

Out of the *Blue*

Summer 2010



Celebration of Nations

Carol Allen



On the 1st October 2010 we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the United Nations International Day of the Older

Person with the aim of a moving towards a Society for all Ages.

The principles of the International Day of the Older Person are founded on the need to build a more inclusive society with an emphasis on participation, self fulfilment, independence and dignity for all, and a willingness to transform these principles into actions. At BlueCross we have worked hard to create an environment where we can enhance the older person's capabilities which will foster independence and provides them with support and care as they age.

We reaffirm our BlueCross commitment to upholding the United Nations principles and achieving a Society for all Ages

Our purpose is to enrich the lives of people we touch. By providing the highest possible quality care services that reduce risk and increase independence and wellness of our residents and clients, we help individuals and employees fulfill



BlueCross staff embrace the chance to dress-up and celebrate the nations!

their potential and build better tomorrows. Our culture is based on an unwavering belief in integrity and fair dealings, treating the residents/clients and each other with dignity and respect. We recognise the contributions older Australians have made to their families and their communities, we recognise how they have helped shape modern Australia and continue to make significant contributions to society with a lifetime of skills, knowledge and experience.

On this day BlueCross presented the "Celebration of Nations" we came together to sing and dance and celebrate the diverse culture that makes Australia what it is today. We focused on what people who live with us or that we care for at home can do. We came together to celebrate, to recognise and to thank all of you who are living our Starfish principles, choosing your attitude, making some one's day, being there and having fun.

I want to thank all our fabulous staff who have really been there for all our residents, many of you have gone well above and beyond what my expectations were to make

someones day not only today but every day. It is great to see how you have all embraced our STARFish Principles and that we are changing the world of age care.

At BlueCross we celebrate life and social inclusion and focus on what the older person can do. This is not the time to sit around and be a spectator, it is time to join in and participate, to sing and laugh and dance.



The group at BlueCross Gardenia celebrate winning the overall prize.

My congratulations to Gardenia (Glasgow) for winning the overall prize, residents and staff are to be highly commended for their grand entrance and their lively performance.

Residence Profile

Baradine



Baradine opened its doors on September 20th and the group of residents' that moved from Livingstone Gardens have not looked back.

It didn't take them long to familiarise themselves with the new environment and they have settled in well. Feedback from residents and relatives has been positively overwhelming.

The staff enjoy coming to work in the new, bright, homely environment and the residents have had continuity of staff as most moved across from Livingstone Gardens. Bus outings have been popular as the residents' get to know the local community and shops. Lifestyle activities include the men's shed and a wonderful library where the book

club meet. Entertainers have begun and made use of the piano and multi-purpose room and the bar is a big hit.

We have commenced admissions, with respite intake also being popular. Many new friendships and social groups have been established as new residents become a part of the family at Baradine.

We are looking forward to our first Christmas and have been busy developing relationships with the local primary schools that will come and entertain our residents for Christmas. The Christmas party promises to be a memorable occasion on Dec. 8th and we welcome all of the Blue Cross community to come and enjoy the fun and spirit on the day.

BlueCross Gift Vouchers

It is that time of year again, where we reflect on the year and look forward to the future.

BlueCross Care at Home is growing fast and furious. Our Business Development Team have focused on the growth of the community services available to all members of the community. As part of this initiative the team have introduced gift vouchers which can be purchased by any individual to receive home or personal care. Vouchers are \$50 which provides 1 – 1.5 hours of care with up to 10km free.

The vouchers can be redeemed for a carer to support you, a loved one or a friend to do something different:

- Go out for a coffee
- Go for a drive, to the movie, an art gallery or concert
- Spend one-on-one time with a carer
- Have the house cleaned

The possibilities are endless and can be used by anyone living at home or in a residential facility. Vouchers cover carers time, any additional expenses are extra (ie, cost of movie ticket). To purchase a voucher, or for more information, please contact BlueCross Care at Home on **9828-1222**.



Client celebrates her 100th birthday!

Congratulations to our CACPs client, Marjorie Sampson, as she celebrated her 100th birthday on 12 October. BlueCross Case Manager, Mary Gorman was with Marjorie and her family as they celebrated this monumental occasion.

