



VASEY NEWS

The Vasey Newsletter is designed primarily for residents of Vasey villages as well as local communities and friends of The Vasey Housing Association, N.S.W.

Issue No: 1

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A Message from the Chairman

It is with much pleasure that I introduce the new Vasey newsletter. Through this publication the General Manager and your Directors will be better able to keep you up to date with current issues and events; and residents can make their contribution to the success of the newsletter by submitting items for publication and providing news and happenings from your village.

I trust that in time the newsletter will become a vital organ in our joint endeavour of bringing our Vasey family closer together. Your cards and letters of congratulations and thanks to David and staff over recent months gives us reassurance that some success has already been achieved.

The re-organisation of head office is now complete, with a staff of four employees. David, Marina, Margaret and Rosslyn are working well, and replace the nine full time and part time personnel we employed this time last year.

The board is expecting to soon announce a new approach to the clause 7.3 dilemma. I think that the non-7.3 residents, who have had to bear some hurt in the past, will be pleased with the expected proposal.

The directors are looking forward to the Annual General Meeting, and for members and directors to have the opportunity to discuss with invited residents matters of mutual interest.

Lastly, I suggest that you jot this date down in your diary Wednesday 13th November 2002. Our Patron, Professor Marie Bashir AC, The Governor of New South Wales, has accepted my invitation to join us all for morning tea on that day. You will shortly receive an invitation from David to attend, with venue and transport arrangements detailed, and I hope as many of you as possible can be there and greet Her Excellency.

Kindest regards,

Brigadier Bruce Trimble
Chairman



The Patron of Vasey Housing Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of New South Wales, and the Chairman Brigadier Bruce Trimble RFD.

Her Excellency and Brigadier Trimble are respectively the Honorary Colonel and Regimental Colonel of The Royal New South Wales Regiment, and were attending Government House on the occasion of The Honorary Colonel's dinner for the Commanding Officers.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW RESIDENTS

We extend a warm welcome to the following new Residents:-

Mr & Mrs Robert Macleod	-	Hunters Hill
Mrs Jean Jose	-	Lane Cove
Mrs Diane Kingsford-Archer	-	Lane Cove
Mrs Edna Matthews	-	Epping
Mrs Beryl McSorley	-	Epping
Mrs Kathleen Briggs	-	Epping
Mr Paul Sherring	-	Waitara

THE STORY OF VASEY'S FIRST COUPLE

The first married couple to occupy a Vasey unit, Daphne and Ian MacLeod, had an interesting "War". Here are some extracts from their story.

Mrs MacLeod was born in a small village in Oxfordshire. When war broke out she was sixteen, and wanted badly to join the WAAF. She had to wait until she was eighteen, and after initial training at Blackpool was selected to learn Morse Code. She was then posted to Chicksands Priory, and old mansion set in large grounds.

Their mission at Chicksands was to intercept German Morse code. They were part of Y service and their activities were kept secret. The intelligence gathered was sent to Bletchley Park, the activities of which centered around the Enigma machine which has received much publicity of late.

When the war was over, the members of Y service were required to keep their silence as to their war activities. It was not until 1976 that publications of their story occurred.

Daphne met Ian MacLeod who was undergoing flying training at an airfield near her home. They were married in 1945, have three children and three grandchildren.

Ian MacLeod joined the Territorials in London in 1936. Of Scottish origin, he joined the London Scottish which became a regular unit in 1939. In 1940 he answered the call for volunteers to train as aircrew. He passed the required tests and was posted to the Glide Pilot Regiment.

After 100 hours of power flying Ian was sent to glide training in Oxfordshire. Here he gained his wings.

In 1943 he sailed to North Africa and took part in the landings in Sicily. The gliders were tasked to land near Syracuse with the infantry from the 12th Border Regiment ordered to take the bridge. The pilots however released the gliders short of the target and they fell into the sea some miles from land. More than half the force lost their lives.

In Italy, Ian volunteered to fight as an infantryman. He was at Cassino, when it was taken. However at the landing at Horsa he was injured and was three months in hospital. Thereafter he rejoined as a glide pilot to drop the Pathfinder Paras in Bari.

At the end of the war he was in Palestine with his new bride. He was employed as infantry back up to the Palestine Police. He eventually arrived home in January 1947.

