



### **The Grapevine Report**

We met on 9<sup>th</sup> June, a few missing with winter woes, some lucky ones travelling north.

We noted with regret the passing of some ILU residents, in particular John Reusch who, with his wife Pat, has recently represented Buna and previously was for many years the rep for Penrice. Pat and John - and their parents - have been well-respected and much loved Barossans for decades and especially committed to Barossa Village. John will be greatly missed. We also offer our sympathy to the families of Judith Wiebrecht from Magnolia Street and long-time resident Hazel Bryant of the Atze Cluster, who died recently.

Tom Herring, our Integrated Care Development Co-ordinator, is still seconded to the Village care sector. We are missing him badly!

However, we do get it! We will probably all line up for Home Care one day. We have joined an organisation that has "*people at its heart*". If staff is temporarily short in the maintenance and garden team, our gardens and small maintenance jobs can be put off a few weeks but when its shower day for someone on a care program, or they must be driven to a doctor's appointment, the care sector is the priority.

Tom Falconer commented to Ben that the Village appears to run "lean", (as in needing to second Tom) when unfortunate circumstances occur. Ben reminded us that carers are in great demand in the community. The Village seeks quality people as managers as well as hands-on workers, so it was good to read in Simon's last column that Matt Kowald and David Rundle are prioritising developing strategies to recruit quality workers and to support future growth.

On that score, I wonder if those providing the care realise just how much they are valued and appreciated by us. Those of us who have a family member presently receiving assistance are extremely grateful for your help. A big shout out and thanks to the Home Care team!

Ben noted a few Cluster maintenance concerns – the usual, painting, is always on the list. Several Clusters reported gutters as a concern. Cleaning is listed for the post-Autumn drop round, with a few Clusters needing attention even more often than three monthly.

You will remember that last meeting concerns were expressed about the near mid-month delivery of Grapevine, meaning that some social events in Joy Rice are over before being advertised. A response was received to our comments. It referred us to the website but missed our point, that many residents do not have Internet access. However the Senior Leadership Team has taken on board our concerns and a review of Grapevine, our expectations and its uses, will be held.

Carmel Devonish, Secretary, BVRA – July 2021.