

# Villa Alba

## Melbourne's Painted Villa



May 2020

Dear Villa Alba Member,

What challenging times we are navigating. If you're like me, you are receiving so many updates from different organisations that you (and your inbox) are feeling somewhat overwhelmed! I hope you will make the time to read through one more update to find out about what's happening at Villa Alba and how you can continue to support this wonderful place. Details are included below of how you can renew your Membership for the 2020-21 year.

### *Current activities and projects:*

The Villa Alba Board is busy working behind the scenes to secure the future of Villa Alba and plan for when we can reopen. We have switched to Zoom Board meetings and continue with our usual approach of emails and phone calls between meetings. We have been actively grant-writing; applying for funds to support operational costs, public programs, volunteer training and further conservation work. We will have feedback about these submissions over the next few months and will share with you the news of our success (hopefully!) for funding to start from 2021. We continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation. Our priority is protecting the health, well-being and safety of Villa Alba members, volunteers and the wider community so we are closely following the government guidelines regarding operations and activities.

In terms of current grants, the Copland Foundation grant to repair the roof is progressing through the permit phase and we hope to be able to commence work relatively soon. Our Garden Project (funded through the Federal Government *Stronger Communities Program*) has been "on hold", but with the changing government restrictions, we anticipate recommencing that work soon. If you are interested to support this project and spend some time working in the garden over coming months please email me at [Vice-President@villaalbamuseum.org](mailto:Vice-President@villaalbamuseum.org)

### *Membership renewal time:*

While it is fantastic to have grants that focus on these specific and necessary projects, we also have to cover our ongoing, regular costs such as insurance, security, garden and property maintenance. As you know, we have been closed since March and will remain closed for a while yet. As a Villa Alba supporter, you also know that our main sources of income to cover these ongoing costs come from memberships, donations, Open Days and events. **With no Open Days or events at the moment, your Villa Alba membership and donations are vital to help keep Villa Alba running and ready to open again as soon as we are able.**

**Now more than ever, we need you, our valued members and supporters to renew your membership of Villa Alba.** We have held the annual membership rate at just \$25 for individuals, \$40 for a household and \$100 for a corporate. **We encourage you to renew your membership as soon as possible.** We also need you to reach out to others in your networks of family, friends and colleagues to encourage new members to join us (new members can apply using the 2020-21 Membership Form on the website). **We invite you to further support Villa Alba by “topping up” when you renew your membership.** Whether you can offer \$25 or \$250, your support is vital to keeping Villa Alba going until we are able to fully open our doors again. Any amount over \$2 is tax deductible.

We have introduced a new option for renewing your membership this year.

- **You can renew by credit card online.** Just go to **Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/andrew-dixon-secretary-villa-alba-museum-19298549793>
- **Alternatively, you can use the traditional methods of making an EFTPOS transfer or paying by cheque.** For EFTPOS please transfer your chosen amount to Villa Alba Museum Inc., BSB 083-290 Account Number 035486346. Please make sure you put your surname and "renewal" as reference and send an email to [secretary@villaalbamuseum.org](mailto:secretary@villaalbamuseum.org) confirming the details of the transaction.
- If paying by cheque, the address can be found on the 2020-21 Membership Form on the Villa Alba website: <https://www.villaalbamuseum.org/membership/>

Membership cards and receipts for tax deductible donations will be provided.

*Thank-you to our Volunteers:*

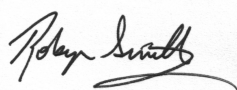
On behalf of the Board, I would like to sincerely thank all of you who volunteer at Villa Alba. This is National Volunteers Week and as a member driven organisation, Villa Alba would be completely lost without our dedicated volunteers. You may be interested to watch the “Volunteers of Boroondara” campaign that has launched this week featuring our very own Susan Wright-Jones and glimpses of Villa Alba! To see the campaign, please visit: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/volunteers](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/volunteers)

*Visiting while we are closed:*

Remember, you can still visit Villa Alba using our Virtual Tour online. Go to the Gallery page on our website: <https://www.villaalbamuseum.org/gallery/>  
If you need more views of Villa Alba, the ABC is again screening “The Beautiful Lie”; a six-part drama that features Villa Alba as the home of a music producer. It is available to watch now on iView.

Thank-you so much for your ongoing support and commitment to sharing the special place that is Villa Alba Museum.

Please take care and stay safe,



Robyn Smith  
Vice-President  
On behalf of the Board, Villa Alba Museum Inc.