



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

**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF VASEY HOUSING**

The Association has for some time been in negotiation with the Office of Fair Trading on the issue of the accounting for rental payments paid by non-contributory residents to Vasey. Agreement has been reached, subject to changes that may occur when the Retirement Villages Act is amended in the near future, that rents received will in the first instance be paid to Village Accounts and thereafter applied towards capital replacement & depreciation costs.

This policy resulted in the redrafting of the Village Budgets for the current financial year, and I am pleased to report that all Villages approved their individual Budget in the new form. These Budgets now display to residents the degree of support by the Association in keeping recurrent charges as low as possible. Subsidies by Vasey to each Village are as follows for the year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006:- **Waitara \$84,393, Epping \$136,929, Lane Cove \$53,089, Hunters Hill \$49,728 and Maroubra \$47,037 TOTAL \$371,176.**

I also report a change to the membership of the Board of Directors. Several years ago the Association was facing a crisis in the lack of new residents taking up occupation in our villages. To that end we introduced member Mr Adrian Mitchell to the Board so that his expertise in marketing could be utilised for the benefit of the Association. Over the following 3 years we have seen success by our annual sales of Units rising from 10 in 2001 to 27 in 2005. Mr Mitchell now leaves the Board and will be replaced by member Mr Graham Byrne, who will provide knowledge and skill in the areas of corporate governance, risk management, and occupational health and safety. Such expertise will be required in assisting the Association in gaining accreditation under the Australian Retirement Village Accreditation Industry Standards, for our Villages before such accreditation becomes mandatory in the future.

Change has also occurred to head office staff. We welcome Mrs Nina Ivantcheva as our Accountant, replacing Mr Art Tolentino.

I am happy to report an operating surplus for the year 2004-05 of \$754,673, which places the Association in a sound financial position to meet the challenges ahead.

Kindest regards,

*Bruce Trimble*

Brigadier Bruce Trimble  
Chairman

***Jessie Vasey Aged Care Summit***

*Vasey History was created on the 13th May 2005 when all three Vasey Organisation meet to discuss issues facing their individual organisations. From left to right are Dr Jim Breheny - Chairman, Vasey RSL Care Ltd - Victoria, Brigadier Bruce Trimble - Chairman, Vasey Housing NSW, Ms Carol Carland - CEO, Vasey RSL Care Ltd - Victoria, Mrs Noela Stephens - Director, Vasey Housing and Board Member of the War Widows' Guild Queensland, Mr David Elkins - General Manager, Vasey Housing NSW and Mrs Peta Stilgoe - Chairman, Vasey Housing & Director of RSL Care Queensland.*



***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.***

## MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE ALAN VASEY

The year 2005 marks some significant milestones in regard to Australia's Military History. 2005 also has a special significance for Vasey Housing. This year would have been the 110th Birthday of General Vasey, along with being 60 years since his passing. Therefore, we thought it appropriate to publish this brief commemoration of the General's Military Service.

George Vasey was born in Malvern, a suburb of Melbourne on 29 March 1895 and took an unusual career, at that time, in becoming an Officer in the somewhat miniscule Australian Army. He graduated from the Military College "Duntroon" in 1915, at the height of the Great War. Service in this conflict included his being the Adjutant of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery and later as a Brigade Major in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division.

He spent a part of 1918 working as a Staff Officer involved in the demobilization of the First AIF, as the Australian Forces had become known. As a Staff Corps Officer he then spent several years in the difficult situation of a diminished army, with extremely poor pay and conditions, with little or no opportunity for promotion or advancement of his career.

Vasey was fortunate to attend the British Army Staff College at Quetta in India (now in Pakistan) in 1928-29, returning to the sub-continent on exchange duty in 1934-37. At the outbreak of the Second World War, he gained both administrative and operational appointments on the headquarters of the 6<sup>th</sup> Division, which gave him great experience, before he assumed the command of the 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade in early 1941. Vasey served with distinction in the Greece and Crete campaigns during April and May of that year, and it was in those campaigns that he became known in Army circles as "Bloody George". During the withdrawals through Greece, he was stressing to his commanders that a particular position was to be held at all costs, telling his commanders: *"Here you bloody well are and here you bloody well stay. If any bloody German gets between your post and the next, turn your bloody Bren gun around and shoot him up his bloody \*\*\*\*"*

In late 1942 after an eventful period on the staff of General MacArthur in Brisbane, General Vasey was posted to Port Moresby as the Commander of the 6<sup>th</sup> Division. This was a period of some severe recriminations and "sackings" amongst the Allied commanders and, very soon afterwards Vasey found himself transferred to Command the 7<sup>th</sup> Division operating in the Myola area, towards Kokoda. He successfully implemented his predecessor's plan for a two-pronged advance to Kokoda and successfully entered the village on 2 November 1942.



