

# The Vasey Voice.



## A message from the CEO.

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Vasey Voice. I hope everyone has enjoyed a good start to the year. Personally, I am looking forward to the cooler weather of Autumn.

The exterior painting of Maroubra, Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Epping villages has commenced with the new colours being well received. We have also started installing some new outdoor furniture and it is encouraging to see an increased use of the outdoor spaces and more community get together.

To continue improving our communication, the number of resident meetings per year has been increased to six for each village. Two of these will be formal meetings as required by legislation to approve village budgets and review audited accounts. The remaining four will be less formal and I encourage all to come along prepared with good ideas and suggestions. The upcoming meeting dates will be listed in each edition of the Vasey Voice.

We are receiving an increased number of requests from residents to be allowed to keep pets (particularly cats or small

dogs) at each of the villages. To do so would require a formal resident vote to change the rules at each village (with the exception of cats already allowed at Hunters Hill). As a first step, we will be undertaking a survey over the coming months in order to gauge the level of interest among all residents for a possible change.

Our new cleaning contractors commenced on 1 January and the initial feedback has been positive with the level of service improving. Please remember that we rely strongly on residents to notify the office of any maintenance issues as they arise. Our Maintenance Manager, Graham Welch has been on top of his game having responded to 52 maintenance requests in the month of January alone.

I never cease to be amazed at the hidden talents of Vasey residents. I very much enjoyed Andrew's poem included in this edition and encourage others to share their talents with us all in the future.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter.

Graham Hooper  
CEO

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## Chairman.

The year has started off well for Vasey with the pace of activity settling down quickly for 2019. I must say that I'm looking forward to the weather becoming less humid!

I would like to thank Graham and the dedicated Vasey management team for the work they continue to do to keep all of our residents happy and well cared for. As many of you are aware, we only have a small number of staff members but they deliver well above their weight in terms of support provided to you all. Again, thank you to each and every one of you.

Director Kate Gunton, Graham and I took the opportunity in January to provide an update briefing to our Patron His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Ret'd). His Excellency is very supportive of the Association and was pleased to see the progress being made with the Kokoda Project and with our objective to provide more social engagement for residents. We took the opportunity to congratulate General Hurley on his appointment as the incoming Governor General of Australia, a role he takes up in June this year.

In regard to the Kokoda Project, the project management team continues to work with the Hornsby Shire Council to provide any clarification they may need in progressing the final Development Application. The detailed design of the building is at 70% completion and the tender documents have been sent to a shortlist of four well regarded construction companies. I am very impressed with the design of the apartments and, in particular, the provision of the ground floor community area. It is impressive and once complete, will be feather in the cap for Vasey Communities. We are aiming, subject to good sales progress, to commence construction mid-year.

Until next time, stay well and continue to support each other - warm regards.

