



SUMMER 2023



December 2023

Newsletter

gcrh.org.au

From the General Manager's Desk

Another year is nearly over and 2024 will be moving in soon! It has been a very big year for the organisation as we progress with our building plans. We hope that residents enjoyed the Christmas party at the Hewett Centre. Thanks to Karen for her efforts; it does take a lot of organising. Thanks also to Brenton, Stephen, Michael & Graham for their support on the day.

On a sober note, was the tragic death of Police Commissioner Grant Steven's son Charlie. Peter & Claire Stevens, from James Martin Village are Charlies grandparents. On behalf of everyone from Gawler Community Retirement Homes we express our condolences to the Stevens family.

Christmas/ New Year Arrangements

- The Administration Office will be closed from **12.00pm on Thursday the 21st December** and re-open on **Tuesday 2nd January** at 9.00am.
- During these times, all maintenance requests should be made direct to Brenton or Stephen on emergency number **0411 795 585**.
- We would ask that any maintenance request be made only if urgent. If it is something that can wait until New Year, please wait until Tuesday the 2nd Jan.
- **Rubbish Bins Collection**:

- ***Bins out on Thursday 21st December – Collection Friday 22nd December.***

Bins will be put out on the Thursday morning and emptied on Friday as normal.

- ***Bins out Thursday 28th December – Collection Friday 29th December.***

Bins will be put out on the Thursday morning and emptied on Friday as normal.

2024 Australia Day Holiday

Note that the Australia Day Public Holiday in 2024 is to be celebrated on Friday 26th January. The Administration Office will be closed on this day. Any urgent maintenance requests will need to contact the emergency number as above.

Bins will be put out as normal on the Thursday and they will be emptied on the Friday (holiday) as normal.

Residents Away or Holiday Guests

A reminder about advising the office of when you are away or if you have guests staying. With the Christmas/New Year holidays, please let us know prior to the office closing at 12.00pm on Thursday 21st December. Leave a message if office closed, then we will have a record that we can check, if we need it. This is mainly in the case of an emergency situation.

Not Too Subtle?

Everyone kept hitting their heads as they walked down my stairs, so I hung a sign as a warning.



Annual General Meeting – 2024 Board

The GCRH AGM was held on October 25th. The election of office bearers at the AGM resulted in no changes to the Board. Confirming the following make-up of the Board:

Chairperson: Helen Sands

Deputy Chairperson: Naomi Reschke

Board Members: Craig Gogoll, Chris George, Sam Harnett, Shane Hennessy, Nick Pullman, Dr Malcolm Richards, Phil Zeunert and Janet Done.

We thank them for their continuing voluntary support for GCRH.

Annual Residents Meeting Minutes

All residents should have received the Minutes from the Annual Residents Meeting held in October. Please advise the Administration Office if you haven't received a copy.

Gawler Ageing Well Advisory Group

Last year you may remember that the Gawler Council produced a document called "Town of Gawler's Ageing Well Framework". It is a positive document, which provides the council with direction on support for older people in the community.

One of the actions recommended was to set-up an advisory group to support the process. Recently the council called for applications to join the Ageing Well Advisory Group. General Manager, Peter Smith made an application and he has been invited to join this group.

The Community Members invited to join are:

- Wendy Sparks
- Debra Anderson
- Patrick Honan
- Lee-Anne Chenoweth
- Lyn Lillecrapp
- John Bolton
- Peter Smith

They will join Council Members and staff as part of the group. We will provide you with feedback from this group over the coming newsletters.



Christmas Party & Hamper Draw

The Residents Christmas Party saw around 90 residents & guests enjoy the day. It was great to see many of our new residents attend.

Brunch came from the popular Gawler South Bakery; and entertainment came from an encore performance by magician of Darren Schutz. We also had some door prizes for those present on the day.

Thank you to the Thirsty Camel Bottle Shop at the Kingsford Hotel for donating some product. Also, to Sieber Wines, Seppeltsfield (thanks to Julie Martin for arranging these), for assisting with the giveaways.

The annual Christmas Hamper draws were conducted on the day; all residents are eligible for the hampers (not just those at the party).

Karen put together three excellent Hampers for the Christmas Hamper draws and the winners were:

Xmas Hamper No.1 – Don & Margaret Raggatt, Elimatta Village.

Xmas Hamper No.2 – Judy Ward, Vin Rice Village.

