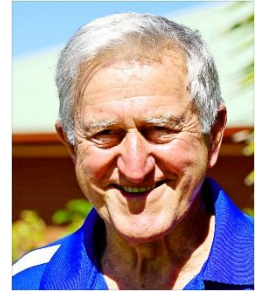


## From the Chair:

### **Words.**

When engaging with a friend, words may become endless yet on other occasions we're stuck for words and can't find the right words.



Again, we farewell a dearly beloved member of our village Doug Canty, whom we all knew. Expressions of sympathy and condolence are words that attempt to console Jeanaeka (Sharnika), yet we have trouble finding the right words.

Through her grief Jeanaeka uttered some of the nicest words I've heard.

"The village is now my family".

Those words are a beautiful way of describing what many of us feel about our village. 'A family'.

---

Throughout the last year many a word has passed between the village and Lifestyle SA. Yet when it came to the Annual Meeting there was a lack of words and as many felt, an attempt to stifle words. After expressing our displeasure about how the meeting was conducted, Lisa sent us all a letter explaining what was permissible at Annual Meetings. Lisa also offered the possibility for us to ask further questions which she said would be answered.

We have questioned elements of the letter but, more so we have questioned the minutes we all received. The minutes didn't accurately record what happened at the meeting. By again using the words of the Act we have asked Lisa for an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

In today's world we need to be careful with our words. We often see people threatening litigation as a means of defending or camouflaging their own actions. So, we need to choose our words carefully in public, when talking about or especially when criticising somebody.

We all know there are words that are far stronger than the word dislike. If you think of it, because the word dislike is softer, it is already opening the door to dissolving the issue surrounding the need to use a negative word.

On the other hand, if we choose positive words the impact of those words is reflected immediately, via a smile or hug. The impact of those words may not be seen immediately, rather down the track you may come across somebody whose life took a very different turn because of your words of encouragement. Words of kindness are equally as important as acts of kindness, which I've referred to previously.

*Positive words are always best.*

Words in abundance were used to convey our debt to those in the armed forces who sacrificed all for us to have a better life. To bring us together in thought we must thank Kylli, Carole and Sue for organising the Remembrance Day lunch and how nicely they set up the hall.

A big thank you to those who helped set up and clean up after the event and a SPECIAL thanks to the BBQ chefs and Tavern volunteers.

Thanks again to all the volunteers for decorating the hall for Christmas and organising the forthcoming Christmas dinner and Carol for doing the Christmas morning tea. Lisa and Michael have accepted our invitation to attend the morning tea.

I must also thank Jenny Cee for organising a get together for Christmas lunch for those in the village who don't have family nearby and who would like to share the day with other residents. Thanks to Lynne Cavanagh for doing the same on New Years eve.

I must also thank John for the great job he's done providing us all with a newsletter.

We often-use the word "THANKS." No matter how much we embolden it, it sometimes doesn't fully convey the gratitude we have toward those in the village who make our life here more pleasant through the various activities they organise.

Remember all that is done for us, is done so by volunteers.

We use words carefully to develop policies designed to help and guide volunteers in the tasks and activities they choose to undertake. Likewise, these policies help us, the recipients, to appreciate what is being done for us. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to respect what our volunteers do and not expect them to operate outside the policy statements and requirements.

In January, I'll attend a workshop organised by the Office For Ageing Well to have the final draft of 'the code of conduct' fully explained. This is a result of many workshops conducted in conjunction with SARVRA. The codes of conduct between residents, residents and staff, residents and operators and vice versa.

In short, the codes strengthen the underlying premise that all parties interact and talk to each other with respect, dignity fairness and openness (transparency).

"Gratitude makes sense of the past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow". Melody Beattie.

"Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is wonderful in others belong to us". Voltaire.

"A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all other virtues". Cicero.

Enough words other than - To all of you,

## **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Vrolijk kerstfeest en een gelukkig nieuwjaar! - Dutch

Glædelig jul og godt nytår - Danish

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh - Irish

Häid Jõule ja Head Uut Aastat - Estonian

Frohe Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr - German

Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda - Welsh

Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr - Scottish Gaelic  
(*not sure where wee lassy and laddy fit in?*)

boldog karácsonyt és boldog új évet - Hungarian

I hope I've covered all the cultural heritages of the village.

Sorry, some words may not have the correct diacritics (accents) above the letters.

*Ivar*

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### *A separate item.*

Thanks to Kylli and Henry for opening Gate 1 early in the morning and then closing it later at night. When we have a coordinator, the gates don't open until 8:30-9:00 am and close at 4:30-5:00 pm. So please don't expect them to open the gate earlier or later. Please refer friends, outside of those hours, to use gate 2 until the repaired gate is re-installed. See the last page!

