



New Support for Geelong Veterans

In 2025, the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs announced funding through the Veteran Acute Housing Program: this included \$4.68 million awarded to Vasey RSL Care under the Capital Works stream for a new type of regional accommodation and support service at Geelong.

One year later, our planning submission to the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning has received approval to go to the advertising stage and progress towards the new 'V Satellite Geelong' is well under way.

"Our current priorities, set out in our Strategic Plan 2025-2030 include veteran transitions and growing our impact: this new initiative is a direct result of our commitment and determination to do more for those who need it," says CEO, Janna Voloshin.

The V Satellite Geelong will deliver a purpose-built, two-storey building, offering self-contained one-bedroom apartments along with a communal space on the ground floor to support connection and wellbeing.

"This project represents an important step forward in strengthening support for our veteran community," says Janna.

"It will provide much-needed housing and associated services for veterans at transitional points in their lives."

The V Satellite model is based loosely on the V Centre Veteran Empowerment Program in Ivanhoe, offering veteran-specific accommodation and support. Our Veteran Housing and Support Officers (VHSOs), also funded through the Veteran Acute Housing Program, will help link residents to local supports and services, empowering them to overcome challenges and find a new path forwards.

"Whether it's leaving the Defence Force, securing long-term housing, changing life circumstances or overcoming other life changes, we know these are the points when more support is needed to help avoid a downward spiral," says Janna.

BELOW: AN IMPRESSION OF THE PLANNED V SATELLITE GEELONG, VIEWED FROM McCLELLAND ROAD.



From Our CEO

Winter 2026

Towards our Strategic Goals

Last year, we launched our Strategic Plan 2025-30 which included some significant goals to develop services and supports, not just for the current community, but thinking ahead to the next generation and the one beyond that.

In our Plan, we set out four priorities: Veteran Transitions, Inclusive Living, Growing Our Impact, and Support at Home. Under each of these priorities sit many goals that could easily take multiple lifetimes to achieve, but how can we be proud of what we do if we identify needs and do nothing to address them?

Envisioning a better future for older Australians, for veterans and for their families, has led to initiatives that are already in the pipeline and others that are in earlier stages.

It was a significant milestone to receive the Planning Permit to move forward with the Frankston South Integrated Living Development and at the start of May, approval was received to go ahead with advertising the planning submission for the V Satellite Geelong. Both these major projects demonstrate our dedication to supporting our community.

A year into our current Strategic Plan, it is clear how much progress has already been made, and I was reminded of this at a recent planning workshop for the Frankston South Development: the facilitator complimented us on maintaining focus on the Plan and continuing to measure ourselves against our progress, noting, somewhat sadly, that this is often not the case, even among well-run organisations.

We are very clear about what our goals are, and we are determined to achieve them for the good of everyone connected to Vasey RSL Care.

Executive Team Changes

An essential aspect of the organisation's future success is the continued strengthening of meaningful partnerships and building new ones as we move into new business areas.

To focus on this work, a new role, Head of Strategic Partnerships – Veterans and Corporate, has been created and I'm delighted to announce that Chris Gray has been appointed to the role. Chris has already been involved in this work in his previous positions, and I know he will continue to use his knowledge and



experience, understanding of the veteran community (being an 18-year ADF veteran himself) and networks to strengthen our alliances with ex-service organisations, mainstream services, corporate and industry partners.

Commemorations and Celebrations

Over the past quarter we have marked the end of summer, celebrated Easter, commemorated ANZAC Day, celebrated mothers and recognised all those who choose nursing as a profession – all important dates on the calendar, and you can read more about some of these in the following pages (and on our social media).

Staff Saluting Excellence Awards

Our annual staff awards nomination period is **opening soon**. I would like to encourage you to nominate a staff member who has had a positive impact on you – perhaps they have supported you at a particularly difficult time, or made a complex process easier, or simply provided you with an excellent experience. Your nomination means the world to our staff, so do watch out for nominations opening soon.

It's Flu Season: Vaccinate, Isolate

As winter begins, it's time to make sure you and your family are protected from this year's strains of flu and COVID19: do get your vaccinations if you haven't already done so.

