of hair, nail and beauty treatments within the comfort of their home.

Professional care, close by

In-house hairdressers and beauty therapists provide professional services in familiar, welcoming surroundings.

Residents can book a haircut, colour or blow-wave. They can also enjoy a manicure and finished nails.

Having these services close by makes appointments simple and convenient. There is no need to organise transport or travel to an external salon.

Residents can maintain the routines and personal touches that matter to them, with support from the Mayflower team nearby.

Time to relax and connect

A salon appointment offers more than a new hairstyle or fresh coat of nail polish. It is also a chance to relax, enjoy a conversation and spend time focused on personal wellbeing.

The salons have become welcoming social spaces. Familiar faces greet residents, conversations are shared and each person receives individual attention.

These everyday experiences can support confidence, choice and self-expression.

Welcoming the wider community

At Mayflower Brighton, the services are also enjoyed by independent living residents. This creates another link across the Mayflower community and makes professional hair and beauty care easy to access close to home.

The positive response shows how meaningful services can be. By expanding the salon offering, Mayflower is supporting residents to continue the grooming and self-care routines they enjoy.

Each appointment is an opportunity to feel refreshed, confident and cared for.



Mayflower Brighton's *Inviting Guest Suite*

Mayflower Brighton is pleased to offer a well appointed guest suite for the exclusive use of residents' family and friends.

Set among lush landscaped gardens in the Rodda Dixon Terraces, the spacious hotel-style suite provides a comfortable and convenient place for loved ones to stay while visiting Mayflower.

Designed with both comfort and independence in mind, the suite features a queen-sized bed with ensuite, a fully equipped modern kitchen with dishwasher, open-plan living and dining area and a European laundry. Linen and towels are also provided for added convenience.

Guests can also enjoy access to a range of Mayflower Brighton amenities during their stay, including the indoor swimming pool, gym, café and the Jennifer Cook movie theatre.

Whether visiting for a special occasion or spending a little extra time with a loved one, the guest suite offers a welcoming home away from home.

For enquiries contact Heather Buckley: Phone: 03 9591 1189
Email: hbuckley@mayflower.org.au



New Uniforms now launched at *Mayflower Brighton!*

Joining Mayflower Reservoir and Mayflower Edith Bendall, Mayflower Brighton has officially launched the new Mayflower uniforms, and we think you will agree, they look fantastic!

Featuring a fresh collection of colours, the new uniforms make it easier for residents and visitors to identify the different roles of team members, supporting confidence and everyday communication throughout the home.

The contemporary design has also been chosen with practicality and comfort in mind, helping team members feel comfortable while delivering the high standard of care and support Mayflower is known for.



Voice of Mayflower

Our *'Your Mayflower Voice'* survey gives team members the opportunity to share their views and help shape continuous improvement across Mayflower.

The Your Voice Trophy recognises the home with the overall best performance, with Mayflower Reservoir (pictured) taking out the inaugural trophy and Mayflower Edith Bendall the most recent winner.

Thank you to everyone who takes the time to have their say.

Special *feature*



Pictured above: Barbara, with her memoir 'The Keys to the Many Doors in My Life.' Barbara, having lived at Mayflower for 10 years, she encourages anyone considering retirement living to start their research early.

BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Many Doors in *Barbara's Life*

If Barbara looks familiar, you may remember her from our 100th edition of Grapevine, where she featured in The Aethereal Project photoshoot.

Beyond the striking portrait is a woman with a remarkable life story. Barbara is an artist, author, former CEO, mother and grandmother, with a life shaped by courage, creativity and perseverance.

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Barbara's early life was shaped by courage and new beginnings. Her parents had each left Germany before the Second World War and later met in South Africa. Her father arrived in 1934, while her mother arrived with her own father in 1936, both seeking a new life filled with hope and possibility.

Barbara met her husband, Max, in Rhodesia, before the couple migrated to Australia with their 2 daughters in search of a safer and more certain future.

Life brought deep challenges, including the loss of Max to cancer when Barbara was just 49. Through every chapter, she continued to move forward, raising her daughters, building a career and finding strength in creativity, leadership and community.

"I've learnt resilience," Barbara says. "There have been quite a lot of changes in my life. I've had to be resilient, otherwise I would have gone under."

