



# Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024 • 54TH EDITION



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

to everyone in the  
Bethany Christian Care Community



# From the CEO

I am excited that Christmas is nearly here. It is a special time of the year – a time that points to God’s grace as we remember that He came down to dwell among us in the person of Jesus Christ. Emmanuel!

Looking back on 2024, I am thankful for the ways that God has been at work in our aged care homes and retirement villages, in both the ups and the downs of life. He is continually gracious and faithful.

I am particularly grateful for the many excellent staff that work at Bethany Christian Care. Some of these staff have joined us this year and some have been with us for decades. Without great staff we cannot do anything.

We expect 2025 to be a busy year. Australia’s aged care system is set to undergo a significant change with the introduction of the new Aged Care Act.

This legislation, which has now passed both houses of Commonwealth Parliament and comes into effect on 1 July 2025, aims to address shortcomings identified by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety in 2021.

The new Act aims to streamline access to aged care services with a single-entry point and clear eligibility criteria.

Additionally, the Act enhances oversight and accountability for aged care providers through a new regulatory model.

It includes a statement of rights for older Australians, so they can exercise their rights when accessing government-funded aged care services.



These reforms are designed to improve the quality and safety of aged care.

While the new Act promises improvements, it has also attracted criticism. For example, some aged care recipients will pay more for their care.

Also, the aged care sector will need to navigate complex and substantial regulatory changes at the same time as there are material workforce shortages.

We will see over coming months and years whether the new Act, with its good intentions, is able to meet the expectations and hopes of older Australians.

In the meantime, as always, Bethany Christian Care is focused on helping all our residents to live abundant lives.

My prayer is that each of you will know God’s grace this Christmas. God bless each of you!

Warm regards

Rohan Reid  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**







## From the Board table

As we reflect on the progress made this year, it is heartening to see the ways Bethany Christian Care has continued to change and grow.

A particular highlight has been the active involvement and valuable contributions from our Quality Advisory Committee and Resident Advisory Committees.

These committees have provided insightful feedback and recommendations to the Board, ensuring that our services continue to meet the highest standards of quality and care.

The Board is grateful for all the residents who contribute to and participate in these committees.

### **Resident Advisory Committees:**

This year the forums previously known as Residents’ Meetings became our Resident Advisory Committees. These meet every two months at each site and provide a platform for aged care residents to voice their opinions and share their experiences.

The Board reviews the minutes of these meetings, as well as occasionally attending the meetings in person, and provides a written response regarding the feedback from committee meetings.

These committees have played a useful role in helping the Board understand and better address the issues that directly impact the daily lives of our residents.

### **Quality Care Advisory Committee:**

The Quality Care Advisory Committee is a new body that was formed this year in response to strengthened governance requirements.

The committee is made up of aged care resident representatives from both The Plains and Janoah Gardens, and our Clinical Governance Adviser.

The committee reviews the quality indicator data from each site and provides a report to the Board on opportunities for Bethany Christian Care to improve our care and services. The Board reviews the minutes of this committee’s meetings and provides a written response.

# New Chair Spotlight: Simon Fawsett



## How long have you been a Board Member of Bethany Christian Care and why did you choose to serve on the Board?

I have been serving as a Board Member of Bethany for approximately 16 years, and I recently took on the role of Chairman following the resignation of Ross McCorkell.

I find great fulfillment in being on the Board because it allows me to contribute, in whatever way I can, to the vital ministry of caring for older people. Doing so within the context of Christlike care and compassion is a privilege that I hold dearly.

## Outside your role as a Director, do you have a personal connection with Bethany Christian Care?

Yes, I do. My grandparents resided in Bethany’s former nursing home at Norman Park until their passing in the early 2000s. More recently, my wife’s parents have moved into The Plains retirement village.

## Can you tell us about you and your family?

My wife, Melody, and I are blessed to have three wonderful children: Jake (22), Rebekah (20), and Holly (19). Melody, who was previously a music teacher, now serves as a volunteer Prison Chaplain at a women’s prison. We also have two energetic dogs, Charlie and Lola, who keep us on our toes.

