

Autumn  
2021

BARUNGA VILLAGE

# Lifestyle

Appointment of  
new executive  
team

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS  
SEE THE LATEST

Social scene  
Page 11



BARUNGA  
VILLAGE INC.





# Welcome to the 2021 Autumn edition of BV Lifestyle.

In this edition, Chief Executive Officer, Merrilyn Hewett's informative report includes two successful outcomes from recent audits at Barunga Homes, an update on the Aged Care Royal commission, and well wishes to Maureen Coffey who leaves the organisation after 24 years.

Chairperson of Barunga Village, Juan Elliott, announces the new executive team.

Volunteer Coordinator, Stacey Meschede acknowledges the ongoing support of the volunteers and seeks more drivers to join the team.

The social scene pages are full of celebrations around Barunga Village.

We celebrate the amazing achievements of two remarkable women and we share a delicious recipe for you to try.

[barungavillage.com.au](http://barungavillage.com.au)  
[facebook.com/barungavillage](https://facebook.com/barungavillage)

02

## Welcome

Written by  
Merrilyn Hewett

04

## Announcement

Written by  
Juan Elliott

05

## Volunteers report

Written by  
Stacey Meschede

06

## News

Written by  
Renna Stringer

08

## Fundraising and Donations

10

## Profiles

11

## Social scene

16

## Recipe



MERRILYN HEWETT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the newsletter.

A special thanks to Kate Manser who acted in my role while I had five weeks leave - during that time my fifth grandson was born and it was really special being able to spend time with family.

Congratulations to Jill Novy and her staff for a very successful food safety audit. The auditor was very impressed by our advanced systems and processes, and awarded the maximum accreditation period.

Recently the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission made an unannounced visit to Barunga Homes where they reviewed our Infection Control processes and our preparedness for a COVID-19 outbreaks. As soon as the auditors had walked the length of the passage they commented on the special feel of our home and the warmth in the way they were greeted by all House Members, staff and volunteers. The audit was a resounding success with full compliance to all requirements.

The outcomes of the Royal Commission have been very topical, Board Members and senior staff have participated in webinars to fully analyse the recommendations.

There is no doubt there are some providers whose care services have been unacceptable and as a nation we must do better to protect our older people and ensure that they receive the care, respect and dignity they deserve.



Whilst I can not speak for other service providers, I can assure the Barunga Village community that we offer a commitment from the Board of Directors through to all levels of staffing, to provide THE BEST LIFE POSSIBLE for our consumers. This does not mean we always get it right and that we can't improve and for this reason we have a range of feedback mechanisms as we genuinely welcome the opportunity to improve where we can. We are continually monitoring and reviewing all areas of service and at every opportunity involve consumers in that process.

In an effort to increase transparency, we are about to install a board in Gloria's Coffee Shop dining area at Barunga Homes where we will be displaying improvements that have occurred as a direct response to people's suggestions. Although not all suggestions can come to fruition, nothing pleases us more than to be able to respond to an idea and make a positive change.

COVID-19 is still with us and we remain bound by the same visiting restrictions in Barunga Homes as outlined in the last newsletter which in summary include:

- Set visiting hours (unless visit is prearranged)
- Screening requirements upon entry
- Visits may only take place in a House Members room or in designated outdoor areas
- Physical distancing must be adhered to

We are currently preparing for those House Members who choose to be vaccinated at Barunga Homes as they qualify in Phase 1A of the immunisation program. We expect Barunga Community Care clients will follow in the next phase.

Where possible we have provided information for consumers in order for them to make an informed choice about the vaccine. Webinars have been held at Barunga Homes and Barunga by the Sea and information has been sent to House Members (or their substitute decision maker) and Barunga Community Care clients.

The resignation of Maureen Coffey has required some significant changes in the organisation and I am both delighted and humbled to have been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

For 24 years I have shared the CEO role with Maureen and whilst the structure was not a traditional one, it was one that worked successfully for us as we grew the organisation. Maureen has given her heart and soul to Barunga Village and always focused on delivering better outcomes for our consumers. She has been a passionate and dedicated leader who had high expectations and demanded high standards.