Creativity and Leadership

Barbara's career was as varied as it was accomplished. She served as CEO of more than one organisation and has enjoyed a lifelong connection to the arts, helping bring ballet to new audiences through the First Impressions program in Darwin.

During COVID, Barbara spent 2 years writing her autobiography, 'The Keys to the Many Doors in My Life.' The book explores family, migration, belonging and the many chapters that have shaped her. It is available through the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia.

"I believe we are formed by the land in which we are born," Barbara writes. "We never really leave because it is a part of us."

Today, Barbara continues to paint, write and enjoy life at Mayflower Brighton.

When asked what advice she would give her younger self, her answer is simple:

"Life is what you make it."



Pictured above: Mayflower Reservoir team members, embracing the day with their whole hearts.

The *Comfiest* Day of the Year!

Pyjamas weren't just for bedtime when Mayflower Edith Bendall and Mayflower Reservoir celebrated National Pyjama Day!

Residents, volunteers and our team donned their best jammies, dressing gowns and slippers for the occasion, bringing plenty of colour, laughter and fun to both homes.

The relaxed dress-up day proved to be a great conversation starter. From favourite PJs to playful patterns, there was plenty to talk and laugh about as everyone embraced the opportunity to do something a little different together.

A worthy cause

At Mayflower Reservoir, the day also supported an important cause. Team members donated to take part, raising funds for The Pyjama Foundation, which supports children in foster care through learning, life skills and mentoring programs.

While the fundraising was a welcome contribution, the day also helped raise awareness of children in foster care and the work being done to support them.

At Mayflower Edith Bendall, residents, volunteers and the team also embraced the occasion, proudly sporting their sleepwear throughout the day.

Across both homes, National Pyjama Day brought people together, sparked conversations and plenty of smiles - all while supporting greater awareness of an important cause.





A Taste of *Italy* Brings Residents *Together*

Celebrating Italian heritage.

The enticing aroma of freshly baked biscotti, the sound of Italian ballads and lively conversation filled Mayflower Reservoir – as the community celebrated Festa della Repubblica.

Held on 2 June each year, this national day marks Italy's transition from monarchy to republic in 1946. The celebration provided a wonderful opportunity to honour Italian culture and share its traditions with others.

Familiar flavours and favourite songs

Residents enjoyed Italian dishes and sweets, bringing back fond memories for some while introducing others to new flavours.

The festivities continued at happy hour, where popular performer Frank Rizzo entertained the crowd with live music and familiar Italian favourites.

It was not long before the dance floor filled. Family members and team members embraced the celebrations, encouraging residents to sing along, join in and share a dance.

Bringing the community together

Cultural celebrations play an important role in helping residents feel at home and connected to their heritage.

They also encourage people to share stories, learn about different traditions and build meaningful relationships with residents, families and the team.

Festa della Repubblica brought everyone together through treasured traditions, delicious flavours and music that kept the room moving.


























Certificate of Appreciation








Certificate of Appreciation
Certificate of Appreciation



Special *feature*

Legacy & *Wisdom* shared across *Generations*

Every life holds a story worth preserving.

At Mayflower Brighton, an annual partnership with St Finbar's Primary School is helping residents record their memories, experiences and wisdom for generations to come.

Each year, a group of students undertakes the meaningful task of writing the life stories of participating residents.

Over 6 weekly meetings, the students spend time getting to know residents through thoughtful interviews and conversations.

Residents are invited to share stories from throughout their lives, including memories of childhood, family, work, travel and significant moments.

The sessions also offer valuable life lessons and personal reflections, supported by treasured photographs that help bring each story to life.

Learning beyond the classroom

For the students, the project provides an opportunity to learn beyond the classroom.

By listening closely and asking questions, they gain a greater understanding of the experiences that have shaped previous generations. They also discover how much can be learned through genuine conversation, curiosity and respect.

At the conclusion of the project, each resident is presented with a beautifully compiled booklet containing their life story.

These booklets become lasting keepsakes that can be shared with children, grandchildren, friends and future generations, helping to preserve each person's legacy in their own words.

A legacy for future generations

The project is celebrated with a special presentation ceremony, where students receive a gift and certificate of appreciation in recognition of their care and commitment.

