

our NEWS

December
2020

From our Chairman



As the year comes to a close we can reflect on how much has been achieved at Seton Villa this year – truly a milestone year. It's also timely to appreciate the hard work from management and staff to make this happen, whilst keeping everyone safe during the pandemic. Truly a remarkable group of people and we are very lucky to have them.

I had the pleasure of attending the key handover ceremony for Rosalie's and Jenny's Places recently. It was a very exciting day for the resident representatives as they opened the doors for the first time and gave the assembled audience a guided tour of their new homes. All residents have now moved in and I am told are well settled into their new 'digs'. Rhondda, the House Managers and house staff did a magnificent job preparing for this and it is a credit to them that it all went so smoothly.

Regretfully, Anthony Wallace, one of our Directors, has resigned due to increased work commitments. His personal and professional experience have been most welcome over the last two years. We thank him for his service to Seton Villa and wish him well in his future endeavours.

In closing, the Board and I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a joyous New Year. We look forward to your continued support and engagement in 2021 – there is a lot more happening in our transformation and it will be another busy year!

Marco Colli
Chairman, Seton Villa

From our CEO "Building our Bright Future" Status Report

I am delighted to announce that we have now purchased our second new property for redevelopment at 91 Bridge Road, Ryde. This property is a large 923m², flat block with no trees to hinder construction of a new five bedroom Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) residence as part of our Asset Redevelopment Program. We are currently assessing which house will transition to this new property, which sits almost half-way between Keiley Street and Lavarack Street.

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From our CEO continued

Everybody was very excited in anticipation of the physical move that took place on Tuesday 24 November 2020 for the new Rosalie's Place residents (54 Lavarack Street Ryde) and Thursday 26 November 2020 for residents of Jenny's Place (1 Keiley Street Marsfield). As foreshadowed in the October Newsletter, I have attached a link to this email where you will find a pictorial slide show of both new homes and the move, which captures the joyful emotion.

All residents are thoroughly delighted with their new accommodation.



Following on from this success, we have commenced demolition of the next new property for redevelopment at 91 Bridge Road Ryde following settlement on 2 November 2020. Academy Construction plans to have the site fully cleared before Christmas once asbestos removal has been completed.



Community Housing Provider (CHP) Registration

I am proud to advise that Seton Villa has a new status as a Tier 3 Community Housing Provider with the National Regulatory System Community Housing (NRSCH).

This is a great achievement following months of preparation work and will provide opportunities to apply for social housing stock being transferred from government across to the NGO sector. Strategically, the acquisition of new properties will enable Seton Villa to extend our service delivery reach beyond intellectual disability to support people with psychosocial disability into the future. It will also open the door for negotiations with NSW Land and Housing Corporation which has an 80% share in our Oslo Street house for transfer of that property across to Seton Villa ownership.



COVID-19 Update

I am very pleased to advise that following recent NSW Health advice that there are currently no LGA or suburbs identified as areas of increased COVID testing, we have been able to relax the use of masks within our houses. The past few months have been a very trying time for staff and visitors with this uncomfortable requirement in place and everyone is now very happy! Notwithstanding, we will maintain our current hygiene practice of regular handwashing, touch-point cleaning, temperature checks and social distancing where possible to ensure the continued well-being of residents and staff. This good news will extend to Christmas festivities at the houses with outdoor areas where up to 50 visitors are now able to join residents in a Christmas lunch or dinner. I look forward to meeting a number of you again soon at these celebrations.

Finally

2020 has been a challenging year and yet we have achieved much at Seton Villa. I look forward to an exciting 2021 with the implementation of our new Digital Transformation Ecosystem in the first half of the year and two new houses delivered in the second half. You will hopefully be able to watch progress on our new Seton Villa Marsfield Facebook page and the website. I will also have more to share about our new Fundraising Strategy moving forward.

In the meantime, please stay safe and have a very blessed and peaceful Christmas with family and friends.

