



Nanyima
AGED CARE COMMUNITY

Celebrating



years of caring for the community

20 November 2023



Today marks a momentous occasion as we gather to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our beloved Nanyima Aged Care. For three decades, our establishment has stood as a beacon of compassion, care, and unwavering dedication to the elderly members of our community. It is a privilege to be part of today's celebration of Nanyima's journey, the lives we've touched, and the valuable impact we've made.

Over the past 30 years, we've not merely provided care; we've created a home—a place where love, respect, and dignity intertwine to form the rich, strong fabric of our community. Our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters have been the pillars of this establishment, embodying the ethos of selflessness and service every step of the way.

We have witnessed stories of resilience, joy, and unity within these walls. Each resident, each individual, has contributed to the vibrant tapestry of experiences that define Nanyima Aged Care. Our mission has always been to foster an environment that cherishes the wisdom and experiences of our elders, and in doing so, enriches the lives of everyone involved.

Over the years, we have adapted to changing times and embraced innovation to enhance the quality of care we provide. Our new partnership with Apollo Care, provides us excellence in personalised care.

We're rightly proud of Nanyima Aged Care and the special relationship we have with the Mirani community. We can all look forward to the future with renewed determination and vision. The journey ahead may hold new challenges, but with the same spirit of dedication and commitment, we will continue to be a beacon of hope and comfort for generations to come.

To all who have been part of this remarkable journey—residents, families, staff, volunteers, and supporters—I extend my deepest gratitude. Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our success.

Here's to 30 years of cherished memories and to a future filled with compassion, dedication, and boundless possibilities. We work together to achieve together.

Bien Stirling, Residential Services Manager, Nanyima Aged Care



Nanyima Aged Care exemplifies how a strong, dedicated community can unite and create a legacy that extends well beyond its original intentions.

When Apollo Care was approached to partner with Nanyima for its next expansion, we quickly realised it was supported by an extraordinarily dedicated and long-serving community of staff, volunteers and board members – both past and present.

As regional aged care specialists, we know that a sense of community is as important as excellent care. We honour and thank those who have helped Nanyima become a vital and integral part of the Pioneer Valley community, and we look forward to strengthening services and supporting you in the years ahead.

Barry Ashcroft, Chief Operating Officer, Apollo Care

Nanyima celebrates 30 years at the heart of the Pioneer Valley

Nanyima Aged Care is celebrating its 30th anniversary today – 20 November 2023 – with a community celebration honouring the many families, staff, volunteers and residents who have contributed to its success.

Originally called ‘The Valley Retirement Centre’, 51-bed Nanyima is at the heart of the Pioneer Valley community. Its 68 employees are drawn from the local community and Mackay region, and it boasts an extraordinary 28 volunteers, some of whom come back year after year with each cane cutting season.

Nanyima was created by the community, for the community when then-Chairman of Mirani Shire Council, Clive Rogers held a public meeting at Mirani State High School to gauge interest in building a local aged care community. He received strong support and was swiftly elected Chairman of the Fundraising Committee.

“It took a couple of years to get going, but the public response was incredible,” says Mr Rogers, who is one of the guests of honour at today’s celebration.

“The target was \$600,000, but we collected \$700,000, thanks to the generosity of the local community, including significant donations from the Masonic Lodge and the RSL. Council then bought the land and donated it to The Valley Retirement Centre, and the first residents moved in on 20 November 1993.”

Nanyima has undergone several renovations over the past 30 years and a recently conceived partnership with national aged care specialist Apollo Care will ensure construction begins in 2024 on a new memory support wing.

Barry Ashcroft, COO of Apollo Care, says: “Nanyima is a well-run and much-loved aged care community. We’re thrilled the board had the foresight to future-proof operations by joining our alliance. Together, we’ll ensure Nanyima continues to meet the needs of this important community.”

Rosemary Lyons, Chair of Nanyima Community Association Inc, concurs: “Apollo Care is a great fit for us as we continue to expand to meet the high demand for aged care in our region.”

“We’re a terrific team,” says Mr Ashcroft, “and we look forward to providing operational support while Nanyima’s wonderful staff and volunteers continue to do what they do so well – care for residents.”

Today’s celebration is a typically community-centric affair: The chairs are borrowed from Mirani State High School – where it all began – , the celebratory fruit cake was made by the daughter of a 95-year-old resident, and the cakes being given to staff and volunteers honouring their long service were made by another resident’s daughter.

Nanyima’s residents, staff and volunteers reflect the region’s rich history in sugar cane, beef, dairy and coal production. Its diverse population includes people from the Solomon and South Sea Islands, First Nations peoples, and descendants of many Maltese & Italian families who migrated to North Queensland to work in the sugar cane industry.

“We may be located in a small North Queensland town, but our innovative approach has helped us achieve a 5-star rating in resident experience and compliance,” explains Mrs Lyons. “This proves we’re delivering on our purpose, thanks to the dedication of our team of staff, volunteers, allied health professionals and the support of local businesses and the community.”

HONOURING OUR LONG -TERM STAFF & VOLUNTERES

Long Serving Staff

Olga FORREST	23 yrs
Marcia BARBA	21 yrs
Barbara LEAK	21 yrs
Rita DALY	18 yrs
Mary MASTERS	18 yrs
Sue GREEN	17 yrs
Tiharny QUAKAWOOT	17 yrs
Amparo (Gracie) HUDSPITH	16 yrs
Iwona ADAMCZYK	14 yrs
Jennifer HAWKINS	14 yrs
Stacie COLLIS	14 yrs
Michelle COOK	10 yrs
Judy HOFFMANN	9 yrs
Yvonne BOYD	9 yrs
Carmen HODGETTS	9 yrs
Nancy McCALL	9 yrs
Cessandra PLATZER	9 yrs
Priscilla RUDOLPH	9 yrs
Valerie WILLIAMS	8 yrs
Sharon PERICH	7 yrs
Michelle COTTRILL	6 yrs
Kayleen LOVETT	6 yrs
Vicki HOFFMANN	6 yrs
Debra MITCHELL	5 yrs



Long Serving Volunteers

Elize BICKLE
Silvia BOURKE
Carol GONARD
Janice GOODE
Delia GRANZIEN
Jennifer Mc GREGOR
Vibeke RASMUSSEN
Di RICHTER
Daisy ROBERTS
Robbie ROLES
Kym ROLES
Gerry McCANN
Elsbeth McCANN