## What Church are you a member of?

Our family attends Village Avenue Community Church in Coopers Plains, where we are deeply involved in various ministries. We participate in the worship and music teams, youth ministries, and host a home group. I also serve as a church Deacon.

## How did you come to know Jesus?

I’ve been blessed to grow up in a Christian home and to always be part of a supportive Christian church community. From a young age, I attended Christian Youth Camp (CYC) and Scripture Union camps, and at age 9, I accepted the Lord as my Savior during a camp at Pialba CYC.

Throughout my life, God has surrounded me with people who have encouraged me in my faith and helped me grow closer to Him—a journey that began in childhood and continues today.

## What is something that not many people know about you?

We live close to Toohey Forest, so one of my favorite activities is going bushwalking with my wife and daughters. I also enjoy exploring new cafés for Saturday morning brunch with Melody and the kids. While I don’t do it as much as I’d like, reading a good book is something I’d love to prioritize more in the new year.





# Meet Magenta Bourne (Janoah Gardens - Lifestyle Officer)



**You have an important role within Bethany Christian Care. Can you tell us a bit about it?**

I am a Lifestyle Officer at Janoah Gardens.

I have the joy of facilitating engaging activities through identifying the social, spiritual, and emotional needs of the residents who live here.

Each month, I create a calendar filled with a variety of group activities, musical therapy, creative expressions, social meal experiences, brain-stimulating games, individual support, etc.

Through this program, it is my heart to provide opportunities for residents to experience connection, joy and purpose in their every day.

**Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your family?**

I have worked in Lifestyle within Aged care for the past 3 years. I recently started at Bethany Christian Care in June this year. It is wonderful to be a part of a Christian organisation that prioritises honouring God in all that they do.

I am engaged to Joel, an automotive spray painter based in Alberton. He proposed to me in November at Tangalooma after a day of kayaking and adventuring – how dreamy!

I currently live with my parents who have spent the last 6 years running a community house for vulnerable young mums.

My sister is married and expecting her first baby this month! My brother is also married, they own a chihuahua named Neo.

**What do you like to do for fun?**

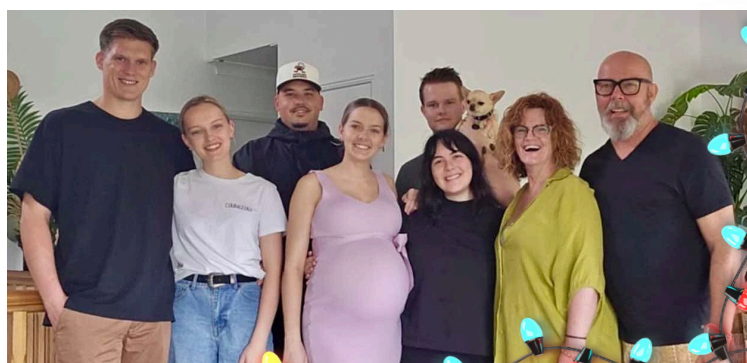
Joel and I love to spend our weekends 4WD-ing at the beach or in the countryside. I am an active volunteer at my church on the weekend and throughout the week, I love serving in the youth and worship spaces.

You will find me leading a grade 11 group of girls on a Friday night and leading worship on the occasional Sunday night.

**How did you come to know Jesus?**

I was fortunate to grow up in a Christian home, attending church every Sunday morning. I have attended Gateway Baptist Church Mackenzie since I was a toddler.

This is where I have been taught, encouraged and challenged as a follower of Jesus. When I was 13, I decided to be baptised as I had a deep knowledge that my life was to be lived for Him.



# Meet Julia Ward (The Plains - Admin Assistant)

## Can you tell us about your role at BCC?

My role at BCC is titled Administrative Assistant, which involves a range of personal and functional duties.