*Congratulations
Marjorie Sampson!*

Cresthaven's 2nd Open Day

Everyone agreed it was a wonderful opportunity to meet other families and friends, while enjoying a fun day and showcasing Cresthaven to the wider community.

Cresthaven held its second Annual Open Day in October.

We were blessed with a beautiful warm day with blue skies and sunshine – perfect for all the outdoor activities, our front car park was transformed with balloons, a Trash 'n' Treasure stall, Sausage Sizzle, Ice creams, Cold Drinks and Lolly bags for the kids (or kids at heart!). Grandchildren were treated to face painting, and given Blue Cross balloons. Raffle tickets were sold, with 2 hampers of goodies being raffled at the end of the day.

The Animal Farm, complete with a miniature horse, goats, sheep, a calf, ducks, baby rabbits, a pig and chooks was set up in our internal court yard. The chooks wandered freely around the courtyard, and the baby rabbits

spent most of their time being passed around and cuddled by the residents. Visiting grandchildren and residents alike loved the animals, with some residents spending up to 2 hours inside the animal enclosure refusing to leave! The goats in particular were very friendly, climbing all over those sitting down in the enclosure looking for food, which prompted a great deal of laughter at their antics.

The local community supported our event and enjoyed guided tours of Cresthaven, followed by sausage in bread or ice cream, many family members of residents (and staff) enjoyed the day – everyone from parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings and friends.



Our Staff enjoyed the chance to be involved and many gave their own time to make the day a success. New visitors to Cresthaven loved the chance to have a look around, and were impressed with everything from the building and furnishings, to staff friendliness and obvious happiness of our residents.

Another success!

The Boulevard - 2nd Birthday Celebration

*Happy Birthday
The Boulevard*

The Boulevard celebrated its second year since opening its doors in 2008 with a 'Dress to Impress' theme for our Birthday Supper Dance.

Subsequent to our residents having expressed an interest in more evening events, we fulfilled their needs by planning a fun night giving relatives and staff an opportunity to let their hair down, really enjoy participating in a meaningful celebration with the residents who continue to enjoy music, life and dancing at any age. It brought even the youngest staff members and relatives of our community together with our eldest residents who just sparkled throughout the evening as they danced to the live music, sang along or just remembered such fond times in their long, full lives.

We also made every opportunity count by preparing a Reflections Movie to show at the celebration. A poem was the storyboard for the DVD with messages, photos, video footage and music fashioned together to give a glimpse and a reminder of the many, many activities and events that took place throughout the year. When seeing it played over, we couldn't believe how many wonderful events had actually happened in just 12 months.

Every resident and many staff, visitors and volunteers were featured as the stars of the movie. The message that was clear in the party atmosphere was that together we can achieve anything and together - residents, families, volunteers and staff - we have built at The Boulevard a caring community and a fantastic place to live and work.



Merry Christmas

from all of us at BlueCross



Message from the
Community Service
Manager
Cameron Sinclair



I would like to introduce myself as the new Manager of Community Services. My name is Cameron Sinclair and I come to BlueCross with 8 years experience in managing community aged care programs.

I started in the role of Community Services Manager on the 13th October and have enjoyed getting to know the organisation and the

diversity of services offered to the community. I am impressed with the quality of services we deliver and I hope that we can continue to make our services better for you. I look forward to working with the BlueCross Care at Home team and you to ensure that our service provision to you is of the highest quality.

BlueCross Website

www.bluecross.com.au

BlueCross is excited to announce the launch of its new and improved website at www.bluecross.com.au

Our new site has been designed with a fresh new look and has been updated with information about the latest happenings at BlueCross. The website provides enhanced access to

BlueCross information and resources to residents, their families and the general public. It has a clearer structure, easier navigation, a very impressive virtual tour component, and an improved menu, making finding information about BlueCross very straightforward.

The website is the result of many months of hard work by the BlueCross team analyzing and designing the website, so that our goal of providing our visitors with a captivating and interactive experience while examining the BlueCross difference has been achieved.



Home Page



Latest News



Baradine Residential Page

For more information call
Residential Enquiries **1300 133 414**
or Community Care Enquiries **1300 786 857**
or visit www.bluecross.com.au



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