

our NEWS

August
2023

From our Chairman



Some years ago, we participated in a trial device that used AI logic to detect a sleeping resident having a fit and summon the carer on duty. It did not live up to its promise and we did not proceed beyond the trial stage. I expect that today this trial would produce a different result.

As someone who has had a career in technology, I am generally quite sceptical about new technologies' touted benefits because the hype often ignores or downplays negative impacts. Lately I have been thinking about how AI could help our residents and the disability sector in general and decided to ask the technology itself (ChatGPT) about this.

While not earth-shattering content, the responses to my questions were an interesting summary (the transcript is too long to include in this newsletter but is available from Peter on request) and give food for thought about the opportunities and pitfalls of AI for people with disability living at home.

In some respects, especially those related to our IT systems, Seton Villa is in a good position to exploit emerging applications. However, we must carefully navigate ethical considerations, privacy concerns, and the need for user-centred design to ensure that the AI solutions we accept genuinely improve the well-being, independence, and quality of life of people with disabilities and their carers.

Marco Colli
Chairman, Seton Villa

From our CEO

"Building our Bright Future" Status Report

I am delighted that our seventh new SDA house at Koorong Street is rocketing along! We have almost completed the internal painting and have commenced installation of the joinery. Being our first house for male residents, the décor will have a very different feel to our previous homes.

From our CEO continued

I am delighted that we have received our first confirmed application for residency, and we will be working hard to attract interest for the remaining three bedrooms. Please share this opportunity with any families you may know in the community who are seeking a NDIS Supported Independent Living (SIL) placement for their male family member. We also still have one female vacancy at Spruce Cottage that we are keen to fill. Details about these vacancies appear on the disability accommodation Nest website gonest.com.au.



RASAIID SIL Integration

We have now successfully integrated the 14 residents from RASAIID into the Seton Villa community.

The two Team Leaders, Tin and Mercedes, are actively participating in the Seton Villa Management Team, and many RASAIID staff have heard Sr Debra McCarthy speak about the charism of the Daughters of Charity and history of Seton. We recently hosted a visit from two Daughters of Charity from the UK, Sister Margaret and Sister Maureen, who are exploring the development of online Formation sessions for Directors and staff as part of strengthening engagement with Vincentian values. These initiatives will further assist to build organisational culture across the Seton community.

Residents are also engaging in joint community activities. Last month, the North Ryde RSL hosted a disco night for disability participants and many residents dressed according to the 'nautical' theme and thoroughly enjoyed the manicure session along with the dancing!



New Opportunities

With facilitation by our Participant Experience Lead, Rhondda Vassallo, one of our residents, Susie, is keen to explore a mainstream employment opportunity through the Inclusive Employment Solutions agency, Omnia. Susie has a passion for handbags and would like to work part-time in a retail handbag shop, helping to sort and place stock instore. It is great to see our residents lifting their sights to new things that will further enrich their life and community connection.



HR Matters

I am delighted that **Chandan Sharma** has settled in well as the new **Head of Operations** at Seton Villa, and by now will have reached out to many of you to introduce himself.

Please don't hesitate to contact Chandan with any operational issues or concerns at chandan.sharma@setonvilla.org.au or mobile 0421 520 173.

We also welcome **Filiz Inan** to our People and Culture team as **Human Resources Officer**. Filiz will work three-days per week and in the office on Thursdays and Fridays. She will support our Head of People and Culture, Jess Dunlop, with general HR matters and take the lead on building our Work Health and Safety Committee to ensure there is appropriate employee input into maintaining a safe working environment for all staff, contractors and volunteers.

As advised recently via email, we have now finalised our House Manager restructure and the following appointments have been made:

- Andrea Watson (nee Garces),
Accommodation Manager,
Leia's Place and Jenny's Place
- Katherine Plaza,
Accommodation Manager,
Lavender Cottage and Spruce Cottage
- Sylvia D'Souza,
Accommodation Manager
Rosalie's Place and Daffodil Cottage
- Catherine Conroy,
Accommodation Support Manager (Relief position).

I am confident that you will receive good support for your family members under this new structure; however, please don't hesitate to reach out to Chandan or myself with any questions or concerns.



Christmas Luncheon

I am now able to confirm further details for the Christmas Luncheon to be held from 12noon – 3pm on Sunday 26 November at the Epping Club, 45 Rawson Street, Epping NSW. Ticket price will be \$90pp and include a two-course lunch, soft drink, Disc-jockey and photo booth. We will also ask for a \$20 per resident contribution to purchase an appropriate Christmas present to be presented by Santa Clause after lunch.

I am delighted that RASAI residents and families will also participate in this mega-event. It will be a great opportunity for you to meet each other, along with Board and Management representatives.

We will send a formal invitation in mid-October 2023.