Residents, students, families and teachers then come together to enjoy a shared morning tea.

This valued initiative creates a space where wisdom is heard, stories are celebrated and relationships are formed across generations.

It empowers residents to reflect on the lives they have lived and the lessons they wish to pass on, while giving young students knowledge and experience that will stay with them long after the final page is written.

Pictured above: Brian with students during the afternoon's story-reading session.





King's Birthday

King-Sized Celebrations - Across Mayflower!

King Charles's Birthday was celebrated in grand style across Mayflower, with each home hosting a memorable occasion filled with music, delicious food and warm company.

Residents and family members gathered around beautifully decorated tables to enjoy elegant high teas served with fine china.

Live entertainers performed well-known favourites, inspiring plenty of singing, toe-tapping, and dancing. There was even a visiting furry friend, or two adding to the family party atmosphere.

The celebrations also provided an opportunity to reflect on royal traditions and share stories.

For some residents, the day brought back memories of previous royal occasions, community celebrations and travels abroad.

Most importantly, the festivities brought people together.

Filled with conversation, laughter and shared enjoyment, each celebration created special new memories for residents, families and our team.

















Rock 'n' Roll Christmas

"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree!"

Christmas in July brought festive fun to Mayflower Edith Bendall, with a 1950s Rock 'n' Roll twist on a much-loved annual tradition.

Frank Rizzo had the room rocking with classic tunes while residents enjoyed festive treats and a special visit from Santa.

Family members joined in the celebrations, making the occasion even more special as they shared music, laughter and time together.

With plenty of Christmas spirit and toe-tapping favourites, it was a wonderful way to brighten a winter's day.















John's Not Your Average *Accountant*

At 96, Dr John Miller AO FCPA is still keeping very busy.

Recently featured in CPA Australia's INTHEBLACK magazine in an article titled Not Your Average Accountant, John has certainly lived up to the name.

While accounting was his profession, his career has taken him far beyond numbers, with roles across education, consumer affairs, public policy and international leadership.

John helped establish the marketing program at Monash University's Caulfield campus more than 50 years ago, became a founding dean at 2 universities, served as Victoria's Director of Consumer Affairs, and was elected President of the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA).

In 1979 John was awarded as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his distinguished service to education and the community, and in 2003 the Australian Centenary Medal for leadership in accounting, academic life and the public sector.

Beyond his professional achievements, John built an impressive sporting record. He played 112 games of squash for the Melbourne Cricket Club and completed 65 accredited cross-country ski marathons in 16 countries. "At the time, I was the oldest person in the world to have achieved that," says John.

He has also never shied away from the media, with his work covered across newspapers, magazines, television and radio. There is even a long-running family joke with his daughter Kitty that, after so many years in the public eye, it can all feel a little "me, me, me" in the media.

Finding Mayflower

These days, John calls Mayflower Brighton home after arriving for respite following a serious fall and time in hospital and rehabilitation."I haven't been home since," John says.

It was Kitty, who understands the aged care sector well, who encouraged him to come to Mayflower.

Since then, John and his family have noticed a real improvement in his health, supported by fresh meals, attentive care and plenty to keep him engaged.

"My kids tell me my health has improved, and I can feel that it has," he says.

Care, competence and kindness

Although John now resides in aged care, he has not completely stepped away from working life. He still meets with clients by video call, staying connected to the professional world that has shaped so much of his life.

For someone whose career involved protecting consumers and helping people make informed decisions, John's endorsement of Mayflower carries weight.

"You can tell it's a not-for-profit charitable organisation because it's full of care, competence and kindness," he says.

And as for life at Mayflower?

"No one can ever be bored," John says, "there's something for everybody!"



Attribution: Thank you to INTHEBLACK Magazine at CPA Australia, for allowing us to use these incredible photos by photographer Jarrod Barnes. You can view the magazine by scanning the QR code on the right.

Christmas Raffle

5 Wonderful Prizes to *WIN!*

Our Christmas raffle is back across all 3 of our homes – with wonderful prizes to be won and the chance to make a meaningful difference. We invite residents, families, team members and supporters to share in the Christmas spirit by purchasing a ticket *(or 20!).*

Every ticket supports our Gift Fund, helping provide experiences, amenities and opportunities beyond everyday care.

