



VWA Newsletter

October 2023

VICTORIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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AGM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

Good afternoon and welcome! It is lovely to have you all here today.

This past year has been one of much change and progress. We have bid farewell with much gratitude to our past General Manager, Angie Parkyn and then gradually completed the hand-over to new staff.

Following in the footsteps of someone who has filled the position for many years is not easy. Increased responsibilities, new work and changes are challenging for everyone. We ask that we all work together to support our wonderful Heights and those employed to run it.

We warmly and gratefully welcome Wendy Renehan as General Manager and I know you will support her diligent efforts. To date, Wendy has been doing her old job as Financial Manager as well as taking on the General Manager's work, so it has been very challenging for her. Wendy is in the office 4 days a week and has overall responsibility for the running of the VWA, under the Board. Thank you, Wendy, we look forward to working with you as General Manager.

Once more we have a separate Care Manager and we are so grateful to Dianne Dallas-Selover for her

willingness to serve in this capacity. Dianne has responsibility for the harmonious running of The Heights Residence 24/7 (reporting to the General Manager and the Board) and we know you will support and assist her in this challenging work.



Meg Hughes and Kerri Callaway

The Board is also very grateful for the diligent work of Julie Sharpe as retiring Food Safety Officer. This is a very responsible job as the continuing existence of the supported-care residence depends, in part, on complying with stringent government regulations regarding food handling. Julie has done this work for 17 years and now wishes to step back, after training her replacement in the position, Sarah Haycox. Thankfully, Julie will continue as a highly respected carer. Thank Julie for your years of dedication and diligent care as Food Safety Officer.

A very sincere thank you to all our staff, for your much appreciated dedication and work. You are wonderful!

There has been much progress this year which has included 5 new life-lease unit holders – surely a blessing after the past couple of years of vacancies, exacerbated by lock-downs and travel restrictions. There is an atmosphere of vitality and happiness in the village, which we would welcome sharing with more life-leasers. There are still a few units available, which are currently in high demand as short-term rentals throughout the year.

Our residential care facility at The Heights provides an opportunity for those relying on Christian Science, but who currently need assistance with independent living. We offer low-care assistance to those not relying on medication. Each resident has a private room and en-suite. Lovely meals are provided and often unit-holders choose to come and eat in the dining room too - some daily, others weekly or occasionally. Visitors are also welcome.

Our operations are based on the Manual of the Mother Church. We exist to provide for the Christian Science community here - in Melbourne, in Victoria and Australasia. So, it is important that we each support the VWA prayerfully, practically, and financially, to ensure it continues. All our Care staff and most administrative staff are Christian Scientists and we value highly their prayerful approach to their work. Preference is given to Christian Scientists to be employed at The Heights, as a metaphysical approach to our work is vital to the spiritually supportive atmosphere here.

The VCSNSA provides one of our units for the Christian Science nurse and we welcome her to our village and are blessed to have her regular assistance in the Residence. It is wonderful to have that prayerful, competent care available to patients in need, either in The Heights residence or the units. Of course, her services are available to the wider Christian Science community too!

Changes over recent years have meant we really require more work to be done than we have been able to do in the garden and on maintenance jobs.

The Board has been working to cover this need. The recent trend in the community towards part-time contract work is expensive. Currently we are looking

for new staff to do gardening and handyman work. We are always grateful to hear of people availability for work, even if we are covered at present. Please talk to our General Manager, Wendy. Presently, we have need of a carer for night shift as well.

Our beautiful gardens have needed a lot of care this year. We had some branches fall harmlessly in wild storms and an arborist has examined some of our trees and attended to some of the tasks required. More is to be done soon. June Buck has faithfully supervised the garden work, requiring hours of her time, for which we are truly grateful. It is a long way for her to come twice a week to ensure the work is completed as required.

Thank you June.



As usual there has been work done on units in preparation for occupancy. Janet and Mark generously stepped up when the nurse's arrival was sooner than anticipated and over the New Year break. They completed the preparation work needed to ready Unit 11 for occupation. Likewise, Units 7, 9, 13, 14 and 19 were at various times also readied for new life-lease occupants. We are delighted to include David, Beverley, Heather, Pauline and Pat, in our village community. A very warm welcome to you all!

The Board will continue to renovate Units as they are vacant, to prepare for new life-lease occupation.

Many of our Unit-holders contribute in various ways to the quality of life, and presentation of our grounds here at Kerferd Road and we thank them all for their loving sharing. There are activities organised throughout the year – there have been barbeques; afternoon teas; there's a regular Bible study group; outings; spontaneous film nights – people join or not as they are available and interested. It feels like a family.

Maintenance work continues, as always, but recently it has often been difficult to get service people to attend to the necessary work. It is very satisfactory when finally tasks that have been in the queue for some time are in due course completed. Consequently we are so grateful to loyal electricians and plumbers who do put us first when emergencies arise. A complex roofing difficulty has been resolved eventually, and recent emergency plumbing issues were promptly fixed.

Increasingly heavy storms now exceed the capacity of drainage installed 40 odd years ago in compliance with requirements at that time. Consequently, further preventative drainage work is booked in.

Our sister complex at Leslie House, was intended to provide more modest accommodation for Christian Scientists. Some of these units, not required by our Christian Science community are managed through an agency and occupied by renters (the new government term) who have similar lifestyles to our VWA renters. The income from this property is a much-needed contribution to the VWA running costs.

