

RRVV

NEWSLETTER

Issue No 35 September 2014

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Residents of Retirement Villages Victoria Inc.
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a very busy time since our last newsletter was printed. We had the Rates Justice Petition put into action and I have received quite a few of the petition papers already, with a little bit of luck by the time this newsletter is published all will have been posted back to me. I would like to send a big thank you to all of the RLO's, the Resident Committee's and Manager's in the villages who took part in distributing this petition as well as the folk who bothered to take the time and put their signatures on the paper. We could not have done it without your help. I want to send a huge thank you to the work done by the Rates Justice Campaign Team. In particular Sue Lafferty, Kevin La Fontaine (and his lovely wife Susanne) Colin Barlow, Gordon McDonald, and Jim Sheedy. Without their hard work and expertise this project would never have materialized.

RRVV would like to stress that it is important that all the villages contact their respective political members and candidates in their electorates to gauge their response to this petition. I have included letter templates to send to them with the petition papers but they will also be available on our website as well as the list of politicians and candidates in your areas. If you can invite them to visit your village to talk, all the better. Please take this opportunity to use your vote to tell the people in power that you want a fair go. The election will be in November, not far away.

You are the people who choose the candidate you feel is worthy of your vote.

In July RRVV attended the Lifemark Accreditation presentation to a Lend Lease Village, Waterford Park in Knoxfield, and had the pleasure of meeting and talking with some of the residents. The Lifemark Accreditation Scheme is a standard of excellence which can be attained by villages that have undergone a vigorous 6 month examination by this independent company survey. Villages that have realized this award must be applauded and RRVV would like to hear if this standard of excellence is maintained or not. I believe it is very costly for the owners, it is of course used as a marketing tool and deservedly so, as RRVV encourages prospective residents to look for these villages who strive for this mark of quality.

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RRVV also had the pleasure of visiting the beautiful village of 'The Elms' at Kilmore. A great village with beautiful facilities and happy residents. It is such a pleasure for us to see how a retirement village should work. Good owners and caring management. Congratulations to you all.

The same when we visited the village at Tannoch Brae, in St, Albans, in Geelong area. It heartens RRVV, to visits these places, it is after all the lifestyle that we paid so much for, and when it works it is wonderful but when it doesn't it is sad.

If your village would like a visit from RRVV please phone or email our number and we will do our very best to oblige? We feel it is an effective way to increase membership and educate people about our work and aims. We are often referred to as a "union" to stir up unrest in a village whereas we work to achieve cooperation between Management and residents.

You will note that our AGM will be held on the 18 September 2014, and a new committee will take office. If any member is interested in nominating for the Committee, you will find a nomination form in this newsletter. Please return these via email to RRVV by the 8th September, 2014. If there are any positions still vacant on the day of the AGM, nominations will be taken then. Members of the RRVV Committee must have email and be willing to access this daily. We need more people to step forward and do their little piece of voluntary work, if you feel you would like to help please nominate. Your contribution will help ease the work load we have at present and enable us to improve our services to members.

It's that time of year when all the retirement village AGM's are happening and the budgets are presented to residents. Please remember it is your money which is being spent on budget items in your village.

Residents have the right to ask management for details of this expenditure. Management does not need a formal consent to pass the budget if it does not exceed the CPI. However that does not deny residents the right to ask questions about the outlay for different items. There should always be transparency with a village budget.

June Zeibell, a valued committee member who answers and directs your queries from the RRVV phones and emails is at present recovering from health problems. Steve Hyndes the Vice President has stepped forward to take over this important area of RRVV until June is back on board. All best wishes for a speedy recovery to June and also John Lumley our Honorable Treasurer who has had a little operation but instructed me 'not to make a fuss'.

Hope to see you at the AGM.

Lesley Menzies

PARAPROSDOKIANS

These are figures of speech where the latter part of the sentence is unexpected. Winston Churchill liked them.

- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit, but wisdom is not putting a tomato into a fruit salad.
- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first, then call whatever you hit the target.
- They begin the News with "Good Evening". Then proceed to tell why it is not.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- When filling out a form, where it says, "In case of an emergency notify": I put "Doctor!"

EXPERIENCES OF RESIDENTS IN RETIREMENT VILLAGES

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter we are seeking to have some independent research done into the experiences of residents.

The National Aging and Research Institute (NARI) has shown interest and we have resolved to support a project that they are considering.

The proposed research question is: "What are the experiences of retirement village residents and their families of living in a retirement village including the transition into the village, their residential experience and transition out of the village."

NARI is an independent research institute that specialises in research on the aging. NARI is committed to the conduct of high quality research and to the development of a research and clinical workforce in aged care. NARI is the only institute in Australia that focusses on aging. It has been in operation since 1975. It aims to improve the quality of life and independence of older people.