For those visiting loved ones in residential aged care, a reminder again how vulnerable older people are to these infections and how easily they spread through aged care environments: please take care of yourselves, and if there is any chance you are not 100% well, stay away until you are fully recovered.

Thank you for helping us keep our community safe and well this winter.

Janna Voloshin
Chief Executive Officer

Uniting for Combined Advocacy

Advocating Nationally for Veterans through Veteran Care Australia

At Vasey RSL Care, we are pleased to be a founding member of Veteran Care Australia (VCA) – a national collaboration bringing together leading ex-service and care organisations committed to improving outcomes for veterans and their families across Australia.

Alongside our partners, including RAAFA in Western Australia and RSL Care SA in South Australia, we are combining to strengthen the voice of the veteran community at a national level.

Recently, our CEO, Janna Voloshin, travelled to Canberra alongside fellow VCA representatives to meet with Federal Labor Ministers and Shadow Opposition Ministers. These discussions focused on the growing challenges facing the veteran sector, including the impact of Australia’s housing crisis on veterans and the increasingly complex needs of older ex-service people.

The visit provided an important opportunity to share frontline insights, strengthen relationships with key decision-makers, and advocate for meaningful, long-term solutions that support veterans and their families.

Representing the VCA partnership during the visit were Michelle Fyfe from RAAFA WA, Nathan Klinge from RSL Care SA, and our own CEO, Janna Voloshin, accompanied and organised by Heidi Flower, our Government Relations and Media Adviser.

“Through Veteran Care Australia, we are helping build a stronger national voice for veterans – one that drives reform, informs policy, and champions the dignity, wellbeing, and housing security every veteran deserves,” says Janna. “We are determined to advocate for lasting change for veterans and their families across the country.”



PICTURED: RAAFA WA CEO MICHELLE FYFE, SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DEFENCE AND VETERANS’ AFFAIRS LUKE GOSLING MP, VASEY RSL CARE CEO JANNA VOLOSHIN AND RSL CARE SA CEO NATHAN KLINGE.

Celebrating Our Nursing Staff

International Nurses Day, on the anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth, 12 May, was celebrated at each of our aged care homes to acknowledge our wonderful, caring, kind nurses. Thank you to all our nurses: we appreciate you.



Supporter News

Thank you Box Hill RSL Sub-branch

The Box Hill RSL Sub-branch has provided financial support for the V Centre in Ivanhoe for the past three years: their support funds the costs related to the family apartment just over the road from the V Centre in Samma Place, where participants' family members can come and stay. This means that veterans taking part in the program can have their partners, or children, parents or other close family visit nearby and it has proved its worth for many participants.

Among numerous examples during the two and a bit years the V Centre has been active, one stands out in particular: after being estranged from his family for over twenty years, one veteran began to reconnect and was then able to have his mum stay nearby to restart their relationship, supported by the team at the V Centre.

We send sincere thanks to the Box Hill RSL Sub-branch for committing to this support for a further three

years, specifically President John Haward, committee members and General Manager Ben Myers for their belief in the V Centre Veteran Empowerment Program. "This is a powerful example of the Sub-branch network supporting their own," said Janna Voloshin, CEO.

We were delighted to host a morning tea for the Box Hill RSL Sub-branch committee in April and took them on a tour of the centre.

John Haward said: "Supporting veterans is at the heart of everything we do, and the V Centre Veteran Empowerment Program is delivering real outcomes for those doing it tough. It provides veterans with a vital starting point on their path to independence. We are proud to partner with Vasey RSL Care and contribute to a program that is making a genuine difference in the lives of veterans."



Government Grant News

We were very pleased that our submission to the Victorian Government's 'Strengthening Medicare – Supporting Older Australians' initiative granted us \$32,000 under the Residential Aged Care Equipment Grants.

Pictured are some of our nursing staff at Brighton East (left) and Bundoora showing off the new infra-red thermometers, vital signs monitors and finger pulse oximeters, critical tools that support timely clinical assessment and response.

We are greatly appreciative of a \$50,000 grant from the Victorian Veteran Capital Works Grant Program towards upgrading access and safety measures for our Cheltenham Ex-Service Accommodation site: this will assist us in improving access to the community hall and



to the bathrooms, particularly for those with mobility aids, and improving pedestrian safety across the site.