Although we will miss Maureen's ideas and wisdom, on behalf of the Barunga Village community I wish her every happiness as she begins the next chapter in her life where she will have time to

'smell the roses' and enjoy some caravanning holidays.

The Board of Directors undertook a rigorous process recruiting externally for a *Director of Corporate Services* and a *Director of Nursing and Care Services* in order to select the best candidates possible.

Samantha Crane was appointed as Director of Corporate Services and Kate Manser as Director of Nursing and Care Services - both Samantha and Kate are existing employees who proved their worthiness to the interviewing panels.

Over the last few years Maureen and I have mentored Samantha and Kate (respectively) and it is the sign of a healthy organisation when young emerging leaders have the opportunity to progress within the organisation.

I am very excited to have Samantha and Kate in the leadership team - they are both extremely loyal and motivated ladies and I have great confidence in their abilities to lead the organisation in a positive direction.

# Announcement

JUAN ELLIOTT  
CHAIRPERSON

## Appointment of new executive team

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Barunga Village Board of Directors to announce the appointment of Merrilyn Hewett as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Since 1997, Merrilyn has been the Director of Nursing and shared the CEO role with Business Manager, Maureen Coffey.

Together they have been a formidable team growing the organisation from a 24-bed residential aged care facility to an organisation that has expanded the residential facility to 75 beds and diversified to

provide retirement living and in home care.

It was a natural choice to appoint Merrilyn when Maureen tendered her resignation in May last year.

Merrilyn has a Master's degree in Health Management, is a true visionary and has a proven record of leading and managing a service driven team.

We recently advertised extensively for two Executive roles and I am pleased to announce that Samantha Crane has been appointed as Director of Corporate Services and Kate

Manser as Director of Nursing and Care Services.

Both of these women have been loyal employees and passionate supporters of Barunga Village. They also proved themselves as worthy appointments when competing with the open market.

We congratulate Merrilyn, Samantha and Kate and wish them the very best in their respective roles.



**MERRILYN HEWETT**  
Chief Executive Officer



**SAMANTHA CRANE**  
Director of Corporate Services



**Kate MANSER**  
Director of Nursing and Care Services



# Volunteers report

STACEY MESCHEDE  
VOLUNTEER  
COORDINATOR

Our House Members are enjoying seeing the smiling faces and spending time with our volunteers after a well-earned break in January. They are all back on board with an enormous amount of enthusiasm and great ideas for 2021. We have started the new year by welcoming two new volunteers, Maryanne and Lesley. Thank you for joining our wonderful team of volunteers.

In January, five of our transport volunteer drivers attended a basic First Aid training in Port Pirie. This is now a requirement for volunteer drivers as a part of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme. Our transport drivers enjoy chatting

and escorting our clients to various appointments. Transport can be to our local doctors' clinic, Kadina, Port Pirie and even to Adelaide just to name a few. This is extremely rewarding and if you would like to join our team of drivers, please give me a call and I will look forward to chatting to you about the role.

Upcoming events for our volunteers will be mandatory training over the next few months, as well as National Volunteers Week, which is held from 17 to 23 May. This year's theme is the 3 R's. **Recognise**, celebrating and thanking our volunteers for the vital role they play in our lives. **Reconnect** to what is

important by giving their time to help others as well as themselves and **Reimagine** how we better support our volunteers in the vital role that they play at Barunga Village.

If you would like to make a difference to the lives of others, feel valued as a part of a team, meet new people and make new friends, please give me a call on 8635 0547.



## Judyth receives Australia Day award

House Member, Judyth Bettess, along with past and present members of the Bute history group were awarded with the Mayor's award for outstanding volunteer services to the Barunga West community on Australia Day. The group, including founding member Judyth were recognised for their efforts and commitment in preserving Barunga West's history and exemplary work in historic preservation in South Australia at the newly renovated Bute town hall.

Judyth Bettess (nee Pontifex) grew up alongside her six siblings on their family farm on the outskirts of Melton. She began her schooling at the local Coconut School, later moving to Kadina where she boarded and attended Kadina Memorial High School. She then married her husband, Jim Bettess in 1949 and moved to Bute.

