



# The Association of Residents of Queensland Retirement Villages Inc.



## ARQRV



### JULY 2016 - ARQRV eCONNECT

#### President's Postings *Judy Mayfield*

Whilst the Annual General Meeting is still a few months away we are well into the planning that needs to happen to make this a successful event. For the first time we will be offering a couple of short workshop sessions following on from the meeting which we hope will be useful to members. You will shortly be receiving a copy of Connect, our print newsletter, this will contain information about the AGM as well as a RSVP slip. We ask members attending to let us know so that we can organise numbers for catering as the venue will be providing morning tea. Also please invite non-members to attend as your guest as we will also be conducting an information session for non-

The campaign to secure rates concessions for people living in a retirement village continues, see the latest article published in the Redland Times. [Link here to article in Redlands Times.](#) Thanks to all our members who continue to pursue this issue on behalf of us all, there are many who have been writing letters and meeting with both Government and Council officials to have this matter addressed. We are also watching the costs associated with embedded electricity networks (this is when the Operator buys electricity and on-sells it to residents and you do not have the option to use another supplier). If you have this set up in your village, please let us know. As usual, there is a lot

members. We are investigating the possibility of moving our committee meetings further south, say North Lakes area, in the hope of attracting more members. If relocating meetings would encourage you to nominate for the committee, please let us know. Later this month I will be flying to Melbourne (no sunshine there!!) to meet with the Presidents of Residents' Associations in other States. The Property Council, that is made up of Retirement Villages Scheme Operators, is funding the meeting as a way of identifying some common issues and exploring how we may work together. That will be interesting!! It will also be interesting to talk with the other Association Presidents to see if we have the same types of issues even though each State has its own Legislation governing retirement villages and to see how they operate and connect with their members. I will keep you informed of the outcomes.

happening - funny I always thought I'd have more time when I retired!!

JUDY (ARQRV PRESIDENT)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Guest Speaker:**

**Mick de Brenni MP**

**Minister for Housing  
and Public Works**

**20 September 2016**

**Commencing 10am**

**Fitzy's Loganholme**

**cnr Bryants Rd &**

**Pacific Highway**

Following the meeting we will be offering one or two workshops on topics yet to be decided.

**RSVP 5th September**

**ALL WELCOME**

**INCLUDING NON-MEMBERS**

## MEDIATION WITH MIKE

A village is approached by a telecommunications company to erect a mobile 'phone transmitter within the village. After consulting with the residents the scheme operator declines the approach.

The telecommunications company approaches the owners of the property next door with the same tower erection proposition. The owners indicate their willingness to permit the erection of the tower. Planning Permission is sought from the local council who write by registered post to interested parties, including the village, asking for comment. The registered letter was signed for by a member of village office staff and

yet it was denied as having been received by village management.

Planning signs are erected on the site but allegedly in such a manner that they are not readable from pathways used by the public from whom objections might be expected. The council (who later, apparently, express surprise) received no objections to the erection of the tower on the boundary of the village.

Village residents eventually become aware of the impending tower erection when they see workmen and engage them in conversation. Village management still maintain that no registered letter was received. A resident had a search conducted at his expense by Australia Post and establishes that the registered letter was received at the village office together with when and who signed for its receipt. Village management, after being presented with this information, concede that the letter was in fact received.

At the time of writing I am led to believe that the concrete foundation has been laid but construction of the tower not commenced. Obviously this could change at any time!

So, again, to the question.

Do the residents have any redress against their scheme operator for apparently concealing the plan to construct the telecommunications tower on the boundary of their village?

They acknowledge that the council and telecommunications company have probably acted within the procedure they are obliged to follow except perhaps for the orientation of the planning notices erected on site?

[Click on READ MORE below to read the full response to the above question.](#)

**Mike Fairbairn Vice President**



## ARQRV CONNECT

*The print version of the  
ARQRV CONNECT should be posted  
out in the coming week*

# COUNCIL RATE CONCESSION

The most recent correspondence has been a letter sent to the Hon. Mick de Brenni, Minister for Housing and Public Works.

I am writing to express my concerns about the lack of any action by the Qld Government to address the current issue of rates concessions being denied to pensioner residents of leasehold retirement villages. I would like to point out that the Gold Coast Council and the MBRC have found a way to allow a rates concession to leaseholder age pensioners in retirement villages .. these Councils now provide a rates concession. I have no doubt whatever, that if these Councils can make suitable arrangements to allow the rates concession then others can do the same. Perhaps you may wish to contact other Councils to suggest they consider using similar arrangements to provide rates concessions to age pensioners in leasehold villages.

Hilton Conroy (ARQRV Committee Member)



News Flash

**" Rates concessions newsflash!**

We are pleased to report that the Property Council of Queensland will now be putting their weight behind the current move by the ARQRV, Marilyn Kerr and Ross Horton to get Councils to permit rates rebates enjoyed by retirees living in their own homes, to apply to leasehold retirement village residents"



### Member Letter

Letters may require editing due to size and content and will be at the discretion of the Editorial Team

[Send Email](#)

### Village Photo

Keep sending us a Photo

- village entrance & village streetscape.

*Please nothing bigger than 2Mb*



Letter  
to the editor

Congratulations on finally, after 8/9 years, taking the step of having the AGM on the south side of Brisbane. Got tired of asking for a Southside - or even a Brisbane City - meeting over the past years. The south seems to be the forgotten and ignored members, while all concentration is on the Sunshine Coast. There are many, many Retirement Villages south of Brisbane who have residents that have not been able to travel up to the Sunshine Coast and many feel that the ARQRV has no interest in the 'southerners' - so why should they join? The ARQRV cannot expect residents from the southside villages to join an organisation that appears to be interested only in the Sunshine Coast counterparts. Hopefully there will still be enough interested members to attend and support this AGM in September. It will be interesting to see how many from the Sunshine Coast are interested enough to come south, after so many years of the southerners having to travel to the north. Kind regards, Bl.



Dear BI

Thank you so much for your Letter to the Editor. Having not long been in the position of President, the move to have our AGM further south of the City was a result of a motion put forward by residents from Gold Coast villages at our AGM last year, I am hoping that Loganholme provides a good compromise between north and south. Unfortunately it may also result in members from Bundaberg, Harvey Bay and Rockhampton not being able to attend. I want to assure you that residents across the whole of Queensland are considered in all our discussions. Unfortunately the cost of travel and the time involved (we are all volunteers and have other lives) makes it difficult for us to travel around the State.

We are however looking for ways to address this issue and are exploring how we can connect with members using video conferencing and Skype. We are even considering providing links for members into our committee meetings, training for Residents' Committees and individual one on one sessions with a committee member.

Please be patient a little longer while we investigate our options. Currently committee meetings are held in the Sunshine Coast area, this has come about because the majority of committee members live in this area and travel costs to meetings are reduced. Discussion amongst committee members has identified that we may need to relocate our meetings if we get nominations from other areas.

We currently have a 12 month lease on our office space but would consider relocating closer to the City if need be. Because we are a State wide organisation we are not necessarily going to be able to satisfy all our members with regard to the location of meetings and our office, I know that many members in the far north would appreciate us being closer to them. We try to make the best of what our resources enable us to do. I appreciate you taking the time to write to us and we are always open to suggestions on how we connect with all members across the State. I understand the Sunshine Coast is quite a distance from the south side of Brisbane however if we move down to that area we increase our distance from members further north, and members to the west are also a distance from us. It's a dilemma for us all and one to which we currently have no easy answer.

**Kind regards Judy**

**[ARQRV CONTACTS](#)**

**[WEB SITE](#)**

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