Keith Schollum  
Chairman

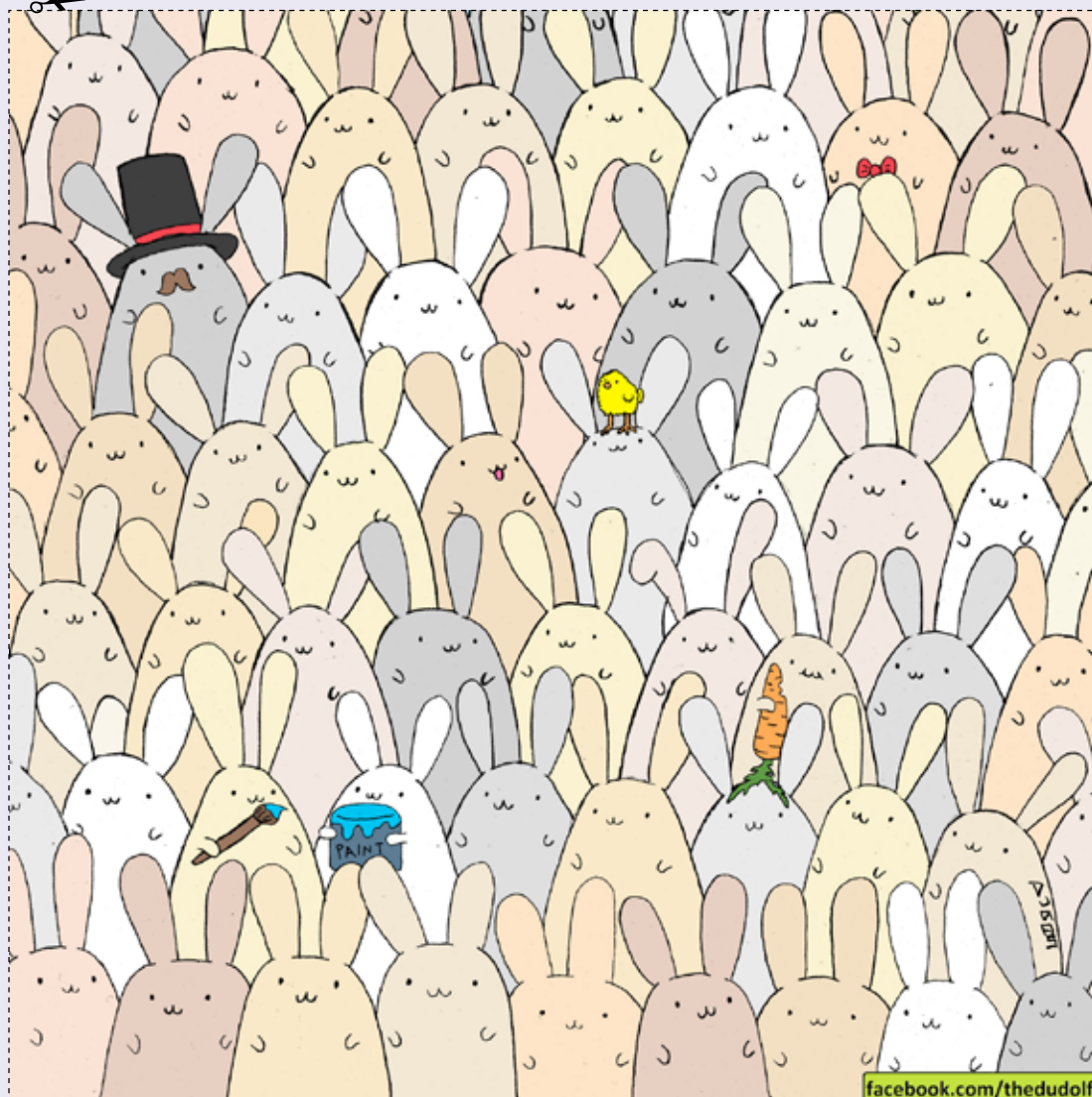
## Competition.

The winner of the below competition was Ian Adair from Hunters Hill with the answer: **Douglas Mawson.**

*My name is on a mountain in Tasmania  
and a suburb in Canberra.  
My face has been on stamps and currency.  
My hut is a National Heritage site.  
Keep warm!*

Congratulations Ian we hope you enjoy your prize!

**This edition's competition will be Easter egg inspired.**



facebook.com/thedudolf

Can you  
find the  
hidden  
egg?

Can you find the Easter egg hidden in this photo? To enter please cut out the image, circle the egg and return the entry to the admin box or simply email a photo to support@vasey.com.au. Good Luck!

## A note from Nancy.

A gentle reminder before the flu season. If you don't feel well after receiving the flu vaccination please notify your family, neighbours or Vasey staff so we can check on your welfare and assist you until you are back on your feet.

I believe that maintaining independence is very important and there are many ways this can be achieved at any age. Home visits by carers or health professionals, aids and equipment to assist with daily needs and mobility, going on outings and accessing the local community services.

I am organising tours to the Independent Living Specialists in Lane Cove Business Park. They have a large showroom with a selection of aids and equipment from exercise balls, jar opening aids, bath seats, lightweight walkers, recliner chairs to scooters and more.