Your generosity helps bring residents' wishes to life, from special activities and additional resources to thoughtful improvements around their home.

"Thank you!"

A heartfelt thank you to Eastern Press, who print Mayflower's marketing materials, including Grapevine, for generously providing complimentary raffle ticket printing for the second year running. Their continued support helps our fundraising go even further.

Purchase your tickets at reception or scan the QR code to buy online. Your ticket could win you a lovely prize while bringing more enjoyment to residents' lives.

Cost: 1 for $5, 5 for $20 or 20 for $50 (best value!)

Purchase tickets at your Mayflower home's reception or purchase online using the QR Codes below.

Reservoir Draw:
15th December 2pm
in the Foyer

Brighton Draw:
17th December 2pm
in the Reception area

Edith Bendall Draw:
18th December 1pm
in the Dining Room

Prizes up for grabs:



Favourites *Hamper*



Celebration
Ice Bucket *Hamper*



MOR Gilded
Marshmallow *Gift Set*



T2 Iced Tea
Party *Bundle*

+ Mayflower's *The Salon* $100 *Voucher!*

Special *feature*

Café Amore Is Back!

From Tiny Tots to 90-Plus, Everyone Celebrated

Café Amore has officially reopened at Mayflower Reservoir, bringing residents, families, team members and visitors together for a wonderful community celebration.

Now proudly operated in-house and aptly named by residents, the Italian-inspired café is a welcoming place to meet, enjoy a freshly brewed coffee and spend time with family and friends.

The reopening celebration featured live entertainment from much-loved performer Frank Rizzo, who had guests singing along and enjoying the music. There was also free coffee, colourful face painting and creative balloon art by the incredibly talented Alexandra Gear.

The celebration was enjoyed by all ages, from tiny 2-month-old babies to residents aged over 90.

With something for everyone to enjoy, the afternoon created many special moments of intergenerational connection. Children proudly showed off their face painting and balloon creations, while residents, loved ones and team members shared conversation, music and plenty of smiles.

The reopening marked an exciting new chapter for Café Amore and highlighted the important role it plays within the Mayflower Reservoir community. More than a place to enjoy coffee, it offers a warm and inviting space where people of all generations can come together.

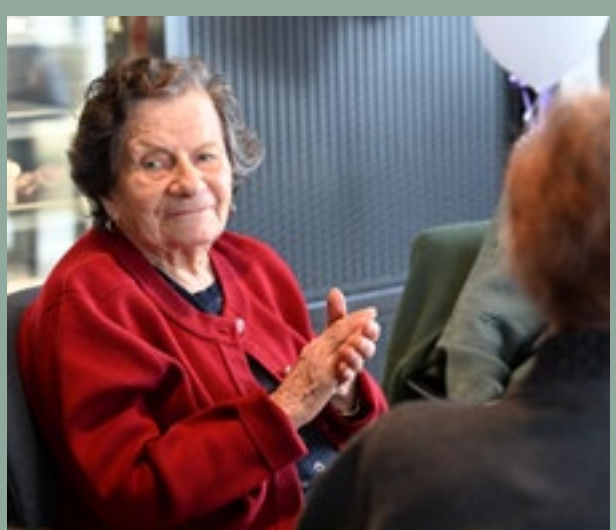
Good coffee. Made with love. Every cup, a moment.

Café Amore is open Tuesday to Saturday, from 9am to 4pm at Mayflower Reservoir.









