

2026

ABEL TASMAN VILLAGE

January



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Manager's Message

Happy New Year to all residents, families, staff, and friends of Abel Tasman Village. We hope everyone enjoyed a safe, restful, and joyful festive season. As we welcome 2026, it is a meaningful time to reflect on the year that has passed and to look ahead with optimism and gratitude.

2025 was a year filled with connection, care, celebration, and growth. We began the year on a strong note with our successful re-accreditation, reflecting the high standards of care, professionalism, and teamwork demonstrated across the Village each day. This achievement was made possible through the dedication of our staff and the trust of our residents and families.

Throughout the year, our community enjoyed a vibrant calendar of activities, events, and outings. From Father's Day celebrations, resident and staff profiles, and regular social activities, to special outings such as the ferry trip and Oktoberfest celebrations, there were countless moments of laughter, engagement, and togetherness. Seasonal events, including Melbourne Cup and festive gatherings, further strengthened the strong sense of community that defines life at Abel Tasman Village.

We also continued to value and strengthen our engagement with the wider community. Partnerships, visits, and shared activities helped foster connection beyond the Village and reinforced our commitment to remaining an active and inclusive part of the local community.

As with any year, 2025 also brought moments of sadness. We extend our heartfelt condolences to all families, friends, residents, and staff who experienced the loss of loved ones. In particular, for the month of December, we acknowledge the passing of Mr. Goddard, Mrs. Somidamu, and Mr. Suszycki and Mrs Bron. They will be fondly remembered, and our thoughts remain with all who knew them. We thank everyone for the compassion, care, and support shown to one another during these difficult times.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Chao for their time with us at Abel Tasman Village and wish them both all the very best in the next chapter of their journey. At the same time, we warmly welcome our new residents, Mr. Zakzouk, Mr. and Mrs. Stani, Mr. Fotiou, and Mr. Arkley. We are grateful for the opportunity to support you and your families and look forward to building meaningful relationships together.

The year also brought change across the aged care sector, with evolving reforms and expectations. Our team navigated these changes with resilience and professionalism, always maintaining a strong focus on dignity, choice, safety, and quality of care.

To our families and representatives, thank you for your ongoing support, patience, and understanding throughout the year. Your partnership and trust are greatly valued and play an important role in the care and wellbeing of our residents.

As we step into 2026, we are excited about the opportunities ahead. Our activities team is already planning an engaging and meaningful program of events and outings, and we look forward to continued involvement from residents, families, staff, and volunteers. We remain committed to strengthening engagement, enhancing wellbeing initiatives, and continuing to improve the experience for everyone in our care.

To our staff, thank you for your compassion, dedication, and hard work. To our residents and families, thank you for being part of our community. We look forward to another fulfilling year together and wish everyone a happy, healthy, and positive start to 2026.

Warm regards,

Sophia Markwell



Support at Home

Happy new year to all our wonderful clients. We hope you had a lovely Christmas and had special times with family and friends.

Melanie is taking some well earned leave and will return to the office on 5th January. Julia will be available to answer any questions and assist with services.

A number of Support at Home clients attended the ATV Christmas Party on 18th December. It was a raging success and everyone had a fantastic time. Our thanks to our fabulous ATV care workers for transporting clients to ATV and also the wonderful ATV Lifestyle team, Catering team and Volunteers who put on a great event.



Well, the new Support at Home has now been in operation for 2 months. There have been mixed reviews coming from providers and clients. The Government, however, stands firm that the new system is the only way forward to provide the support needed for people in their homes.

For some of our clients, the new program has posed some important questions around the so called 'no worse off principle' which the Government widely advertised as the attractive option for grandfathered participants. However, they did neglect to be transparent in the full meaning of 'no worse off'. The Department has been clear, post 1 November, that 'no worse off' **only referred to contributions for grandfathered participants, and did not refer to any other adjustments in packages or services offered.**

January 2026 Newsletter

We apologise for the delay in sending statements for November 2025. As you can imagine, the new system has posed challenges for all providers in the new way to claim from the Department and issues around all software programs which were not given enough time to bed in prior to the commencement of the program. We are committed to ensuring that the statements post 1 November are as accurate as possible so we have made the decision that we will be sending them out once we can fully reconcile them with the claim and the services all of you have received.