Lastly, funding received through the Victorian Government's ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund last year has enabled two specialist programs for V Centre participants, which you can read about on page 10.



Our New Dolphin Friendship



Vasey RSL Care has become a sponsor of the local Frankston Dolphins Football Netball Club. Just down the road from our Frankston South Aged Care Home and Ex-Service Accommodation, 'FDFNC' is a thriving family-oriented club supporting men, women and children to get involved. With their values of respect, tradition and community, we have much in common and look forward to a long and happy partnership!

Our relationship with the Dolphins got off to a fabulous start with a group of residents invited to attend as VIP guests. The Seniors Men's team put on a great game for them, winning by 158 points to Keysborough's 70.

Our residents were very well looked after by the Dolphins staff and supporters and it looks like they have become new fans. Big thanks to Ben, Gavin, Caleb and the whole FDFNC family!



Cooking with Our Residents for ANZAC Day

In the lead up to ANZAC Day, we had some excellent cooking sessions at our aged care homes with some of our elected members from state and federal government showing us their culinary skills.



At our Bundoora aged care home, the Hon Colin Brooks, Minister for Defence Industry in the Victorian Parliament, joined our Chief Financial Officer Milka, with great results: residents gave their biscuits 10/10!

Manager Carol and the lifestyle team. The taste testers were very enthusiastic.

At our Frankston South aged care home, Jodie Belyea MP, Federal Member for Dunkley, joined us again this year, noting, "Baking ANZAC biscuits is an important tradition, helping us remember the sacrifices made by those who served – and continue to serve – to protect our democracy."



At our Brighton East aged care home, residents including Pam, Kath and Shirley, were joined by CEO Janna and Executive General Manager Residential Services Corinne, for a baking session with Residential

Paul Edbrooke MP, State Member for Frankston, didn't need to keep his fingers crossed - the results disappeared very quickly.

"More thrilling than the Great British Bake Off Grand Finale," Paul said of the experience.



Lest We Forget



ANZAC Day 2026

VASEY RSL CARE BRIGHTON EAST



VASEY RSL CARE BRIGHTON



A very special commemorative service was held on ANZAC Day at Vasey RSL Care Brighton: many thanks to all our attendees and special thanks to our service participants: Linda, David, Judy, Joan, Graeme and Marie.

We'd like to thank our special guests Peter Corfield, Welfare Officer at Beaumaris RSL Sub-branch; our CEO, Janna Voloshin and Director on our Board Michele Lewis who all contributed to our service.



At Vasey RSL Care Brighton East, we were very pleased to be joined by Warrant Officers Mark Brown and Corey Denning, and from Highett RSL Sub-branch, Jim Dale.

We would like to thank our residents who took part in the service, including John, Harold, Ben, Wally, Geoff and Marjorie.

A big thanks to Luka for playing the trumpet and to all our volunteers for assisting with the service.





VASEY RSL CARE BUNDOORA



For our commemorative service at Vasey RSL Care Bundoora, residents were joined by family members and friends to mark this solemn occasion.

We are very grateful to all who took part in the service - our bagpiper David Cretney, bugler Dawson Conceicao, guest speaker from Simpson Barracks, Lieutenant Daniel O'Keeffe and donkey handler May Dodd, and we welcomed Senior Executive Officer Tamara Paton from Central Office.

Vasey RSL Care CEO Janna Voloshin and Executive General Manager Chris Gray were proud to attend the Victorian Association of Jewish Ex & Servicemen & Women Australia (VAJEX) at their ANZAC Day service on 26 April.

During this very moving service, Isaac and Alex Itescu's rendition of 'In Flanders Fields' was truly captivating and a highlight of the morning.

A sincere thank you to VAJEX President Janice Furstenberg (pictured centre) for her leadership, and to the entire organisation for the important work you do in supporting the ex-service community.

VASEY RSL CARE FRANKSTON SOUTH



On ANZAC Day 2026, residents, families, volunteers and staff of Vasey RSL Care Frankston South participated in a commemoration service.

We were honoured to have Lieutenant

Commander Richard Mingramm of the Royal Australian Navy as our special guest speaker, delivering the ANZAC Day message.

