

# Resident feature.

For this edition's resident insert we have some photos of one of our wonderful residents at an art exhibition in Hunters Hill. This is one of our talented artists

from Wurley Court, Ian Galbraith. The exhibition/competition was on Friday 10 May.



# Kelsey's Corner.

Since the last edition we have had day trips to Watsons Bay on the ferry and to Barangaroo. Both trips had buses provided by Vasey and were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. As always we are open to any suggestions for our next trips. Vasey also put on a BBQ in our Epping village as the village has just recently installed a BBQ. We have plans for events in all other villages too, so keep an eye out for your invite!! Over the next couple of months we have plans to bring some wonderful singers into the villages to perform for residents and there will be a lovely afternoon tea provided. I have included some photos of the social activities that have taken place over the past few weeks for you to enjoy.

Kelsey Foy  
Social Support Coordinator

# Competition.

We had 3 winners of the Easter Competition. They were:

- Bea Kerwin from Hunters Hill
- Robin Burns from Maroubra
- Joan Lloyd from Hunters Hill

This edition's competition will be a Sudoku to get the brains exercised. If you would like to enter please complete the puzzle and pop it into the admin box. Good luck!

Congratulations and enjoy your prizes!

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

Sudoku time!



# 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.

- 7th August 2019 at 10:30am
- 9th October 2019 at 10:30am

## Maroubra.

- 7th August 2019 at 2:30pm
- 9th October 2019 at 2:30pm

## Lane Cove.

- 19th June 2019 at 10:30am
- 14th August 2019 at 10:30am
- 16th October 2019 at 10:30am

## Hunters Hill.

- 19th June 2019 at 2:30pm
- 14th August 2019 at 2:30pm
- 16th October 2019 at 2:30pm

# The Vasey Voice.

## Lane Cove 50th Anniversary.



Residents of LC enjoying the 50th celebration.



Residents enjoying the plaque unveiling.



Chairman Keith Schollum speaking at the 2019 Leaders Summit.



Chairman Keith Schollum with Anthony Roberts & Mayor Pam Palmer.



Chairman Keith Schollum, Members Cheryl & Gary Bannister.

# A message from the CEO.

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Vasey Voice. During the Easter break I had the opportunity to visit India as a guest of the charity, 'Project Help India'. We travelled to northern India in the foothills of the Himalayas and had the opportunity to visit schools providing education to children living in poverty. We also met with local police, as the charity assists with providing education and awareness about child labour and human trafficking. It was a truly eye opening and rewarding experience.

The Vasey financial year ended on 30 March and I am pleased to say that the accounts for all four villages finished with a budget surplus. Copies of the audited accounts will be distributed along with invitations to the Annual Management Meeting for each village. These will be held over the months of June and July. Please keep your eye out for the dates at your village.

A new electric BBQ has been installed at Epping Manor. The 'christening' of the BBQ was celebrated on Friday 10 May. It was a well attended event

with the special guest chef, yours truly, proving how simple the new BBQ was to use. Although I'm not likely to appear on MasterChef any time soon, positive comments from residents on my BBQ culinary skills were very encouraging. We plan to run more of these BBQ lunches across all villages between now and the end of the year.

Our annual resident survey will be coming up later in the year. This is an important opportunity for Vasey to receive feedback from residents in order to continue to improve the villages and our services. Thanks to those who completed the survey last year and we look forward to hearing from even more people this year.

I am continually amazed with the talents of Vasey residents. Congratulations to Ian Galbraith of Wurley Court on his work being displayed at the recent Hunters Hill Art Exhibition. A fine achievement that is well deserved.

Thanks  
Graham Hooper  
CEO

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Vasey.

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# Chairman.

We have had a busy first Quarter to 2019 and I would like to advise that the Vasey Financial Year (our FY ends on 30 March each year) has wrapped up with another successful outcome. The Vasey Housing Association NSW (Vasey) is in a very strong position, from a business perspective and a financial one.

The Board conducted its Annual Strategy Day on 30 March and I would like to think that we have successfully reviewed our current corporate plan and started laying the foundations for where Vasey will be in the future. This is especially important as our Kokoda Residences Project nears its construction phase and as we look at options for how we might provide a service to future residents. I am really confident that the Board is thinking 'out-of-the-box' in order to remain relevant into the future and to ensure that we are meeting the outcomes described in the Vasey Mission and Vision statements.

