



Left: Chatting from left, Hakea resident Ross Lobegeier, Minister Wyatt, Damian Drum, Kerri Rivett and Hakea resident Bob Cox. Top Right: Pollies: From left, Board member Jeanette Powell, Federal Member for Murray Damian drum, Board President Merushe Asim, Aged Care Minister Ken Wyatt and CEO Kerri Rivett. Bottom Right: Minister Wyatt talks with the media prior to his visit to Hakea Lodge.

# Aged Care Minister announces 30 new residential places

SHEPPARTON VILLAGES WAS DELIGHTED TO HOST A VISIT FROM THE MINISTER FOR AGED CARE THE HON KEN WYATT, AM RECENTLY.

Minister Wyatt was accompanied by Federal Member for Murray Damian Drum as he made the announcement for 30 additional residential care places for Shepparton Villages as part of the 2016–2017 Aged Care Approval Round.

“We are thrilled to have received the 30 extra places as it means we can fully engage the new development when it is completed in mid 2018. We worked hard to get the new allocations in order to meet the growing demand for residential care in this region,” CEO Kerri Rivett said.

“We have an ageing population. The number of people over the age of 70 in Shepparton is expected to triple by 2050 and we have to be ready to meet the demand for care, with infrastructure, but also with sustainable models of care and a workforce to match,” she said.

Minister Wyatt and Mr Drum spent an hour on site at Shepparton Villages, talking with Ms Rivett about future plans and the need for a sustainable workforce before taking a tour of Hakea Lodge, and the new development site. Board chair Merushe Asim and

board member Jeanette Powell accompanied the Minister and Mr Drum on the tour.

“We are extremely grateful to the Minister and to Damian Drum for their ongoing support of Shepparton Villages and look forward to working with them on future project to safeguard the future of regional aged care at Shepparton Villages,” Ms Rivett said.

The allocation of places to Shepparton Villages was part of \$10.2 million invested in aged care in the Murray electorate.



## Message from the CEO



CEO Kerri Rivett made special mention of volunteer Gwen Wallace who was a finalist in the Volunteer of the Year awards at our special thank you lunch to all of our wonderful volunteers.

# There's more happening inside Shepparton Villages

WHILST THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF PUBLICITY AND TALK OF OUR NEW BUILDING AND THE VISIT FROM THE AGED CARE MINISTER, SOME EQUALLY IMPORTANT THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING BEHIND THE SCENES HERE AT SHEPPARTON VILLAGES THESE LAST FEW MONTHS.

Bricks and mortar and the necessary infrastructure are all part of what we must manage, but without the people within, we are merely a provider. At Shepparton Villages, we are more than an aged care provider – we are family.

And the people who help make us family are our staff, our residents and our volunteers.

These last few months, I have been blown away by our staff who have passionately embraced the task of developing refreshed values for the organisation, resulting in a presentation to our Board of Management. It was clear to see that care, passion, teamwork, respect and choice are all at the centre of what our staff do and that in turn means our Shepparton Villages family is a happy one.

We also celebrated International Nurses Day last month which was a great opportunity to say thanks to our hard-working nursing and care staff who for many residents, are well and truly family.

Last month we also celebrated our volunteers with our annual thank you lunch which gave us a chance to spoil our volunteers by serving them a delicious lunch, and providing some entertainment and a chance to relax a little, have a chat and enjoy each other's company, whilst we waited on them for once.

Each of our six residential facilities are blessed with amazing volunteers and our Independent Living units are full of energetic and vibrant souls who give of their time freely to ensure every day is the best it can be – from hand holding through to bus driving, pet therapy through to woodwork, and sewing to bingo calling – there's nothing our volunteers won't tackle!

You will notice that there is a fair bit of action on site at the new development – and we are looking forward to watching the progress of this magnificent building. Our sod turning gave us a chance to launch the Giving Tree appeal and again, our community has answered the call

with just over \$19k raised since that day. Just incredible.

