



## The Grapevine Report

There was a good attendance at the **11 August Management Committee meeting** – thanks to the members who braved heavy rain just at pre-meeting time.

Tribute was paid to former Buna Terrace resident, **Rosemary Shearer**, who died in July. Rosemary was the inaugural President of our Association. It was Rosemary who approached the SA Retirement Villages Association to change what was then called a “consumer group” to form the BVRA where members undertook to be a link to Village Management and to care for the wellbeing of their Cluster. Tom paid respect to Lorraine Gregory (The Pines) who also died in July. Our sympathy to their families.

No one was more pleased than Ben to welcome **Tom Herring** back to his job in Integrated Care after 4 months in Care Support. There are now 136 home care packages to be managed and 300 home support clients. He has many plans – including small groups for “virtual reality” programs tailored for our interests. It's sort of headgear that enables the wearer to feel as if they are there. This may be our only chance of travel for a few years, even though in an armchair, and certainly cheaper!

As well as Kish Rundle offering sushi classes, volunteer Prudence Gill will also offer some classes soon. We have proof that Pru is a good cook – she's Tom's wife! Tom now begins visiting each unit, a chance to talk about safety and wellbeing issues.

**Ben** updated us with the ILU budget and expenditure figures to the end of financial year and the Village has performed in line with budget. He will call the Management Committee together for a detailed discussion of next year's figures on **Wednesday 15 September** before presenting it to the AGM on 13 October 2021.

Issues raised at this meeting caused Ben to ask the maintenance team to add a wipe down of fascias and reachable undersides of **gutters** during cleaning. Several Clusters also reported **green (algae)** building up on paths. This is a new problem as a result of excessive seasonal rain and can be slippery. If this affects you please report it to Reception – the maintenance team will attend with a high-pressure hose, and chemicals if necessary, to fix the problem.

**The green bin saga!** Unfortunately the Barossa Council advised its general community just days before the operator rolled out one green bin per residence throughout the Barossa. Now Ben is negotiating with them. Some Clusters (mostly newer builds) can manage one green bin per unit. But this decision won't be made without consultation with the clusters once its clear how it can be managed through the Council – more information to come.

We all support less waste in landfill but problems can occur in Clusters with shared bins. Our Cluster (five units) is making an effort to freeze waste that is likely to smell (ie, meat/fish scraps) in kitchen or newspaper (definitely no cling wrap or plastic in green bins) and only add it to the bin when it goes out for collection. **Be kind to your neighbours!**

**Carmel Devonish, Secretary, BVRA – September 2021**