



## Homelessness on the Increase



On one of the coldest nights of the year, a group of Vasey RSL Care central office staff joined 150 others to sleep outdoors in support of those who have no choice but to do this every night.

It has been a long and cold winter for the increasing number of Australians sleeping rough across our community.

On 31 July, 13 Vasey RSL Care staff and two of their children slept outdoors as part of the inaugural **Southern Peninsula Winter Sleepout**, an event helping to raise awareness and funds for homelessness services.

While one night outdoors cannot replicate the daily reality faced by those without stable housing, it was a memorable experience and an insight into the challenges faced every day by an increasing number in our community.

Initiated by **The Ranch Adventure Park** in Boneo and organised in conjunction with **Southern Peninsula Community Support (SPCS)**, the event brought together more than 150 people in a display of community spirit and compassion.

SPCS supports people along the Mornington Peninsula experiencing homelessness, both with crisis assistance and a whole range of programs designed to prevent homelessness in the first place. Last financial year, they supported 421 individuals experiencing homelessness and 1,300 people at risk of homelessness.

Every person deserves the security, dignity and hope that comes with having a place to call home. By coming together as a community, we can help ensure more people receive the support they need when life becomes difficult.

During the event, over \$20,000 was raised to support the work of SPCS and thank you to those who donated. If you still wish to, please follow this QR code:



# From Our CEO

Spring 2026

## Towards our Strategic Goals

Last issue, I reported that we had made significant steps forward with two major projects: the Planning Permit was issued for the Frankston South Integrated Living Development and approval was received to advertise the planning submission for the V Satellite Geelong.

Since then, work has continued and the detailed plans for Frankston South are progressing well with a planned start date in mid-2027; at Geelong, we received the Planning Permit and work has begun at the site, with updated services being installed prior to the build starting later this year.

Both projects are on target and we will continue to provide updates as they progress.

## Homelessness Week

As reported on page one, we marked Homelessness Week this year by taking part in the Southern Peninsula Sleepout to raise awareness and support for the growing issue of homelessness in our community.

I'd like to thank our staff - and their children - for taking part and showing compassion towards those experiencing homelessness by sleeping outdoors in the middle of winter.

Veterans are nearly three times as likely as the general population to experience homelessness and we are working to address this with our Veteran Empowerment Program at the V Centre. We continue to seek ongoing financial support for this work and ask you to consider supporting it - please see page 5!

## Commemorations

Important commemorations in the last quarter included Korean Veterans day on 27 July and Vietnam Veterans Day on 18 August.

Nearly 60,000 Australian personnel served in Vietnam alongside United States and South Vietnamese forces. This conflict claimed the lives of 523 Australians, left 2,398 injured and many more mentally scarred by their experiences.

In addition to regular members of the ADF, young conscripts joined them from 1966 onwards and those men are now turning 80. We are proud to support many Vietnam Veterans across our ex-service housing, aged care homes and home care services.



## Thank you Barry

Board Director and Deputy Chair, Barry Lowe, has recently retired from the Board of Directors after nine years of service to the organisation and its mission.

Barry is a Vietnam Veteran and brought expertise in both the veteran community and the building industry to our skills-based Board. Over the last few years, Barry has contributed his knowledge and expertise to major projects including the conversion of our Ivanhoe aged care home into the V Centre, and the construction of the twenty new units at Bundoora.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Barry for his commitment and dedication over nearly a decade to Vasey RSL Care and the veterans we serve.

We send our very best wishes to Barry and his family and we hope he enjoys a bit more free time.

## Our Workforce

On 7 August we marked Aged Care Employee Day. We have over 700 staff and the majority either work directly with older people or indirectly support them, so this annual day of recognition is really important to us.

Thank you to all our staff for the care, kindness and compassion you show to our community 24x7.

All new staff are invited to our 'Enshrining Excellence' program held at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. This helps new staff - especially those who have not grown up in Australia - get a good understanding of the organisation's background, the ANZAC tradition, the work of Mrs Vasey OBE CBE, and how our organisation differs from others. This takes place every quarter and we strongly encourage all staff to attend.

Still on the subject of staff, I'd like to thank everyone who nominated one or more staff members for this year's Saluting Excellence Awards, to be announced at our conference in November.

With best wishes,

**Janna Voloshin**, Chief Executive Officer

# Honouring First Nations Australians



## Central Office Flag Dedication

During NAIDOC Week, 5-12 July, staff at central office attended a ceremony to install the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in a permanent display in the reception area.