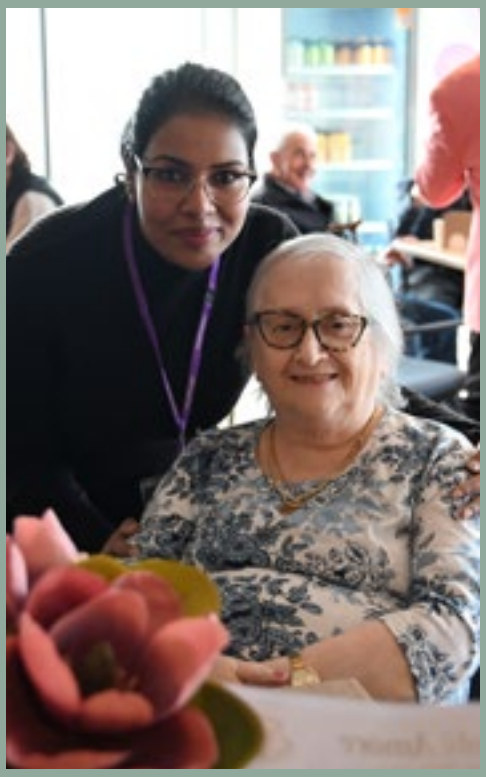



Café
Amore
Café
Amore













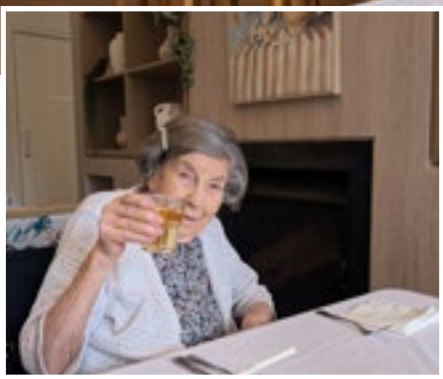












BRIGHTON

Kings Terrace – a *new* dining experience.

At Mayflower Brighton, the King family's longstanding generosity is celebrated in 'Kings Terrace' dining, the newly refreshed dining room in John King House, a wing also named in their honour.

Overlooking a generous terrace, the room embraces 'biophilic' design - bringing the sense of nature indoors to help residents feel relaxed and comfortable.

Real and faux plants complement new artwork and furniture. Living greenery offers a connection to nature, while timber, wicker and stone bring warmth through familiar textures.

Wicker pendant lights, travertine wall sconces and a travertine lamp create ambience at different heights. Simulated travertine wallpaper refreshes the existing dividing wall, creating a cosy atmosphere. King-themed decorative touches further acknowledge the family's generosity.

Making Mealtimes More Enjoyable

The renovated kitchen and servery bring practical improvements to mealtimes. Moving the dishwasher around the corner and adding walls helps reduce noise, giving residents a quieter setting for meals and conversation. The new servery keeps food hot while it is being served.

Two new menu screens showcase the day's meals, helping residents understand what is being served and anticipate what comes next, including a scone with jam and cream for afternoon tea! These appetising previews encourage interest in food and support healthy appetites for nutritious meals prepared by our chefs.

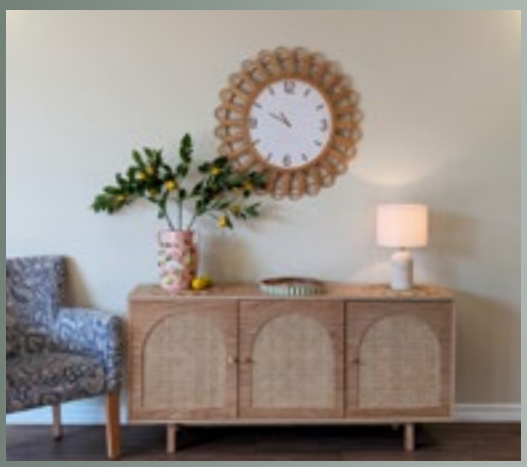
Ambient music completes this inviting setting, where thoughtful design supports the everyday pleasure of dining together.

To support Mayflower with a donation, please see our back page, or explore our Christmas raffle on page 18. Every contribution helps provide additional experiences and amenities for residents.


















The *In-House* Change Delivering *BIG Benefits*

Meet the Team Keeping Mayflower in Shape.

Mayflower's maintenance team is now officially in-house, following a move away from a third-party provider.

The change gives Mayflower greater flexibility and oversight while ensuring residents, team members and each of our homes continue to receive reliable, responsive support.

Essential work every day

From everyday repairs and preventative maintenance to safety checks and presentation, the team helps keep everything working as it should.

Their work supports comfortable, welcoming environments where residents can feel at home and team members can focus on providing care.

Skilled hands make a difference

Our maintenance team members bring valuable trade backgrounds and practical skills, including tiling and plastering.

This hands-on expertise often allows jobs to be completed promptly without bringing in outside contractors. The team also plays an important role in renovations, improvements and larger projects across Mayflower.

