

VILLAGE MATTERS

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE PARKS LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

Editor: Eric Thompkins Unit 141

DISCLAIMER – See below under Feedback

Any figures which appear in *VILLAGE MATTERS* are figments of the editor's imagination and bear no relation to any figures, living or dead, which appear in the accounts of the Parks Village Residents Association. Naughty words which might shock an accountant have been censored.

COMING ATTRACTIONS FORESHADOWED

Dinner Night 11 November

Choice of cottage pie or shepherd's pie with carrots and peas; fruit salad with cream; tea and coffee. Tickets \$5 each from Brenda Cullen U89.

Clayton's or Hobson's – take your pick!

Christmas Dinner 9 December

Main course – beef or pork; roast potatoes; choice of six salads; fresh rolls

Dessert – select from cheesecake, Pavlova, flan, mousse, small plum puddings, fresh fruit.

All china and cutlery will be provided; staff will serve and clear away.

Drinks – BYO; bring your own glasses; small cool bags only, please – no eskies (people might fall over them) Dinner at 6pm

5.30pm – champagne & orange juice will be offered outside adjacent to the croquet lawn

8.00 pm – after dinner carol singing; song sheets will be provided; the proceedings will be led by a pianist and singers from the Village.

Tickets \$12 each from Brian Forster U109

No b-n-s-s. What more do you want?

Lobethal Lights 14 December

Leave 5pm sharp for Mount Barker; dinner at Auchendarroch House; thence to Lobethal

(German for "praise-valley") to view the lights; return home approx. 11pm; tickets \$35 from Ian Mauger U14

80+ already booked; but Ian has a couple of pumpkins over which he will wave his magic wand to ensure that there will be coaches enough for all comers.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light – Genesis I (3)

Christmas Carols round the Village

Revised Date 19 December

Here we come a-wassailing!

Christmas Break

Last Happy Hour – Friday 16 December 2005

Next Happy Hour – Friday 3 February 2006

First Dinner night – Friday 10 February 2006

Remembrance Day Friday 11 November

Residents of The Parks Lifestyle Village are invited to join with the staff, students, and members of the local community at a Remembrance Day Ceremony at Pasadena High School at 1015 am on 11 November 2005.

Morning tea will be served at the conclusion of the ceremony. For catering purposes please contact the school on 8276 8822 if you wish to attend.

A particular invitation is extended to veterans willing to speak at the ceremony or to students in classes.

Vote Of Thanks

If you are reading this, it is because your copy of *VILLAGE MATTERS* has been delivered to your mailbox by one or other of our regular newsgirl/newsboys Margaret & Charles Cornwall and Ian Mauger. To these excellent citizens, and to others who have stepped into the breach on occasion or offered their services if required, you owe a continuing vote of thanks. All the work that the Residents' Committee has done on the AGM, on Incorporation, on a host of less imperative matters, would have come to naught if the results of its efforts had not reached you. So if you bump into any of them, a word of thanks would not go amiss.

Last (?) Word on Slippery Floors

The Residents' Committee has been informed by the Administering Authority that the tiled areas around the pool and spa and in the ancillary accommodation and passageways have been anti-slip treated. At a cost of around \$3000, Floorsafe International has brought the floors up to Australian Slip Standard 3661.1. We await with interest comments from users.

Garden Maintenance

If you need garden maintenance please submit a normal maintenance request form. Carolynne and the Residents' Committee want to know how much and what type of work is needed so that we can decide how best to get it done.

Privacy Fences

Does the wooden slatted fence round your bins need oiling? Please submit a normal maintenance request form. We need to know how big the total job is likely to be. Last time it was done, Glenda and John Marshall plus many helpers must have worked long and hard though they insist it was fun. With enough promises of help they might be persuaded to co-ordinate the job again. If you would like to join in the fun, please contact them on 737.

YES we know it is Lifestyle's responsibility – it says so in our contract – and **YES** if we leave it to them they might eventually get around to doing it – and of course charge us for the privilege through our maintenance fees.

Feedback

The October issue of Village matters was encouragingly well received – a warm thank-you to all those kind people who said nice things about it. A single voice rose in protest, not on literary or ethical grounds, but, of all things, for accounting reasons. Jeff Robinson, who watches over the Village's financial probity with eagle eye, wrote, more in sorrow than in anger, a precisely-argued six-page letter to the Chairperson of the Parks Village Residents Association expressing his concern at the proposed (at the Christmas Dinner) "subsidy to the tune of \$7 per head from residents' funds" To say that the cost of the dinner would be subsidised to the tune of \$7 is the same thing as giving each resident a bonus of \$7 and that is forbidden by the constitution of the Association. Moreover, if any of its funds are distributed to members, an association loses its non-profit status and becomes a trading entity, liable for all sorts of horrors including income tax and GST.

The Chairperson, more in anger than in sorrow, rounded on the Editor for landing him in the proverbial, and it took all the diplomatic skills of our wife to restore a semblance of domestic harmony. In due course a most amicable modus vivendi was reached in discussion with Jeff, a central premise of which was that, come Christmas, if all went to plan, there would not be any Parks Village Residents' Association to worry about. The Editor is duly contrite and pleads in mitigation that he was simply exercising his editorial prerogative of resorting to a little hyperbole in order to entertain his readers whilst informing them. The naughty word subsidy or bonus is not mentioned in any minutes, so here endeth a storm in a teacup.

Incorporation

You should have received a calling notice to a meeting of residents on 16 November. The main purpose of the meeting is to give you the

opportunity to vote on whether you wish to replace the present Parks Village Residents Association, an unincorporated association, with The Parks Lifestyle Village Residents Association Incorporated. (You can have a better name if you can think of one – but it must end in Incorporated or Inc.). Please do your very best to come to this important meeting. If you cannot come, appoint a proxy to vote for you. Just give them a note saying "I appoint (name of proxy) to be my proxy and vote for me at the meeting of residents on 16 November 2005" – and sign the note. One vote per resident at this meeting, not one vote per unit – people, not bricks and mortar, are voting on incorporation.

183 residents attended the AGM the other day. Allowing for those who, properly, apologised for their absence, that means that something like a fifth of the Village simply ignored the AGM. That is not good enough for the incorporation meeting which will take decisions affecting every resident. Let the record show that by presence or by proxy every one of us had a say in how we organise our corporate affairs.

Annual General Meeting

The Administering Authority's AGM went better than many of us had dared to expect. Our tactic of submitting a co-ordinated list of questions produced a surprisingly detailed response from Lifestyle. That is not to say that their figures are beyond reproach but rather that the Residents' Committee has now got something to work on and we shall be working on them during the coming weeks and months. Stephen Norris has a convincing mike-side manner. It would not do to be taken in by his affable response to questions. We shall be looking for more concrete evidence of a change of heart in Lifestyle's response to Village concerns. There are grounds for a measure of optimism in his apparently genuine surprise that communication between Lifestyle and Village is as deplorable as we know it to be. We shall watch closely for evidence that there has been a change of action if not of heart from management. We understand where the problem lies. Possibly Stephen Norris has a better understanding now but whether he can do anything about it remains to be seen. We have other avenues to explore if we see no improvement – not least the intensifying scale of activity in the political arena. Previous attempts to strengthen the Retirement Villages Act have fizzled out. The current attempt has more promising credentials, notably the imminence of a state election coupled with the growing strength of grey power. It could evolve to our advantage.

Thought for Melbourne Cup-day : It's not over until the fast lady has run.