



*Welcome to the June Edition of  
"On the Grapevine"  
The Myrtleford Lodge Residents  
& Representatives  
Newsletter*

June 2020 - This month I thought it was appropriate to provide you information with regards to the Industry Code for Visiting Residential Aged Care Homes During COVID 19. **(‘The Code’) came into effect on 13 May 2020.**

It is designed to create a uniform approach to receiving visitors across the aged care industry. It provides guidance on how aged care homes can take a proportionate approach to keeping residents safe against COVID-19.

The Code was developed by a group of aged care peak bodies and consumer advocacy organisations. A number of aged care providers, including church-based providers and not-for-profits, were part of the development process, which took into account input from residents, representatives and staff

The Code is not a law. It was not issued by government or the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission; it was issued by organisations within the industry and is described as “an agreed industry approach.”

The Code commenced on 13 May 2020. The Code says, “This industry code will be adopted during the period of COVID-19, after which usual practices will return.”

The Code is flexible and acknowledges that some of its principles will not apply in the event of an outbreak, when providers will have to bring in stricter controls.

The Code applies to residential aged providers, residents and visitors.

The Code contains 13 principles and outlines the rights and responsibilities of providers, residents, and visitors.

**Those principles are:**

1. Providers will facilitate visits between residents and visitors that meet the *Charter of Aged Care Rights and State/ Territory COVID-19 regulations*.
2. Visits can occur in a variety of ways and must include additional ways to connect provided by facilities, including technology or window visits.
3. Homes will be able to regulate the overall number of visits they have as to minimise COVID-19 entering the facility.
4. Resident's wishes and preferences will be at the heart of visitor decisions in regards to who visits them.
5. Existing aged care related legislation and regulation still apply during the pandemic.
6. No visitors may enter or attend a nursing home while they feel unwell or have cold or flu-like symptoms, and visitors must adhere to the provider's infection control policies and have an up to date flu vaccination.
7. Some residents may require longer visits if residents who are dying, residents who have a regular visitor that assists with meals or essential behaviour support, or if the visit is from family or friends that have travelled a long distance to see a resident.

8. All other visitors may visit for a short duration and depending on the provider, may experience different procedures like booking systems or designated visit areas.
9. Residents must be able to continue receiving letters, parcels and gifts, non-perishable food, and communication devices that have been sent to them at their home. Providers must pass on these items to residents in whatever manner suits the home's infection control procedures.
10. If there is a suspect or actual outbreak of COVID-19 or a suspected/known case of COVID-19 within a home, there will be increased visitor restrictions implemented which may include exclusion of visitors.
11. When there are no active coronavirus outbreaks in a facility, residents may use public spaces within the home as well as outdoor spaces. Residents must keep to the social distancing measures and COVID guidelines.
12. Residents must be able to continue accessing medical and related services they require, and facilities need to make sure these appointments are maintained.
13. Providers can vary their COVID-19 response as risks change within their surrounding community.

### **VISITOR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Not visit the home if they are unwell or displaying any cold/flu or COVID-19 symptoms

- Respond truthfully to COVID-19 screening questions asked by the home's staff
- Follow the home's visitation requirements including:
  - adhering to the home's booking system
  - meeting vaccination requirements and providing up to date evidence of vaccination
  - practising social distancing requirements
  - practising hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette.

Bentley Wood has been flexible in their approach to ensure consumers and their representatives are maintaining contact with each other.

Bentley Wood are continuing to allow visitors pre-arranged Monday to Friday with restrictions.

As there is no reception staff on weekends we cannot allow visitors on weekends – unless approved by the DON/DDON prior and on compassionate grounds only.

Visits are not allowed in residents rooms other than special circumstances. An area has been set up for visits to occur.

All visits must be pre booked to allow us time and space to ensure we are maintaining social distancing and infection control practices PLEASE adhere to social distancing at all times – it is for the protection of residents and staff.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact the Director of Nursing and Deputy Director of Nursing.

Marita Seamer. Director of Nursing.

## Activities at Myrtleford Lodge

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Pictured are Olga and Jean Feltrin and Paola and Marguerite Castagna who enjoyed their time together sharing afternoon tea in the sunshine.

### Activities at Myrtleford Lodge

Residents continue to enjoy the sunshine with many enjoying the walking track up to the back gate and back in the sunshine, Don Arnold is leading the way with Don walking up to 6 laps twice per day as he keeps his fitness up.



## Activities at Myrtleford Lodge



Mothers Day is a very special day on the Annual calendar with our beautiful Mother's, Grandmother's and Nonna's receiving, flowers, cards, parcels, phone calls and chocolates from loved ones to remind them of how special and

loved they are.