As I have stated previously, Kokoda Residences Project planning is progressing well. We have considered the tender submissions from a number of major construction companies that responded to our tender request and have selected a company with whom we are negotiating. Subject to final planning approval we should be able to start our early works package (digging the basement) in the near future. Graham and I provided an update briefing on the Project to the Member for Ku-ring-gai, the Honourable Alister Henskens SC on 12 April – the site is within his electoral boundary. Graham and I also provided an Association Member update on 16 April – thank you to the Members who attended.

In terms of other activities, I think that the Northcote Gardens Lane Cove 50th Anniversary held on 29 March was a wonderful event. Local Member of

Parliament, the Honourable Anthony Roberts spoke well of our presence in the community. It was great to see the Mayor of Lane Cove, Councillor Pam Palmer in attendance. As one of our Association Members said afterwards, "It was so nice to see so many happy faces enjoying the brief ceremony and the morning tea".

As I always do, I would like to thank Graham and his team for the work they continue to do to keep the business running smoothly and everyone's requests attended to. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Until next time, stay well and continue to support each other – best wishes.

Keith Schollum  
Chairman

# Vasey BBQ in Epping.



Residents enjoying the day and company.



Our CEO taking control of the BBQ.

# A note from Nancy.

Living independently and safely is what each person desires. Community living can enhance independence allowing more time to do things you enjoy. I am happy to say that residents across all villages show great community spirit, keep an eye on each other and lend a hand in times of need. Another way to get help around home and with your health and wellbeing is by accessing home and community care services.

If you wish to access subsidised services you will need to contact My Aged Care for services through the Commonwealth Home Support Program or Home Care Packages. Please contact me at the office if you require assistance accessing any services.

Throughout the year I will be introducing presentations in the village common room from various service providers to keep you informed and updated with services and

products available to help you maintain your independence and quality of life.

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.

Continued from last edition....

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

In March 1941 Vasey was promoted to Brigadier and given command of the 19th Brigade. A few days later the 19th, with the rest of the division, was sent to Greece as part of a combined British, Australian and New Zealand force to meet the coming German onslaught.

Although the outcome of the campaign was inevitable Vasey was going to give it his best try.

His 19th Brigade took the first shock of the German assault and then fought a determined rearguard action all the way down the Greek peninsula.

At one stage Vasey stormed into 6th Division Headquarters to complain about shortage of equipment and supplies. He was confronted by a bland staff officer who was clearly unaware of the life and death situation in the forward area.

"What the hell do you think we're fighting with up there?" Vasey exploded. "Now get off your fat backside and get us what we want to fight this bloody war".

Of course the Allies were fighting a forlorn cause. Once the Greek forces surrendered on April 14th, the entire left flank was left open and evacuation was the only course left.

Vasey got his men out of Greece with their weapons still in their hands and ready to

fight another day. Then they went straight to Crete in a hopeless attempt to repel what was to be the only complete air invasion of the war.

As the senior Australian officer, Vasey found himself commanding not only his own brigade but also thousands of other Australian troops.

Somehow he maintained morale and kept his force fighting from the first German airborne invasion on May 20 until the final evacuation on the night of May 31.

When Vasey came ashore in Alexandria, having been rescued from Crete with his men by the Royal Navy, he was met on the wharf by a war correspondent who posed the fatuous question: "Well sir, how was Crete?"

As thin as a beanpole, dirty and exhausted, Vasey looked at him with his deep-set brown eyes and gave a reply that went around the world. "Crete was alright", he said. "It was perfectly all right, except that it was a bloody mess-up from arsehole to breakfast time."

Vasey was rebuilding his shattered brigade when, four days after Pearl Harbor, he was one of a number of experienced senior officers summoned back to Australia. In 1942 he was kept on staff jobs at army headquarters as the Japanese advanced

on Port Moresby. Daily came news of Australian withdrawals along the Kokoda Trail as the outnumbered Diggers of the 7th Division were pushed back. On September 22 the Japanese were halted at Imita Ridge, only 55km by air from Moresby. Then the Australians went over from retreat to advance. But the advance was not fast enough for the Commander-in-Chief Gen MacArthur and his Allied Land Forces Commander Gen Blamey. On October 28 Vasey, then a Major- General, was given command of the 7th Division.



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

# Our Watsons Bay Trip.



Residents enjoying the day and company.



Residents and Kelsey waiting for the bus at Balmain East with the beautiful Harbour Bridge in the background.



Relaxing waiting on the ferry.