RRVV will be offering support for this project. Initially this might require funds (\$4,000) and then use of RRVV Website and Newsletter.

NARI will also be seeking support from other interested bodies such as Council of the Aging (COTA) and Victoria Department of Consumer Affairs.

As well as present residents the project will need to establish contact with former residents of retirement villages and their families. As the project develops we will let you the readers of our Newsletter know how you can help.

THE VILLAGE MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This annual Award is organized by the Retirement Living Council of Australia and Managers of Villages which are members of the Property Council are nominated by either Residents or Village owners.

This year I was again invited by the Property Council to be one of the two judges in Victoria. The other was from the company sponsoring the Award, Programmed Maintenance. There were 10 nominations from NSW/ACT, 7 from Qld., 4 from WA, 5 from SA/NT and 13 from Victoria.

Once each State's Judges had selected a short list, these were interviewed by the judges and a nominee selected for the State Award. Then there was a gathering in Melbourne of Judges from all States and a National Winner was agreed, to be announced at the Retirement Living Summit in Sydney in mid November.

Our Victorian winner was announced at the RLC Retirement Living Forum on August 20th, and was Joanne Antoni, the Manager of four Villages for the Church of Christ. Her vitality, her competence and her love for her residents were key features in the decision to award her the title.

We judges are privileged to meet those nominated in this contest, because their qualities naturally place them far above many of the rather ordinary people chosen by some Owners for this very key responsibility. It gives me great hope that this quality is possible and one day may develop in EVERY Village!

Terry Macdonald
20th August 2014

FALSE PROMISES

Your Committee has recently been approached by residents in villages where they entered the village during the early part of development, with the promises of a Community centre, swimming pool, even a care facility, to be built and completed during the schedule of Stage 1 of the construction. Many years after entering the villages, they are still waiting for these facilities to be commenced, let alone completed!

When a planning permit is lodged with the relevant Council, it is necessary for the developer to state what construction will be completed within a nominated time frame. It is not uncommon for the developer to apply for, and be granted, an extension of time to complete the contracted construction. Nearly always, the existing residents are unaware that this extension of time has been sought, or granted.

These villages are generally being developed by a smaller operator. The large owners make the completion of the promised facilities a matter of priority, thus attracting new residents to quickly fill the village.

Any person contemplating entering a partly completed village is urged to contact the RRVV to seek our assistance and guidance prior to signing any contract. Is the lure of slightly cheaper ingoing and levy worth the hardship of not having access to what you thought you were going to receive and enjoy?

THIS OLD MAN

A grizzled old man was eating in a truck stop when three Hell's Angels bikers walked in. The first walked up to the old man, pushed his cigarette into the old man's pie and then took a seat at the counter. The second walked up to the old man, spat into the old man's milk and then he took a seat at the counter. The third walked up to the old man, turned over the old man's plate, and then he took a seat at the counter. Without a muttering word of protest, the old man gets up from his seat and quietly leaves the diner. Shortly thereafter, one of the bikers said to the waitress, "Humph, not much of a man, was he!" And the waitress replied, "Not much of a truck driver either. He just backed his truck over three motorcycles!"

THE RRVV WEBSITE

The RRVV has its own website www.rrvv.org.au which provides information on RRVV activities, guidelines for retirement village living, links to useful websites, where to go for legal help, archived copies of the Newsletter and much more. There is also a facility for downloading a form to renew your membership and for non-members to apply for membership.

The RRVV is always keen to hear from its members and is constantly looking for ways to serve you better. We encourage you to use the website and let us have your comments. You can do this by clicking on "Contact" at the top of the page and sending us an email. We are particularly interested to hear what you would like to see on the website, including your suggestions for questions on retirement village living that you would like to be addressed on our "Frequently Asked Questions" page.

WHY? WHY? WHY?

- Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
- Why you don't ever see the headline: "Psychic wins the lottery"?
- Why "abbreviation" is such a long word?
- Why doctors call what they do "a Practice"?
- Why the man who invests your money is called a "Broker"?
- Why there isn't a mouse flavoured cat food?
- Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- Why an airport is called "the terminal" if flying is safe?
- Why are they called apartments, when they are all stuck together?
- Why didn't Noah swat the two mosquitoes?

If you are not able to attend, but would like to give your proxy to a Member who will be attending to vote on your behalf, please fill in the following Proxy Form and mail it to reach the RRVV Office at GPO Box 215, Melbourne 3001 before Thursday 11th September 2014.

**FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY FOR GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE
RESIDENTS OF RETIREMENT VILLAGES VICTORIA INC.**

I, *(name)*
of *(address)*

being a member of RRVV Inc. appoint *(name of proxy holder)*

of *(address of proxy holder)*

being a member of RRVV Inc., as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on 18th September 2014 and at any adjournment of that meeting. I authorise my proxy to vote on my behalf at their discretion in respect of the following resolution: *[insert details of resolution if required]*

Signed

Date



RESIDENTS OF RETIREMENT VILLAGES VICTORIA INC

Registered No. A0048146R

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS & ORDINARY MEMBERS

**This Form must be mailed to reach the RRVV Returning Officer at
GPO Box 215, Melbourne 3001 before Thursday 11th September 2014.**

We, the undersigned, who are entitled to vote at the forthcoming election on 18th September 2014 nominate:

(Name)

.....

For the position of

.....

Printed name and signature of Nominator

.....

Printed name and signature of Secunder

.....

I consent to my nomination

(Signature of Nominee)

..... Date

Positions Vacant

Officers - President, Vice President and Secretary.

Ordinary General Members – 7 initially, until Officer elections completed.

RLO'S LUNCH MEETING ON THE 22ND JULY 2014 AT THE DUKE OF KENT HOTEL

RRVV would like to thank all the Resident Liaison Officer's (RLO's) who attended and we know there were others who would have liked to come but missed out due to sickness or even those away in the warmer climes. It was good to meet the RLO's and for every one to meet up with Edith Chen our keeper of records. We really do have some very passionate and loyal members who support our cause. RRVV could not survive without them. During the lunch a questionnaire was distributed, and the sum of it was as follows:

1. Should we change the name of Resident Liaison Officer? **No** - 88%
2. If yes, do you have an alternative? **Village Representative** - 12%
3. Should RLO's have an official RRVV name badge? **No** - 60%
4. Should RRVV have a standard information sheet to hand to new residents in the village? **Yes** - 100%
5. Should RRVV have an information sheet to circulate, explaining RRVV ideals and lists some of our successes? **Yes** - 100%
6. Any suggestions about improving RRVV newsletter? **No** - 77%
7. Any suggestion to improve the RRVV new Website? **No** - 100%

Question 6 had some very complimentary answers and also a couple of suggestions that we will follow up. RRVV needs a back up to the RLO in each village to assist as required particularly in times of ill health and holidays. If you know of someone who would like to help and/or fill in, please forward their particulars to our email or phone and we will record them.

RRVV would like to extend our gratitude to one of our retiring RLO's, Elizabeth Scott from Wheelers Hill. For many years this special lady has been a wonderful support to RRVV. It is members like Elizabeth who make our work worthwhile. Enjoy your retirement.

Meanwhile to you all, thank you and keep up your good work.

Owen Menzies

THE PERKS OF BEING OVER 60

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run into a burning building.
4. People call at 9 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat dinner at 4 P.M.
9. You can live without sex but not without glasses.
10. You enjoy hearing about other peoples operations.
11. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
12. You have a party and the neighbors don't even realize it.
13. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
14. You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
15. You sing along with elevator music.
16. Your eyes won't get much worse.
17. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
18. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
19. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
20. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
21. You can't remember who sent you this list.



Residents of Retirement Villages Victoria Inc.

Registered No. A0048146R **Working for Residents**

Phone (03) 9015 8402 Email: rrvv.vic@gmail.com

GPO Box 215, Melbourne, Vic 3001

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on Thursday 18th September 2014 at 10.30am
at St Michaels Church Hall, cnr McIlwraith and McPherson Sts.
Princes Hill (Melway 29J12). Morning tea will be provided at 10.00am.

AGENDA

1. **Opening of Meeting**
2. **Apologies for non attendance**
3. **Address by Guest Speaker:** The Principal Policy Advisor for Consumer Affairs Victoria, Patrick L'Estrange
4. **Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held on 3rd. October 2013**
5. **Presentation of Annual Report by President Lesley Menzies**
6. **Presentation of Treasurers Report by John Lumley**
7. **Election of Office Bearers (President, Vice Pres., & Secretary)**
8. **Election 5 of General Members of Committee**
9. **Position of Public Officer (current Public Officer is John Lumley)**
10. **General Business**
- 10.1 **Nomination for Life Membership of the Association:** Motion to be put to the meeting: Trevor McPhee be made a Life Member of RRVV in recognition of his many years of hard work for the Association and help and advice to many retirement villages residents throughout Victoria.
- 10.2 **Question and Answer time for members to address the committee**
- 10.3 **Close of Meeting**

Nominations for RRVV Committee

In accordance with the Association Rules, nominations are invited from financial members of the Association for the positions. Nomination forms are also available on the RRVV website www.rrvv.com.au and in this newsletter. Nominations to be sent to the above RRVV address and received by 11/9/14. If any unfilled positions, nominations will be taken on the day.

IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THE RRVV AGM PLEASE CONTACT US
on Ph: 9015 8402 or Email: rrvv.vic@gmail.com - to assist with catering