

## May 2025 Newsletter

### **Cathy Gill's Report**

The plans for a ramp entrance/exit from the front of the First Street home is going ahead. Housing NSW is responsible for the work on this ramp.

### **Westlakes Access & Support Inc -Committee members.**

If you or someone you know is interested in taking a more active role in our service & having an input into our direction, why not consider joining the committee.

As a committee member you will be involved in ensuring we remain a viable, small, not for profit, charitable organization, and able to continue supporting our residents in their homes.

If you are interested in learning more please speak to Cathy Gill or a committee member.

**We gave Emma our best wishes when she left our service this month. Emma is continuing in a support role with another service with more flexible hours suitable for a young mum.**

We had a visit from Sarah, an **Official Community Visitor** in April to our First Street home. Sarah met with our ladies and staff on duty and was pleased with what she observed.

**Official Community Visitors (OCVs)** are appointed by the Minister for Families and Communities and the Minister for Disability Inclusion under the [Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019-](#), and the [Children's Guardian Act 2019-](#) OCVs come from a wide cross-section of the community, including people who have direct experience and expertise in areas such as disability services and supports, mental health, child protection, out-of-home care, advocacy and health care.

OCVs visit accommodation services where residents are in the full-time care.

In carrying out their role, OCVs may:

- enter and inspect a visitable service at any reasonable time without providing notice of their visits
- talk privately with any resident or person employed at the service
- inspect any document held by the service that relates to the operation of the service
- provide the Minister, the ADC, the Children's Guardian, DCJ, and NDIS Commission with advice or information on matters relating to the conduct of the service.



**We will be having a combined 60<sup>th</sup> celebration on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 to celebrate Stephen, Suzie, Helen & Lisa all turning the big 60 this year. More news of this to come.**

*Save the Date*

*Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
2025*

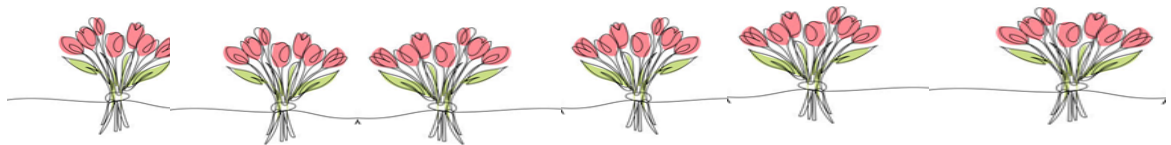


Lisa visiting Mum for Mothers Day.



Robyn had a lovely few days with her sister Maragaret

*I hope all our mums had a lovely Mothers Day*



Suzie, Lisa & Raeline were supported by Deb, Jenny & Leisa for morning tea & a shopping spree.

**Oops!**

I missed April birthdays in our April newsletter.  
Happy April Birthday to  
**Leanne & Laura**  
also to **Nancy Chappell.**



Apologies ladies hope you all had an amazing day to celebrate!



**to Robyn, Stephen & Sheryn**



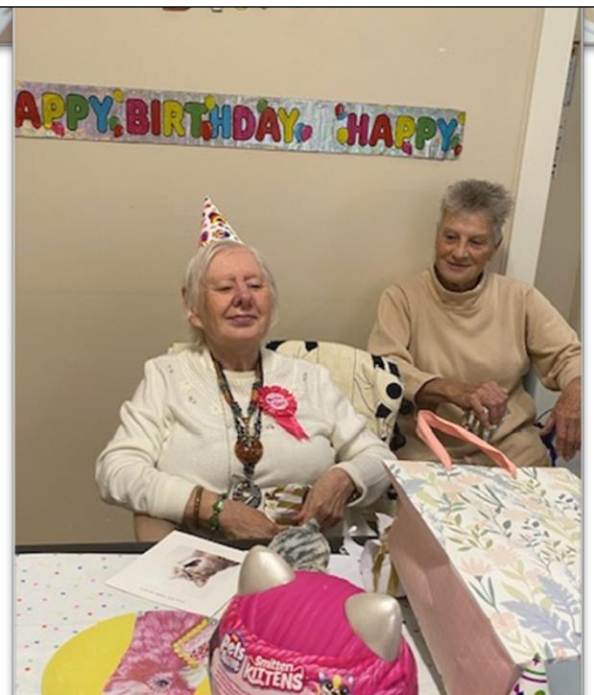
Sheryn, celebrating life



Robyn received a beautiful bunch of flowers from her sister Deanne & a surprise visit from her sister Margaret to celebrate with her.



Stephen celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday with his family at mums and again with his friends at Albion Close



## Spotlight on Tanya

Hi everyone it's Tanya here, and after nearly a 2 year absence (of what I thought to be my retirement) I returned to Westlakes in September 2024 and I am very happy to be back.

During my leave I set out to learn another musical instrument (alto sax) & participate in a weekly Yoga/Pilates class which I am continuing to do.

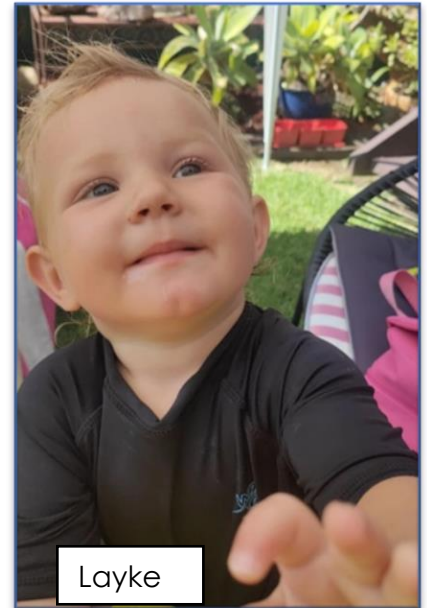
Best of all I have been blessed with a beautiful grandson Layke, who will be 2 at the end of May.

Every Monday & Tuesday I make a 2 hour journey to spend time with Layke while his mum, my daughter Kelsey works. Layke fills my heart with joy and I look forward to time spent with him.

In April my partner Garry, my sister Linda, her hubby, Matt and I enjoyed a wonderful time in Malta and Rome.

Malta holds a special place for me, visiting my mum's birthplace and her home. Sharing this with my sister made it even more special.

So, I continue to live a very busy life all round. Thanks for your interest in my news and thank you to all for welcoming me back to Westlakes so warmly. Here's a few of my favourite photos.



Layke



Tanya & Garry at the Upper Grand Harbour, Malta

**Thank you Tanya for sharing your story. We are all so happy to have you back with us here at Westlakes.**

**Here is a \$25.00 gift voucher to say thanks... Enjoy**



Linda, Matt, Tanya & Garry  
Sottos Underground Pizzeria - Malta



Tanya & Garry enjoy the streets of Malta

## **Important contacts**

National Disability Insurance Agency Ph: 1800 800 110  
NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission Ph: 1800 035 544  
Disability Advocacy Service -Hunter Ph: 49 27 0111  
Hunter Tenants Advice & Advocacy Services Ph: 02 49 27 657