Thank you for your feedback regarding your concerns. Your comments greatly assist ATV in understanding the most common concerns raised about the new program. Other provider feedback shows that your concerns are not isolated and we are hearing feedback from other providers and associations reflecting the same scenarios and questions being raised by Support at Home clients across the country.

We have had many questions regarding other contractors some clients are utilizing to deliver their services. These are now referred to as 'associated providers' and, in some cases, are viewed by the Department as an extension of ATV and not stand alone service providers. This means that the majority of these service contractors/providers will need to meet the same compliance requirements as ATV.

For clarification, associated providers include anyone delivering a funded service on a provider's behalf (think cleaners, physios, gardeners, home maintenance, community access). Prior to utilising any of these types of services, ATV will need to determine if the provider is defined as an 'associated provider' under the new Act. Please ensure you do not engage any provider for any services under your package until you have discussed that engagement with the ATV Support at Home team.

The other area of major change, is the reimbursement of costs clients may have incurred for items included in their package (eg. A client purchases incontinence aids or mobility aids or gardening services and pays for those services themselves and then seeks reimbursement from ATV). This is an area that the Department has really tightened up on and items you may have previously been reimbursed for with no issue, may now need to be more fully scrutinised and in some cases may need to be invoiced to ATV rather than paid for directly by the client. Please contact the Support at Home team if you have any questions around this area.

We welcome Patricia FLETCHER, Patricia HOBBS, and Ernie THORN to our Support at Home family. We are looking forward to getting to know you and providing quality service.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Mrs. Davenport. We extend our sincere sympathies and condolences to her family



Norma MENGHI 2nd Simeon KIROVSKY 3rd Gavin MARKS 8th

Tracey BRACKENRIG 21st Ben ADAMS 24th

and loved ones.

We wish you all the best for 2026. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

Melanie, Julia, So-garet

phia and Mar-

ATV welcomes all feedback, comments and complaints from our clients or their representatives. Please do not hesitate to contact us via a My Thoughts form, our staff, your Care Partner (Melanie) or you can call the office on (02) 9645 3388.

ATV has a Whistleblower Policy in place that aligns with the appropriate legislation, to significantly strengthen protections for whistleblowers in the aged care sector.

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Christmas 2025



Abel Tasman Village

January 2026 Newsletter

Christmas Luncheon



The Residents' Christmas Luncheon was a huge success with Lisa Budin as our wonderful MC and entertainer.

We also had Ben the owner from [Galluzzo's Chemist](#) together with Santa delivering gifts to each resident. Thank you so much!!!

The catering team made a delicious lunch.



Christmas Luncheon



Father Maurice who is the Parish Priest of Sefton and Villawood came and celebrated his last mass at Abel Tasman Village on Christmas Eve.

Sadly Father Maurice will leave the Parish and return to Samoa on 25th January 2026 after six years of ministry. We wish him all the very best and thank him for all his assistance in enabling our community to attend Catholic Mass at our village.



Making "Appel Flappen" and Sinterklaas are two Dutch traditions that we continue at the village.

A big thank you to Willem, Gerda and Herman for assisting in these traditions.



January 2026 Newsletter

Out in the Community



The final outing of the year for Camellia residents, volunteers, and Lifestyle staff was a festive carol singing event at Lake Parramatta, where they joyfully celebrated the Christmas spirit.



Residents had the opportunity to attend a Christmas concert at the Bryan Brown Theatre and another group of residents in wheelchairs attended the Christmas concert at Chester Hill RSL. A big thank you our wonderful team of volunteers.