Judyth and Jim raised their four children, Jim Junior, Anthea, Pauline and Helen on their family farm at Bute. Once her children had grown and left the family home, Judyth chose to pursue her passion in uncovering and preserving the history of Bute and its surrounding district. Judyth set her first task which was to gather the names of the land owners of

the Bute township when it was first established in 1884.

With the names of past land owners, Judyth began speaking to families still in the district and gathered more details about the land, memories and historical information which had been passed down through their families.

With the encouragement and support of her husband, Judyth gathered a small group of like minded women to work with. Obtaining the relevant information involved many trips to the Lands Title office in Adelaide. Judyth did not drive in Adelaide, so she would travel by bus to Adelaide often requiring an overnight stay to source further information.

As the group gained momentum, Judyth wrote to the council requesting the use of the vacant ANZ bank building in Bute as a meeting place for the history group and for a secure storage location for the ever-growing historical documents. The request was approved in 2002.

Once the history group was established in the old bank, people began to come to the site to share their own family history with group members. This led to more historic

discoveries about the township of Bute and its surrounding district.

Unlike today, where multitudes of photos are taken through digital platforms such as smartphones, drones and cameras, in the earlier days, photography was rare and inaccessible to many making it so important to preserve any precious photos they uncovered.

Judyth recalls her motivation for establishing the group was her passion for history. She wanted the history of the district to be available for future generations to learn from and to build upon. Judyth is extremely proud to hear that the group continues to function and grow, now including male group members.

Congratulations Judyth and the past and present members of the Bute history group for your contribution to the local community.





## Lady Col celebrates her 100th Birthday

On 25 January 2021, House Member, Colin Ailsa Calder Edwards affectionally known at Barunga Homes as Lady Col, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Born in Perth in 1921, Lady Col was raised in Guildford on the Swan River and attended Perth College. In 1941, she enlisted into the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) where her role involved driving trucks.

One evening during the war, Lady Col attended a dance where Clive, a service man from South Australia asked her for a dance and as luck would have it, she had one remaining spot on her dance card. They both enjoyed each others company. Clive's ship set sail two days later, however they kept in contact through letter writing and later married in 1943. After the wedding, Clive once again returned to his duty until the war ended in 1945.

After the war, Lady Col and Clive moved to Torrens Park, South Australia. They were

blessed with four sons, Geoff, Doug, Robert and Tony.

Favourite past times of Lady Col included playing golf and tennis. When asked what she believes is the secret for a long and happy life, Lady Col's advice is 'everything in moderation'.

When Lady Col and her husband retired, they spent five months of each year travelling around Australia in a caravan. They continued this annual tradition for 23 years. Together they enjoyed visiting many beautiful places around Australia but it is a little town in Queensland called 1770 that holds special memories for her and her husband.

Lady Col's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated over two days. On 24 January, she gathered with family and friends at the Port Broughton Bowls Club. Lady Col treasures her large attentive family and friends. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, her son Doug along with family members from

Auckland and Sydney were sadly missed. On 25 January, Lady Col continued her birthday celebrations at Barunga Homes with fellow House Members. She was overjoyed to receive letters from her Majesty the Queen, the Governor-General of Australia David Hurley and local MP Rowan Ramsey. Lady Col also received many lovely cards and beautiful flowers from the Broken Hill Legacy Association, Perth College and the Old Girls' Association.

On behalf of the Barunga Village community, we wish Lady Col a very happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!



# Fundraising and Donations

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Thank you to Yvonne, Rhonda and their families for the generous donation of an electric wheel chair to Barunga Village in memory of their late father Ron Redgwell.

This chair is available to be used by House Members to ensure they can continue to remain mobile and gives them the opportunity to try before purchasing their own.

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Hotel Service Manager, Jill Novy holding a generous donation of peacherines from Port Broughton local, Kevin Menadue.

The House Members thoroughly appreciated the delicious produce which they enjoyed fresh and stewed. Any donations of excess fresh home-grown goods is always welcome.

Please contact Jill Novy 8635 0542 if you would like to donate.



House Members at Barunga Homes are seeking donations of wool. If you have any unwanted wool at home, please contact 8635 0500.