A more responsive service

Because the team works directly within Mayflower, maintenance needs can be assessed, prioritised and addressed with a clear understanding of each home.

This supports better planning, quicker communication and a more consistent service for residents.

Making funds go further

Bringing maintenance in-house also helps reduce external contractor costs and gives Mayflower greater control over how resources are used.

As a not-for-profit charitable organisation, being responsible with funds matters.

Every saving can be directed back into supporting residents, enhancing homes and strengthening the Mayflower community.



Saying "Thank You Dad" on Father's Day

Father's Day brought families together across our 3 homes, with thoughtful gifts, delicious meals, pizza parties and live entertainment adding to the celebrations.

Residents enjoyed time with loved ones, sharing a meal, a laugh and appreciation for the men who hold a special place in their lives.

We celebrated fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers, including much-loved pappoús and nonnos, alongside uncles, brothers, father figures and lifelong mates.

The day was an opportunity to recognise their many contributions, from guidance and encouragement to the stories, humour and friendship shared over the years. Each celebration offered a warm reminder of how much these relationships mean to families and the wider Mayflower community.

Please enjoy photos from our Father's Day celebrations across our homes on the following pages.








Happy
FATHER'S
Day!
HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY






Happy
FATHER'S

















Meet Santo

With his warmth and wonderful sense of humour, Santo is a valued member of the Environmental Services team at Mayflower Edith Bendall – in Pascoe Vale.

Each day, he helps keep the home clean, tidy and welcoming, with a clear priority: “My priority is to have the place 'spick and span!'” says Santo.

His careful work supports effective infection control and helps maintain a safe and comfortable environment for residents, team members and visitors alike.

For Santo, much of his job satisfaction comes from the people he sees throughout the day.

“Catching up with residents on a daily basis and enjoying a chat makes me happy,” he says.

He also values the strong sense of community among the team. “It is like working with a close family, working well together as a team,” he says.

Life at Home

Away from work, Santo is a busy grandfather to Lucie, 6, Noah, 2½, Leonardo, 2, and Carla, 8 months.

He enjoys visiting the country, fishing, golf, cooking, sharing a glass of wine with friends and, true to form, making people laugh.



"TO OUR INCREDIBLE TEAM:

THANKS FOR CARING

WE **APPRECIATE** YOU!"

- From all of us, at Mayflower.

Pictured: Photos from our various Aged Care Emplyee Day celebrations across our 3 homes and corporate office.



Special feature

Pictured above: Aged Care Employee Day at Mayflower Edith Bendall, celebrating some incredible milestones.

Celebrating the *People* who make a *Difference*

Aged Care Employee Day provided an opportunity to recognise the dedication, compassion and professionalism of team members across Mayflower Brighton, Reservoir and Edith Bendall.

Much like Christmas at Mayflower, each home came together over a shared meal, with gifts presented to milestone recipients and time to celebrate.

General Managers shared words of gratitude, while a special video featuring residents thanking the team was played at each celebration.

This year, Mayflower recognised service milestones ranging from an incredible 5 to 25 years!

At Mayflower Reservoir, Care and Leisure Coordinator Helen celebrated 10 years of service. At Edith Bendall, Care and Leisure Coordinator Natalie reached 25 years, General Manager Martha marked 20 years and Personal Care Assistant Sarika celebrated 10 years.

At Brighton, Care and Leisure Coordinator Hitesh, care team members Meinrado, Swapna, Jatinder and Krestina, and Environmental Services team member Derya each reached 15 years. Valentin was recognised for 10 years of service.

Several team members across Edith Bendall and Brighton also celebrated 5-year milestones.

Each recipient received a gift and commemorative service pin.

The celebrations reflected each home. Reservoir enjoyed Italian cuisine, Edith Bendall shared a South Asian-inspired menu, and Brighton's chefs prepared an Indian-inspired feast in-house. Doughnuts provided an extra sweet treat at each home.

Massage therapists offered team members 15 minutes of head, neck, shoulder and back relaxation. There were also giant hamper lucky door prizes and spinning wheel draws for gift vouchers.

As a not-for-profit charitable organisation, Mayflower is proud to recognise the people whose commitment helps empower residents to live their lives, their way.