Reverend Garry Gason delivered the Minister's address, Anthony Donnellan, Business & Commercial Manager, laid a wreath in memory of all who served, and resident Betty recited 'In Flanders Fields'.



A Visit to Seymour's Vietnam Commemoration

A group of residents from Vasey RSL Care Bundoora had a very special outing earlier this year to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Seymour, thanks to Lifestyle Coordinator, Linda, her team and volunteers.



The day began with a short bus ride to Donnybrook station (top right), where the group boarded the train for a scenic ride to Seymour. Residents made new friends on the train, including the helpful and friendly conductor, Mitchell (above right).



Arriving at Seymour, Golf Carts Travel Assist provided wonderful assistance with transferring residents to their bus (right) for a lovely lunch at the Seymour club, before heading to the Commemorative Walk.

Located along High Street Seymour, the Commemorative Walk, Memorial Grove and Vietnam Memorial Wall, proudly commemorate the service of all personnel serving during the Vietnam conflict on behalf of Australia from 1962 to 1975.



Seymour was chosen for this memorial due to its history as a site for military training going right back to the Boer War. The commemorative project began in 2012 and was undertaken in a series of stages.

The focal piece is the winding wall of glass and photo panels depicting the story of the Vietnam conflict and listing the names of every individual service member in alphabetical order - more than 60,000 names.

Linda tells us: "The walk was an emotional experience for many of our veterans, who were able to find their own names and the names of comrades they had served alongside." (Photo: top)

It was a long and tiring day, but a wonderful and meaningful visit for residents, staff and volunteers.



"Thank you to our bus driver Terry and volunteer Benetta", says Linda. "We could not have done this trip without you!"

Or you, Linda!



Opening Our Brighton East Memorial

Regular readers may remember reading in our last issue about the new Memorial to veterans and Mrs Jessie Mary Vasey OBE CBE at our Brighton East aged care home. Our Memorial has now been officially opened!

On 23 March, Vasey RSL Care Brighton East welcomed guests to join us for an opening ceremony for our new Memorial.

We were delighted to welcome Ryan Batchelor MP, Member for the Southern Metropolitan Region in the Victorian Parliament, who, together with our Board Chair, Mike O'Meara OAM, spoke about the importance of remembrance and honouring our veterans, before cutting the ribbon and declaring the Memorial 'open'.

The 'Honouring Their Service' Memorial, recognises veterans, war widows and the remarkable legacy of Mrs Vasey, and was made possible through funding from the Victorian Government's Victoria Remembers Grants Program. The Memorial has transformed an underused

space into a place of reflection, remembrance and connection for all who live, work or spend time in any capacity at our Brighton East aged care home.

We would like to thank Ryan Batchelor for being with us on this special occasion, honouring those who have dedicated their lives to serving, and spending time with our residents and guests.

BELOW LEFT: RYAN AND MIKE CUT THE RIBBON. BELOW CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BOARD MEMBER TRACEY BANNAN WITH FORMER WAR WIDOWS GUILD MEMBERS KATH BANKS OAM AND SHIRLEY CRICHTON, NOW 101 AND AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE WWG; OUR CELEBRATION CUP CAKES WENT DOWN WELL; BOARD MEMBER AND VETERAN LUCY SAARON WITH BOARD CHAIR MIKE; RYAN WITH RESIDENT AND VETERAN HAROLD.



Winter Preparedness in Residential Aged Care

As we prepare for the colder months, we are focused on keeping residents safe from influenza, COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. Vaccinations remain the most effective protection, and all recommended vaccines continue to be offered free of charge to residents and staff.

Residents who are eligible can also receive shingles and pneumococcal vaccines, and from 15 May 2026, the RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) vaccine is funded for adults aged 75+ and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 60+.

All homes have clear processes for informed consent, communication with residents and families, and planning on site vaccination clinics.

Access to the Australian Immunisation Register helps us keep records accurate and ensure timely follow up. Antiviral preparedness and winter planning are in place across all sites.

Our People and Capability team monitors staff vaccination rates and supports workers with access, information and clinic planning to help keep our homes well protected this winter.

If you haven't already had your annual COVID-19 booster or influenza vaccination, we strongly encourage you to book in as soon as you can: the more of us who do this, the harder it is for the viruses to spread among the general population. We must all do our bit to protect ourselves and those around us.