There are no doubt many such stories in the Vasey family. The editor would be pleased to hear from you if you would like to tell us something from your past.

**From information provided by
Mr & Mrs MacLeod, of Hunters Hill.**



Mrs Daphne MacLeod and Mr Ian MacLeod

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

As forewarned, we have now received premiums for village insurance for the period July 2002 to June 2003, and there is a substantial increase to be paid. This impacts on current budgets, although each village has been operating efficiently and is in surplus. The Board is to grapple with the issue and you will be informed shortly as to the approach decided upon.

I also want to say a thank you to all, for your efforts resulting in the great success of our Open Days.

YOUR RESIDENTS COMMITTEE

The Department of Fair Trading receives many calls from the residents of retirement villages on the topic of Residents Committees and how they should be run. Here are a few pointers to assist you with your committee.

A Residents Committee is simply a group of residents elected by their fellow residents to represent their interests and to provide a channel for communication between all the residents and the village operator.

To form a Residents Committee, a general meeting to which all residents are invited, needs to be held. A Committee can be formed if more than 50% of the residents voting agree to form one.

The importance of the role of Residents Committee has now been recognised under the *Retirement Villages Act 1999*.

Residents Committees are not decision-making bodies. They cannot make decisions on behalf of residents on matters requiring consent. They can, however, put recommendations to a general meeting of residents.

Each Residents Committee is free to determine its own procedures. There is no need to have a formal constitution or written rules but it is worth considering, and they may help. Unless otherwise invited, only Committee Members should attend Residents Committee meetings.

An extract from Retirement Village Green 7/2002

JESSIE VASEY

In 1949, the War Widows Guild conducted a survey which showed that a third of its Members had a housing problem. Jessie Vasey saw that the greatest need was for elderly or ill War Widows. Legacy looked after the young ones, but did little for the elderly, believing that it was the responsibility of the grown up children to look after their mothers. From her research, Jessie knew that many did not do so. She began looking into ways of providing housing for elderly war widows.

She drew up a plan for presentation to the Commonwealth Government. She again sought support from the RSL and Legacy, but they refused as did the Government, so she decided to do it herself.

She received a donation from Sir William Angliss and decided to run raffles, first prize was a car, and with the proceeds she bought an old mansion in Melbourne called Caroline House. It was converted so that the top floor became the living quarters and the ground floor became a historic house museum. The widows moved in upstairs, dressed in period costume and acted as guides downstairs.

In 1954 the Commonwealth Government introduced its Aged Persons Home Act whereby it would match pound for pound, the amounts raised by charitable institutions to build accommodation to house the elderly. Jessie, of course, took advantage of this and by 1965, 250 elderly widows were being housed in Victoria alone.

Vasey Housing became an Auxiliary of the War Widows Guild in 1959. It built one bedroom Units for war widows in New South Wales, Victoria & Queensland. In New South Wales however, the two organisations split. Today, Vasey Housing has a good relationship with the War Widows' Guild, but no longer has the strong ties it once had.

Jessie Vasey suffered a fatal stroke in September, 1966 at Grafton. She was on her way back to Melbourne having spent some time with members of the Queensland Branch of the Guild. Her work for war widows was tremendous, she did not always get what she wanted, but her fight and the work she did ensured that they would no longer be the forgotten victims of war.

The first Vasey Housing property in New South Wales was at Hunters Hill; since then the Association has built Units in Concord, Epping, Lane Cove, Maroubra and Waitara. There are now a total of 247 Units in the Sydney metropolitan area.

Mrs Jessie Vasey, CBE, attending the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953.



VASEY WELCOMES NEW FACES

Adrian Mitchell joined the Vasey Board as a Director on 1st April 2002 and fills the vacancy following the resignation of Mr Graham Ireland last year.

A background of over 30 years in marketing with one of the top 5 advertisers in Australia, Adrian brings added skills to compliment those of our Board.

Following Army service, his career covered a wide range of activities both here and overseas, including advertising, as well as public affairs, government and media relations in a leading public company.

Outside appointments include the campaign to promote Defence Force Reserves, State Chamber of Commerce, Fiji Australia Business Council, Australian Association of National Advertisers, NSW Exporter of the Year etc.

Married with two children, Adrian lives at Pennant Hills and lists some of his interests as family, AESOP Business Volunteers, Community activities and Rugby League.

