



Left: Shepparton Villages Board President Merushe Asim and Hansen Yuncken State Manager Richard Hansen sign contracts for the new development.

Above: An artist impression of the new \$34million development.

Plans take shape

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDER WAY FOR OUR NEW \$34MILLION, 120 BED AGED CARE DEVELOPMENT.

Many years of hard work and planning came to fruition as builders, Hansen Yuncken broke soil on the site this month after winning the contractor's tender for the project.

Architectural firm dwp suters designed the new facility which will set a new benchmark for residential care in the Hume region.

The project – due to be completed by mid 2018 – will provide employment for more than 250 people over the course of the build, with a commitment to providing five local traineeships or apprenticeships for the project.

“Additionally, once completed we will be looking to employ an additional 60 staff to add to the 420 we currently employ, well and truly making Shepparton Villages one of the region's biggest employers,” CEO Kerri Rivett said.

“More than that though, this building will be beautiful and has been designed to ensure residents can live in a building that is truly a home within a community and that is something we are very proud of,” Ms Rivett said.

Founding fathers, Keppel Turnour OAM and Lance Woodhouse OAM officially turned the first sod on the new site at the launch of the project, which is a great testament to the breadth of support both men have given Shepparton Villages over many years.

Member for Murray, Damian Drum also attended the official event and guests celebrated the start of construction after what has been a long, but thorough planning process.

Shepparton Villages Board President, Merushe Asim said

the build is an extremely large investment for a regional not for profit and demonstrates Shepparton Villages commitment to the community of Greater Shepparton.

A fundraising “Giving Tree” has been launched to help furnish the new building, making it a home for the 120 residents who will occupy the two storey complex, and allowing anyone who wants to make a contribution, the opportunity to do so.

“We need help to furnish the building with all the comforts of home, from small knick-knacks like vases and cushions – right through to the necessary and more expensive equipment to ensure our residents have the very best comfort and care,” Ms Rivett explained.

“Every donation will be greatly received, big or small – we know how generous this community is and how well it looks after its own.”

More information on the Giving Tree and on how to make a donation can be found on the back page of this newsletter.



Message from the CEO

New look



Over the next few months you may notice some changes to our Shepparton Villages logo and the associated marketing materials.

We've decided to refresh our brand with an updated look, but we've been careful to retain the iconic parrot as part of the Shepparton Villages logo.

We've designed the new look – thanks to Nerida Hippisley at Flying Pig Design – to ensure that we can transition without wasting current printed materials.

We will gradually move to the new look as we require new marketing materials.

Massive projects such as our new build don't just happen overnight

I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY PRIVILEGED TO BE JOINED BY A TEAM OF PASSIONATE AND COMMITTED PEOPLE WHO HAVE PUT THEIR HEART AND SOUL IN TO ENSURING THE PLAN AND DESIGN FOR OUR NEW BUILDING IS THE VERY BEST IT CAN POSSIBLY BE, AND IMPORTANTLY FEELS LIKE HOME.

No stone has been left unturned to ensure this building becomes home to 120 residents who can be safely cared for in a community environment with all the trappings of home.

I must make special mention of our Board Vice-President, Frank Dawson who has headed up the Project Committee that has overseen this massive project.

Shepparton Villages Board of Directors is truly committed to the elderly in this region which must be a great consolation to the community and while we are extremely excited to see some progress on the site, our minds are focussed on forward planning to ensure we can consistently meet the needs of the aged in the Goulburn Valley.

One of our founding fathers, Keppel Turnour OAM, has been one of the visionaries that helped get Shepparton Villages to where it is today.

Keppel's late wife Helen had the honour of turning the first sod on the original Shepparton Villages site in 1971 as Keppel was overseas – so it



Founding fathers, Keppel Turnour, OAM (right) and Lance Woodhouse, OAM.

was appropriate to have Keppel turn the first sod on the new development alongside fellow founder Lance Woodhouse OAM.

Sadly, for our community, Keppel is leaving Shepparton to live with his daughter in Melbourne and we would like to wish him all the very best – thank you doesn't seem enough to convey our gratitude for his foresight, determination and commitment that has steered us to where we are today – caring for more than 600 of the region's most vulnerable, the elderly.

Farewell Keppel and thank you.

Finally, there is much happening as always around Shepparton Villages and we hope you enjoy catching up on daily life as you read through our newsletter and enjoy photos of smiling faces – we are a family at Shepparton Villages and it is a privilege to be part of the daily life of those we care for.

Kerri Rivett
CEO – Shepparton Villages



Home Care and Support Services
Manager, Kylie Alletsee.

Filming our Home Care TV ad.

Kylie chats with Home Care
client Olive Commerford.



