

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

This issue of Vasey News is primarily concerned with the recent function held at Lane Cove to mark the 35th anniversary of the opening of the Village by Sir Roden Cutler, then Governor of NSW.



The principal guest was Sir Roden's widow, Lady Joan Cutler, who unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion. Also present was the member for Lane Cove, Mr Anthony Roberts MLA, who spoke of his impressions of our Villages, their history and the current administration. These comments were amplified in a speech he made in Parliament thereafter, and an extract from Hansard is included in this issue.

Vasey's financial year is ending on the 31st March, and I am pleased to report that by careful financial management, we will record a surplus in excess of last year. This will give us a good start to next year, and assist in the carrying out of the essential maintenance matters in each of the villages.



I am also pleased to report a substantial increase in new Residents joining us. In the two financial years just concluded, a total of 35 units were occupied, compared with 23 for the two years prior thereto.

With all Village budgets approved, and your Staff and Board eager to get on with the job, I anticipate that 2004/2005 will be a significant year in our history. I and fellow Board members, look forward to meeting and discussing issues with Residents at the morning teas over the coming months.

Kindest regards,

Bruce Trimble

Brigadier Bruce Trimble
Chairman



Pictured above: Mr Anthony Roberts MLA, Mr David Elkins General Manager, Brigadier Bruce Trimble - Chairman and Lady Joan Cutler

35th Anniversary of the Opening of "Northcott Gardens"



Mr Anthony Roberts M.P. — Address to Parliament

Extract from NSW Legislative Assembly Hansard:

On Monday 8 March I had the privilege and distinct pleasure of attending a ceremony held at the Vasey Housing Association's Lane Cove retirement village to mark the thirty-fifth anniversary of its opening by His Excellency Sir Roden Cutler on 7 March 1969. A plaque unveiling was the highlight of the ceremony. That was preceded by some words from Vasey's chairman, Brigadier Bruce Trimble, and me. The General Manager of Vasey Housing, Mr David Elkins, was also in attendance. Lady Joan Cutler, a wonderful and gracious lady, unveiled the plaque commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary. With the formalities out of the way, guests were invited to inspect the property and that was followed by the serving of morning tea.

The Vasey Housing Association has a long and proud history and continues to maintain its not-for-profit status while holding true to the ideals of its founder, Mrs Jessie Vasey, who was the widow of Major General G.A. Vasey. Vasey has five retirement villages throughout Sydney, all of which are located in some of Sydney's most sought-after and picturesque suburbs, offering comfort and security as well as value for money to those over the age of 55. It is important to go into some of the history of the Vasey Housing Association New South Wales. It was named after its founder, the late Mrs Jessie Vasey, B.A., C.B.E., who was the war widow of one of Australia's most distinguished soldiers, Major General George Vasey, C.B., C.B.E. and D.S.O., M.C. (Greece), D.S.C. (USA), Commander of the 6th and 7th Division of the Second A.I.F., who was killed when his aircraft crashed in the mouth of the Barron River near Cairns on a flight to New Guinea on 5 March 1945.

Major General Vasey was one of Australia's finest and best-loved soldiers. His concern for his men and their dependants caused him to ask his wife to do all that she could to help the wives and widows who had been left behind. Mrs Vasey helped to establish the A.I.F. Women's Association, and was, therefore, already heavily involved in work of this kind. After the death of her husband she started to fight for the thousands of war widows who were living in near poverty on a pension that had remained unaltered, save for a rise of three shillings, from 1916 to 1945. In 1945 she formed the War Widows Guild in Victoria, and by 1947 the guild became an Australia-wide organisation and a recognised force in the fight for better conditions for war widows and their families.

In 1962 Vasey Housing was incorporated in New South Wales as the Vasey Housing Auxiliary and in 1975 it changed its name to The Vasey Housing Association New South Wales.



When the scheme first started accommodation was made available to war widows only. Later, as accommodation became available and in accordance with the memorandum and articles of association, eligibility was extended to include beneficiaries other than war widows. Beneficiaries included any person over the age of 60 who, first, had served in the defence forces of the Commonwealth of Australia or of any member of the Commonwealth of Nations; secondly, is related whether by blood or marriage to a person described above; thirdly, was wholly or partially dependent upon a person described above; fourthly, because of poverty, sickness, destitution, helplessness or other distress, is, in the opinion of the Board, deserving of charity within the spirit and intention of the laws relating to public charitable trusts in New South Wales. It was a policy of the Board to give preference to war widows, widows of ex-service men and to ex-service women.

