

our NEWS

June
2021

From our Chairman



Greek philosopher Heraclitus is quoted as saying **“change is the only constant in life.”** He lived over 2500 years ago, but this is certainly true at Seton Villa today.

We have finally started the construction of house #3 Leia’s Place, with house #4 due to start shortly and house #5 is currently in planning. The team is pushing on and we now seem to be in more of a rhythm for this project, which is great!

We have also had some recent changes to the management team, as outlined by Peter on page three. We continue to be able to attract highly accomplished staff, a testament to the culture that is evident in the organisation.

After delays caused by the relatively chaotic government vaccine rollout for disability residents, at the time I write this we have been given firm dates for Seton Villa ‘jabs’. Once this occurs, we will be in a much more comfortable position for keeping everyone safe.

Marco Colli
Chairman, Seton Villa

From our CEO

“Building our Bright Future” Status Report

I am delighted that construction of Leia’s Place, Bridge Road Ryde, is progressing well! As I write this report, all internal wiring and plumbing is complete, and the roof is on – reducing the impact of inclement weather moving forward.

“Building our Bright Future” Status Report continued

The excitement is building for our Dover Street residents and for Liana and Julie (right) in particular, who along with the other women are looking at colour schemes and furnishings for their new home. We are hoping for hand-over by the end of October 2021.

Ryde Council has now given Development Consent for our fourth new property at Tulip Street Marsfield, replacing the original house with a new four-bedroom SDA Improved Livability home. If the weather is kind, this new house will also be completed by December 2021. Below is an artist impression of the new house.



Our first two new houses, Jenny’s Place and Rosalie’s Place, have been operating for a number of months now and we have been very encouraged by a recent Post-Occupancy Evaluation undertaken for both houses by an independent consultant who noted:

“The positive quality of life outcomes for residents, observed in both homes, overwhelmingly demonstrate the benefits of investing in high-quality accessible design, supporting independence and inclusion. Overall satisfaction with the new homes was demonstrated by all stakeholders engaged, being residents, families and staff members.”

We will be taking learnings from this report forward into the design of our remaining new houses.

In the last newsletter I reported that we have embarked on a Digital Crowdfunding Campaign called Homes For Life, to help fund equipment and furnishings for our new houses. This project will continue through July 2021, and you can view our landing page at <https://homes.setonvilla.org.au> and also our facebook.com/setonvillamarsfield page where we will be tracking the ongoing construction of Leia’s Place.

We have seen nearly 100 people donate so far, raising just under \$10,000. It would be wonderful to see this figure rise further before the end of the campaign, and you may be able to help!

Homes For Life

As part of our Homes For Life crowdfunding campaign we have been sharing the story beyond Seton Villa and getting growing support. Here are two snippets, including a lovely piece in [CathNews](#) and a Facebook post from Vinnies Australia. We're very grateful for the additional support from our Catholic community.



COVID-19 Update

After months of waiting, we were finally able to secure a date of 29 June 2021 for the first Pfizer vaccination dose for residents and consenting staff to be delivered by Healthcare Australia (HCA) as part of the Commonwealth's In-reach Vaccination Program for residential disability care centres. We have established a 'mini-hub' at Jenny's Place for the day and each house will rotate through on a schedule managed by our Clinical Nurse Consultant, Sing Ting. This is such an encouragement to everyone, particularly given the rising number of positive cases across Greater Sydney.

Human Resources Matters

I am pleased to formally introduce **Ms Loretta Downie** (below) as our new Operations Manager. Loretta comes to us with extensive operational management experience in both the disability and aged care sectors and is also passionate about seeing our residents thrive through person-centred active support. Loretta will provide leadership to our House Managers and oversee our relationship with the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission. I am excited to have Loretta join our team and she is keen to meet you over coming months. Loretta can be contacted at ldownie@setonvilla.org.au or on 0421 520 173.

We continue to recruit for vacant House Manager positions, and I hope to have news on that front soon.

Sadly, our Quality and Safeguards Manager, **Rhonda Vassallo** (below), has recently left us to pursue a new consultancy career. This has been a long-term vision for Rhonda, who has formed the company 'Inclusion and Beyond' to continue educating the sector about person-centred active support. She will maintain a relationship with Seton Villa in her new capacity to ensure a consistent quality of decorating style and resident engagement for the redevelopment of our remaining new homes.

We have also commenced recruitment for this important role.