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### **From the Editor's desk:**

I think it would be sensible to have a deputy Editor, so that in the event of holidays or other events that may make it difficult to be in 2 places at once, the Newsletter can still be produced. *Any takers?*

Happy to walk any interested party through the system.

Merry Christmas to all, thank you for your on-going support during the year. Especially my wife Kylli, for putting up with the time and mess I create doing this!

Embrace the true meaning of Christmas and have a very Happy New Year.

*John* Unit 2 #802

## Mount Barker Village Events.

A quick mention of Di Mitchell's Art Exhibition opened on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, in the Barossa. It was well attended by Village Residents and Di was pleased with the response. Great to see the support within the Village.

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The Melbourne Cup Day event was a success. Many residents attended and were 'well fed & watered' and enjoyed an afternoon of fun & entertainment. Special thanks to the "back room" organisers Carole, 'the Innkeepers', Kylli, Lynne, Einer (the bookie).

Well done to those who dressed up in their finest in an attempt to win best dressed on the day, except for someone who will remain nameless.



*Let's do it all again, next year.*

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## Remembrance Day 2025

A week later, we commemorated Remembrance Day with a few words, followed by the traditional minutes silence, whilst watching the activity in Canberra, live on TV. Again, the S&E members outdid themselves with a mixed BBQ lunch cooked by a couple of talented old chefs! Residents bought plates to share and there was plenty to go round.



And of course, thank you also to Di Mitchell for donating a great piece of her art, for the raffle which was won by Bev.

Attendance exceeded expectations, which was great to see. And we raised some money for Legacy, which is important! Thanks to all involved for their effort.

## Lawn Bowls Inter-Village Competition.

The first day was a washout. The re-scheduled day was not much better from our prospective. We were defeated on the day! The team from 'The Sands' travelled up to compete on our green and compete they did. Although we had some good bowling at times, it was not enough to win the day. However, an enjoyable time was had by all.

Thanks to Grant and his team for the hospitality shown to the visitors, our players and the interested onlookers/supporters. 'The Sands' also won the team prize. Well done to our bowlers, we did fine on the day. See Grant's report.



**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November.** There was an informative Morning Tea with guest speaker Janet Leitch OAM. Her presentation focused on her walking pilgrimages, through Europe and Japan.



Many great photographs and a history lesson on some of the towns, churches and special places Janet visited during her travels.

Around 30+ residents attended and enjoyed the mornings activities.

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Later in the day, well over 100 people remembered and celebrated the life of Doug Canty, who led a very interesting life. Many shared their respects with Sharnika. The ceremony was delivered by Doug's younger brother, who took us through his extraordinary life. Our combined thoughts extend to Sharnika at this time. Residents rallied to produce a terrific afternoon tea for the many guests.



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### **Upcoming Mount Barker Village Events.**

**Tuesday morning 2<sup>nd</sup> December,** a combined presentation by the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), Country Fire Service (CFS), on 'Home and Bushfire Safety' will take place in the Community Hall.

It is important that as many Residents attend as possible, as this is topic for all of us!

Tea & coffee & biscuits. Convenor Kathy Gillespie. No Fire Engines will attend.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 5:30 for 6:00pm.** Christmas Dinner in the Community Hall.

You would have indicated your intention to attend by now, so just prepare for a wonderful event of food, fun & entertainment. Catering by Olive Branch Café, Balhannah and if last year's food and service is anything to go by, it will be terrific.

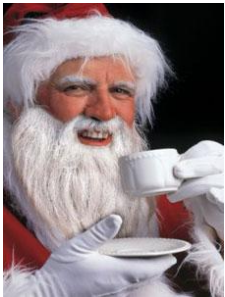
Rumour has it that a man dressed in a **Red Suit** will appear along with some dubious helpers! Can't wait for that. Also see Sue's commentary following!

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**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10:00am.**

Morning Tea with a very special theme this year: 'White Christmas'

Catering will be done by Carol Schmidt, and I am sure it will be very Exceptional!



*These are legendary Morning Teas, so don't miss out!*

Will there be snow for the 'White Christmas' theme? Wait and see.

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- The 'Happy Hours' continue with warmer weather beginning to bring bigger crowds. Thanks to the volunteers who give their time to make it all happen. And there are Raffles and prizes, all good!

