



Inside view of one of the apartments.

Pavilions named Australia's best for retirement

📍 Nunawading, Vic | Juliana Muniz

Pavilions Blackburn Lake, a luxury retirement village developed by the Victorian Conference (VIC), has been acknowledged nationally.

The new development has received two significant awards—Best Retirement Village Development and Best Luxury Retirement Village Development for 2023—from the Property Council of Australia at the annual gala event on June 22.

"Pavilions is the result of an approach that challenged the typical mindset of downsizing equalling downgrading. We wanted to make downsizing an upgrade," said Galen Gan, project lead for Pavilions and VIC infrastructure committee coordinator. This commitment to quality saw the team engage award-winning consultants and designers.

A focus on people, rather than just building form, is what Mr Gan believes sets Pavilions apart from other senior living facilities. He explained their goal is to make this the best retirement living experience for the residents.

When completed, Pavilions will comprise 126 apartments spread over seven residential buildings expected to accommodate more than 200 residents. Construction began in July 2018 with Stage 1 completed in December 2020. Stage 2 is due for completion in October 2023, while Stage 3 is set to begin in November 2023 and be completed in the first quarter of 2025.

The road to success has not been without challenges. Mr Gan notes, "The enemy did not want this project to happen—why would he? He threw everything at us to knock this project off course and deprive the Church of the mission potential that this project would bring."

Winning these two prestigious awards is a significant accomplishment for the Church and the team behind the project. "It is a surreal, humbling experience and a worthy recognition of all the many people who have worked so tirelessly for 15 years to make Pavilions the success that it is," Mr Gan said.

As for the future, Mr Gan sees quality, lifestyle-focused senior living facilities like Pavilions playing a crucial role.

According to Mr Gan, feedback from residents and the community has been very positive: "The greatest validation is when I bump into one of our residents and they tell me that moving to Pavilions was the best decision that they ever made." The local community, which was initially apprehensive, has warmed up to Pavilions, with locals frequently visiting the on-site Miss Lucy Café.

To find out more about Pavilions visit pavilionsblackburnlake.com.au.

making headlines

Helping paws

Joinville Adventist Academy in Brazil organised a "Happy Pet Day" campaign, where students collected pet food and financial donations for two local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who rescue and protect pets in the area. They also organised an event in the local square, providing free pet services like veterinary check-ups, pet gifts, a dog agility course and kittens available for adoption.—SAD



Penang's success

Penang Adventist Hospital in Malaysia has been named the Nuclear Medicine Service Provider of the Year 2023 in Asia Pacific. The award not only recognises the hospital's healthcare services but also demonstrates its unwavering commitment to embodying Jesus' healing ministries.—SSD

11,400 new believers

Seventh-day Adventist pastors throughout the Inter-American Division (IAD) welcomed more than 11,400 new members through hundreds of baptismal ceremonies at churches, beaches, lakes and rivers on May 27. Coined as "Pastors Baptism Day", the event's aim was to highlight the primary mission of local church pastors to disciple members and lead people to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ through baptism.—IAD

Buzz off mosquitoes

Researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem developed a repellent capable of reducing the number of mosquitoes feeding by 80 per cent. The results are considered so promising that further human studies are planned, with a view to having the coating approved by regulators ahead of commercial use.—The Guardian