All donations would be greatly appreciated.

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## Donations in memory of Sheila Mildren.

As we extend our deepest sympathies to our consumers family and friends as they pass, we also acknowledge that these donations are vital to our work.

Donations are used for a wide variety of support services and projects which enable us to continue to provide quality care to the seniors in our community. Any donation is appreciated.

*Donations over \$2.00 may be tax deductible.*





# Service improvements

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At Barunga by the Sea, the directional sign located at the entrance has been replaced. This sign was old and in much need of repair. Since being updated, the new branding colours have been used.



Thank you to the Barunga Village fundraising committee for their generous donation of a new cantilever umbrella that is now located in the Butterfly House courtyard.

# Eulogy of Bert Furber

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At Barunga Village, we pride ourselves on truly knowing our consumers and their life stories to ensure we support them to live the best life possible.

You are invited to visit our website [barungavillage.com.au](http://barungavillage.com.au), where we share a beautiful tribute to Bert Furber.

Thank you to the Furber family for sharing your precious memories of your late husband and father in his heartfelt eulogy.

We welcome the opportunity to celebrate the lives of those we have cared for by sharing their eulogy on our website, please send to Renna at [rennas@barungavillage.com.au](mailto:rennas@barungavillage.com.au).

# Barunga profiles



**CHRIS YOUNG**  
BARUNGA HOMES HOUSE  
MEMBER

## Family tree

**Parents** - Frank and Gwendoline Young.

**Place of birth** - Peterborough, South Australia.

**Siblings** - Two sisters; Rae and Elizabeth.

**Spouse/partner** - Wife, Margaret (deceased).

**Children** - Seven; David, Geoffrey, Michael, Phillip, Trudy, Sue and Andrew.

## Activities

**Social** - I like to go fishing either on the jetty at Port Broughton or Wallaroo.

**Sport** - Pennants lawn bowls, I am currently playing for Port Broughton Bowls Club and I enjoy playing golf.

## Occupation

Welder.

## Favourites

**Singer** - Andre Rieu.

**Place** - Albany, Western Australia.

**Holiday** - Anywhere on the beach.

**Food** - Roast pork.

**Drink** - Pepsi Max.

**If you were stranded on an island and could choose three things to take, what would they be?**

Golf clubs, fishing gear and a sun hat.



**LORRAINE MARSH**  
BARUNGA COMMUNITY  
CARE CLIENT

## Family tree

**Parents** - Cyril and Elsie Polomka.

**Place of birth** - Broken Hill, New South Wales.

**Siblings** - One; Lynette.

**Spouse/partner** - Husband, Charles Robert (Bob).

**Children** - Six; Gary, Robyn, Heather, Geoffrey, Andera and Terry.

## Activities

**Sport** - Netball and tennis.

**Social** - Swimming carnivals and netball on weekend with the children.

**Hobbies** - Gardening and cooking. Also very busy looking after children.

## Occupation

Household Manager.

## Favourites

**Event** - Terry's wedding in Bali

**Place** - Clare, South Australia.

**Holiday** - Travelling overseas.

**Food** - Yoghurt, strawberries and prawns.

**Drink** - Sarsaparilla

**What has been the impact on your life since being a part of Barunga Community Care?**

Given me lots of laughs and the family appreciates the security.



**MARRYANNE NAPIER**  
VOLUNTEER

## Family tree

**Parents** - Allan and Elva Cock.

**Place of birth** - Adelaide, South Australia.

**Siblings** - One; Robert.

**Spouse/partner** - Husband, Rex.

**Children** - Two; Aaron and Jack.

## Activities

**Sport** - Netball and bowls.

**Hobbies** - I enjoy diamond art, dot painting, colouring in and cooking.

## Occupation

Previously worked in aged care, cleaner and at the bakery.

## Favourites

**Event** - Attending a Cher concert with my sons.

**Place** - Leigh Creek and Port Broughton.

**Holiday** - Broken Hill for family Christmas.

**What has been the impact on your life since being a part of Barunga Village?**

Meeting people and spending quality time with them. I enjoy having a cuppa with House Members.

