

# SUNBURY & MACEDON RANGES

# Star Weekly

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR VOICE

NEWS + SPORT + THE WEST'S BEST PROPERTY GUIDE



(Damjan Janevski) 212938\_01

## Heartfelt donation

Luana is using her passion for fashion and design to give back to the community.

The Aintree teenager has been busy sewing up a storm, creating handmade masks for residents and local organisations.

In a month, she had made about 600 masks and she recently decided to donate about \$450 worth of masks to health service Sunbury Community Health.

"I always wanted to give to the Sunbury community because my dad is a pastor of a church there and everyone is so friendly," Luana, 14, said.

"So I thought, why not make those masks for the people who need them? I have all this free time and it is a great opportunity."

Luana has also donated her colourful masks to churches in Sunbury and Melbourne and to nurses working on the front line.

"Just being able to sew and know it is for a good cause makes me happy," she said. "I have always loved sewing when I was growing up, especially with my grandmother."

Jessica Micallef

# Aged care virus fears

By Jessica Micallef

A Sunbury man whose wife is a resident at Goonawarra Aged Care fears the growing number of COVID-19 cases within the home is "a potential disaster".

As of Saturday, 72 confirmed cases had been linked to the home. Of those, 43 are residents, 24 are staff and five are close contacts of staff, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Ian Sutherland's wife Mary, 82, suffers from Alzheimers and has been a resident at the home, managed by Japara Healthcare, for more

than three years. Mr Sutherland said the aged care centre had been COVID-19 free until the beginning of August. But the number of cases had jumped within days.

"They first announced there were three residents and one staff member that had tested positive ... [but] it was growing rapidly," he said. "It's a potential disaster."

In a letter sent to residents' family members on August 5, Japara's chief operations officer Lindon Le Griffon said 26 residents and nine staff members had tested positive to the virus at the time.

The letter stated residents and their families

had been contacted and staff members and other identified close contact staff were in isolation.

"All residents in the home have been placed in isolation as a precautionary measure, with full personal protective equipment in use," the letter stated. "COVID-19 positive residents are transferred to hospital where deemed necessary [and] COVID-19 testing on residents and staff will be conducted regularly."

Mr Sutherland said before the pandemic he would visit Mary every day for lunch but he hasn't see her since February due to the home being in strict lockdown.

"It's been a long time since I saw her," he said. "The blessing is Mary is in isolation and has tested negative. They [staff] were good enough to set up a video link every Thursday and I would ... have a chat with Mary."

He says the lockdown was a "very sensible" action to protect the residents and staff but he's concerned the infections are getting out of control.

Japara Healthcare was contacted for comment.

As of Sunday there were more than 2070 active coronavirus cases related to aged care facilities across the state.



## SUBSCRIBE to our DIGITAL EDITION - It's FREE

[sunburymacedonranges.starweekly.com.au/subscribe/](https://sunburymacedonranges.starweekly.com.au/subscribe/)



THE GARAGE  
PRESTIGE AUTO SERVICE

### Your local European Car & SUV specialist

Fully operational during Stage 3 restrictions

Contactless vehicle collection available within 20km of Woodend.

Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 7.30am - 5.30pm

European Vehicle Specialist • Factory Trained Technicians • Professional Service Environment  
Scheduled Servicing • Quality Tyre Fitting & Wheel Balancing • Advanced Diagnostics

15 Bowen St, Woodend VIC 3442 | Ph: 03 5427 1060 | [www.the-garage.biz](http://www.the-garage.biz)

12456536-SN34-20