



Since my last message to you in November, Christmas and New Year has been and gone and we are well into 2009. It has been an extremely busy time for us all but with that comes great excitement.

After 3 years of discussions with Scottish Masonic Homes (SMH) I am delighted to announce the imminent acquisition of SMH in Menora. SMH has a combination of 79 homes or units within the village and will allow Freemasons WA to provide current and future residents with quality of service afforded to our residents throughout WA. SMH has operated the village for 40 years and we see the strength and expertise of our organization continuing to provide homes for seniors.

The redevelopment of the Howard Solomon Residential Estate is well underway with Stage 1 being 65 individual rooms with private ensuites set to be commissioned in August 2009 when existing residents will be transferred to the new facility. This is a very

exciting project which will add 20 places for people with dementia needs and an additional respite bed all within our philosophy of ageing in place for residents. We also commission our first 10 retirement homes on the site in April 2009, the residents of these homes may avail themselves of a range of care and services from Howard Solomon should the need arise.

We continue to develop opportunities in furtherance of the objects for the organization to create affordable housing for the community through an accredited Growth Provider Status process with the Department of Housing & Works. Through this process we may gain significant funding for the building of these homes which will greatly assist our cause. Board and management continue to negotiate realistic options with the department and I look forward to providing you with developments into the future.

We are happy to provide an extra service for our residents with Freemasons WA now the proud owner of an 11 seater Toyota transport bus. Previously owned by Howard Solomon Residential Estate the bus has low mileage and is equipped with wheelchair access and seatbelts.

The bus is available for the residents benefit and social activities within the metropolitan area. Bookings can be made via Head Office Client Services who will provide further details to interested parties. Currently the bus is safely parked at the caravan park at Kingsley which will be the pick up point. The bus is ready to use and of course is fully covered with RAC road site assistance. Happy travels.



A Warm welcome to Shane

Meet Freemasons WA's Shane Carver. Shane is our new Maintenance Officer and is a qualified carpenter and joiner with experience in working with large scale building and maintenance companies back in the UK. In addition, Shane has worked on restoration work on listed buildings and has worked as a commercial shop fitter.

Shane's interests also extend to the natural world and whilst living in the UK he was a volunteer Zoo Keeper at The Wildlife Park at Cricket St Thomas in England.

Shane immigrated with his lovely wife to Australia in July 08 and they are very proud to have recently purchased their first home. Shane tells us that the Carver family is loving life in Western Australia.

Studio 26, an exciting innovation for Kingsley

Wednesday 11th February was indeed a red letter day for Keith Simpson Village and Corinthian Court, Kingsley. The New "Studio 26" groups of resident's amenities were officially opened at a Grand Opening Ceremony attended by Freemasons WA, CEO Howard Emery together with Operations Manager Sue Huxley.

Studio 26 is collectively a new library, Podiatrist and Hair Dressing Salon. This is an important and exciting innovation for the Kingsley Village and demonstrates Freemasons WA's ongoing commitment to provide everything our residents need to "Love the Life you live". Innovations of this scale require a great deal of planning and listening before they can be successfully implemented and operated.

The Library in particular has an interesting history well worth reflecting upon. It was first established in 2002 when Shirley Coombes decided to expand the little bookshelf in the communal area with donated volumes from other residents and some purchases from her own pocket. A little later with help from fellow residents Hazel Luke and Shirley Pugh the daunting task of establishing a card index system together with the necessary book labeling was undertaken and completed. In very short order all the allotted space for books was filled and extra space was required. Ron and Heather Patching suggested moving the Library into the Podiatrist's waiting room and after approval from FWA new book cases were purchased with the first ones being generously donated by Ron Elphick. The book cases were brought in kit form and assembled by Brice Roberts, Vic Bolt, Allan Robinson, Shirley Coombs, Shirley Pugh plus a few other willing hands. In the second half of 2008 the library was again moved. This time into what has become the new Studio 26 and is now under the efficient supervision of Heather

Patching. Good on you Shirley Coombs and Shirley Pugh for your vision and hard work and thanks to all those residents who have generously donated books.

The new hair dressing salon has two professional Hairdressers operating the salon to provide residents with the best possible choice of appointment times. Both Hairdressers are fully trained Ladies and Gentleman's stylists so the salon is truly a very trendy "Unisex" operation. Coiffure Madame Messure?

It was felt that a suitably trendy name was needed to compliment the new group of resident's amenities and to this end a competition was launched. The arduous task of judging was undertaken by Howard Emery who awarded the prize to resident Marjorie Hoyle from the Keith Simpson Village for her entry of "Studio 26".

Congratulations Marjorie. Now, how about putting your feet up and reading a good book whilst having your hair styled?

Special thank you to the Kingsley RSM Jo Brightwell.



Australia Day celebrations for Albany

The Southern Village Hall was bedecked with the Australian flag and all things Australian to set the mood for a "fair dinkum" Australia Day BBQ party.