Tamara Paton, Acting CEO noted that the national NAIDOC committee marks 50 years this year, 'five decades celebrating the voices of indigenous communities, with the theme 50 years of deadly'.

Jannette Fleming, Executive General Manager Community Services, gave the Acknowledgement of Country and of all who have served.

Head of Strategic Partnerships, Chris Gray, noted that around 1200 indigenous Australians served in World War I and around 7000 in World War II, at a time when First Nations people didn't even have the right to vote.

Today there are over 3000 ADF members and close to 12,000 veterans who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Chris said:

"This week, as we celebrate NAIDOC Week and think about the struggles of the people who have lived here for six hundred centuries, those of us who are not indigenous have a duty to support First Nations Peoples. We must listen to indigenous leaders and we must become better educated and better supporters



and allies to those who have welcomed us to their country. We have a shared future in this beautiful country."

Staff members Chris, Kelly and Ramiro raised the new flags for the first time.



## Frankston South

Residents and staff came together to recognise and celebrate the rich histories, cultures and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Residents enjoyed an afternoon of connection and conversation over refreshments as we reflected on the importance of respect, understanding and celebrating culture.

## Brighton East

For their NAIDOC Week Art Expression class, residents heard a fascinating talk by Dr Beverley Castleman about the Hermannsburg School of Art - an artistic movement of watercolour painting in Ntaria Hermannsburg, in Western Aranda Country in Central Australia. Beginning in the 1930s with the work of now globally celebrated master painter Albert Namatjira, the tradition has continued to flourish over the decades since.



# Supporter Update

## Thank you Sew Far Sew Good

We were delighted to receive a donation from the 'Sew Far Sew Good' sewing group that regularly meets at the Vasey RSL Care Ex-Service Accommodation community hall at Croydon.

The group does has previously provided wheat bags for ESA residents among other things.

This is a great use of the community hall, bringing people together over a shared passion.

The donation will go to support the work of the V Centre. Thank you Sew Far Sew Good!



## Mt Evelyn RSL Support

A big thank you to the Mount Evelyn RSL Sub-branch for their donation to the V Centre Veteran Empowerment Program.

"Our small sub-branch is delighted to donate to your worthy organisation," wrote President, Matt Crymble.

We look forward to having members of the committee drop in for a visit to the V Centre to see how their funding goes to help veterans struggling with homelessness and related causes in the near future.



## RSL Women's Council Donation

We recently received a generous donation from the RSL Women's Council and would like to express our sincere thanks for their support.

This is the third year that the Council has funded the personal care packs that go into participants' rooms at for their arrival at the V Centre.

Veteran Empowerment Program Manager, Karen Rowlinson, was invited to the RSL Women's Council meeting to receive a cheque from State Secretary for Victoria, Lynese Goldie OAM.

Thank you to this group for their continuing support and care for veterans.



## Leaving a legacy

A gift in your Will is one of the most inspiring ways to leave your own legacy while supporting current and future veterans to receive the support, care and opportunities they deserve.

A gift in your Will, also known as a bequest or legacy, is a donation to charity given through a Will or other estate planning.

It is a wonderful way to create a lasting impact on the men and women who have served to keep us safe.

With your support, we can work to ensure that every veteran lives with independence, control and dignity, feeling safe, valued and respected.

Vasey RSL Care is a registered charity with DGR status.



**Please contact us for more details:**

**T 0429 801 280**

**E [donations@vaseyrslcare.org.au](mailto:donations@vaseyrslcare.org.au)**

**W [vaseyrslcare.org.au/get-involved/gift-in-will/](http://vaseyrslcare.org.au/get-involved/gift-in-will/)**

# Vasey RSL Care BACKS Veterans: can you help?



"If it wasn't this place I don't know what I would have done. It's given me stability, room to breath."

V Centre Participant

- B** Back veterans in need
- A** Assist recovery and wellbeing
- C** Connect to essential services
- K** Keep veterans safe and supported
- S** Strengthen pathways to independence

## We are calling on your organisation, committee, leadership team or club!

Through the Veteran Empowerment Program at the V Centre, we support veterans who have been homeless, or are at risk of homelessness.

The V Centre is a unique initiative giving these veterans a safe place to live plus the support they need to get on top of their problems.

**We have their 'BACKS' - join us to empower those who have served.**



Vasey RSL Care does not receive any government support to deliver the Veteran Empowerment Program at the V Centre and relies on donations and partners.