There are also some fantastic partnerships happening with our community – you can read in this issue about our relationship with the Berry Street School and the students who have been visiting us regularly. It's been a joy to have the students on board and we are very excited about some future projects with the school.

I would also like to make mention of our local media who support us in so many ways. Without the publicity they help provide, advocating for our share of aged care funding would be a lot harder. We are appreciative of a media that champions its community and are grateful for their interest in the wellbeing of the elderly in the greater Shepparton region.

Stay warm over these colder months,

*Kerri Rivett*  
CEO – Shepparton Villages





The Tarcoola Support Group made a \$2000 donation at the Sod Turning.



Val Rose and Lorraine Waldron at the volunteer lunch.



Barry and the boys bring in the Giving Tree for the launch at the sod turning.



Bridie Whittingham and Merrill Toy enjoy the garden at Acacia.



Hakea resident Renie Pell and daughter Norma Porritt head over to the sod turning.



Vice-Chair of the Board, Frank Dawson addresses the crowd at the sod turning.



Family time, Harrison McKenzie, Trine Anderson and Cheryl Hunter enjoy the sunshine.



Our staff presented the revised values to the Board recently.



Harry Bradbury enjoys a visit from Nellie the wonder dog.



Murray Russell celebrated a birthday recently.



Beth Stewart from Boronia.



**DT Karen Lee and volunteer Robyn Duhring.**



**Boronia resident Joan Kelso.**



**Ken Yates, Ron Hollands and Graeme Johansen enjoy a game of shuffle board.**



**The Soroptimists enjoyed an afternoon tea at Acacia House as thanks for their donation of a tea set.**



**Pamela Somerville and Rosa Lavara take on a spot of artwork.**



**LASA state manager (Vic and Tas) Veronica Jamison with Kath and De'arne Treacy at the sod turning.**



**We are making a new TV ad – and Harry Brittain was front and centre directed by Liz Ainsworth.**



**Arnold and Astrid Gough at our Volunteer Lunch.**



**The Banksia volunteers enjoyed their special lunch.**



**Betty Bryant and Margaret Simpson at the volunteer lunch.**



**Chloe Hughes chats with Margaret Dent, who at 100 years old, loves her time with Chloe.**



Di McAuliffe (left) and Barb Wright put the finishing touches on one of 120 hand sewn quilts for the new building.

## A mighty big effort!

Our amazing Love to Sew ladies have just finished – drum roll please – 120 hand sewn quilts in under 12 months!

They have sewn a total of 554.7 metres of fabric in that time – that’s a lot of stitching!

This is a truly amazing effort from these wonderful women who committed last year to the job of producing a quilt for each of the 120 beds in the new \$34m development.

Ever since they sourced the specially picked indigenous material with the very generous support of M and S Textiles in Collingwood, the ladies have been hard at it each Tuesday, while organiser Di McAuliffe and her offsider Barb Wright have dedicated around four days a week to the task.

“It’s been a mighty effort,” Di said.

The ladies are keen to acknowledge the support of M and S Textiles at their Quilt Display next month.

“People ask to buy the material all the time, we don’t sell it, but we’re happy to point them in the right direction. The colors and designs are just so unique and so beautiful to work with,” Di explained.

Despite all that material and all that backing, the ladies have not lost their enthusiasm for sewing and helping Shepparton Villages.

“Oh we could almost go around again!” Di said with a laugh.

The quilts will be presented to Shepparton Villages at a date closer to completion of the new development.

### Quilt Display

The Love to Sew Ladies will hold a quilt display of their works on August 5 from 10 am until 3 pm at the Tarcoola Activity Centre.

Entry is \$2 and the quilts will be different to those displayed last year. A lucky door prize ticket is included in the entry and there will be a raffle, as well as afternoon tea at \$5 a head.

Any money made at the display will go towards the new development, and there have been some quilts made for sale.

The ladies are encouraging all those associated with Shepparton Villages and the general community to come along and enjoy the display, while supporting a great cause.