As well as the traditional BBQ meats, a number of the ladies prepared a wonderful variety of fresh salads, a fabulous mud cake, sponge cake and of course, lamingtons! There was also chilled cranberry spritzer and BYO beer and wine. We are reliably informed by Betty Davis that it was a truly "great BBQ lunch".

It was a fun day with a good old fashioned Aussie chook raffle and a unit number draw for a bottle of wine. Stan Hall won the plump pair of chickens and Peter Vandeleer won a bottle of Australia's finest vintage. There were fifteen party goers in attendance and every one of them enjoyed all the day had to offer.

The photographs show the "Chief BBQ Chef and raffle winner" Stan Hall in his wonderful Australia Day apron and some of the happy party guests including Fay Harris and Frank Ball and Charlie Brown (sitting next to Stan) one of the "over ninety" year old residents .



Dianella enjoy fine Christmas fare and easy listening

A grand total of ninety one residents of the Dianella Village and Ashlar Glen gathered at the Village Club to enjoy a traditional Christmas feast. The residents tucked in to roast turkey and ham with all the trimmings followed by a plump plum pudding, rich delicious Christmas cake and a surprise gift for everyone. All of which were promptly served up with a warm smile.

The musical entertainment was supplied by the very popular "Side by Side Entertainers" who performed

a cabaret of pleasant easy listening music which was greatly appreciated by the audience.

The Dianella Christmas lunch is the village social event of the year and takes a significant amount of planning and hard work to put together. The Chairman of the Residents Management Committee, Geoff Simms thanked the Social Events Committee members for a very special effort in organizing this and many other social events throughout the year.



The spirit of Christmas just passed

A wonderful Christmas party was arranged for thirty eight excited residents of Coolbellup and Orelia Villages on Friday 5th December 08. None other than the big fellow, good old Santa himself drove the Freemasons WA bus to pick up the Coolbellup residents for the trip to the Teasdale Village, Orelia.

The party commenced (as all good parties should) with drinks on arrival before the serving of a magnificent roast turkey and ham luncheon. After lunch the guests settled back for the five star entertainment provided by the talented and charming Bertram Primary School Choir comprising children aged between six and eleven years.

The children sang Christmas Carols, played musical instruments and as a finale, handed out gifts to the residents that they had lovingly made themselves

especially for the occasion. In addition there was all the traditional "naughty but nice" Christmas party fare including bon-bons, chocolates and candy canes.

To say the party was a huge success would be a gross understatement, the residents loved every moment. We know that they will want to send another big thank you to Mystique Oliver and Kellie Elliott who not only organized the whole party but stayed to help with the smooth running of the event. Mystique and Kellie were also very happy with the resident's obvious appreciation of their efforts and plan to organize more social events for Coolbellup and Orelia. We also extend a special thank you to Anne Smith from the Keith Simpson Village in Kingsley. Ann volunteered her time and provided enormous assistance on the day. Congratulations ladies on your wonderful work.



A Rose for the garden

Rose Sturtridge of the Keith Simpson Village has been blessed with green thumbs. One of nature's wonderfully gifted people who loves her plants and is rewarded with every bit of color and beauty the plants can offer in appreciation for her care and devotion.

Rose has been a resident of the Keith Simpson Village since May of 2008 and in that very brief period of time has transformed her unit into a vibrant horticultural display of color. Rose's courtyard now features a wonderful window box display of pink petunias, exotic feature plants such as hot orange tropical canna lilies and cool looking baskets of lush green ferns hanging in the shade.

Gardening is not a new pastime for Rose who readily confesses to a lifelong love of ornamental horticulture. We are of course very happy that Rose derives so much pleasure and satisfaction from her labors because we all get to enjoy her efforts too.

Thank you Rose, there is no doubt that you have made some wonderful improvements that have brought so much extra color and joy into our lives.



Say hello to Theresa

Theresa joined Freemasons WA back in October 2008 as Accounts Clerk. In her previous employment Theresa has worked as a Receptionist, Sales Support Clerk and an Assistant Book Keeper.

In her leisure time sport has always been a passion, playing competitive hockey for over forty years. In this period of time Theresa played at an elite level as a member of the WA Inaugural State Vet Woman's Hockey team. These days Theresa is a keen supporter of the All Blacks Rugby Union Team and the Fremantle Dockers, AFL Team.

Go you mighty Dockers!!

Thank you Albany for your compassion and generosity

The recent tragic events in Victoria have touched us all very deeply but we must also acknowledge that in the vast majority of instances it has brought out the best in those of the Australian nation unaffected by the disaster.

As Australians we can honestly say that we have donated to the Victorian Red Cross Bushfires Appeal to the very best of our ability. In recent times we have come across no better example of this unique generosity than with our very own Albany Village. This small community boasts only twenty one residents who cannot by any measure be counted as wealthy and yet they have collected the magnificent sum of \$500.

We all know the donation will be put to good use and that if the recipients were aware of it how touched they would be. Please be aware that we at Freemasons WA are also very proud of your compassion and generosity.