Chris Gray (pictured), has taken on the new role of Head of Strategic Partnerships, and is leading our outreach to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones to support the work of the Veteran Empowerment Program at the V Centre.

## Like to find out more?

Contact Chris:

0429 801 280

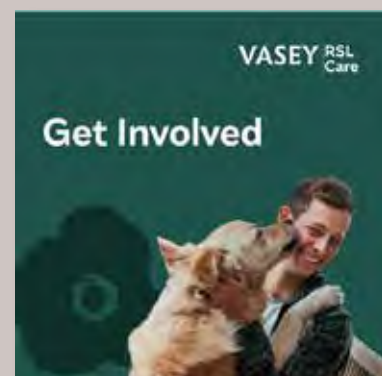
[chris.gray@vaseyrslcare.org.au](mailto:chris.gray@vaseyrslcare.org.au)

## Get Involved

If you, or your organisation, are interested in getting more involved with Vasey RSL Care, whether it's through a partnership, sponsorship, volunteering, holding a fundraising event, or simply finding out more, please take a look at the 'Get Involved' booklet on our website >>>

Or contact us at:

[communications@vaseyrslcare.org.au](mailto:communications@vaseyrslcare.org.au)



# Brighton East's Beautiful New Courtyard



Vasey RSL Care Brighton East residents now have a beautiful new courtyard ready for the spring and summer.

The central courtyard, accessible from the main entrance, has undergone a complete transformation with new paving, fresh new furniture and sun umbrellas and container planting which will be easy to maintain. It's perfect for residents to spend time with families or just enjoy some fresh air.

"Our Property Team has done a great job in coordinating the works and minimising disruption for residents and visitors. We appreciate the consideration that all the workers showed towards our residents throughout the project," says Anthony Donnellan, Acting Executive General Manager, Residential Services.

We'd like to thank everyone at Brighton East for their patience during this time and we hope you feel it was all worthwhile!

## Be the Voice! Your Voice is Powerful

### Calling for members for our Consumer Advisory Bodies and Quality Consumer Advisory Body.

Being part of your Consumer Advisory Bodies helps your voice to be heard. The information you provide goes directly to our governing body, the Board, and helps shape the way your care service is run.

Consumer Advisory Bodies can help solve problems and improve care. They give you a way to talk about care

and service quality with others and share this with our organisation's leadership.

Membership is open to residents and to residents' representatives.

Please contact your Residential Manager to express your interest or to find out more.



# Lone Pine Dedication at Bundoora



In July, residents, guests and staff proudly held our Lone Pine Dedication Service at Vasey RSL Care Bundoora.

The original 'Lone Pine' was sourced, organised and planted in front of our Bundoora Aged Care Home by former Residential Manager Michelle Penson, Liz Evans, who sourced the tree from Canberra, and Beth, a valued volunteer at that time, and now a resident! It was a privilege to welcome Michelle back as a special guest for the occasion.

We were delighted to have representatives from ex-service organisations and RSL Sub-branches join us, including Ray, Lieutenant N.E., Paul, representing Montmorency/Eltham RSL, David from Greensborough RSL and David from the 7th Battalion Association who proudly brought along the Battalion's 101-year-old flag.

Thanks to Lifestyle Assistant Paul who arranged and coordinated the service, and to residents Laurie, Stephen (MC) and Terry (barbecue) for all your work.

The service was a meaningful opportunity to reflect, remember and honour the sacrifice of those who have served our country.

A heartfelt thank you to speakers, veterans, guests, residents and staff who helped make this such a memorable and respectful event.

Lest we forget.



THE PLAQUE WAS FUNDED BY THE MONTMORENCY/ELTHAM RSL SUB-BRANCH AND THE INSCRIPTION READS:



"LONE PINE"

THIS ALEPPO PINE IS A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE ORIGINAL 'LONE PINE' AT GALLIPOLI. IT WAS PLANTED IN 2006 AT VASEY HOUSE BUNDOORA. IN MEMORY OF ALL THOSE WHO SERVED AND DIED AT GALLIPOLI IN 1915.

LEST WE FORGET

LEFT: (FROM LEFT, STANDING) RESIDENTIAL MANAGER NICOLE, FORMER RESIDENTIAL MANAGER MICHELLE PENSION AND LIZ EVANS, WITH RESIDENT AND FORMER VOLUNTEER, BETH.