If you are interested in joining the tour please contact me during office hours. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,  
Nancy Stjepanovic  
Residents Services Manager



*We have decided to pay tribute to General George Vasey by publishing an article written about him in the Daily Mirror on Wednesday, February 26 1986. It will be in three parts between this edition and the next two.*

## Plane Crash ended war for AIF's fighting general.

Although he became a legend during World War II as a fearless and successful fighting commander, Major General George Vasey was probably best known among his troops for his picturesque but powerful vocabulary. It earned him the nickname of Bloody George and it made his orders not only memorable but instantly comprehensible.

At one stage during the campaign in Greece in April 1941 Vasey, then a Brigadier, had his 19th Brigade astride the vital Brallos Pass with a heavy German attack developing.

After giving the CO of one battalion detailed instruction of his task, Vasey emphasised his point by saying: "Tell your fellows that here they bloody well are and here they bloody well stay. The enemy is sure to get behind them and when that happens they can turn their guns around and shoot the bastards in the backside." Later, in New Guinea, Vasey led the 7th Division when it turned the tide and pushed the Japanese back over the Owen Stanley Ranges.

Then it was on to the Japanese bases on the Northern New Guinea coastline at Buna, Gona and Sanananda.

As the victorious 7th set off for these objectives Vasey signalled to all units: "It's Buna or bust and we won't bloody well bust."

After the successful beach battles the next objective was Lae and Vasey's 7th Division beat the 9th in the race to capture it by just two hours.

Bloody George had proved himself not only an expert in jungle warfare tactics but as a colourful and fearless leader with ability second to none in capturing the affection of his troops and inspiring them to extra effort.

Back in the Middle East earlier in the war, Vasey had been offered a lift in his staff car by another high-ranking officer.

When they went out to the vehicle Vasey recognised the driver and greeted him with a hearty: "Hello, you old bastard. I haven't seen you for ages."

The driver glowed with pleasure and afterwards when they were alone he said to his own officer: "wonderful bloke, isn't he, sir?"

The officer in question was on good terms with his driver but he would never have dreamed of addressing him as Vasey had done. In fact he was certain the driver would have resented such familiarity from him.

George Alan Vasey was born in East Malvern, Victoria, on March 29, 1895, the son of a barrister. From Melbourne's Wesley College he sat for the Duntroon entrance examination in 1912 and passed with high marks.

After only two and a half years, instead of the customary four, Vasey's class graduated in the middle of 1915 and rushed overseas.

He served in the great Somme offensive of 1916 and finished the war as a Major in the 11th Infantry Brigade with a DSO.

In the years between the wars Vasey served in the regular army. He had two stints in India, one at the staff college at Quetta and the second in the mid-1930's, as an exchange officer.

In India, Vasey's pungent language first earned him the nickname of Bloody George. In later years his swearing was to inspire admiration, envy and awe throughout the Australian army.

Vasey's ability was recognised in India and he was offered the chance to transfer to the British army. "No", he said. "If there is a war coming I daresay there will be work to be done in Australia."

When war did come Vasey was appointed administrative staff officer with the 6th Division in the Middle East, a job he described as "the bloody housekeeper of the division."

With the rank of Colonel he organised all the behind-the-front back-up for the capture of Bardia in January 1941 and the advance to Benghazi.

Behind his desk Vasey quickly developed the knowledge of men that shortly made him such a success as a fighting

commander. He learned when to drive, when to coax and when to turn a blind eye.

Once when the 6th Division was training in Palestine a horse racing meeting was organised. While it was in progress an agitated officer raced up to Vasey to tell him some of the troops were ignoring the racing and organising two-up schools.

Many senior British and Arab public figures were present but Vasey's advice to the officer was short and to the point: "Turn your bloody back."