A contribution decided by the Board from time to time provides life residency in a Vasey unit. Over the years the association has constructed retirement villages at Concord, Epping, Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Maroubra and Waitara, comprising a total of 272 self-contained one-bedroom units. In 2002 the association sold its smallest village at Concord after relocating residents to other villages. Today, with more than 40 years experience in the retirement industry, Vasey Housing maintains its not-for-profit status and continues to offer greater value as well as comfort and security to its residents. With the passing of time and the declining number of surviving war widows, to ensure that its work could continue the Vasey Housing Association decided to open its doors to both single men and women over the age of 55 who wish to enjoy an independent and dignified lifestyle.

A board of directors, whose members—I am proud to know many of them—possess skills in law, accounting, engineering, management, property and marketing, governs the association. Some of the current directors have a proud military service background. Over the years distinguished servicemen have continued to ensure Vasey's strong defence force connection. Past chairmen include Major General Sir Ivan Dougherty, Lieutenant General Sir John Northcott, Major General John Bishop, Major General Ray Sharp, and the current Chairman, Brigadier Bruce Trimble. I am proud to be associated with this organisation and I am particularly proud that two of the villages are located in my electorate. I commend the Board's vision and good management and the wonderful sense of community, belonging and friendship that it has nurtured in its five retirement villages. The residents, administrators and the Board have a wonderful sense of family and belonging.

Village & Resident News

The external repainting of all our Vasey Villages has now been completed on time and below budget. The results in all areas are most pleasing. Also, the scheduled pest control has been carried out and a new gardening contract has been let, to cover all villages. We welcome Michael Beattie to Vasey and early reports from the villages indicate that our residents are happy with the work being done in regard to the gardens and grounds. Although the hot summer coupled with the water restrictions are really showing their mark in some areas, the care and attention, in particular the evening watering of lawns and gardens carried out by many residents has generally kept things fairly green and of course added to the living environment for all residents. Your assistance as always is greatly appreciated.

A social morning tea has now been conducted in each of the villages, which enables Residents, Staff and Board members to meet and chat in informal surroundings. The reaction to this initiative has been excellent from the point of view of all concerned and these morning teas are planned to continue throughout the year as a vehicle for informal and casual communication between Residents and Management.

Furnished display units have now been established in three of our Villages, in order to better illustrate the potential of the refurbished units. With credible furniture and furnishings tastefully installed, the Staff is better able to "show off" the promising nature of the units as delightful permanent homes to potential residents and visitors.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to our most senior resident, Miss Mary Frame of Epping Village, on the occasion of her 98th Birthday which occurs on 1 April 2004.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new residents into the "Vasey Family" and we wish you all a very comfortable, long and happy residence in your new home.

WAITARA:	Mr. K. Jennings Mrs. J. Hunt.
MAROUBRA:	Mrs. D. Cleary
LANE COVE:	Mrs. J. Rollinson
HUNTERS HILL:	Mrs. S. Guthrie Mr J. Tebbet
EPPING:	Mrs. D. Gordon

From the General Manager

With the end of our Financial Year fast approaching, it is pleasing to see that all signs indicate another successful year for the Association. Since my last column there has been a change in our personnel following the resignation of Mrs Carol Wahl. I am pleased to inform you that Mr Art Tolentino has joined the Association as our new Accountant. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming Art to Vasey.

It is with deep sadness that I have to advise residents that Bill Travers husband of Rosslyn (Ros) Travers who worked for the association for a number of years, passed away recently. We have on your behalf, passed onto Ros and her family, your deepest sympathy at this very sad time.

Also Jane Walker (our Client Services Co-ordinator) was recently married, and we wish Jane & Steve all the very best for their future lives together.

The 35th Anniversary celebrations at Lane Cove were a great success and I would personally like to thank Alan, Nel, Jane, Michael and all the residents at Lane Cove who contributed towards the garden upgrade within the village. All the hard work paid off.

David Elkins - General Manager



Pictured above: Directors Col K. Duncan, Brig B. Trimble, Mr W. Williamson and Mr A. Mitchell, with Lady Joan Cutler & Miss M. Patterson

THE VASEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION, N.S.W.

<u>STAFF</u>		<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	
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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.