



## CEO's Message

**Howard Emery**

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



## *Eyes down for a full house!*



When Lawley Park Village residents, Frances and John Hulbert decided to put on a fortnightly Bingo session for the entertainment of the residents, little did they know just how popular it would become.

The sessions now attracts an average crowd of about forty people with players traveling from a number of neighboring villages including Freemasons WA's Ashlar Glen as well as the RSL Village next door. Frances and John tell us that there is a very good representation of residents from the Lawley Park Village as one would expect but it's wonderful to get the visitors and everyone enjoys each others company.

Although these Bingo enthusiasts don't play for sheep stations, they look forward to the afternoon which has become a regular social highlight. The afternoon concludes with a nice afternoon tea and a good old chat session.

We say, "Good on you Frances and John" It's a terrific idea and obviously working very well indeed!

Concentration is the secret of success with Bingo!

## *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.

## *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!!



## *Oonagh reaches the fabulous nineties*



Oonagh Kemp reached the remarkable milestone of ninety years in January of this year, Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> to be precise. Oonagh's residency with Freemasons WA extends way back to the Roy Collins Village where Oonagh was a resident until May 2008.

Oonagh is now a resident in the comfortable surrounds of Lawley Park so the Lawley Park Village Community Centre was the natural choice for the celebration. We are most reliably informed that this important celebration was greatly enjoyed by family and friends as well as the birthday girl herself. We hope Oonagh enjoys very many more in the future.



## Vera's Quality Corner

**Vera Mars**  
**Quality Systems Manager**

### RVA Accreditation

As you may know 3 years ago our 3 resident funded villages were accredited by the Retirement Village Association (RVA). Since the accreditation we have completed additional self assessment forms to inform the RVA of changes and improvements.

This year, in July for Corinthian Court, in August for Ashlar Glen and in December for Lawley Park, we will be audited by the RVA to renew our accreditation. The first step is our self assessment, this is by written documentation, the second step is the auditors visit to the respective village to meet the management team and to assess and verify our documentation

That's when you come in.....the RVA meet and chat with selected residents over morning tea, the auditors also spend time inspecting all aspects of the village and are usually here for the best part of the day.

The standard is written from the perspective of the residents and how it contributes to their quality of life. What are they looking for.....

- We are fulfilling our commitment to the residents with service and lifestyle
- Enabling residents to confidently enjoy the facilities of their village
- Respecting residents privacy and independence
- Increase the residents sense of physical and emotional security and comfort within the village
- Satisfaction with operational management

Please let us know if there are any points for improvement or other issues so we can solve them before the accreditation. We want to be proud of our village and make it the best we can for you!!

### Swimming Pool

Back in May 2007 new legislation for the swimming pool was released – our 3 RVV's were classified under Group 3 like hotels, resorts and health clubs. One of the requirements for this grouping was that an emergency care personnel was required on site at all times, this meant that the pool could only be enjoyed if we met this requirement. This would have also increased the workload of managing the opening and closing times of the pool .

After writing to the Health Department and with the RVA lobbying on our behalf, Retirement Villages are now classified under Group 4 in line with strata complexes and Bed & Breakfast facilities this now enables you to continue to enjoy your pool during the normal existing opening hours.

In the event of an emergency, please note for your own safety that we recommend you enjoy the pool with a "buddy"



*Joan Edsall with her grandchildren enjoying the pool at Corinthian Court.*



*Bert Penniment –(under the cap)*

## *Ashlar Glen, proud to be Australian!*

The 26<sup>th</sup> January is a day to show our pride and appreciation to be living in the most wonderful country in world. Australians all over our great nation gather together on this day for rejoicing and celebration and Freemasons WA Ashlar Glen was no exception.

Thirty two residents donned the red white and blue for a proud display of patriotism and national pride at a special Happy Hour luncheon. Aside from good honest Aussie tucker there was a magnificent display and decorations centered on the Australian flag. The fashion statement for the day was also pure Australiana with tee shirts, caps and hats emblazoned with our nation's flag.