



The Grapevine Report

Our last meeting, Wednesday 9 June 2021, covered a fair bit of territory.

Ben wished Brad well in his new career and announced the appointment to the gardening team of Stephen Sparrow who comes from a commercial landscaping background and lives at Freeling with his young family. Please welcome him to the Team and yes, you can guess his nickname! One rep said he hopes Stephen does visit our Clusters too early in the day!

Judy Clarke of River Road celebrated a significant milestone recently. Originally from Kapunda, Judy has been an ILU resident for 21 years and the Village wishes her well for many more.

Ben consulted with us and took us through the maintenance expenditure and budget for 2020-21 to date, as required under the *Retirement Villages Act*. He reported it as being "on track". We had opportunities to ask him questions, like do resident-requested alterations to units come into this report line. They don't. They are capital works.

We were keen to hear about the hydrotherapy pool that had greatly impressed us at an open day. Probably by now it is open for business. Ben has been negotiating with five physios who are keen to buy time/days so as to supervise their clients with exercise routines for particular injuries. (This would be at the cost of a physio visit.) Community available time looks like being 6am-9am (on account of arthritic bones needing some help to get going for the day) and while a staff member will be in attendance, we are responsible for ourselves. Looks like costs will be \$60 per month for unlimited access or \$50 for 10 sessions. Some Health Funds may allow for claims – check your policy.

I reported on the working group's meeting with community consultant, Barbara Chappell, about the Constitution. We are finding this quite challenging, endeavouring to keep in line with the *Retirement Villages Act* while seeking to honour the values of Barossa Village (care and respect for all regardless of differences) and current community values of equality and fairness. The amended Constitution will be put to the AGM in October.

Ben advised there have been some reports of vandalism. We should report any incidents to the office, and also make a police report. It will be too late to catch offenders but police may increase patrols around the area if they are aware of incidents having occurred. If any damage is done to our personal property – pot plants, outdoor furniture – we must make the police report – the Village cannot do so.

Ben also clarified a question raised concerning resident-requested additions to a unit that become fixtures – like an air conditioner or solar panels. The Village's building insurance will cover these, not our household contents policies, but service of such items remains at resident cost.

Carmel Devonish, Secretary, BVRA – August 2021.