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR SOCIAL & EVENTS COMMITTEE



As of January 2026, our Social & Events Committee will be known as the *S&E Planning Group*. Our S&E Planning Group will be planning our events for the coming year, we are always hoping for new volunteers to come on board, as they say, "more hands make light work"! We always have a lot of fun preparing for the event on our Planner, lots of laughter and enjoyable times together.

Naturally, there is the setting up of our Main Hall for each event, as well as the cleaning up afterwards, but with our experienced S&E team and many of our wonderful helpers we get the job done in no time!

Our village thrives on special events throughout the year; without our helpers we wouldn't be able to do what we do! If a volunteer is not available to help for a particular event, that's absolutely fine, we either ask for extra help, or we may be able to just make do!



The *S&E Planning Group* are committed to making our village life as enjoyable as we can, with so many options we can plan well in advance and make way for some very interesting special events.

If a resident has any ideas for future events they would like to discuss with the *S&E Planning Group*, then by all means contact either Sue Gear Ext 808 or Carole Hick Ext 869. We would love to hear from you.

*From our Social & Events Planning Group we wish you all a very  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
Lots of enjoyable times ahead, hope to see you there!*



Our two very special events of the year are soon to be upon us. On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 our Christmas Dinner starting at 5.30pm for 6.00pm. (***Because of our large number of attendees, it would be advisable to come early for registration***).

For our newest residents, this event is being catered for by Nicole the owner of the Olive Tree Branch Café at Balhannah. Upon arrival each resident will receive two raffle tickets, one for the complimentary drink at the Tavern, and the other ticket will be a one in three chance of winning a fabulous gift basket. So, hold onto your ticket you could win a lovely prize.

Also, we do have a **\$10 Kris Kringle** on the night, **Female** buys for **Her**, and **Male** buys for **Him**. The boxes for both are in the entrance of the Lounge Room. If you don't want to take part in the Kris Kringle giving of presents you certainly don't have to, it is completely voluntary!

(So, if you do not contribute to the Kris Kringle then please do not get up to receive a gift.)

*A wonderful night in store for our many residents who have registered to come for this dinner. This is truly a glam event, so ladies & gents, dress up in your finest, it will definitely make this night super special.*

Our second special event happens on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 10.00am** in the Main Hall. Special thanks to Carol Schmidt who makes all the delicious delights for this morning tea.

The Christmas Theme this year is a "**White Christmas**"! Just come along and see the wonderful display that Carol & Ivar put together for us all to enjoy.

This along with our Christmas Dinner are our two favourites for the year, not to be missed. We look forward to seeing everyone very soon.

*Ps: Lisa Norris & Michael Hughes have accepted Ivar's invitation to attend this special "White Christmas" morning tea.*

**Sue Gear**



## More of More.



### DON'T SPEND TIME ALONE ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

"Join us in the community lounge and celebrate.

12.00 noon Christmas Day.

You can bring a salad or sweet to share. BYO beverages.

I will bring the ham and pork.

Please book and let me know what you are bringing".

Contact Jenny – unit 75 (#875) or 0408 227 463



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*And now for something different.*

### Not a New Years Eve Party, but a Concert for George!

On November 29, 2002, one year after his passing, Olivia Harrison and Eric Clapton organized a performance tribute to celebrate the life and music of George Harrison.

Held at London's Royal Albert Hall, the momentous evening featured George's songs, and music he loved, performed by artists including Eric Clapton, Joe Brown, Dhani Harrison, Jools Holland, Jeff Lynne, Paul McCartney, Monty Python, Tom Petty, Billy Preston, Ravi & amp; Anoushka Shankar, Ringo Starr and more.

6:30pm in the Community Centre. BYO Nibbles.

See the noticeboard for further details.

Approximately 2 hours then you can go on to family or friends or stick around for some more entertainment OR go home to bed!!! Convenor: Lynne Cavanagh.

## Lawn Bowls Report for November 2025.

### Lawn Bowls Inter- Village Competition. Monday Morning-17th November.

The trophy challenge against 'The Sands' was postponed and moved to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The Sunday prior to the event had a heavy downpour of rain which caused the green to be underwater. However, it had mostly dried out for the next day, and the rain did not fall on us during the match.

Unfortunately for us, 'The Sands' won the event 58 shots to 39. We anticipate another challenge at their village in March next year. Our thanks go to their club president, Ian Jones, for bringing his team to Mount Barker despite the change of dates.

Players will be advised of a pizza and fun night which will be happening soon.

Good bowling.

Thanks

*Grant Bell U31 or #831*

### WELCOME HOME.

There have been several recent arrivals of new residents  
and we would like to extend a warm welcome to them all.  
Enjoy your time in our village.

