



VASEY NEWS

Summer Edition 2003, Issue 4

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

Since the last newsletter the Annual General Meeting has taken place, we have celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Waitara village, and marked the centenary of "Wurley", the old home that forms the centerpiece of Hunters Hill. Pictures of those events appear in this issue.

You will at this time be considering your Village's budget for the next financial year. By careful financial management the proposed level of recurrent charges has fallen in the case of two villages, and only slightly increased for the other three. David and Carol will give you a full explanation as to how the charges were arrived at when they visit you shortly.

Our greatest source of new residents continues to be by word of mouth from friends and occupants. I am pleased to be acting on the promise of the waiver of one quarters recurrent charges in cases where the new Resident was introduced to Vasey by one of us.

There has been a change in personnel at head office. Rosslyn has left us after eight years service, and we all wish her well in retirement. Jane Walker has taken Rosslyn's place, with expanded responsibilities in the areas of resident and community liaison. David will be explaining Jane's role in detail to you shortly.

The Retirement Villages Act encourages the formation of Resident Forum Committees in each Retirement Village. Their existence is not mandatory, and each individual village can choose not to form one if it so desires. In our case only two of our Villages currently have such committees in place, and while this is acceptable as far as the Act goes, it does severely limit the effectiveness of the passage of information to you the individual Resident. When David visits you soon for the budgetary process, he will again raise this matter with you, and I urge you to give it kind consideration.

In the new year, David, Jane and I with other Directors will be visiting all villages on a regular basis for morning tea and a chat. I look forward to seeing you then, and in the meantime I and the Board wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Kindest regards,

Bruce Trimble

Brigadier Bruce Trimble
Chairman



Pictured at the unveiling of the Centenary plaque for "Wurley" are Mr Bruce Lucas Mayor of Hunters Hill, Mr Anthony Roberts MP Member for Lane Cove, Brigadier Bruce Trimble Chairman of Vasey Housing, Mr Justice William Windeyer representing the Windeyer family and M. Marc Finaud French Consul General.

Vasey Housing's 41st Annual General Meeting held on the 15th July 2003

40th Anniversary of the "Parkview" Village at Waitara



Above: Brigadier Bruce Trimble (Chairman), Mrs Jill Mitchell (Member), Mr Adrian Mitchell (Director) and Mr John Roberts (Member).



Above: Brigadier Trimble and Mr Russell Vasey plant a tree and unveiled a plaque to mark this special occasion.



Above: Mrs Lynn Trimble (Member), Mrs Nancy Anderson (Resident), Mrs Dawn Duncan (Member), Miss Gwen Illidge (Resident) & Lt Col Peter Hall (Member).



Above: Miss Helen Meikle (Resident), Mrs Nesta Hordern (Resident), Miss Margo Patterson (Resident) and Dr. Vivienne Robertson (Member).



Above: Residents enjoy afternoon tea following the formal proceedings of the day.

“Search for Survivors”

On March 6th 1945, an RAAF Hudson aircraft crashed into the sea a little over two miles north of the airstrip at Cairns. Weather conditions were extremely bad at the time of the crash. Boats set out immediately and found traces of the plane, but there were no signs of survivors. The search continued for several days. Two of Australia's best known generals and nine other military and Air Force personnel were killed. The generals were Major-General G.A. Vasey, C.H., C.B.E., D.S.O., Staff Corps and Major-General R.M. Downes, C.M.G., V.D., medical historian.

At this time, Ken Solomons was serving with 52 Port Craft Coy, Cairns Detachment, and he joined in the search as master of AM1596. Here is a copy of his report.

The following is his report on the operations of his craft on 5th, 6th and 7th March 1945.

On the afternoon of 5th March at approximately 1630 I was notified by Lt Stewart, 52 Port Craft Coy, to prepare to put to sea in search of survivors of a plane which was reported to have crashed in the vicinity of the mouth of the Barron River.

At 1700 upon arrival Capt. Wherret (M. Office) I departed as instructed. After proceeding about 1.5 miles from the main channel in the direction of the mouth of the Barron River, I was notified by the RAAF in an Air Sea Rescue craft that there was no need for me to proceed any further as nothing could be done.

At this stage visibility was very poor due to constant showers, and the wind had been blowing hard from the NE all day. A heavy sea was running. About this time I noticed that AM1570 which was participating in the search also was hove to. This craft then signalled that she was having engine trouble and required a tow. I went to her assistance and towed her to Cairns arriving at 1930.

6 March 1945. Departed from Cairns at 0630 for area where plane was reported to have crashed. Arrived at mouth of Barron River at 0715 and cruised in the area until 1130, examining all driftwood for possible wreckage from plane. Found nothing but usual driftwood and logs.

I was then ordered to continue the search by Capt. Kersley, 1 Aust Ambulance Convoy, and in company with AM 1571 returned to Cairns arriving 1230.

7 March 1945. Departed from Cairns at 0745 and, with the assistance of AM 1571, towed a wooden barge to the scene of the crash. Arrived in area at 1045 and anchored 100 yds from where salvage operations were in progress. The barge was not required so, again with the assistance of AM1571, towed barge to Cairns arriving 1725.

**(Sgn) K Solomons L/Cpl
Master AM1596**

The body of Major-General Vasey was recovered and buried in Cairns War Cemetery. His son, Sapper George Vasey, was posted to 11 Small Ships Coy in May 1945, and served with the unit in Borneo. The General's widow became the President of the War Widows Guild, and subsequently founded The Vasey Housing Association, N.S.W.. Young George married soon after the war. He died suddenly in Melbourne in the early 1950s, leaving a wife and three young children.



Above: A young Ken Solomons in March 1945.



Right: A photo of Ken at a recent Army Water Transport Association function. Ken is now living and enjoying his retirement in Sydney.

100 YEARS OF "WURLEY"



Far Left: Justice Windeyer recalls some very special family memories.



Left: Mrs Shirley George adds a real sense of nostalgia to the day.



Right: Lady Windeyer with a family heirloom.

Below: The "Wurley" home as it stands today, with some of our invited guests.



THE VASEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION, N.S.W.

STAFF

David Elkins	General Manager
Carol Wahl	Administration Manager
Ignazia Proia Firth	Resident Services
Jane Walker	Client Services
	Co-ordinator
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BOARD MEMBERS

Brigadier Bruce Trimble	Chairman
John Lang OAM	Director
Colonel 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 you contribution to the editor or contact him on the above telephone number.