**What is your dream or something you've strived for in life?**

Being a Grandma and enjoying life with grandchildren.



# Social scene

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## Christmas and New Year celebrations at Barunga Homes



Butterfly House Leader Bindi Manser with House Members Hazel and Don looking very festive.

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Stanley House Members, Jill and Raelene making chocolate reindeer treats for Christmas.

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Evelyn House Members enjoying Christmas Lunch.

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Evelyn House Leader, Julie Kinghan and Spencer House Member, Di got in to the spirit by dressing up and having a wonderful time together in the New Year's Eve parade.

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Evelyn House Member, Gwen all dressed up for a morning walk on Christmas day.

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Butterfly House Member, Lois and House Carer, Janet Palmer celebrating Christmas.

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# Social scene

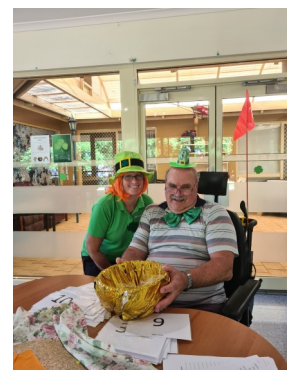


Evelyn House Members enjoyed a fun filled afternoon of games on Australia Day. A special thank you to staff member, Carmina from House Members for her preparation in organising such a wonderful afternoon.



Stanley House Members, May, Lorene, Glen, Madge, Raelene, Cavell and Les, celebrating Saint Patrick's Day.

Evelyn House Members, Colin, Joey, Jacie, Gwen, Peggy, Natalie, Mavis and Alice enjoying Saint Patrick themed cupcakes baked by Alice and Gwen.

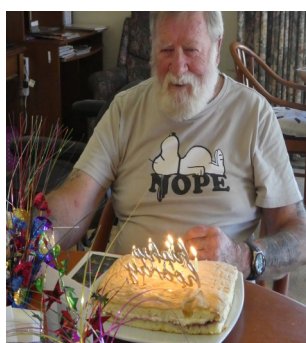


Spencer House Members, Beryl, Mick, Rita along with volunteers Marie, Amanda and House Leader Jane Huges celebrated Saint Patrick's Day with bingo, green scones and a visit from a mischievous Leprechaun.





On 2 January 2021, Spencer House Member, Beryl celebrated her 78<sup>th</sup> birthday.



On 15 January 2021, Stanley House Member, Deane celebrated his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday.



On 16 January 2021, House Member, Mavis celebrated her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday (which in her eyes 79 sounds better she said she does not believe she is 97).



On 23 January 2021, Stanley House Member, Dot celebrated her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday.



On 19 February 2021, Stanley House Member, Lois celebrated her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday.



On 4 February 2021, Evelyn House Member, Colin celebration his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.



On 23 February 2021, Stanley House Member, Margaret celebrated her 79<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Stanley House Members of Stanley House have been making this most of this beautiful weather, by enjoying their breakfast on the front lawn each Wednesday morning (weather permitting).



# Celebrations

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Community Support Workers, Melissa Large has successfully completed a Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing and Disability).

Melissa completed her studies whilst working full time and during the difficult COVID-19 period last year which meant she could not attend any face-to-face training and it was completed online and via phone links.

Congratulations Melissa on a wonderful achievement!

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Barunga by the Sea residents, Val and Ken Baker recently returned from a caravan holiday to Loxton in the Riverland. Ken lived in Loxton and around the area in his youth. They visited lots of friends, and called in to the Loxton Community Hotel/Motel where Ken worked for several years. They thoroughly enjoy their relaxing holiday and hope to do more trips throughout the year in their caravan.

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Congratulation to Bonnie Michael (nee Nicholls), the daughter of Registered Nurse, Kathryn Nicholls and Granddaughter of House Member, Dot, who recently was awarded the Wakefield Regional Council Community Event of the Year for her part in organising the Mid North Ladies Wellness Gala which was held in August 2020 in Balaklava.

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Barunga Community Care Client, Lorraine is delighted to reignite her passion for knitting, thanks to her support worker Lyn and her weekly visits.