Personal, to be able to deliver friendly and quality customer service to all residents, families and staff alike.

Functional, which includes delivering all aspects of technological and administrative duties that contribute to the running of BCC.

## What have you found to be the most rewarding aspect of your role?

The most rewarding part of the role so far has been the interpersonal experiences with all the different people at BCC.

The Christian spirit along with kindness and compassion has been a defining aspect. As is written in the Psalms 'how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity'. So far it has been very pleasant.

## Can you tell me about you and your family?

Born in Brisbane into a Catholic family with three sisters and one brother, one of the sisters being my twin.

Grew up in the northern suburbs of Brisbane on a hobby farm and then moved to the Sunshine Coast as a young adult where was married and had three sons.

Now in the transition to move back to Brisbane to fulfil my desires of being closer to my Church community and family.



## What do you like to do for fun?

For enjoyment and fun, the simple and natural aspects in life is where there is a completeness for me.

This includes bush walks, reading, enjoying a meal with loved ones and mountain climbing.

There's nothing more exhilarating than standing on top of a mountain after the climb.

## How did you come to know Jesus?

I came to know Jesus by being brought up in the Catholic faith. The foundation was laid as a young child coming into the church through Baptism and the Sacraments.

Nearly ten years ago, I returned to the tradition of the Catholic Church, which included a return to the Latin Mass.

## What is something that not many people know about you?

Not many people know that I have a beehive and over the last three years have been learning all about bees and harvesting honey. I have now harvested many times and made some beeswax candles to give to family and friends.





# From Janoah Gardens Retirement Village

Meredith Williams  
Retirement Living Manger

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the memories created and wonderful moments we've shared together.

This year we've been blessed to welcome many new residents into our communities. At Janoah Gardens we launched an advertising campaign across various media and not only did this raise the profile of Janoah Gardens in the Manly West area, but it also unearthed the hidden talents of our residents.

Who knew we had such modelling prowess in our ranks? It was a delight to see our residents shine on an enjoyable day when professional photographers took many different photos.

In the words of one resident said – "It was exciting, pleasurable and we believe left all with aching face muscles from so much laughter!"

Thank you all for your contributions, warmth and the sense of community that make our villages such special places.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!





# Chaplaincy & Wellbeing Activities

Our Chaplaincy and Wellbeing team's work is to nurture the whole person, offering spiritual activities that provide comfort and meaning, as well as leisure activities and cultural support that enrich daily life.

Through these programs, they aim to foster a sense of community, belonging, and overall wellbeing for all our residents.

### Bible Study



### Cafe Church



### Pet Therapy



### Manly Wynnum Leagues Club



### Sing-a-long with Asterlyn and John



## Volunteers

Our aged care volunteers are invaluable to our community. They provide essential pastoral care, administrative assistance, and support for various activities, enriching the lives of our residents.

Their dedication and compassion help create a warm, supportive environment where everyone feels valued and cared for.

If you or someone you know would like to be considered for volunteering please let us know.

### Volunteer Training Day





# Janoah Gardens Pre-Christmas Lunch









# Meet Sylvia Conwell from Janoah Gardens

## Can you tell us about where you live at Bethany Christian Care, and how long you have lived there?

My husband Ross, and I moved into Janoah Gardens in July 2016 and it was the best move which we know was given to us from the Lord.

Everything in these past 8 years has fitted into place and we have never regretted the move here.

## Can you tell me about you and your family?

Both Ross and I were born in Brisbane, attended the same church and were married in 1964.

We have three children, seven grand daughters and two great grandsons, who are now spread across the world which means the computer and phone are well used.

## What do you like about living at Bethany Christian Care?

I am so grateful to God for making it possible for us to live at Janoah Gardens. In January this year Ross went Home to be with the Lord and being in such a caring environment has helped me greatly to cope with the loss, knowing that I have the support of so many loving neighbours who genuinely look out for me in different ways.