CEO Kerri Rivett with the old South Shepparton Rotary Food Van which is about to undergo some refurbishment before being put to use!

## We’re embarking on an exciting project, and it involves food!

With around 100 tradies expected on site of the new build at peak time, we got to thinking that they will need to be fed and this may just be a chance to do some extra fundraising.

That’s when the Shepparton South Rotary Club’s old food van caught our attention. Thanks to their generosity, we now have their old food van, and are currently refurbishing it to bring it up to standards so we can serve early morning egg and bacon rolls, drinks, pies, pasties and of course chips and gravy to our tradies and hopefully make a few dollars to help us furnish the new development.

There’s a bit of work to be done on the old van to bring it up to speed but the team is hard at it, and we’re hoping to get some help with giving it a fresh coat of paint and some TLC!

Our plan is to serve hot food and drinks from early morning to early afternoon – not just for tradies, but for anyone who can’t resist the smell of egg and bacon rolls!

We reckon it won’t be long before there’s a bit of a que for Geoff’s hot breakfast and lunch food.

Stay tuned for more details!

## Beautiful bonds being formed

There's some lovely bonds being formed between residents at Shepparton Villages and students of Berry Street School.

Shepparton Villages was approached to see if there was a chance that students could help complete memoirs of residents as part of a joint project.

We haven't yet got to that stage because there's too many friendships being formed for anyone to even think about starting a memoir!

The Berry Street School is a specialist independent secondary school providing a trauma-informed education model, with approximately 34 students enrolled.

"The partnership we have built with Shepparton Villages has provided us the opportunity to create valuable relationships with members of our local community and give back to a community organisation," Berry St Senior Manager of Education Lori Hodgson said.



Student Seth Watson, teacher Sarah Blake and resident Bill Robinson discuss the War.

Students visit each week and spend one on one time with an appointed resident and the magic that unfolds in that visit is bringing a lot of smiles to a lot of faces. There's been some hotly contested hands of 500 being played, with young students learning the finer points from the old hands. There's laughter, quiet chat and even some beauty sessions as the students and residents have quickly got to know each other.

"Students thoroughly enjoy their weekly visits to Tarcoola taking part in board games, knitting, construction activities and general discussion with residents, which is helping to build their



Student Jamilah Pynor and Beverley Ross have formed a lovely bond.

confidence and communication skills," Lori said.

Diversional Therapist at Acacia House, Marg Tenace said the students are an absolute delight and have just been marvellous.

"They are so respectful and the residents jump out of bed of a Tuesday as they know their student is visiting. It is beautiful to watch," she said.

"Our residents, some of whom don't have many visitors or grandchildren locally, are really enjoying talking with the students can see the special bonds forming. We love having the Berry Street students here," she said.

## Bus drivers wanted

These ladies are on the hunt for some volunteer bus drivers!

The Tarcoola Independent Living Unit residents loves getting out and about and use the Shepparton Villages bus once a month on a weekend for social trips.

Volunteer bus drivers are the key to the outings and whilst there are a few wonderful volunteers who already lend a hand, we are looking for more to share the load! Without the drivers, the outings cannot take place.

Social Committee secretary Edie Poliness says she knows it can be difficult to give up time of a weekend, but is hoping there may be someone willing to lend a hand.

"The more we have the easier it is for everyone as we can have a bit of a pool to draw from," she said.

Edie drives the bus herself and says she loves it.

"I just absolutely love doing it, I love working with old people and just to see the joy on their faces when we do the trips," she said.

"I get as much out of it as they do."

There are no requirements other than the need for a driver's licence and a police check – there is no lifting or assistance with passengers required and Shepparton Villages put all volunteer bus drivers through some training.

Anyone willing to lend a hand by volunteering or even nominating the weekends they are available, can call Sally at the Shepparton Villages office on (03) 58 32 0800 and leave their name and details.



Tarcoola residents, including Elaine Mountjoy, Edith Poliness, Betty Bryant, Vera Wallace and Edna Stedman, are looking for more volunteers to drive their bus on monthly outings.