Xmas Hamper No.3 – Graeme & Leanne Schultz, Gov Gawler Village.

Prizes have been delivered to all winners.(Ho Ho Ho!)



Village Inspections

Brenton and Peter will conduct inspections of James Martin Village units in February 2024. As mentioned last newsletter, residents will be advised by letter of the timing. We usually complete six units each day scheduled, over a 3 to 4 week period.

The items that have been identified for replacement or upgrading will be added to our Capital Maintenance Fund budgets going forward.

2024 Social & Information Events

Currently we are working on dates for 2024 events and we will add more in the coming months. We can confirm details of the first one for the year:

Gawler Greyhounds Luncheon:

This function is confirmed for Wednesday February 14th at the Gawler Greyhounds, Nixon's Function Centre. This is a daytime meeting and residents will be invited to enjoy lunch at the track. The price will be \$5 per head and includes seating in Nixon's, a seniors menu for lunch and a mystery bet with the TAB. Drinks will be available at bar prices. GCRH is subsidising the price of the day's entertainment.

This function has proved to be very popular. Nixon's Function Centre is an excellent facility, so we hope to see you there.

An invitation will be sent out to all residents in mid-January.



Other functions & dates for 2024; currently 'on the drawing board' we are looking at the following:

- We are hoping to provide an information session about the changes to Myagedcare due to commence in mid-2024.
- The new owners of the Gawler Cinemas are still offering silver screening mornings. The lead time for booking is a bit shorter than it used to be. We will be keeping an eye out for a suitable movie and will advise if we can organise.
- We are now a supporter of COTA SA and we expect to arrange an information session through them.
- Following the success of the social bowling day at the Gawler Bowling Club, we will book again in 2024. Likely to be a September date.

Wed. October 30th: Annual Residents Meeting

Annual Residents Meeting Wednesday 30th October 2024, commencing at 10.30am. To be held at the Humphrey George Community Hall, at James Martin Village.

Wed. November 27th: GCRH Christmas Party (tbc)

The Annual Residents Christmas Party date is pencilled in as Wednesday 27th November 2024. To be held in the Hewett Centre; it will commence at 10.30am. (To be confirmed).

* If you have seen or heard about any suitable options for social get togethers or information session, we would like to hear about it. Also, we are on the lookout for entertainment for next year's Christmas Party. Please contact Peter at the admin office if you have any ideas.

Remind You of Anyone!



Summary of Current Vacancies

As this edition of the newsletter is being written, we have deposits on all current vacancies. We are still continuing to receive plenty of interest in our

vacancies, particularly for the subsidised entry options. In fact the recent months of October & November have been the busiest two months on record for contacts to the office.

We will have a vacancy in Governor Gawler Village coming up in mid-January. Full details will be available after Christmas.

*** Please contact the office for more information. Remember if you provide us a contact who purchases a unit, we offer a 'finder's fee'.**

James Martin Village Developments Update

Bruce Eastick Complex - Work on the first six apartments is proceeding very well. Kitchens are in and tiling completed. Second fix carpentry is complete and electrical & plumbing will follow. The rooms will be ready for painting to begin in January.

Work on the outside will include rendering of the building to modernise its façade. Also, extension to the car park, addition of carports, landscaping and concreting works; this includes ramp access from the eastern carpark. Each unit will have a separate fenced courtyard. We expect to begin marketing the apartments in late February/March.

Lot 5 New Units – We now have the building plans for the six new three bedroom units on the southern boundary at James Martin Building. The final stage is the tick off on building consent for these plans by PlanSA. We expect this shortly and building is being planned to start in early 2024.

New Residents

We would like to welcome the following new residents to Gawler Community Retirement Homes:

- Elaine Palmer moved into James Martin Village in October.
- Lorraine Symonds moved into Governor Daly Village in December.

The following units are vacant, but have prospective new residents who have paid a deposit:

- Unit 7, Dawes Village.
- Unit 1, 1 Fotheringham Tce Elimatta Village.
- Unit 11, 2-7 Fotheringham Tce Elimatta Village. (Ongoing Payment – Subsidised)
- Unit 19, 2-7 Fotheringham Tce Elimatta Village.
- Unit 29, 30 Tod Street Elimatta Village.
- Unit 4, James Martin Village. – this unit is to be converted to a Subsidised Entry agreement

Solar Panel Installation.