Exciting Events Ahead

Edith Bron Funeral

Tuesday 6th, 10.30am, Hall

Yearly Lifestyle Meeting with Bubbly

Wednesday 7th, 11.00am, Hall

Morning Melodies Concert

Thursday 8th, 9.45am, Chester Hill RSL

Build Your Own Pavlova

Tuesday, 13th at 1.30pm, Hall

Thong and Boomerang Competition

Monday, 19th at 10.00am, Hall

Camellia Outing at Gelato Factory

Tuesday, 20th at 9.30pm, Croydon Park

Sausage Roll Making with Willem

Tuesday, 20th 1.30pm, Hall

Australia Day Concert with Joe

Thursday, 22nd at 10.00am, Hall

Australia Day BBQ

Thursday, 22nd at 12.00pm, Hall

Concert with Darren Bromley

Friday, 30th January at 1.30pm, Hall

Special Celebrations

1st New Year's Day

4th World Braille Day

6th The Epiphany

7th Orthodox Christmas Day

7th Devonport Cup (Tas)

8th Elvis Presley's Birthday

14th Orthodox New Year's Day

16th Isra & Mi'raj

18th World Religion Day

19th Martin Luther King Day

24th Belly Laughing Day

25th Burn's Night (Scotland)

26th Australia Day

27th Mozart's Birthday

Announcements

New Residents

A very warm welcome to:

- Mr. Zakzouk
- Mr. and Mrs. Stani
- Mr. Fotiou
- Mr. Arkley

Thank You

Jeffrey Allen donated a selection of books focusing on Golden Age Hollywood biographies and a few fiction titles. Thank you Jeffrey for this addition to our library collection.



Cultural Celebrations

This month we will be celebrating Australia Day

We will celebrate by having Thong & Boomerang Competitions, making Damper and Pavlovas.

Joe will entertain us with a great Aussie Show.

The kitchen staff are organising a BBQ on Thursday, 22nd January.

In Memoriam

- Mrs Bron
- Mrs. Davenport
- Mr Goddard
- Mrs. Somidamu,
- Mr. Suszycki.

To their family and friends -
May you find strength in
the love of family and in
the warm embrace of
friends.

Hairdresser

Our hairdresser will not be in the village during the month of January.

The Hairdresser will return on Wednesday, 11th February from 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Please inform RN on Duty if you would like to book an appointment.

Outings

This month we will be going to Chester Hill RSL on Thursday, 8th January and Camellia residents on Tuesday, the 20th to Pure Gelato.

If you would like to attend please let RN or Lifestyle team know.

Book your spot early as there are limited spaces.

Know Your Neighbour



FIONA

Meet Fiona!

Hi everyone! My name is **Fiona**, and I've been part of the ATV family since **October 1997** — that's an amazing **28 years!**

What do I love most about ATV?

The happy atmosphere. I can truly be myself here, and that means a lot to me.

Favourite food?

You'll usually find me enjoying **McDonald's, pizza, Subway, or chicken** — simple and delicious!

Favourite movies or TV shows?

I love *The Godfather* (all of them!) and comedy movies like *The Naked Gun*. Basically, anything funny makes my day.

Favourite colour?

All of them! You should see my new place — it's full of colour.

Most exciting moments in my life?

Studying, moving into my new unit, and of course, having my **pussy cats**.

Who do I admire most?

Bon Scott from AC/DC. He passed away in 1980 — so sad. I admire people who start with nothing and make it big through their own strength.

Can I play a musical instrument?

Nope! I tried the guitar, but it didn't work out.

School days & first job:

I went to **Cabramatta High School**, finished Year 9, and started working in a clothing shop in Parramatta. Later, I worked at a chicken shop in Burwood (Farmer Joe's) and moved into management.

Where was I born?

At the old **Fairfield Hospital** on Horsley Drive, Australia.

Hobbies:

Right now, I'm sewing long-stitch pictures that I draw myself. I also love **gardening, reading, and making floor rugs**.

How would I describe myself in five words?

Happy, no-nonsense, caring, animal-lover... and sometimes grumpy!

Spot the Difference



FIND 10 DIFFERENCES

