

# our NEWS

February  
2021

## From our Chairman



The highlight since the last newsletter has undoubtedly been the 'official' opening of the two new homes. These were attended by several VIP residents, the state Minister for Disabilities, the state Member for Ryde and the Mayor of Ryde City, along with family members and staff. It was great to have this broad support for what was a milestone day for Seton Villa. We were also blessed with good weather and a lifting of COVID restrictions, so someone is looking out for us!

This year we are also kicking off a few of the initiatives that are part of our strategic plan. As Peter reports on page 3, the construction of the new homes is a project that we are using to begin our fundraising efforts. We have a lot to learn on how to do this effectively and the campaign mentioned is part of this learning process.

Another part of the strategy is to diversify what Seton Villa can provide to its clients. We have started a new in-house Support Co-ordination service for our residents and families. This has been a popular request and it should enable closer coordination between Seton Villa and resident needs during the planning process.

*Marco Colli*  
Chairman, Seton Villa

## From our CEO

### "Building our Bright Future" Status Report

I am delighted to share details of our official 'ribbon-cutting' ceremonies for Jenny's Place and Rosalie's Place that took place on Tuesday 23 February 2021. Residents, staff and family members were joined by the Hon. Gareth Ward MP, Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disabilities; the Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Customer Service and Member for Ryde; and Cllr Jerome Laxale, Mayor of Ryde City. Our architect, Anthony Nolan, and builder Ronnie Beaini also attended alongside Board members and Sr Therese Haywood representing the Daughters of Charity.



## From our CEO continued

We were particularly blessed with the easing of gathering restrictions and masks within residential disability centres announced by NSW Health on Monday 22 February 2021. This additional freedom added significantly to everyone's comfort and enjoyment on the day. The delight of residents was clearly evident as they welcomed dignitaries into their homes for a tour and 'selfies'. Both Carmel and Susie had written speeches for the event which were warmly received, and everybody joined in for a lovely morning tea at Rosalie's Place following the ceremonies. I have subsequently received very positive feedback from both Minister's offices about their enjoyment of the day. Watch a short slide show here <https://vimeo.com/518894469>

We will shortly commence construction of our third new house at 91 Bridge Road Ryde and hope to receive DA approval from Ryde City Council in March 2021 to knock-down and rebuild 3 Tulip Street Nth Ryde. These redevelopments will see two more new Specialist Disability Accommodation houses available for our residents to move in to and mark the half-way point of our Asset Redevelopment Project.



## COVID-19 Update

**As you are all aware, residents and staff will shortly receive their first dose of the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine within each of our houses. Thank you to those who have already supplied Consent Forms to House Managers in preparation for the visits by the vaccination team. If anyone has remaining questions about the vaccine, please contact our Clinical Nurse Consultant, Sing Ting at [sting@setonvilla.org.au](mailto:sting@setonvilla.org.au). The second dose will take place approximately three weeks after the first dose, with at least a further two weeks to pass before we begin the regular annual influenza vaccination program.**

Although we are in a good place with no community transition of COVID-19 across NSW for at least a month now, we remain vigilant with handwashing, sanitiser, touch-point cleaning and temperature checks across all houses. I think everyone in the community is looking forward to a further reduced COVID risk once the majority of the population have received the vaccination.

As noted earlier, masks are no longer required to be worn by staff or visitors within the houses and there are currently no restrictions on the size of gatherings. We continue to monitor the NSW Health site daily for any changes to the guidelines for residential disability care providers.

## HR Matters

As previously advised via email, Dino Santos has moved on from Seton Villa to a bigger role within the disability sector. We are currently interviewing a number of high calibre applicants for the Operations Manager position and I hope to update you all on the outcome within a few weeks. Rhondda Vassallo will continue to act in this role in the interim, and please feel free to contact Rhondda at [rvassallo@setonvilla.org.au](mailto:rvassallo@setonvilla.org.au) with any concerns of an operational nature that have not been successfully resolved by your House Manager.



## NDIS Update

I am very pleased to advise that we have now received formal confirmation of our re-registration as a NDIS provider, with the added Registration Groups enabling us to offer Support Co-ordination as a new service offering. Sing Ting has been preparing for this day for some time and is keen to hear from those of you who have previously expressed a desire for Seton Villa to provide Support Co-ordination for your resident's NDIS Plan.

## Digital Fundraising Campaign

We have engaged Parachute Digital to run a digital crowdfunding campaign between April and June 2021 to raise funds for furniture and household appliances for our remaining new houses. We also hope to build a donor database for ongoing fundraising opportunities moving forward. Social media will be a key component to this campaign, and our new [@setonvillamarsfield](https://www.facebook.com/setonvillamarsfield) Facebook page is now live with regular postings to keep people informed of developments with our new buildings. We will particularly be tracking the construction of the new house at 91 Bridge Road Ryde.

I encourage all of you 'Facebookers' to 'like' - 'follow' - 'comment' - 'share' with your Facebook friends our new page and ongoing updates. You can help enhance our profile and extend its reach into the community. I will also keep you posted on the crowdfunding campaign and invite your active participation.

**I am looking forward to an exciting 2021 at Seton Villa!**