To every Mayflower team member: 'Thanks for Caring!'









Big Wins, Bold Tips and a Whole Lot of *Footy fever* across Mayflower!

Team colours, favourite footy foods and friendly rivalry brought residents and team members together as Mayflower celebrated the 2026 AFL Grand Final.

Across all 3 homes, there were plenty of opportunities to cheer, compare tips and enjoy the occasion.

Friendly rivalry at Reservoir

At Mayflower Reservoir, the handball competition put skills to the test, with keen competitors vying for trophies and enjoying plenty of encouragement from the sidelines - before everyone tucked into hearty pies and footy franks.

Cheers greeted the announcement of the 2026 footy tipping winner, Nicola who had his name added to the Mayflower Reservoir footy tipping plaque! Nicola won the jackpot with a bounty of merchandise from his team, Carlton. He won a Carlton calendar, bag tag, pen and plate. Lisa was runner up, she received an Essendon calendar.

Brighton celebrates on and off the field

A themed dinner night at Mayflower Brighton's Café brought Independent Living residents together for good food, lively conversation and shared footy enthusiasm.

The Independent Living footy tipping competition gave residents even more to celebrate. Rosemary claimed 1st place and $340, John took 2nd place and $170, while Jude and Ri finished equal 3rd, sharing $165.

Brighton's aged care community celebrated its own tipping results. Sabrina from the care team claimed 1st place and $210, followed by resident John in 2nd place with $125 and resident Marian in 3rd with $85.

Margaret finished last for the second year running, receiving her $30 entry fee back and taking the result with good humour. Congratulations to all, and thank you to everyone who took part!

Residents also watched the Grand Final together, with interactive games keeping everyone entertained during half-time.

Edith Bendall had a ball!

AFL decorations, a BBQ lunch, games and a replica premiership cup helped Mayflower Edith Bendall celebrate in true footy style.

There was double the excitement in the tipping competition, with 2 residents, with one winner being Peter, sharing the top spot on an impressive 147 points and each receiving $100 in prize money. Congratulations to both lucky winners and to everyone else who joined in on the fun across Mayflower!


SHERRIN
Mayflower Brighton's
Footy Tipping Competition
AFL TIPPING
RUNNER-UP
Mayflower Brighton's
Footy Tipping Competition
Winner
AFL TIPPING
CHAMPION
SHERRIN







Tales of *generosity*

A Generous Gift, a Lasting Legacy

Thank you, Christina!

The generosity of late resident Christina Andersen was warmly remembered at Mayflower Brighton's Gift Shop dedication, bringing volunteers, residents and family members together to celebrate her lasting contribution.

Christina's generous bequest made a much-needed makeover possible, creating a safer, more accessible shop with room for a wider selection of gifts and everyday favourites. The refreshed space has been a real hit, offering a welcoming place to browse, choose a thoughtful present or enjoy shopping close to home.

Readers may remember the renovation featured in our previous Grapevine. The finishing touches were officially completed in September, with eye-catching new signage inviting passers-by to step inside and explore.

A Personal Tribute

During the dedication, Mayflower CEO Paul welcomed Christina's nephew, Greg Bell, to unveil the commemorative plaque and share a few words. Greg shared about Christina's generosity, and love of word games as well as some special memories.

Gift Shop Manager Nicole, who shared a lovely connection with Christina, spoke about her kindness and generosity. The plaque features a floral design taken from a treasured card Christina wrote to Nicole, making this tribute especially personal.

Christina's message read: "Nicole, my appreciation goes far beyond the words of this card. I sincerely thank you for all you do for me. Blessings and love, Christina"

Genevieve, the designer behind the refreshed shop, also shared memories of Christina and explained some of the design elements.

Generosity Worth Celebrating

Guests enjoyed delicious cupcakes branded 'The Gift Shop', with lucky door prizes adding to the occasion. Our warm thanks to the businesses that generously donated:

- **Momentum Foods:** Covered all things sweet! Chocolate bars, jam and panforte.
- **Tluxau:** Yo-yo biscuits and deicicous chocolate raspberries.
- **Burchgrove Home:** Shower steamers, perfume and a room diffuser to help keep residents rooms smelling incredible.