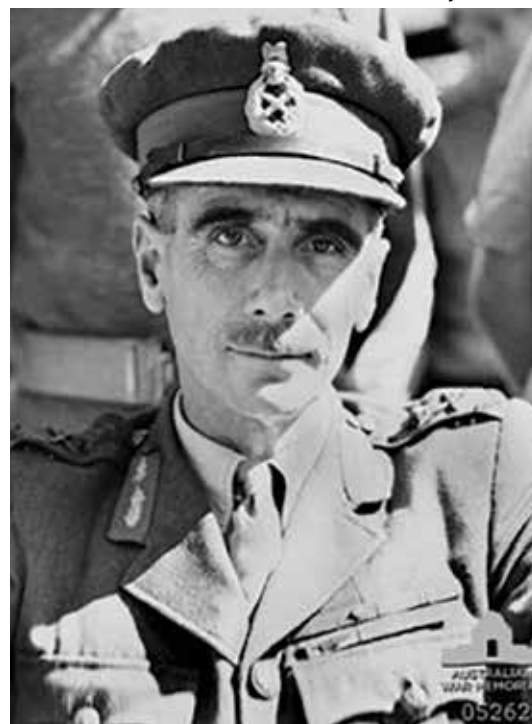
With officers who were his subordinates or equals, Vasey liked to establish psychological dominance at the first opportunity with brusque damn-your-eyes manner.

A new officer posted to the 6th Division headquarters from Australia later told how Vasey "roared my head off before I had the chance to open my mouth."

Later when they got to know each other the newcomer tackled Vasey about the reception he got.

"My boy", said Bloody George, a thin smile creasing. "I thought you might bloody well bounce me so I bloody well bounced you first. Sound principle."

*To be continued in the next issue of The Vasey Voice.*



## Resident feature.

This edition's resident feature will be a poem written by our resident Andrew Seils from Hunters Hill. Andrew is originally

from Scotland and has very kindly shared a poem he wrote in October 1970 about moving from his homeland to Australia.

### Australia

*As I sit and ponder lightly, of the action I have done.  
My thoughts they turn more serious, as I sift them, everyone  
I am sitting in a hostel, in a far and distant shore  
And to the loved ones we have left there, we may never see no more.*

*My future holds no prospects, as I have no skill at hand,  
But this is the life I've chosen, in this strange and alien land,  
And, yet still I am not lonely, for there's more to this in life,  
For indeed I have my children, and a very loving wife.*

*So who knows whate'er the future holds, it is not for us to see,  
But at least I have my Helen, not forgetting our impish three,  
So although we've not much money, in fact we have no wealth,  
I really should be thankful, after all, we have our health.*

*So here's to old Australia, our chosen count-er-ee,  
And also to our future, or whatever it's going to be,  
But there's one thing surely certain, and to that we can applaud,  
For our happiness and future, they are in the hands of God.*

## Kelsey's Corner.

February has marked the start of our monthly outings with Vasey. We started big with a Harbour Cruise which was attended by a great mix from all villages. Going forward each village will have an outing each month to a place of interest which everyone is more than welcome to suggest. The notice boards in each common room will have a "suggestions" sheet which I will check regularly. We also hope to do a day trip down to Canberra at some point during the year to visit the Australian War Memorial. We will plan that in the next couple of months when it cools down but before it gets too cold. We really encourage residents to submit some of the photos, artwork or writings to the Newsletter as we would love to showcase your talents. The computer classes will have started as this goes to press and it's a very exciting time with WIFI now being available in the common rooms.

Kelsey Foy  
Social Support Coordinator

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## Sudoku Puzzle.

Visit our website for  
Sudoku answers:  
[vasey.com.au](http://vasey.com.au)

## Upcoming Resident Meetings.

Vasey residents and their relatives are encouraged to attend regular resident meetings to discuss items relating to those living in the villages. Participating in these meetings will give you the opportunity to provide feedback on the care and services we provide and have your say on various aspects of management of your facility to enhance your quality of life.

So please join us for a chat over a cuppa on the following dates.

### Epping.

10th April 2019 at 10:30am  
12th June 2019 at 10:30am

### Maroubra.

10th April 2019 at 2:30pm  
12th June 2019 at 2:30pm

### Lane Cove.

17th April 2019 at 10:30am  
19th June 2019 at 10:30am

### Hunters Hill.

17th April 2019 at 2:30pm  
19th June 2019 at 2:30pm

# Vasey.

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