

THE JULIANA VILLAGE FOR THE AGED

The Village provides accommodation for elderly people and consists of a well-detailed, pleasantly sited group of buildings, which produce an excellent residential character in a central location for aged people. This was the verdict of the jury, when the Australian Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled gave an award for this purpose-built project to the Danish born architect of the village, Leif Kristensen. His own peer group, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, awarded Mr. Kristensen for the same project the prize for Beauty.

The Juliana Village, Miranda Road, Miranda, looks like a cluster of townhouses. The accommodation consists of 28 serviced units and 16 self-contained units, together with community buildings such as a hall, shop, library etc. This is all set in a pleasant garden, close to Miranda station and the big shopping complex Miranda Fair.

How all this was made possible is a long story. It all started when a Dutchman had to spend some time in hospital. Despite a very good command of the English language and many shared interests with his roommates, he still felt an outsider. Subsequently his thoughts wandered to old age, when people tend to lose their adopted language and the loneliness that would accompany this. With unbelievable optimism and a capital of \$ 47.00 he managed to get some followers for this idea and managed to persuade several people to form a board of directors of The Juliana Village Association Ltd.

To get such a project off the ground, a project that finally was going to cost approximately one and a quarter million dollars, one needs lots of imagination, people, and of course, money. Money was raised in all sorts of ways: donations, Mardi Gras, certificates, raffles, and finally, a gift from the Queen Juliana Fund in Holland, which in turn

satisfied the requirements of the Department of Social Security, which then assisted with a grant to finish the project. It sounds simple, but it was not, and it was a great accomplishment for the many workers and members of the Board, when in October 1980, the first residents moved into the Village. The number of enthusiastic and satisfied people grew so quickly that extensions soon had to be made.

In May 1984, the Juliana Village acquired additional land for this purpose. The additions consist of 29 self-contained units and 12 hostel units. Construction of the self-contained units commenced in September 1984 and is expected to be completed in July 1985. Two thirds of these units are already leased. The twelve proposed hostel units will be built after the self-contained units are completed. Once all these extensions are realised, the assets of the Juliana Village Association Ltd. will be approximately \$ 3.5 m.