Everyone was then invited to browse the shop and enjoy the welcoming space Christina's gift helped create.







A legacy of generosity and community.

Pictured bottom right, Christina stands beside one of her many gifts to Mayflower Brighton: an eye-catching, thought-provoking art installation.

Her generosity also brought other art installations and a beautiful native garden to the community, creating spaces for enjoyment and reflection.

Through her thoughtful bequest, Christina's kindness continues to enrich life at Mayflower Brighton.

The refreshed Gift Shop welcomes residents and locals alike, offering a place to enjoy a chat, pick up everyday essentials, choose a gift or treat themselves to an ice cream.

The shop brings pleasure to daily life and supports volunteers in their valued work.

Above all, it reflects Christina's care for others, ensuring her generosity continues to make a difference in the community she loved.





Social Media *roundup*

Social Moments Worth Sharing

Step into our collection of special moments captured from across Mayflower.

These images, shared on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, highlight life in our 3 Aged Care homes, and Independent Living community - celebrating living life, your way.



Regular lunch outings in the minibus for residents at Mayflower Reservoir are a real hit!

From smiling faces to lively events, our social media pages offer a window into life across Mayflower.

Join us as we celebrate the stories, events and connections that make our community so special.



Independent Living residents Shirley, Joan and Ailsa reconnect during their refurbishment update.



Andrea Lees & Peter Sullivan private concert – Independent Living



Never too cold for Ice-Cream while on a bus trip!



R U OK? Day at Mayflower Reservoir



Scrabble Fun at Mayflower Brighton



Carol tends to her garden at Mayflower Edith Bendall



Cafe Amore's new signage!



Life-sized King Charles!

A Lifestyle of Fun, Meaning & Connection



Gayle enjoying some pampering with hairdresser Sandy



Savina enjoys the lush Spring blooms at Mayflower Edith Bendall



The Independent Living community came together for a BBQ lunch



R U OK? Day at Mayflower Edith Bendall



R U OK? Day at Mayflower Brighton



BBQ lunch enjoyment! – Independent Living



Peter and Natalie went flower picking together.

You can *Empower* Real *Change*

Our *Appeal*

Generosity has always been part of the Mayflower community. As a not-for-profit organisation, every gift helps us do more to enhance the experience, wellbeing and quality of life of the people who call Mayflower home.

Donations of $2 or more are tax deductible.

Your *Gift:*

I would like to make:

☐ A one-off gift

☐ A monthly gift

My gift amount:

☐ $25

☐ $50

☐ $100

☐ $250

☐ $500

☐ Other $_____

For monthly gifts, the amount selected above will be donated each month.

Where would you like your gift to *make a difference?*

☐ Where it is needed most

☐ Mayflower Reservoir

☐ Mayflower Edith Bendall

☐ Mayflower Brighton

☐ Other / Specific purpose: _____

Your details for your *receipt:*

Title: First name:

Surname:

Address:

Suburb: Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Receipt preference: ☐ Email ☐ Post

☐ Please keep my donation anonymous. I do not wish to be named in any Mayflower publications or communications.

How to *donate today:*

Online:

Scan the QR code or visit:

mayflower.org.au/donate

You can choose to make a one-off or monthly gift when donating online.

Direct deposit:

Mayflower Brighton

BSB: 083054 **Account No.** 320706088

Please provide your email address as the reference, so that we can send you a tax deductible receipt.

For monthly giving by direct deposit, you can arrange a recurring payment through your financial institution.

Your details for *payment:*

☐ Cash or cheque enclosed (made payable to 'Mayflower')

OR, please debit my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card number:

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Name on card:

_____

Signature:

_____

Expiry date: ___/___ CVC: _____

For assistance with making a secure card donation, please call: 03 9591 1100

If not donating online, please *return* this signed form to:

Mayflower Corporate Office

101/431 Bay St, Brighton 3186

OR via email: info@mayflower.org.au

Stay *Connected:*

☐ I would like information about leaving a gift to Mayflower in my Will.

Thank you sincerely for helping us enhance the lives of people in our *Community.*

Care without Compromise.
Made possible by generosity.

Mayflower is a registered not-for-profit charitable organisation. Donations of $2 or more are tax deductible. Your information will be used to process and acknowledge your gift.