Janoah Gardens is the perfect place for me in that there are various activities organized that I enjoy and I can also have the privacy of my own home, being aware of the security of close-by neighbours who care.



## What do you like to do for fun?

My special activity for fun is playing tennis every Saturday afternoon. I have been playing tennis all my life and thank God for every day He gives me to continue with this sport I so enjoy.

## How did you come to know Jesus?

I had the privilege of being raised in a Christian home and I came to know Jesus personally at a camp at Currumbin in 1957.

I didn't tell my parents about this decision for a while after camp but one day my Mother said she had noticed a change in my life, so I guess that tells the story.

## What is something that not many people know about you?

I worked in the National Bank as it was in the olden days, and I needed to resign in 1964 when Ross and I were married, as no married women then worked in the Bank.

How life has changed. We lived in Canada and Fiji for many years, never really knowing where our senior years would be spent, but God had that well taken care of in the provision of Janoah Gardens and I'm so thankful for that.



## Long serving staff

Congratulations to the following staff who have attained years-of-service milestones:

### 15 Years

**Selamwit Tseghai - Personal Carer (The Plains)**

**Nunas Kolo - Personal Carer (The Plains)**

### 10 Years

**Faith Chiduku - Registered Nurse (The Plains)**

**Sarita Devi - Personal Carer (The Plains)**

**Praveena Devi - Personal Carer (The Plains)**

### 5 Years

**Liezl Del Riarte - Registered Nurse (Janoah Gardens)**

**Emily Whitmore - Finance Officer (The Plains)**

**Jennifer Lingbawan - Registered Nurse (The Plains)**

**Meredith Williams - Retirement Living Manager (The Plains)**

**Eleanor Mitchell - Systems and Processes Manager (The Plains)**

**Melody Llega - Registered Nurse (Janoah Gardens)**

**Raymelaine Mateo - Registered Nurse (The Plains)**

**Jason Coles - Physical Assets Manager (The Plains)**

**Gretchel Legarde - Personal Carer (Janoah Gardens)**

**Jogy John - Registered Nurse (Janoah Gardens)**

**Daisy Narayan - Personal Carer (The Plains)**

**Rohan Reid - CEO (The Plains)**

**Aedron Dizon - Personal Carer (The Plains)**

**Liz Gray - Administration Assistant (Janoah Gardens)**

**Jesselou Abella - Personal Carer (The Plains)**



## Babies of Bethany

We are excited to introduce new babies to the Bethany Christian Care Community!



### **Rav Elias Tambua**

Son of Ermalyn Tambua (HR Officer, The Plains)



### **Alyssa Hardie**

Daughter of Bethany Hardie (Roster and Payroll Officer, The Plains)



### **Caleb Eliel De Los Santos**

Son of Glaiza De Los Santos (Personal Carer, The Plains)





## A Christmas Message of Hope

By Bonnie Seip

Chaplaincy and Wellbeing Manager

Christmas is a season of joy, light, and love—a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. As we reflect on the wonder of that holy night in Bethlehem, we are reminded of the profound hope His coming brings.

The baby in the manger is more than a symbol of peace and goodwill. He is the fulfillment of God’s promise to rescue a broken world. Jesus entered humanity not just to live among us, but to ultimately give His life for us.

The hope of Christmas is inseparably linked to the hope of the cross.

At Christmas, we rejoice in God’s extravagant love, made visible in Christ. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has made a way for us to be reconciled to God. The light that shone over Bethlehem points us forward to the victory of the empty tomb—a victory that brings forgiveness, freedom, and eternal life to all who believe.

As we gather with loved ones and exchange gifts this Christmas, let us remember the greatest gift ever given: Jesus Himself.

His birth marked the dawn of hope for a weary world, and His sacrifice ensures that this hope is present through every hardship.

May the hope of Christmas fill your hearts and homes, and may the light of the cross remind you of the boundless grace and love we have in Christ.

Merry Christmas and may God’s peace be with you now and always.