## REMINDER: Food Services Feedback

Our food services provider, Morrison Living, offers a simple way for residents and family members to provide feedback on residential aged care food services. The system is available in dining rooms, where Morrison Living staff can assist, or you can simply scan the QR code shown here to access the system.

Morrison Living is alerted to feedback and will look into the situation and respond.

We encourage you to provide any feedback about residential food services.



# A Fascinating Visitor at Brighton...

There is growing interest in the possibilities of smart robots providing interaction and stimulation in a variety of settings - you may have read about it. Well, our Vasey RSL Care Brighton residents had a first-hand experience with 'Abi', who recently came along with her team for an engaging and entertaining visit.



Abi led a sing-along while playing music. She led some relaxing Tai Chi. She played games. She blew bubbles. She had a conversation with one of our care staff in her native language. She was also very happy to answer probing questions from residents! A truly fascinating experience for all.



## Lifestyle in Aged Care: A New Approach

A complete review of our aged care home Lifestyle Program is being undertaken by the residential team: it is called the 'Meaningful Living Program' and they will be consulting with residents and their representatives to find out what matters to them and how they can be supported to feel a greater sense of purpose and belonging.

Over the coming weeks, residents will have the chance to provide their views and input through resident meetings, chatting with lifestyle staff, sharing life stories and using the 'Have Your Say' system. There will be a variety of activities including workshops, focus groups, surveys, CAB and QCAB discussions and family/support conversations to help shape the program.

Note that popular current activities, group events and outings will not stop! The difference is that there will be a stronger focus on belonging, relationships, purpose, community connection, choice, and those things that make each individual older person's day meaningful.

It is important that residents and their loved ones get involved in this codesign and consultation phase so that



the new program is the best it can be. Please keep a look out for more information and do take part!

# Furry Visitors to Our Aged Care Homes



Almost every second household in Australia (49%) has one or more pet dogs and the majority of us have known the joy of a wet nose and soft ears during our childhood. So it's no surprise that visiting dogs are a source of great pleasure to many aged care residents, especially if their own dog is now being looked after by family.

As well as the wonderful regular visitors to Brighton East, Maddie and Willow from the Lort Smith Animal Hospital, we also welcome the many gorgeous and well-behaved dogs belonging to family members, friends, volunteers and even staff. If you are unsure if you can bring the family dog for a visit, please just check with staff first (and hey will need to be on a lead at all times).

PICTURED HERE (FROM LEFT):

KAIA, JASPER AND  
HACHI WITH THEIR  
HUMANS.



## V Centre Vehicles now 'Wrapped'

Continuing from our last issue and the branding of our Property Team vans, we have now 'wrapped' our V Centre vehicles so that when they are out on the road, they are helping promote the work of the Veteran Empowerment Program at the V Centre.



Thanks to a successful funding submission in 2024-25, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs (Veteran Wellbeing Grant) provided \$142K for a minibus, a utility vehicle and a trailer to enable participants in the Veteran Empowerment Program to take part in outdoor activities. These and the pool car are all now working as mobile billboards and helping to increase awareness of this vital lifeline for veterans experiencing homelessness and related challenges.

# Meeting Veterans & Families from Victoria

Vasey RSL Care attended the annual RSL Victoria State Conference again this year, something we have been honoured to do now for many years.

The 111th Annual State Conference brings together committee members from RSL Sub-branches from right across Victoria to discuss the work of the organisation in its mission to advocate and support those who have served and their families.

While Vasey RSL Care is completely separate from RSL Victoria, we share a common goal and have been honoured to be able to attend this event for many years.

The RSL Victoria State Conferences is a great opportunity for our staff to talk with veterans and family members about our services **that are for all older Australians**, while offering an understanding of the ex-service community that is unique to Vasey RSL Care.

PICTURED (TOP FROM LEFT) ARE DAVID (COMMUNITY SERVICES), GEORGIE (ESA/HOUSING) AND NIK (RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE) AND BELOW, GEORGIE PRESENTING THE HAMPER TO THE PRIZE DRAW WINNER - CONGRATULATIONS PETER FROM MELBOURNE RSL SUB-BRANCH!



## Our Positive Duty

Everyone has the right to feel safe and to be treated respectfully at work.

Sexual harassment, sexist behaviour and sex discrimination will not be tolerated.

If you experience or witness any of these behaviours at work, it is safe and appropriate for you to report it to a senior manager.

Vasey RSL Care has a Positive Duty to eliminate these behaviours.



