



# VASEY NEWS

Winter Edition 2003, Issue 3

*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.*

## A Message from the Chairman of Vasey Housing

The end of the 2002/2003 financial year has the Association in a sounder financial position, with the recording of a surplus of more than half a million dollars from operations over the past twelve months; reversing the loss recorded in the previous year. This has been achieved by greater efficiencies and the lowering of overheads, particularly salaries.

With the closure of the Concord Village and cessation of non-core activities, the Association will be managed by a smaller permanent staff, assisted by members of the Board.

Success has been achieved in gaining new residents to Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Maroubra, and vacancies in those villages will be almost non-existent later on this year. We however, continue to experience difficulty in attracting residents to Waitara, and the older portion of the Epping village.

Most pleasing has been the arrival of new people who have been introduced to us by existing Vasey residents. Your Board actively encourages you to spread the word, and will offer to new residents so gained by your personal introduction, a discount on the initial contribution amount.

I, and other Board members will be visiting Villages on Open Days, and we look forward to meeting up with you again when next in your locale.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Tuesday 15 July 2003, at 2.00 pm. I intend to forward invitations to a number of residents from each village to attend. Regrettably, the venue will not hold all of us.

I trust that you remain in good health and spirits.

Kindest regards,

*Bruce Trimble*

Brigadier Bruce Trimble  
Chairman

## From the General Manager

Many of you will be aware, that we have recently had changes to the staff numbers within Vasey. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Carol Wahl has joined our small but dedicated team, as Administrative Manager.

Sadly, Margaret Phelps & Marina Northcote have both left us. Margaret particularly, had an enormous input into the associations' success over the past twelve months, and we wish her well in her retirement to the Mid North Coast.

We are continually working at improving our efficiency, and this process is by no means over. We still have a long way to go, but we are most certainly headed in the right direction.

Best wishes to all.

*David Elkins*  
General Manager



*Pictured below is Vasey's Team:-  
Carol, Brigadier Trimble, Ros and David.*

## The Australian National Flag

When the Australian colonies federated to form the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901, the Union Jack had been the official flag for 100 years to the day. A new nation raised an urgent demand for a new emblem. So an official competition was announced by Australia's first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton, which attracted 32,823 entries. Five of these, which contained almost identical designs, were placed equal first. Apart from later changes in the magnitudes of the stars and the number of points, they had produced the present day Australian flag.

Some times referred to as the "Stars & Crosses" the Australian National Flag is the only flag to fly over the whole continent, and is 102 years old this year.

The Federal Government encourages the flying of the Australian National Flag by all Australians and is committed to retaining and promoting pride in the flag and actively encourages all Australians to be aware of, and proud of, their country's identity.

One of the avenues used by the Government to achieve this aim is the Constituents' Request Program, which is administered through the electorate offices of Senators and Federal Members of Parliament. Under this program, certain organisations and institutions, including schools and community groups, may obtain an Australian National Flag free of charge to fly or display as appropriate. In addition, any member of the public may obtain from a Senator or local Federal Member of Parliament a publication called *Australian flags*, which explains the history of the Australian National Flag and gives a detailed outline of flag protocol issues.

In 1996 the Government took two other initiatives to promote the national flag. To commemorate the first flying of the Australian National Flag in 1901, the then Governor-General Sir William Deane, proclaimed 3 September of each year as Australian National Flag Day. Also the *Flags Amendment Act 1996* was passed by the House of Representatives on 12 December 1996 to guarantee that all Australians will be consulted before any changes to the design of the Australian National Flag are made. The *Flags Amendment Act 1996* requires that any change to the Australian National Flag must be approved by the Australian electorate and that the existing Australian



National Flag will always be amongst the choices offered to the Australian people.

### Some important dates in our flag's history:-

**1901 3rd September:** Winner is announced and flag flown for the first time at the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne.

**1903 20th February:** Edward VII approves the design for the Australian Flag.

**1908 19th December:** A 7th point is added to the Commonwealth Star to represent Australian territories and their people.

**1934 23rd March:** Commonwealth's Gazette No. 18 confirms descriptions and detailed specifications of Blue and Red Ensigns.