*Kaiapit, New Guinea. 25/9/1943  
Leaving the airstrip from Brigade HQ.*

## MILITARY SERVICE

The difficult and costly assaults on the Buna, Gona and Sanananda areas were to follow, with serious delays and casualties to all the forces involved, with the troops becoming tired, dispirited and with low morale caused by all the delays and difficulties.



*Faria Valley, New Guinea. 14/11/1943*

*Major General Vasey & Major General Lethbridge wading through the Uria River on their return from Guy's Post*



*Dumpu, New Guinea. 18/12/1943*

*Major General Vasey relaxing at a mobile cinema show at HQ with General Sir Thomas Blamey and Major General Berryman*



*Watsonia Vic. 18/4/1944*

*Major General Vasey talking with three men from his unit.*

In 1943 General Vasey led his 7<sup>th</sup> Division into the Ramu and Markham River valleys with great success, however his health was deteriorating and in June 1944 he was evacuated to Australia to convalesce. In early 1945, Vasey was returned to active service as the Commander of the 6<sup>th</sup> Division in New Guinea. Whilst flying from Australia to assume this command the aircraft in which he was travelling crashed off the coast, near Cairns, Queensland and all on board were killed on 5 March 1944. The Australian Army lost a brave, colourful and competent Commander.



### **Major-General George Alan VASEY,**

Companion of the Order of the Bath, Commander of the Order of the British Empire,  
Companion of the Distinguished Service Order and bar.

29th March 1895—5th March 1945

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS MEETINGS



*During the months of May & June, information sessions were conducted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs at all Vasey Villages providing residents with details regarding health services and other benefits available to them thru the Department. Pictured are residents of "Northcott Gardens".*

## GENERAL MANAGERS' REPORT

As the Chairman reported the Association had an exceptional year in 2004/2005. Over the last 3 years the Board has concentrated on ensuring the financial viability of the organisation. We will next be concentrating our efforts on improving our practices and procedures with the aim of achieving firstly accreditation of our Maroubra village under the Australian Retirement Village Accreditation Standards, and then aiming for the accreditation of the remaining villages. It is envisaged that this project will be spread over a number of years. This will result in a significant additional workload being placed onto our staff, and I am therefore pleased to announce that Ms Jane Walker will now take up the position of Quality Assurance Co-ordinator. Jane's key responsibility will be to ensure that the Associations' Policies & Procedures adhere to all government and accreditation standards.

I take this opportunity to thank the residents of Vasey Housing for their support over the last year. Much of the credit for the increase in our new residents population belongs to our existing residents, with referrals from them accounting for 25% of all new sales last year. I also remind residents that, should they refer to us someone who later moves into a Vasey Unit, the Association will recognise that effort, by paying in full the existing resident's next quarterly Recurrent Charges for General Services.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the efforts of my team over the last 12 months, all have given 100% and their efforts are reflected in the results achieved during 2004/2005. Well done to all.

*David Elkins - General Manager*

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

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>
Mr David Elkins - General Manager	6th Floor	Brigadier Bruce Trimble    Chairman
Ms Jane Walker - Quality Assurance Co-ordinator	283 George Street SYDNEY NSW 2000	Mr John Lang OAM            Director Colonel Ken Duncan        Director
Mrs Nina Ivantcheva - Accountant	Phone: 02 - 9299 3951	Mr Grant Greene-Smith     Director
Mrs Ignazia Proia Firth - Resident Services	Fax: 02 - 9262 5610	Mr Warwick Williamson    Director
Mr Alan Firth - Property Maintenance Manager	ABN 79 000 389 319	Mr Adrian Mitchell         Director Mr Graham Byrne            Director

Email: [vaseynsw@bigpond.net.au](mailto:vaseynsw@bigpond.net.au)

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 you contribution to the editor or contact him on the above telephone number.