

# our NEWS

August  
2021

## From our Chairman



**The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create significant disruption in all areas of business and life and we anticipate this will continue for some time yet. Our management and staff continue to do a sterling job in keeping our residents and themselves safe and, to date, we have been blessed with everyone remaining healthy.**

Following the last Board meeting we welcomed John Yealland and Suzanne Brown as new Seton Villa non-executive directors. Suzanne come with skills in business development and fundraising, and is currently working as Bequests Manager for the Salvation Army. John has a background in disability and health services, with a consultancy assisting NFP's in this space. All director roles are unpaid volunteer positions, and it is always gratifying to see high calibre people willing to offer their time and expertise to Seton Villa.

Following our recent IT upgrades, we are using the efficiencies available from the new systems to reallocate roles and streamline tasks amongst the office staff and house management to provide better and more consistent services. Peter has more on this below.

Despite lockdowns causing shutdowns in the building industry, we are still on track to move into our next two homes towards the end of this year. Our builder has done a great job pulling in scarce resources to keep the job on schedule.

*Marco Colli*  
Chairman, Seton Villa

## From our CEO “Building our Bright Future” Status Report

### Leia's Place at Bridge Road Ryde

I am delighted to report that, despite the two-week construction shut-down due to COVID concerns, Leia's Place continues to progress well. Bathrooms are almost finished, and the kitchen is installed. Outdoor concreting and brickwork are also nearing completion.

The excitement is building for our Dover Street residents who will move into Leia's Place as they look at colour scheme and furnishings for their new home. We are still hopeful for hand-over from our builder, Ronnie, by the end of October 2021.



## “Building our Bright Future” Status Report continued

### Lavender Cottage at Tulip Street Marsfield

Following Development Consent from Ryde Council for our fourth new property in Tulip Street Marsfield, construction is proceeding at pace. The slab has now been poured and the frames will soon start to go up on the site.

The ladies from David Avenue who will be moving into the new Tulip Street residence have named their new home Lavender Cottage because they thought it was a peaceful name for a peaceful home.



## Homes For Life

Homes For Life, our digital crowdfunding campaign to help fund equipment and furnishings for our new houses, has raised over \$10,000 to date and our new donor database continues to grow. We will soon be refreshing our fundraising landing page with new content as we enter Phase 2 of our fundraising campaign. Please remember to 'like' our [facebook.com/setonvillamarsfield](https://www.facebook.com/setonvillamarsfield) page where we will continue to track the progress of our next two houses.



## COVID-19 Update

I am extremely thankful that Seton Villa remains COVID free with almost all residents and staff now fully vaccinated. Weeks of lockdown are nonetheless taking a toll on everyone with increasing stress levels evident in the houses. We are maintaining daily routines where it is possible to do so safely and very hopeful that family visitation can resume in the near future as vaccination levels approach the magic 80% across Sydney. Despite the challenges, residents are still able to enjoy birthday parties at home!



## Human Resources Matters

### Rosie Brownlee

#### Quality Practice Lead

I am pleased to advise that Rosie Brownlee – previously the House Manager at Menzies Road – has accepted the role of Quality Practice Lead for Seton Villa following the recent departure of our Quality Manager, Rhondda Vassallo. Rosie will be spending most of her time working alongside CSWs in the houses to drive continuous quality improvement in the active support provided to residents. Rosie also has a nursing background that will be invaluable in ensuring 'best practice' medication and behaviour support management across our seven houses.



### Ruby Marriage

#### House Manager Menzies Road

As previously advised, Rosie has been replaced at Menzies Road by Ruby Marriage, who comes to us with extensive Supported Independent Living (SIL) experience from within the disability sector. Ruby will also take responsibility for residents of the Dover Street house, which has been substantively vacant since Rommy's departure several months ago.



### Andrea Garces

#### House Manager Koorong Street

We will soon farewell Catherine Conroy from Koorong Street in the short-term as she departs on Maternity Leave. Catherine will be replaced by Andrea Garces who also has responsibility for Oslo Street, which has been substantively vacant since Emma's departure in May 2021. Andrea is another enthusiastic and experienced House Manager from within the disability sector. We warmly welcome these new House Managers to the Seton Villa family, and I am sure you will hear from them shortly.

