



Volunteer Update

What a year it's been! As 2024 comes to an end, I'm excited to share some of the highlights and achievements from our wonderful volunteer program:

- Warrigal now has **453** volunteers.
- Volunteers contributed **36,528** hours in 2024.
- APR Cafe operates **5 days a week!**
- **\$12,000** raised by Goulburn, Bundanoon, and APR Cafes.
- **\$100,000** worth of items purchased for residents by Warrigal Auxiliaries (Goulburn, Bundanoon, and Illawarra).
- **120** volunteers received **Years of Service Awards** during Volunteer Week.
- Welcomed a new **Volunteer Services Officer**.
- 15 university students joined phase 1 of the **Know Me Dementia Program** in ACT and Queanbeyan.
- Celebrated winners and nominees of the Warrigal **Norm Rowland Volunteer Award**.
- Presented at the **NSW State Volunteering Conference** on volunteer engagement and recognition.
- Congratulated Warrigal volunteers nominated at the **2024 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards**.
- **Rex Halpin** recognised in Parliament for his service as a Warrigal Volunteer Bus Driver.
- Completed the **Shell Cove Gardening and Aboriginal Mural Project**, revitalising the Mystics, Memory Support Unit Courtyard.
- Congratulated Warrigal volunteers nominated and received an award at the **2024 Volunteer Awards, Canberra Region**.
- Collaborated with The Centre for Volunteering to establish the **Aged Care Volunteer Leader Special Interest Group**, a first in NSW.

What an inspiring year it has been! Thank you to all our volunteers for making such a significant impact and sharing Warrigal's vision of *a world where older people feel known, loved, and connected*. I look forward to working with you in 2025!

Michelle Chate, Volunteer Coordinator



Southern Christmas Event

Our Southern Christmas event was a joyful celebration filled with laughter, cultural songs, carols, and dancing, thanks to the **Warrigal Fijian and Kiribati Choir**. With over 90 volunteers, staff, Executive and Board in attendance, we celebrated in style, starting with a traditional baked dinner and followed by wonderful entertainment from the Choir. A special thank you to Rachael Edwards from Goulburn for organising the Choir and to all our Warrigal Goulburn staff who contributed to the entertainment **Tepola, Ulamila, Sela, Elenoa, Shaista, Calliandra, Vulori, Sisa, Salote R, Salote V, Ledua, Lusiana and Kesaia.**



Click [HERE](#) to view all photos from the Southern event

Northern Christmas Event

Our Northern Christmas event was a fantastic celebration with over 125 volunteers, staff, Executive and Board members in attendance. During lunch, **Sing Australia** delighted us with traditional Christmas carols, followed by a special visit from Santa, Mrs Claus, and two very cheeky elves! Each table then had a few minutes to prepare and perform **The 12 Days of Christmas**, complete with actions. The room was filled with laughter as everyone tried to outdo each other, making it a huge success, lots of fun, and a touch of chaos. The day finished with group photos with Santa, Mrs Claus and the elves, before their return to the North Pole!

A special thank you to Craig Smith (Santa), Shelli Bennett (Mrs. Claus), Maree Healey (Elf), and Linda Apolo (Elf)—you truly made the day memorable and so much fun.



Thank You Warrigal Care Auxiliary



Warrigal Care Auxiliary Secretary, Sonya Ankerholz-Potts, and Deputy Secretary, Julianne Orton, recently visited Shell Cove to view the newly revamped Mystics courtyard. This project involved several stakeholders, with the Auxiliary generously donating outdoor dining tables and chairs for residents and families to enjoy. As seen in the photos, the vibrant Aboriginal mural serves as a colourful focal point, while the surrounding planters are now thriving with flowers, herbs, and vegetables.

During their visit, they were also invited to judge the resident Christmas decorating competition, where the **Reddall neighbourhood claimed the WIN!**

Thank You Warrigal Bus Drivers

We would like to thank to all our volunteer **bus drivers** who dedicate their time to take residents on meaningful outings each week. This role is so important in helping our residents enjoy the outdoors and stay connected with their communities. At Christmas time, these outings become even more special, with residents going on tours of the local Christmas light displays.

Pictured right, is Klaus Grach, being thanked by the staff at Albion Park Rail for his contributions throughout 2024.



Congratulations Chris Fitzpatrick

Congratulations **Chris Fitzpatrick** on receiving Highly Commended for **Senior Volunteer of the Year** at the 2024 Volunteering Awards, Canberra Region. This recognition highlights Chris' incredible dedication and the impact he has at Warrigal Stirling.

For Chris, volunteering is more than just a commitment - it's a passion. Every Wednesday, rain or shine, Chris drives our residents on outings, ensuring they enjoy meaningful experiences while being fully engaged. Whether it's through singing, sharing fun facts about the Canberra region, or simply offering a kind word, Chris goes above and beyond to make each trip special. His attention to detail, like selecting relaxing locations where residents can enjoy a cup of tea, is a reflection on his thoughtful care.

Congratulations Jan Elliott

We also congratulate Jan Elliott on her nomination for Senior Volunteer of the Year. Jan is one of our dedicated Golden Angel volunteers at Warrigal Stirling, providing companionship, support, and creating memory books for residents living with dementia or memory loss. Her commitment and dedication to visiting residents in our memory support unit has been invaluable, and she is a real asset to the team.



Queanbeyan Volunteers

The Queanbeyan volunteer program has recently expanded following a gap analysis that identified several new volunteer roles, followed by a successful recruitment campaign. As a result, we have welcomed many new volunteers, and it's wonderful to see how well they have settled into their roles under the guidance of Lifestyle Team Leader, Belinda Huntly.

One of the most popular role has been the Walking Group, which now has several volunteers assisting residents on walks around the local area.

We're also excited to welcome Rod and 'fur-volunteer', Frankie, who has quickly become a resident favourite. Residents love taking Frankie for a walk around the gardens.

There are always new places to explore and venues to visit for lunch, with Derek at the wheel.

Jacqueline takes the lead with sewing group, offering a variety of sewing activities for anyone who wants to participate. Meanwhile, Jill ensures residents' religious and spiritual needs are met by providing Church services and leading a social group.



Adaptive Clothing

Goulburn volunteer Jenny was asked to modify clothing for a resident who was experiencing challenges with dressing due to a loss of mobility. Jenny adapted all the resident's clothing to include split backs, making them much more comfortable and accessible. The resident was very happy with the results.

Word spread about Jenny's amazing handiwork, and she has since modified another resident's wardrobe, generously purchasing all the materials herself and completing the work outside her regular volunteering hours.

This is a wonderful example of how the skills and talents of our volunteers can address specific needs within our care homes.

If you have a talent for sewing and would like to help adapt residents' clothing to provide comfort and dignity, please let us know by emailing volunteering@warrigal.com.au

Read more about the benefits of adaptive clothing [HERE](#) *Australian Carers Guide*

2024 Volunteer Feedback Survey

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the volunteer feedback survey. We've already received valuable insights to help us further improve our volunteer programs.

The survey will remain open until **Friday, 10 January 2025**.

If you haven't had a chance yet, we encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the survey and share your thoughts on how we're doing.

A link to the survey has been sent to your email, and for those without email, it has been mailed to your postal address.



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For all volunteer enquiries please contact Warrigal's Volunteer Coordinator

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