Our Home Care service

MANY OF YOU WILL HAVE READ OR HEARD ABOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CHANGES TO HOME CARE THAT WERE IMPLEMENTED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, GIVING THE CONSUMER THE CHOICE AS TO WHO PROVIDES THEIR HOME CARE SERVICES.

Home Care services are offered to those who may like some assistance to stay living in their home for as long as possible, and can range from as little as one hour a month up to several hours a day based on need.

Changes to the way Home Care Packages are managed means you, the consumer, can now choose who provides the Home Care Services you require.

Kylie Alletsee is our Home Care and Support Services Manager and we may be biased but she is one of the best! Just ask our current Home Care clients!

Kylie is local and she knows the system. Under Kylie, Shepparton Villages offers a range of services including help with tasks around

the home such as washing and domestic duties, personal care, gardening and maintenance and funding equipment and aids in the home.

You may have seen Kylie featuring in some of our television or newspaper ads recently – we had a bit of fun filming our ad!

Kylie can help you navigate the Home Care system, she'll get to know you and your needs, and together, you can decide what services you may like to assist you to remain living in your home.

If you would like to know more, give Kylie a call on (03) 5832 0800 she's always up for a chat.



Visiting student Shilah Mbewe and
Banksia resident Zoe O'Sullivan.

Exchange students pay Banksia a visit

Residents at Banksia Lodge enjoyed a treat early in the new year with a visit from four South African students on exchange through the Shepparton Rotary Club.

Jessica Manyelo, Shilah Mbewe, Gift Phala and Mpumi Mtembu visited just in time to help out with some games activities, quickly picking up Rummikub and Scrabble under the watchful eye of keen game playing residents! The students presented the residents with a Rotary Club calendar of Lost Shepparton images and were accompanied by Rotary's Alan McLean who started the exchange program while he was at Shepparton High School. Care Manager David Shipston invited the students to visit Banksia and join in the activities before sharing lunch with the residents.

The students presented individual speeches at the January Rotary club meeting about their experiences and Rotarians were in awe of their presentations.

After five weeks in Australia – including Christmas with their host families– they headed home unable to acquire a taste for Vegemite, declaring it disgusting! They weren't too fond of the flies either!

All will start their equivalent year 12 school year in 2017.



Henri the visiting Irish Wolfhound gets a pat from Bob at Hakea.



Bruno and a wooden stool over at the Men's Shed.



Checking out the goodies for sale as part of the Australia Post Christmas stall that visited Hakea Lodge.



Godfrey Medland raises a toast on one of the Men's Shed outings.



The team at Boronia/Grevillea got in to the spirit of Halloween.



Alvin Watters with a Dachshund puppy at Banksia.



Celebrating Australia Day at Boronia.



Valentine's Day was celebrated by Acacia's Joyce and Tom Bellott.



John Treves gives the thumbs up to one of the Men's Shed outings.



Henri gets some attention from Hakea resident Crystal Wallace.



Volunteer Lana Ingram helps serve up morning tea with Wendy Peoples (left) and Virginia Jorgensen (right) at Banksia.



Lorraine Riordan and her family enjoyed an afternoon in the private dining room at Banksia.



Frank and Francis Hutton enjoyed Valentine's Day at Acacia.



Ron Hollands plays a winning shot over at the Men's Shed.



Norma Le Behen gives one of the visiting puppies a cuddle at Banksia.



Colleen and Max Pethybridge share a Valentines' Day moment at Acacia.



Australia Day celebrations were enjoyed by all at Rodney Park.



Anne McCarthy and Jo Williams get into the Aussie spirit at Boronia/Grevillea.



In the spirit at the Australia Day barbecue at Boronia/Grevillea.



Banksia's Resident Committee members, Mavis Euling, Norma Philpott and Eileen Torney, meet with Care Manager David Shipston.



The design team look over the plans for the new development.



CEO Kerri Rivett addresses the Values Workshop.

Resident Margaret Cranko and Hakea's Gwenda Willis discuss the values.

Bill James and Mavis Euling were on board for the Values Workshop.



Residents workshop values

THE STAFF, RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES OF SHEPPARTON VILLAGES HAVE BEEN RE-VISITING THE ORGANISATION'S VALUES AT A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS RECENTLY.

Executive Manager People, Workforce and Culture Julie Marshall said the existing values were quite lengthy and not easily recalled by staff.

"We want to make them very real for everyone and relevant on a day to day basis," she explained.

A Values Committee has been established comprising staff from all over the organisation at various levels.

Two workshops have been held with the Values Committee to refine and develop the values and appropriate behaviours associated with them.

A third workshop was held recently with residents from all facilities and members of their families.

"Before our board signs off on the new values we wanted the residents to review them because

ultimately, it is about how we treat our residents and provide care for them in their homes, so it is important they have a say," Julie said.