**1942 19th February:** The Australian flag that flew outside the residence of the Northern Territory Administrator was riddled with bullets during a Japanese W11 air raid. This precious flag is now on display at the Australian War Memorial Canberra.

**1953 2nd December:** Parliament passes Flags Act; the status of The Flag confirmed by legislation.

**1981 25th March:** The description in the Act is amended for the Australian National Flag and the Australian Red Ensign.

**2001 3rd September:** The centenary of our Flag is celebrated across Australia.

## A Double Hoot at Hunters

Snuggled in a tree over Vasey's "Wurley Court" parking area are two owls. We are told they are a contented pair. There have been owlets! The owls have taken roost in the tree during day time, and have been seen in residence for some years.

On different branches and over twenty feet above the ground, the pair appear to quietly view the surroundings with an air of possession and serenity.



## “Barbara’s Religious Experience”

When returning from a Bowls meeting I found myself in a Christian Book Shop and I saw a bumper sticker which read “Honk if you Love Jesus” I thought that was a good idea, so I brought one and put it on my car.

Gee I am glad I did, what an uplifting experience followed. I stopped at a red light outside Hornsby and I was lost in thought about the Lord and how good he is. I didn’t notice the lights had changed.

It’s a good thing someone else loved Jesus, because if they hadn’t honked I would never have noticed.

Then I found lots of people loved Jesus. While I was sitting there a man behind me started honking like crazy and he leaned out of the window and screamed “for the love of God! Go-Go-Go!” What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus. Everyone started honking.

I leaned out of the window and started waving and smiling to all those loving people. I even honked my horn several times to share in the celebrations. I saw another man waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck in the air.

I asked my grandson in the back seat what that meant. He said it was probably the Hawaiian good luck sign or something.

Well, I’ve never met anyone from Hawaii so I leaned out the window and gave him a good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing - even he was enjoying this religious experience.

A couple of people were so caught up by the joy of the moment, they got out of their cars and started walking towards me. I bet they wanted to pray or ask which church I attended. But this was when I saw the lights had changed so I waved to all my new brothers and sisters and drove though the intersection.

I noticed that I was the only car through before the lights changed again I felt kind of sad that I had to leave them after the love we had shared, so I slowed down, leant out of the window and gave them all a Hawaiian good luck sign one last time as I drove away.

Praise the Lord for such wonderful folk.

Regards

*Barbara*

## 2002 Christmas Party at “Northcott Gardens”



## 2CH's Bob Rogers assists Vasey

From 1st April the renowned broadcaster Bob Rodgers will read new Vasey radio commercials on Easy 1170 Radio 2CH.

The radio spots will be heard most mornings on 2CH, three weeks of each month, and will also promote, as scheduled, an invitation to our open house promotions.

Keep an ear to Bob between 9 am and 12 noon, you may hear mention of your favourite village.

## MAROUBRA OPEN DAY

Vasey is very pleased with the result of the increasing interest shown by the public to our village Open Days. We are particularly grateful for the co-operation and hospitality shown by residents, who often speak proudly of their units and the conveniences offered by their village.

These days are pre-promoted within the district, and occur rotationally at all villages through out the year, providing an opportunity for unit inspections by potential residents.

Additionally, we have recently introduced an Invitation Day. This day is designed for prospective residents who have already shown interest in a Vasey Unit previously. It provides them with the opportunity to have another look at the village and where possible a refurbished unit like the one below.



*Maroubra Display Unit - Bedroom*



*Maroubra Display Unit - Lounge Room*

## THE VASEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION, N.S.W.

### STAFF

David Elkins - General Manager  
Carol Wahl - Administration Manager  
Rosslyn Travers - Receptionist/  
Maintenance Assistant

### CONTACT DETAILS

6th Floor, 283 George Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
ABN 79 000 389 319  
Phone: 02 - 9299 3951  
Fax: 02 - 9262 5610  
Email: vasey@tig.com.au

### BOARD MEMBERS

Brigadier Bruce Trimble Chairman  
John Lang OAM Director  
Colonel Ken Duncan Director  
Grant Greene-Smith Director  
Warwick Williamson Director  
Adrian Mitchell Director

Website: [www.vaseyhousing.com.au](http://www.vaseyhousing.com.au)

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.