As part of Vasey RSL Care's commitment to providing a safe and inclusive workplace, we take very seriously our obligations to prevent workplace sexual harassment and harassment or discrimination on the basis of someone's sex. While our goal is for such conduct never to occur in Vasey RSL Care workplaces, if it does, we will respond fairly and with empathy and understanding of the impact it can have on the individual involved.

Unlawful conduct of a sexual or sex-based nature could occur between any parties in the workplace, including employees, contractors, residents, clients, participants, consultants or visitors. We expect everyone who engages with our workforce to treat one another with respect, and not engage in such behaviour or judgements.

All Vasey RSL Care employees receive periodic training on these topics and have channels to obtain guidance or raise concerns if an incident occurs. Vasey RSL Care has a Positive Duty Action Plan to support continued enhancement of protections for everyone in our workplace regarding sexual harassment and sex-based harassment or discrimination.

More information: [humanrights.gov.au](https://humanrights.gov.au)

# New Photos at our Ex-Service Accommodation

This year we have been updating our photo library for all parts of the organisation. At Vasey RSL Care, our goal is to be authentic - to show real people living and working in real homes, and we are extremely grateful to our aged care residents, ex-service accommodation (ESA) residents, and all our staff who have been fantastic models! You will start to see our new photos appearing in our publications, on our website, and other media.

Today we share some of the many shots of our ESA residents and staff.

1. ROBIN (BUNDOORA) 2. GAIL AND KEITH (CHELTENHAM)  
3. SANDRA (BUNDOORA) 4. DIANA (CHELTENHAM) 5. RUSSELL AND MAUREEN (CHELTENHAM) 6. SEAN (IVANHOE) 7. ALAN (CHELTENHAM) 8. MARY AND KEVIN (IVANHOE) 9. GIO (CHELTENHAM) 10. (LEFT TO RIGHT) CHARLOTTE, EMMA, GEORGIE, KYLIE AND STEVE.



# Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration



Vasey RSL Care was honoured to attend and lay a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Day Observance Ceremony at Austin Health's Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

The occasion gave us the opportunity to pause and remember the courage, service and sacrifice of the nearly 60,000 Australian ADF members who served in Vietnam. Vasey RSL Care Board Chair, Mike O'Meara OAM (pictured right) and V Centre Program Manager, Karen Rowlinson (left), laid a wreath in their honour.

Mike and Karen also had the pleasure of catching up with Federal Repatriation Commissioner Kahlil Fegan (centre) and sharing the positive outcomes being achieved for veterans through the work of the Veteran Empowerment Program at the V Centre.



## Will You Support Our Community? Every donation makes a difference.

**Vasey RSL Care is a not-for-profit with charitable status. Your donations help support our community. Donations of \$2 or more may be tax deductible depending on your circumstances.**

To donate please complete the form below and send to: Ms Janna Voloshin, CEO, Vasey RSL Care, PO Box 203, Hawthorn VIC 3122



**One-off Donation:**    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$150    ☐ \$300    ☐ Other    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular Donation:**    I would like to make a monthly donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month<sup>#</sup>

First Name:<sup>\*</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Family Name:<sup>\*</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My cheque, payable to Vasey RSL Care, is enclosed (One-off donations only)

☐ Please debit my credit card: number<sup>\*</sup>

☐ Mastercard    ☐ VISA    Name on card:<sup>\*</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Signature:<sup>\*</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry:<sup>\*</sup> \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV<sup>\*</sup> \_\_\_\_ (3 digits)

Phone:<sup>\*</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Email:<sup>^</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Address:<sup>^</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>\*</sup> PLEASE PROVIDE THESE DETAILS SO WE CAN PROCESS YOUR DONATION.

<sup>^</sup> PROVIDE ADDRESS &/OR EMAIL IF YOU WOULD LIKE A RECEIPT SENT.

<sup>#</sup> WE WILL BE IN TOUCH TO SET UP YOUR REGULAR DONATION. PLEASE ENSURE YOU PROVIDE YOUR PREFERRED CONTACT DETAILS.

Or, donate online:

[vaseyrslcare.org.au/donate/](https://vaseyrslcare.org.au/donate/)



SPRING 2026

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**Home Care & Veterans Home Care, Ex-Service Housing & Veteran Support** 03 9810 5500 | **The V Centre** 03 9810 5589

**Residential Aged Care:** Brighton 03 9596 7485 | Brighton East 03 9519 3400 | Bundoora 03 9466 9615 | Frankston South 03 9787 2844