Say hello & introduce yourself as we all meet during village activities.

|                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Doug & Pat Willats -     | Unit 17 (moved in a little time ago) |
| Geoff & Judith Webster - | Unit 105                             |
| Cathy Ellidge -          | Unit 110                             |
| Margaret Benkis -        | Unit 120                             |
| Richard Timmins -        | Unit 135                             |

Of course, many of the regular Village activities will continue during December.

- \* Lawn Bowls, \* Morning Teas, \* Croquet, \* Knitting group, \* Book Club,
- \* Indoor Bowls - it has been decided to now play **twice a month**.

Games will be played on Thursday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00am.

Also, in January on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 10:00am.

- \* Snooker, \* Cards,
- \* Art Classes with Annemarie, \* Art & Craft, \* Stretch & Balance.
- \* Bingo in the New Year.
- \* Please visit the library as there are new books available,
- \* And more, check out the Calendar attached.

Speaking of the Library and/or the Librarian, Suzanne managed to break her foot in 3 places whilst dancing on the electric blanket cord. Suzanne 'booked' herself into hospital. She will be off her feet (foot) for a little while, so it will take some time to 'recover'. Could she have a new 'Title' of Dancing Queen? No more 'overdue' puns!

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## BIRTHDAY LIST FOR DECEMBER 2025



|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Henry Van Wynbergen | 1 <sup>st</sup> December             |
| Saint Nicholas      | 6 <sup>th</sup> December (feast Day) |
| Mike Sarson         | 12 <sup>th</sup> December            |
| Pat Willats         | 13 <sup>th</sup> December            |
| Marlene Kristjanson | 14 <sup>th</sup> December            |
| Margaret Benkis     | 21 <sup>st</sup> December            |
| Colleen Walters     | 21 <sup>st</sup> December            |
| Sheryl Caston       | 25 <sup>th</sup> December            |
| Helen Symons        | 28 <sup>th</sup> December            |
| Ivar Schmidt        | 28 <sup>th</sup> December            |
| Patrica Beauchamp   | 31 <sup>st</sup> December            |



Please let me know if you would like to be on this list.

- I have yet to catch up with some of the recent residents.
- I may have missed you!

*NB. Saint Nicholas was born on 15<sup>th</sup> March 270AD, but official celebrations on Feast Day - 6<sup>th</sup> December.*

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Should anyone like a copy of a photo from these Newsletters please email me, and conversely, should anyone NOT want their photo taken or published in this Newsletter please let me know.

This newsletter's production is funded via the various Residents' activities, thank you.  
*We have already printed well over 14,000 pages since Feb on the new printer!*

- *Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in this publication, editorially or by contribution, are printed in good faith and without liability.*
- *They do not reflect the views of Lifestyle SA, the Residents' Committee or the Editor.*

### Useful contact phone numbers.

Centrelink: pensions, Health Card. 13 2300  
Medicare. 13 2011  
My Aged Care. 1800 200 422  
Dept Veteran Affairs. 1800 838 372  
Scamwatch. 1300 302 502  
Beyond Blue. 1300 224 636  
Men's Line Counselling. 1300 789 978  
OPAN (Older People Advocacy Network)  
1800 700 600

Centrelink: Retirement, Disability, Carers. 13 2717  
NDIS. 1800 800 110  
Aged Care Complaints. 1800 951 822  
National Carer Gateway. 1800 422 737  
National Elder Abuse. 1800 353 374  
Lifeline. 13 11 14  
DV & Sexual Assault help. 1800 737 732  
aras. Aged rights advocacy service inc. (08) 8232 5377

- A big thank you to Lynne Cavanagh for her tireless chasing, and production of the monthly calendar.
- Special thanks to Monika & Meredith from our distribution department for their prompt deliveries.

### Extra important bullet points.

- A quick reminder for all, please park only on the left side of the Portico to not impede the ability of vehicles (Ambos, Fire engines) that require the use of the right lane. This will be particularly important at Christmas time.
- There will be "yellow" lines painted on the road, next to the FIRE hose boxes. Do not park where these lines are visible.



- New 10KPH speed-shared zone signs are being positioned within the village. 10KPH is slower than walking pace! Please observe the speed limit for the safety of all. Make your visitors aware!
- Good news, Gate 1 was broken, and now it has been fixed. Installation is this week.



Jenny Cee has a variety of Lions Christmas Puddings and Christmas Cakes for sale.

They are available direct from Jenny at Unit 75 or from the Tavern, Fridays at Happy Hour.

Please support the Lions as they do great work within the Community.