Newly appointed Director of Nursing and Care Services, Kate Manser, with her new granddaughter Francesca Audrey (Frankie) born on 20 March 2021.



Barunga Village was recently successful in receiving a grant from The Commonwealth Bank Staff Foundation to teach residents about technology. Barunga by the Sea residents have commenced weekly Technology Workshops which includes learning about smart phones, tablets, and other devices.

Workshop participants include David, Shirley, Pauline, Pauline, Raelene, Lorraine, Margaret and Cheryl (absent).

They have only had their first workshop but the feedback has been very positive and are all looking forward to learning more over the coming weeks.



Lindsay and Trevor, two members of the Sea Weeders gardening enthusiasts' group at Barunga by the Sea, proudly showing off their homegrown pumpkins. Also photographed are the delicious peaches grown this season. The group runs a fruit stall selling fresh produce and the money raised is put towards fertiliser for their fruit trees and plants.



On Wednesday 17 February 2021, Louis and Anthony from Hearing Australia visited Barunga by the sea residents with the Hearing Australia bus.

The hearing bus travels all over Australia, providing hearing test for all ages. Louise and Anthony had a short presentation which explained the need for annual hearing tests, differences in hearing aids and some devices that are available to improve hearing. We had a lovely morning tea, then Barunga by the Sea residents entered the bus for hearing checks.



# Recipe

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## Summer plum tart

### Serves 8

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: 45 minutes

#### Base

125g butter, melted

16 (200g) sponge finger biscuits (Savoardi)

#### Filling

125g cream cheese, softened

50g butter, extra, softened

3/4 cup caster sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

3 eggs

1/4 cup flour

8-9 ripe plums, halved, stones removed

1 tablespoon caster sugar

Extra cream, to serve

#### Base

**1.** Place butter and biscuits in a food processor and process until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

#### Filling

**1.** Beat the cream cheese extra butter, sugar and vanilla using an electric beater until pale and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until well combined. Add flour and beat until smooth

**2.** Pour mixture over base then arrange the plums, cut side down, over the filling.

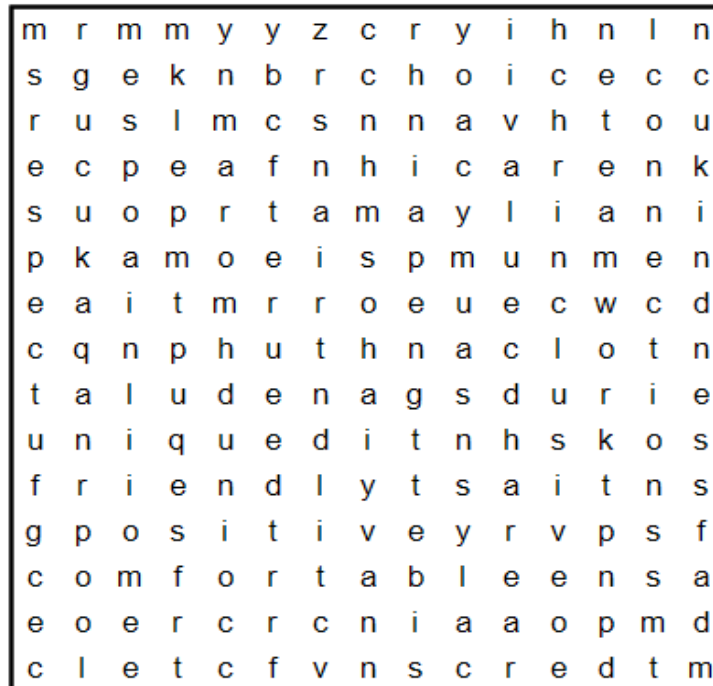
**3.** Sprinkle with extra sugar and bake in a moderately hot oven 190°C for 40 minutes or until golden, cool slightly and remove from pan. Slice and serve warm or cold with cream.





# Puzzle

## Word search



Can you find these words?

**care**  
**connections**  
**positive**  
**teamwork**

**choice**  
**friendly**  
**relationships**  
**unique**

**comfortable**  
**inclusive**  
**respect**  
**value**

**community**  
**kindness**  
**support**

SOLUTION