Veteran Wellbeing Path of the Horse Camp

There is no shortage of research demonstrating the value of animals in supporting people in a whole variety of ways. Dean Mighell set up 'Path of the Horse' in 2016 to provide equine therapy specifically to support the veteran community. A group of V Centre veterans recently visited for a wellbeing camp.

Day 1 kicked off with a warm welcome from veteran and Path of the Horse founder Dean, who introduced the group to the horses.

Next, it was off to Blackwood for some Forest Therapy with Greg Cassidy from Return 2 Nature.

This was a relaxed and grounding walk - earthing, connecting with the trees, and finishing up with bush tea in the 'sit spot', where Lemon Myrtle was a clear favourite.

Back at Path of the Horse, everyone had lunch, followed by a group equine therapy session with Dean.

The horses didn't take long to settle any nerves, and there were some really special moments throughout.

The group came together afterwards to share reflections. "We're grateful to Dean for opening up about his own journey post-service," said one of the participants.

The day finished around the campfire with plenty of good conversation before turning in for the night and sleeping under the stars in swags.

"Connecting to nature again has shown me the importance to slow down, breathe and be in the moment."

Veteran Empowerment Program participant



Day 2 brought some glorious weather! Bacon and eggs set the team up for the day before easing into a morning yoga session with Cazz from Frontline Yoga Inc.

From there, it was time to head back out with the horses, taking in the spectacular landscape and enjoying more quiet moments of connection.

Our thanks to Dean and his team for their support throughout the camp.

More info/photos online: vaseyrslcare.org.au

Nourishing Healthy Food at the V Centre

It's tempting to reach for a snack or grab a takeaway - so it's important to be reminded that good healthy nourishing food doesn't have to be complicated or take time to make! The V Centre has been running a weekly Health & Nutrition workshop with Kelly Michelakis...



Kelly's Cretan heritage and passion for food led her to found 'The Hellenic Odyssey', where she runs Greek cooking classes both online and in person, and walking food tours in Melbourne.

Kelly tells us, "I help people to learn how to cook delicious and nutritious food in a fun and interactive environment so they can gain the kitchen skills needed to become confident cooks."



Frankston South ESA Resident's Art On Show

Congratulations to Lloyd Binion, a resident at our Frankston South Ex-Service Accommodation, who recently had two of his works exhibited at the Frankston Art Show, held annually at the Seaford Community Centre.

Lloyd has a very varied background, working as a press artist, serving in the survey corps in the Australian Army and special ops policing.

He has always enjoyed art, and uses coloured pencils and pen and ink to achieve his intricate and vivid works.

"I can't compete with nature," Lloyd says, but nature does inspire him and he sees beauty around him, "like the sun peeping through behind a tree".

Lloyd has a few dozen of his works hanging in his unit and has a new one in progress. "I never do the same thing twice," he says, although there may be some times when he creates a few on the same theme.

Lloyd spends a few hours each day in front of his easel and is always happy to talk to others about art.



LLOYD IS PICTURED ABOVE WITH SOME OF HIS MANY HIGHLY DETAILED ARTWORKS.

Legal Info Session

Legal matters can be tricky. The residents at Vasey RSL Care Ex-Service Accommodation Frankston South recently had the opportunity to attend an information session run by the Peninsula Community Legal Centre, an independent, not-for-profit organisation that provides free legal services.

John (back row, middle) spoke generally on a number of topics, such as wills, Powers of Attorney, estate planning, family violence including elder abuse, fines and civil debt. He also provided details on organisations where residents can get further advice.

Residents reported that it had been a very interesting and useful session. Thank you PCLC.



VASEY RSL CARE

CS Team Out & About

Members of our Community Services Team have been getting around the state in the last few months to spread the word about Support at Home (previously Home Care Package Program) and Veterans' Home Care, supporting older people to remain at home.

David, Intake & Business Development Officer, (pictured below) spent the day at Box Hill RSL Sub-branch recently, talking to the bowls teams, as well as presenting trophies for the winners (pictured) and runners up in the Club Triples Day.

If you'd like us to come and talk about our services to a group or club that you are part of, give David a call via our switch – 9810 5500, extension 1.



