

Patron: Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of New South Wales

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF VASEY HOUSING

A most successful end of year function was held at the Epping Club with Christmas lunch and entertainment. Several photographs of the event are included in this edition.

Three years ago Vasey achieved accreditation pursuant to the Australian Retirement Village Accreditation Scheme for each of our five villages. It is necessary for that certification to be re-examined after three years, and I can report that our accreditation has been renewed in each case.



The two elevators are in full operation at the Lane Cove village. Council approval has been obtained for Waitara to receive such facility also.

The external repainting of all villages has concluded. Major landscaping works will be carried out at Lane Cove in the coming months, and in July the Fiftieth Anniversary of the opening of Hunters Hill village will be celebrated.

The 2010/2011 financial year has come to an end, and our results in all respects have been most successful. With all village budgets approved for the next twelve months, we can look forward to another year of progress.

Bruce Trimble

Brigadier Bruce Trimble OAM RFD
Chairman



Pictured are the two newly installed lifts at "Northcott Gardens". The photo to the left, shows the lift carriage located at the front of the village. The photo to the right, shows the three level lift located near the common room, at the rear of the village.



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGERS' DESK

As our Chairman has already noted, the 2010/2011 financial year was another successful year for Vasey. One of our key objectives is the delivery of maintenance services to our residents. Over the last 12 months, we attended to 2,359 maintenance items across all our villages, an increase of 34% on the previous year. This increase is dramatic when you take into account that the number of maintenance items dropped in 2010 (1,758 items) from the 2009 figure of 1,783 items.



With 247 units in total, this equates to 9.6 maintenance items per unit during the year. Our smallest village Hunters Hill had the most number of items per unit with 11.7. The other villages varied from 10 items at Epping, 8.8 items at Lane Cove, 9.7 items at Maroubra and 8.3 items at Waitara.

I have to congratulate my team, who in dealing with these requests managed to keep village budgets in order. This was achieved by our administrative staff attending to some of these items personally, resulting in no cost being passed onto respective villages.

In March of this year, the Government announced some changes to payments made in the form of Rent Assistance for those persons living in Retirement Villages. I thought I would take this opportunity to summarise some of these changes:-

- Rent Assistance is a non-taxable allowance to help eligible individuals meet the cost of rented accommodation. Rent includes the amount paid by a person on a regular basis for occupying a residence and includes fees such as Recurrent Charges for General Services.
- To be eligible for rent assistance you must received either a full or part age pension.
- Individuals will not be eligible for rent assistance if they live in a retirement village and have paid an entry contribution of more than \$131,500.
- There is a minimum amount of rent that must be paid in order for an individual to receive rent assistance. This amount is \$103.60 per fortnight, for a single person.
- The maximum rate of rent assistance paid is \$116.40 per fortnight, for a single person.
- In calculating the amount of rent assistance payable, for every \$1 of rent that an individual pays, the individual will receive \$0.75 in the form of rent assistance, until the maximum threshold is reached.
- Rent assistance rates and thresholds are reviewed twice yearly in March and September.

Should you require any further information in regard to Rent Assistance you can contact Centrelink on 13 23 00 or www.centrelink.gov.au or the Department of Veterans' Affairs at <http://www.dva.gov.au/eligibilityandclaims/Pages/Factsheets.aspx>.

David Elkins - General Manager

Mr Philip Connell (1948 - 2011)

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Vasey Member, Phil Connell. Phil was born in Devonport, Tasmania and spent several years in the Citizen Military Forces and the Australian Regular Army, including overseas service in Vietnam.

Following his return from Vietnam, Phil joined the hospitality industry where he managed several prestigious Hotels, such as the Connaught Hotel in London, before opening his own restaurant in Melbourne. He then moved into Industrial Relations, holding senior roles with the likes of Therese Rein, wife of former PM, Kevin Rudd. Phil also represented the business sector and spent time as a ministerial advisor. Phil had been a member of Vasey since 2000.



Directors Profile - Mrs Shirley Owles R.N., J.P.

At Vasey's 48th AGM the members elected Mrs Shirley Owles as a Director of the Association. Shirley has been a member of Vasey since 2005.

Shirley has been associated with the retirement village industry since 1986. She has managed three prestige villages and has been involved in the establishment of management systems for 5 new villages in NSW.

In June 2001 Shirley established her own company Village Consulting Services Pty Ltd (VCS), that provides management advisory services for retirement villages and the aged care industry.



She has developed management systems for retirement villages including the VCS Privacy Kit. VCS has successfully prepared 35 villages for accreditation under the ARVA Accreditation Scheme.

Shirley is a Registered Nurse, holds a diploma in Occupational Health and Safety and Certificate IV Assessment and Workplace Training. She is an Aged Care Quality Assessor conducting audits for the Aged Care Standards Agency and a surveyor for the ARVA Accreditation Scheme having completed in excess of 250 audits for the 2 organisations.

Shirley was contracted in 2002 by the RVA to review and design the documentation for the current ARVA Accreditation Scheme.

Shirley was part of the project team that developed new documents for the Federal Governments Residential Aged Care Accreditations scheme.

Qualifications: State Registered Nurse, U.K. 1971 in Australia 1984

Central Midwives Board Part 1 1972

National Childbirth Trust - Ante-Natal Teacher 1980

Aged Care Quality Assessor (1999)

Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety - (2000)

Certificate IV in Assessment & Workplace Training (BSZ40198) (2003)

Completed RVA Surveyor Training (March 2003)

Memberships: NSW Nurses Association

Retirement Village Association Ltd

Community/Committees:

Seniors Week Organising Committee (Ku ring-gai Council 1994/5 & 1997/98)

Retirement Village Association (NSW & ACT) Executive Committee 2000 – 2002.

Geriatrician NSW State Committee Member 1998 – 2009.

Rotary Club of Sydney Darling Harbour June 2000 – to date

President 2007-2008

Sub Committee District Chair for PolioPlus 2009 to date

Cansupport Volunteer – Royal North Shore Hospital Feb 2005 – to date

Cancer Institute Complimentary Therapies Committee 2006- to date

Vasey Residents' Christmas Party

This year our entertainment was provided by Mr Peter Byrne with his "Forever Diamond" Show.



Pictured are Mrs Evelyn Byron, Mrs Nancy Anderson and Miss Theresia Rosenfeld of "Wurley Court".



Residents of "Parkview" enjoyed the meal and entertainment, and some were lucky enough to received an early Christmas present.

THE VASEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION, N.S.W.

STAFF

Mr David Elkins - General Manager
 Mr Andy Cheung - Financial Controller
 Mrs Chris Williamson - Leasing Manager
 Mrs Jade Ricafuente - Resident Coordinator
 Mr Patrick Wan - Facilities Assistant
 Mrs Jennifer Modernel - Admin Assistant

CONTACT DETAILS

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BOARD MEMBERS

Brigadier Bruce Trimble OAM Chairman
 Mr John Lang OAM Director
 Colonel Ken Duncan Director
 Mr Grant Greene-Smith Director
 Mr Warwick Williamson Director
 Mr Graham Byrne Director
 Mrs Shirley Owles Director

Email: vaseynsw@bigpond.net.au **Website:** www.vaseyhousing.com.au

We warmly encourage and welcome contributions to the Vasey Newsletter. Interesting photos, incidents, anniversaries and stories of special experiences that can be shared are most desirable.

Please send us your contribution to "Vasey News" GPO Box 3640 SYDNEY NSW 2001.