Residents, family members and Independent Living Unit residents were invited to the workshop with around 38 people attending and being served up a delicious lunch by CEO Kerri Rivett and the team before everyone knuckled down to the job at hand.

"It was an amazing process, we really do have wonderful residents here who are just fantastic," Kerri said after the workshop.

"Our staff are there to help with what residents desire in their day to day lives, it's their life to live and their choices to make – we are there to provide care and assistance, so our values need to reflect that," Kerri said.



Paula Ryan from Bunnings with Banksia residents Chiara Pacquola and Angela Herring welcome the new additions.

Clucky about Bunnings

We can't thank the Bunnings team enough for their ongoing support of Shepparton Villages.

Paula Ryan from Shepparton Bunnings Community Program recently brought her trusty drill and a flat pack to Banksia to erect a pretty flash chook house!

It took Paula – with some help from Lifestyle and Leisure's Chris Crawford and resident Angela – no time at all to put it together and before long, the newest additions (two very lovely hens!) at Banksia were clucking about admiring their new home.

The "girls" are officially retired and no longer lay eggs, but the residents at Banksia love to visit the chooks as they roam about a confined garden area. Residents take it in turns to clean the chook house, and let the girls out for a run as well as lock them up. Feeding them scraps is a favorite activity although we must watch that they don't get too fat!

Paula is no stranger to Banksia as she and other Bunnings members constructed some flower beds with sloping sides for residents to access easily with wheelie frames and wheelchairs last year. The garden beds are a great delight to the residents who grow everything from flowers to vegetables and succulents. The team also put together the same garden beds at the Men's Shed at Tarcoola.

Recalling good times

AT 91 YEARS OLD, JEAN TIPPELT WISHES SHE WAS 50 YEARS YOUNGER JUST SO SHE COULD GET BACK ON A HARLEY.

Whilst Jean says the days of throwing her leg over a Harley-Davidson are beyond her, the next best thing was getting up close and revving an immaculate 2005 HD Road King when it paid a special visit to Jean at Banksia earlier this year.

Knowing how much she loved her motorbikes, Diversional Therapist Donna McLean organised the visit which put a huge smile on Jean's face.

She was quick to don the helmet and leathers and test out the revs.



Jean began riding motorbikes when as a young girl she got sick and tired of riding her pushbike 18 miles to work.

"There were no buses in those days, so I had to bike it," she recalled of her time living in Snake Valley, outside of Ballarat.

So, she purchased an old Army Harley, later upgrading to a Triumph that she and husband Vlad used to ride to the local dances.



"We used to bundle up the dresses in the sidecar and away we'd go," she said.

One of three girls Jean used to take part in motor scrambles and hill climbs back in her day and has fond memories of the joy of riding motorbikes.

She was thrilled when the Harley paid her a visit – her only regret not being able to take it for a spin!

Staff Profile: Alanna Jalkanen (Care Manager, Hakea)

Alanna Jalkanen may just be the best litmus test Shepparton Villages has.

In a nutshell, the Care Manager at Hakea Lodge says she wouldn't have been here for more than 22 years if the organisation didn't treat the residents well.

"This is a great organisation to work for, there is a real team approach to care here – not just at Hakea, but across all facilities. If residents need anything, staff go to great lengths to make it possible and get the best outcome," she says.

As Alanna talks about her career which started with Shepparton Villages as a Personal Care Worker (PCW), you can see there is a quiet, understated passion for aged care and for the people she refers to as "part of the family".

"We're very much a community here, residents as well as those in the Independent Units – it's really nice to have interaction with the whole village."

As a young nurse, Alanna had a Division One nursing certificate which had lapsed while she raised her young family, so she returned to work in a PCW role, before undertaking a re-entry course at Goulburn Valley Health.

This gave her the qualification she needed to get back to her first love – aged care, and she's been a big part of the Shepparton Villages story ever since.

"I love the fact that you can make a real difference in someone's life, and help bring about the adjustment to help the elderly continue their life. I do have a genuine love for the elderly, a smile can go a long way and a listening ear as well."

Alanna believes the aged care industry doesn't get the positive recognition or exposure as a career path as it should for young nurses.

"Every career has its bad days, but you can really develop long term relationships with residents and their families, that's the difference. It's a real privilege to be part of their lives.



Alanna with Rose Gibbs.

"We are truly blessed here, with a very generous board and a community willing to help fund things like buses and activities so residents can get out and about."

One challenge ahead for Alanna will be transitioning the Hakea residents in to the new development once completed in 2018.

Alanna says there is no doubt she will miss the old place but she is full of optimism for the future.

"So much effort has gone in to the design of the new building to ensure we capture that homely feeling Hakea has. We are a good team here – we all work together, nursing staff, admin, quality, everyone for the greater good."