Adrian said he was proud to be associated with Vasey and wishes to continue the ideals of the Association as a Board Member and enhance the fine record set by Jessie Vasey in her housing philosophy.



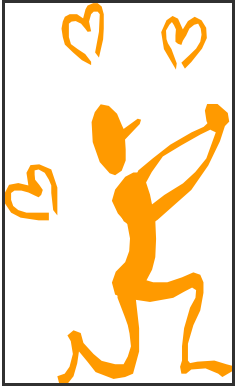
*Director:
Mr Adrian Mitchell*

We would also like to welcome Ms Marina Northcote as the new Accounts Manager for Vasey. Marina comes to us with a strong accounting background, and will play a key role in the success of the new look Vasey Team.

SENIOR CITIZENS ARE SPECIAL

WHAT ARE SENIOR CITIZENS WORTH?

Remember, old folk are worth a fortune - with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs. I have become a little older since I saw you last, and a few changes have come into my life.



Frankly, I have become a frivolous old girl. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up WILL POWER helps me out of bed. Then I go to see JOHN. Next it's time for UNCLE TOBY to come along, followed by BILLY T.

They leave, and ARTHUR RITIS shows up, and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long so he takes me from JOINT to JOINT. After such a busy day I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with JOHNNY WALKER. What a life. Oh, Yes I'm also flirting with AL ZYMER.

P.S: The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh! I do that all the time". No matter where I am, if I'm in the parlor, upstairs in the kitchen or down in the basement, I ask myself,

"Now what am I hereafter".

Article provided by Mrs Beatrice Towle, Waitara

IN MEMORY

We note with deep sadness the passing of the following Vasey Family Members:-

Mrs Janet Laving, a resident for almost 20 years.

Miss Betty Payne, a resident for almost 10 years.

Mrs Joyce Cooper, a resident for almost 6 years.

NORTHCOTT GARDENS - MY HOME

Eighteen years ago, I came to live at Northcott Gardens at Lane Cove. During that time I have seen many changes in this area. With the event of the Freeway it is possible to be in the City within 10 minutes. Having a bus stop across the road from our Village is very handy whether you need to go a short distance to the shops or to Chatswood or the City. From Chatswood one can catch trains, or get other buses to various suburbs. The concession ticket allows one to travel all day, if one is in the mood, to see our beautiful Sydney and its harbour.

For all the changes, Lane Cove retains a village-like atmosphere. Shady trees allow pleasant outdoor eating which, in summer, is a joy. There are many cafes and restaurants catering to all tastes. Be they Chinese, Thai, Indian, the Italian cuisine is excellent.

At Northcott Gardens we care for each other, if a neighbour is ill or incapacitated in any way we help whether it is to shop, take a meal or change her library books. I cannot speak highly enough of the ladies who helped me when I was recovering from an operation. They did my washing, fed me and kept me company when I needed it.

Our gardens boast a lovely Jacaranda tree, a Magnolia tree, Wisteria vine, a rare Sequoia pine and a Ghinka tree. Two of these trees shade my Unit in the summer and when they lose their leaves, let the sun in, in the Winter. Beautiful gum trees line our street and we have a few dotted around our courtyard.

A great advantage of living here is having no worry when things need fixing. A phone call to the Vasey Association office brings the plumber, carpenter or maintenance man at no cost.

Every now and then we get together for a sausage sizzle and at Christmas have a wonderful party. Our pleasant garden courtyard is outside the common room, where we can set up tables and chairs for the functions. A social club usually arranges these parties.

Lane Cove has a good community services all within easy reach. What more could you want?

By Mrs Nesta Hordern, Lane Cove

THE VASEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION, N.S.W.

STAFF

David Elkins - General Manager
Margaret Phelps - Client Services Manager
Marina Northcote - Accounts Manager
Rosslyn Travers - Maintenance Assistant / Receptionist

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VASEY BOARD MEMBERS

Brig. Bruce Trimble - Chairman
John Lang OAM - Director
Col Ken Duncan - Director
Grant Greene-Smith - Director
Warwick Williamson - Director
Adrian Mitchell - Director

The editor warmly encourages and welcomes contributions to the Newsletter. Interesting photos, incidents, anniversaries and stories of special experiences that can be shared are most desirable. Please send your contribution to the editor or contact him on the above telephone number.