

Japara Journal

Maggie Beer goes to Market at George Vowell

Angela Garcia has really put Japara Healthcare on the fine food map.

Recently, our award winning chef from the George Vowell Facility played host to decorated cook and author, Maggie Beer, on a tour of her work place at the facility's 2015 Market Day.

Angela has already won the Oscar Hospitality National Awards, "Victorian Chef of the Year", two years running.

Then last year she was awarded a fully funded place in Maggie's 3 day program "Creating an Appetite for Life" held in the Barossa Valley, at Maggie's home.

"It's great, I'm so happy and really excited", said Angela.

"This will be great not only for me, but also for all the chef's in this company", she said at the time and so it is now turning out to be.

It was Angela's new relationship with Maggie that led to her visit to George Vowell.

Angela and Cameron, Catering Operations Manager, took Maggie on a tour of the facility and, of course, the kitchen.

Maggie was suitably impressed with not only the facility, but the relationships and interactions between the staff and residents.

She enjoyed chatting to residents and staff along the way and was quite emotional after leaving the Wattle dementia unit.

After her tour, Maggie spoke passionately about our goals for food service in aged care, using Angela's passionate determination as an example.

She then perused the Market Day stalls and joined residents for a beautifully set up morning tea — complete with white table cloths and matching tea cups and saucers.

Angela, Cameron and Julie Reed, Executive Director of Aged Care Services, were also recently invited to a catch up dinner for award winners. Renowned Chef Shannon Bennett cooked for the group as they discussed the changes and challenges related to food in aged care.