Activities and Catering Staff ensured that they were all spoilt with a beautiful High Tea enjoyed by all.

Pictured is Betty Forbes who was the lucky recipient of the beautiful cushion made and



donated by Judith Neumann one of our very dedicated Volunteers. We thank Judith for her kind donation , we look forward to welcoming back our volunteers in the future.



Activities at Myrtleford Lodge



Anne Crippin, Pat Wait and Maria Degrazia were just three of the many to be photographed receiving flowers.

We hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful day.



## Activities at Myrtleford Lodge

Many varied and interesting activities continue daily at Myrtleford Lodge, Dot Cook is amongst a number of Residents who enjoy the whiteboard games.



Pampering afternoons are becoming popular with both our men and ladies enjoying a foot or hand massage.

David Draper not only entertains us regularly, he also teaches art to a number of Residents.

The cooking group have also been very busy this past month, Shirley Mitchell and Pat Wait assisted with making pickles.



### Special Events Calendar

1st June ~ Seasonal change, 1st day of Winter

8th June ~ Queens Birthday

9th June ~ Residents/Representatives Meeting

10th June ~ Birthday Breakfast

11th June ~ Virtual Church Service

17th June ~ Country Drive

22nd June ~ Music Trivia

23rd June ~ Afternoon of pampering

24th June ~ Country Drive

26th June ~ Happy Hour,

Our frozen landscape captured.

A world all fresh and cold, as we bundle up so warmly.

Winter stories will be told.

Residents are encouraged to come along and join in any of the activities with additional activities listed on the board daily, including, art classes, board games, gardening groups, movies, craft and much more.

Should you have any ideas for activities, please speak to a staff member so that we can include your ideas on the calendar. Alternatively, come along to the Residents & Representatives meeting scheduled for Tuesday 9th June at 11.30am.

## Birthdays at Myrtleford Lodge

1st June ~ Nancy Binder  
3rd June ~ Betty Forbes  
17th June ~ Zena Atkinson  
20th June ~ Sidney Rennef  
29th June ~ Nellie Biffin

2nd June ~ Lynne Hulley  
13th June ~ Tony Baldori  
19th June ~ John Blaxall  
25th June ~ Pat Hogg



Myrtleford Lodge Residents and Staff wish you all a very Happy Birthday, may you enjoy your special day.

Many Birthdays were celebrated in May at Myrtleford Lodge, amongst them were *Gwenyth Miller, Kath Evans, Brian Jordan and Irma Peruzzo.*



## Birthdays at Myrtleford Lodge



Jill Weight and Nancy Binder were also captured enjoying their special day.

Birthdays are always special and we are happy to hear that they were

all celebrated with a cake prepared by the catering staff and shared with an afternoon tea.



### My Emergency Doctor

Myrtleford Lodge in collaboration with Standish Street Medical clinic and the Primary Health care network (PHN) has been working on an afterhours emergency medical services strategy.

We have engaged My Emergency Doctor to provide Emergency Physician support via telehealth, for nursing staff to access at Myrtleford Lodge in the after-hours for a 24 month period.

Emergency Physician Support is for patients who would ordinarily be consulted within a general practice or primary care setting and whose health condition is urgent and cannot wait for treatment until regular services are next available.

The after-hours period is weekdays (11pm to 7am); before 8am on Saturdays; after 12 noon on Sat; all day Sunday and all Public Holidays.

This is the trial program funded by Murray PHN and there will be no cost to the residents.

Training has commenced for the staff at Myrtleford Lodge to ensure the information is current and access is seamless.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Marita or Amanda at the lodge to discuss.

Marita Seamer. Director of Nursing.

## ***A note from the Administration Desk***

### *Suggestions, Complaints, Improvement forms;*

Residents /Resident Representatives are reminded that we welcome your thoughts and feedback as part of our continuous improvement at Myrtleford Lodge.

Marita Seamer, Director of Nursing and Amanda Graham, Deputy Director of Nursing have an open door policy, please ask to speak to either should you wish to discuss any concerns or suggestions.

Improvement forms are available from the front entrance area, please ask Administration Staff to assist you if required.

### *Newsletter:*

When producing the monthly newsletter, it's lovely to look back on the past month and the many activities that have been enjoyed at Myrtleford Lodge.

Should you wish to gain a copy of the Newsletter, please let Administration Staff know your email address or send an email to;

[admin@myrtlefordlodge.com.au](mailto:admin@myrtlefordlodge.com.au)

to be included in our contacts list, alternatively our Newsletters can be viewed on the BentleyWood website;

[www.bentleywoodpl.com.au](http://www.bentleywoodpl.com.au)

Till next month, take care and stay warm.

