

our NEWS

February
2022

From our Chairman



It's fantastic to see the photos (below) of our latest house, Lavender Cottage, being handed over to the residents by Ronnie our builder. Peter, Andrew and the team have delivered another amazing home for the residents of Seton Villa. Four down and three to go!

The Board is preparing background information as input into the next strategic plan to define the next phase of Seton Villa's evolution. I would be keen to hear from anyone in the Seton Villa community who has ideas or opinions on this. We will be in 'background collection' mode through to September this year so please provide your suggestions through Peter.

Marco Colli
Chairman, Seton Villa

From our CEO "Building our Bright Future" Status Report

I am delighted to advise that our latest new house, named Lavender Cottage by the residents of David Avenue, was handed over by Academy Constructions and Development on Wednesday 23 February 2022. Our three incoming residents, Marlene, Michelle and Vanessa were on hand to receive the keys from our builder Ronnie. They were excited to walk through their new home for the first time and to see lavender growing in their front garden!



From our CEO continued



Prior to the anticipated moving date of early-March, staff will receive training in the use of our new bathroom hoist equipment to ensure the safe transfer of residents from wheelchairs as they become necessary in the home.

We are very hopeful of receiving development consent from Ryde City Council for the knock-down and rebuild of our Dover Street property by early March 2022. This will enable us to get our fifth new SDA Improved Livability home underway.



Fundraising

Please continue to Like our [facebook.com/setonvillamarsfield](https://www.facebook.com/setonvillamarsfield) page where we have commenced the second phase of the fundraising campaign to purchase a wheelchair hoist for the van at Leia's Place. This will be the second wheelchair hoist-equipped van in the Seton Villa fleet.

COVID-19 Update

Despite our best efforts, Omicron infiltrated our David Avenue house on New Year's Eve. As advised to families at the time, we implemented our COVID Emergency Management Plan and issued a supply of full PPE to the house, along with donning and doffing instructions. I am pleased to note that the three residents who tested positive to PCR only displayed mild symptoms and have all fully recovered. Staff who also tested positive have received clearance to return to work and the house has been professionally cleaned and sanitized.

Since that time, we have had numerous staff test positive, along with five residents from different houses. Focused efforts around isolation and touchpoint cleaning, along with full PPE for staff in those homes, has to date prevented further spread to other residents. In accordance with government protocols for residential disability care centres, NSW Health and the NDIS Commission have been notified as required. All houses continue to be very diligent around QR code sign-in, temperature checks, declarations, handwashing, sanitizer, touchpoint cleaning, and social distancing where possible. Whilst there has been a significant impact upon resourcing our staff rosters, we have managed to maintain an appropriate continuity of support at all times.

On Tuesday 25 January 2022, our vaccination provider, HCA, provided COVID booster shots to eligible residents and staff at our Jenny's Place 'mini-hub'. Staff and residents who acquired COVID since New Year are required to consult with their GP about waiting periods before receiving their booster. For the majority, this will be a six-week delay and we are hopeful of arranging a further booster opportunity in early March 2022.

Human Resource Matters

Just prior to Christmas, I received resignations from two of our House Managers, both citing extenuating personal circumstances. Purvi (David Avenue) has left us after 11 years with Seton Villa and a more recent recruit, Sheridan (Leia's Place and Menzies Road) left us to care for her terminally ill mother. We have recruited a very experienced House Manager, Jessica Harrison, who commenced at the beginning of February 2022 to replace Sheridaon. Sylvia will provide oversight for David Avenue and the transition to Lavender Cottage whilst we review our management structure in light of ongoing funding pressures from the NDIA.

I have also appointed Amanda Haes to the new Marketing and Fundraising Co-ordinator role budgeted for 15 hours per week. Amanda has assumed responsibility for nurturing our growing donor database, including preparation of donor newsletters, appeals and events. From March 2022, Amanda will take over the management of our Facebook social media platform and expand our social posts to Instagram as well. This will reduce our reliance upon third-party contractors in the fundraising space.

Vale Lesley Anne Potter

(17 March 1960 – 3 January 2022)

You will all be aware that sadly, Lesley passed away peacefully with family members on 3 January 2022. Lesley had been a resident of Seton Villa for 37 years and was a kind, loving and considerate person with a very infectious smile and laugh. Lesley enjoyed conversations, singing and dancing, and loved to wear her mood rings and jewellery. She was always very excited to tell staff about her wonderful holidays with Mum and Dad. Lesley would always ask staff how every member of their family was – remembering all their names.

The relationship that Lesley had with housemates Vanessa, Marlene and Michelle was very important to her. She considered them family and would always look out for them and loved them dearly.

Rest in Peace dearest Lesley. You will be missed but never forgotten.

