

our NEWS

October
2020

From our Chairman

This year is notable in keeping up a constant stream of changes in the Seton Villa community, and some significant achievements as you will read.

The Daughters of Charity have reorganised their management structures in Australia. The Board does not expect that this will make any significant difference to Seton Villa or how we practically interact with the local Trustee.

In the past month, as part of the property redevelopment program, Seton Villa has been gifted the houses in which our residents live. Prior to this handover Seton Villa was using the properties, owned by the Daughters of Charity, under specific arrangements. Achieving this handover was a long process (permission was required from the Holy See in Rome) and we would like to thank the perseverance and tenacity of the Trustees in achieving this outcome. Owning our properties provides us with increased flexibility and will enable us to better interact with government and other agencies.

I am also happy to report that we are about to complete the first two new homes. I have seen both properties and would like to congratulate Peter and his team (including the builder) on a superlative result. These are a real step-up for Seton Villa and I can't wait for our residents to finally move in. Peter has more details on page 2.

Finally, as we look to our future, it is clear that we need to build our capacity at systematically raising funds for projects. As I have previously stated, this extensive property redevelopment is only possible due to the generosity of past donors and bequests. Future projects need to be funded by new donations so to this end, we have started a working group to determine what kind of fundraising is appropriate and achievable for Seton Villa. We would welcome the inclusion of parents/carers to this working group. If you are interested, please let Peter know.

Marco Colli
Chairman, Seton Villa

From the Trustees of the Daughters of Charity



In recent years, the Daughters of Charity in Australia have reflected on how to continue the life and ministry of the community in the face of aging and diminishing numbers. A decision was made to integrate with the Daughters in Great Britain. On the 11th March in London a new province was formed – the Province of Rosalie Rendu. Blessed Rosalie was a pioneering Daughter who organised care for the poor in the slums of 19th century Paris.

For the Daughters, this change has resulted in new opportunities and support as we link closely with the Sisters in Great Britain. The Provincial, Sr Ellen Flynn DC, resides in Mill Hill London and communicates well via Zoom and emails. She has visited many times and truly values all the ministries in Australia. Locally, the Daughters are supported by a Co-ordinator (Sr Celine Quadros), an Advisory Group, as well as four Trustees who are responsible for the Works, finance and property.

This Integration provides some infrastructure support for the Trustees and there will be flow-on benefit for the Works including Seton Villa. In other ways nothing has changed. The local Daughters will continue their appointment of a Delegate, conduct the AGM, support the work and be a friend to the women, families and staff that are part of the community of Seton Villa.

Sr Debra McCarthy DC
Trustee & Delegate, the Daughters of Charity

From our CEO

“Building our Bright Future” Status Report

I am excited to announce that handover of our first two new Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) houses is imminent. Residents from Culloden Road and Tulip Street will receive the keys to their new homes from Academy Constructions at a small afternoon tea on Wednesday 18 November 2020.

Residents will move into the new accommodation at Jenny’s Place (1 Keiley Street, Marsfield) and Rosalie’s Place (54 Lavarack Street, Ryde). We are all extremely excited!!

In line with COVID gathering restrictions, each house will celebrate a combined housewarming/Christmas event catered at home with their families, courtesy of funds being provided by the P&F Group.

A big thank you on their behalf! The other houses will also celebrate individually catered Christmas events with families either at home or at a restaurant - again with financial support from the P&F Group.

The bathroom fixtures, kitchens, blinds and landscaping have been the final pieces of the construction process as shown in the following pictures.



DECEMBER ISSUE – OUR NEWS

The December 2020 edition of Our News will showcase the residents moving into Jenny's Place and Rosalie's Place. In the meantime, stay safe and well.



A big thank-you to Rhondda Vassallo, our Quality Manager (left), who has liaised with House Managers, families and co-ordinated conversations with residents about their bedroom colour preferences, furniture purchases and other matters concerning the big move. She has been a wealth of knowledge and experience during this incredible journey!

We also settle on **our newest acquisition at 91 Bridge Road, Ryde** on Monday 2 November 2020. The weatherboard cottage will be demolished and replaced with a new five-bedroom SDA certified home during 2021, similar in design to Rosalie's Place. Our current Tulip Street property will also be demolished at the same time with parallel construction of a new four-bedroom SDA certified home on the site. We are yet to confirm which residents will move into these two new houses.

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Fundraising Program

Now that we can evidence our commitment to redeveloping our existing houses, we will shortly launch a Seton Villa Fundraising Program.

Seton Villa is inviting your participation on a **Fundraising Working Group** to develop and execute a fundraising strategy over the next three years to raise \$500,000 for equipment and furnishings for the remaining five new homes.

We hope to build a committed donor base and will explore digital fundraising options alongside more traditional Appeals. Please contact Peter if you would like further information or are interested in joining the Working Group. Your past fundraising experience would be of great assistance!

COVID-19

We had hoped this Newsletter would be celebrating the end of COVID-19 across our community and nation. Alas, it continues to raise its head in new hot spots around Sydney. The latest NSW Health advice for residential disability providers is that surgical masks are to be worn by all staff on shift and visitors until further notice. We will continue to work very hard to keep everybody safe and well through regular handwashing, touch-point cleaning, temperature checks and social distancing where possible. Sing Ting continues to provide training to new staff on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and monitors our COVID-19 Prevention Plan. Thank you for your understanding when you visit.

Anniversary Celebration

Last month, Lisa and Rosie, two of our residents, celebrated 35 years of supported employment at local provider New Horizons. This is a great achievement which was celebrated with cakes and a visit to the beach! Congratulations to them both on this milestone.