As we advised at the Residents Meeting in October, the Board approved installation of solar panels at James Martin Village. That work is to be undertaken in January 2024. It was to have started this week but has been postponed because of the poor weather. We have appointed local firm, Solaress, to undertake the installation.

The installation is designed to maximise the savings on power expenses. Importantly though, under our one village policy, all residents will benefit from any savings.

GCRH is using its own funds to pay for the cost, similar to the purchase of our vehicles. It is an investment in support of all villages. We will monitor the benefits of the panels and consider further suitable installations.

Retirement Villages Act Update

Earlier in the year the Office for Ageing Well invited us to a session regarding a review of the Retirement Villages Act. This is a requirement under the Act, which was renewed in 2016 and enacted in 2018. We attended that meeting and then provided feedback on the proposals.

The result of that is a final draft, which will be presented to parliament early in the new year. Once presented, the draft will then be made available. We will update you on this when we can.

While it may be debated in 2024, based on the 2016 reform, it would be some time before it is enacted.

Village Summit

Our General Manager was able to attend a Village summit, presented by the DCM Institute. We use one of their sites, villages.com.au to advertise our vacancies.

It was an interesting day, with a variety of subjects covered. There was discussion on the federal governments Aged Care Task Force, which is due to report soon. A notable presentation talked about the future of aged care beds; it is likely that more seniors will be encouraged to stay in their homes (inc villages). There are unlikely to be large increases to aged care facilities; and a possible decrease in the number of providers but operating more beds. This suggests that retirement villages will have a greater role to play.

There was a presentation regarding a number of legal requirements in the pipeline. This included the aforementioned retirement villages act, voluntary assisted dying act and more.

Haven't had Any jokes For a While – LOL!

* The teacher told her schools kids to write an essay titled 'If I Were a Millionaire'. Everyone was writing except one girl who leaned back with her arms folded.

"What's the matter," the teacher asked. "Why aren't you writing?" "I'm waiting for my secretary," she replied. The teacher scored her 10/10!

* Grandpa to Grandkid: Go hide, your teacher is here because you skipped school today!

Grandkid: No, you go hide ... I told her YOU PASSED AWAY!!!

* **I'm So Old That:**

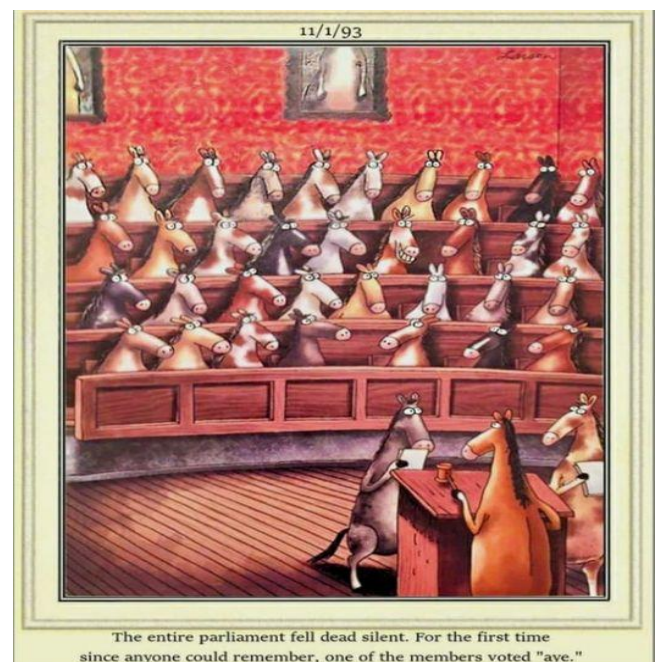
- I have dialled a rotary phone!
- Listened to music off a cassette tape!
- Watched black & white TV with rabbit ears antennas
- And went a whole day without taking a picture of myself!

* Jessica always wanted a dog for Christmas. She asked Santa at the mall, and even put it on her wish list. When Christmas came, her mom handed her a huge box with holes. Excited, Jessica ripped it open, only to be disappointed to find a little potbelly pig.

Then Jessica asked her mom, "Why did Santa get me a pig?" From the kitchen, her dad yelled, "Oh, that's my fault."

"Why?" Jessica asked. Her father replied, "I asked Santa for a Christmas ham."

Hope They're Not in Canberra!



*** On behalf of the Board Members & Staff, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We hope you enjoy our Christmas gift!**