As flats are vacated at Leslie House, they are assessed to see what renovation, if any, is needed to maintain a good standard. There is constant maintenance required for a building 70 years old.

The Heights village and Residence are a wonderful blessing to our widespread community. If you are interested to see some of the vacant rooms in the Residence or one of the remaining units, please contact our General Manager Wendy and arrange a time to view.

And finally, we are thrilled to welcome onto the VWA Board, Robert Kitchingman who joined us in June - thank you Rob.

And now I'd like to finish with a hymn:

The Lord is my Shepherd; I need not a thing.

Green pastures give rest for my soul.

Love leads me beside the still, still waters.

Love restores me, and Love makes me whole.

Love leads me in right paths to honor God's name,

And though I walk through darkest days,

I won't be afraid for Love's here beside me

To protect me and show me the way.

Though sin would surround me, my cup overflows;

You show that I'm never alone.

Your goodness and love are mine forever;

In the dwelling of Love, I am home.

(Christian Science Hymnal, No. 584)

Thank you for coming.

Kerri Callaway
VWA Chairman

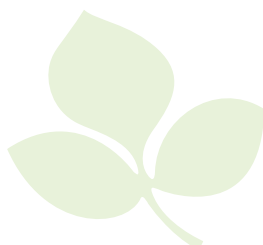


OUT & ABOUT - OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES

It's been so good to be out and about again this year. Outings and activities have been building, with many old favourites and lots of new ideas. Dianne and Kay are keen to hear any suggestions.

The list of activities held at the Heights have been, movie afternoons, Bible Study groups, choir visits, trivia, BBQ's, and even a fabulous monthly fish and chip night in the House dining room!

And then there are the outings. Our bus has been going out to church every Sunday morning again! Through the week it's facilitating shopping trips and special outings like going to the Abbotsford Convent, the Waverley Photographic Gallery, a beautiful garden nursery, down to a local park or even just a beautiful ice-cream parlour!



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

A warm welcome to everyone who has joined us today, it's so good to see you all. Thank you for joining us today in reviewing the financial reports for the year 2022.

It is so wonderful so be able to spend time with precious friends. In Mrs Eddy's words, "With one Father, even God, the whole family of man would be brethren, and with one Mind and that God, or good, the brotherhood of man would consist of Love and Truth, and have unity of Principle and spiritual power which constitute divine Science".

Let us consider the financial details of 2022.

Firstly, we will examine the Profit and Loss Statement. The purpose of the profit and loss statement (or P&L) is to provide a summary of a of the VWA's income, expenses, and profit or loss for the year.

We will start by examining the income side (that is the money earned or received by the VWA)

The most important income sources for 2022 were in order

- Income from our investment portfolio – 35% of total income
- Donation income – 31% of total income
- Leslie House rental income – 13% of total income and
- Resident house income – 8% of total income

These four sources accounted for 87% of the VWA's income.

Income earned from our share portfolio and interest received in 2022 amounted to \$561,557. This is \$291,785 more than that earned in 2021. With a number of units being life leased in the last year, additional funds have become available to invest resulting in increased income from investments. Our long-term approach when investing funds is to maximise the income from our investments rather than concentrate on capital growth. Our immediate need is for income to fund our ongoing operations. Forecasts of income from investments in 2023 show that we can expect a similar return on investments this year.

Donations still a most important source of income

to the VWA but one which varies from year to year. Last year donations totalled \$504,058, a substantial contribution to our income.

In 2022 we received large donations from the following donors:

- \$200,000 from the Christian Science Nursing Service of NSW
- \$209,174 from the estate of Margaret Barnes
- \$93,746 from the estate of Elaine Urquhart

Equally important were the large number of individual donations totaling \$1,138. Every donation, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated and valued.

Thirdly income from Leslie House. Leslie House is an important source of income for the VWA, rent from Leslie House for the year amounted to \$215,039.

This amount is down very slightly on the income in 2021. This year, a number of tenants terminated their leases, giving the VWA the opportunity to renovate these premises prior to re-leasing them. This meant that a number of flats were empty for periods of time during the year, resulting in less income. Of the 20 flats at Leslie House, less than half are now leased to those with an affiliation to the Christian Science community. The tenants who don't have an affiliation with Christian Science are carefully screened, before being accepted as tenants, to ensure that they are compatible with our existing residents. These flats are managed by an estate agents and the tenants pay a higher rental than those with a Christian Science affiliation.

Next let's look at the income of The Heights Residence for 2022. This was \$122,482 which is \$24,445 less than in 2021. The numbers of long term and short term residents differs from year to year and this accounts for the difference in income.

The total income from all other income categories amounted to 13% of our total income, so I won't discuss them in detail, but am happy to answer any questions on these.

The total income for 2022 was \$1,612,203, \$314,165 more than in 2021.

On the expenses side of the ledger

Continued on p9

METAPHYSICAL TALK MEG HUGHES CS

SIMPLICITY: LOVE FOR GOD AND OUR FELLOW MAN

Recently, a five-year-old I know came home during the third week of his first year at school and excitedly said to his mother, “Look Mum I’ve written a book and it’s in French.” He wanted to read it to me over the phone. It’s four pages, he said. On the first page is “Bonjour”, and I’ve drawn a boy saying Hullo to a cat because “bonjour” means hullo. On the second page, I’ve written, “Merci” and I’ve drawn a boy giving the cat a present and the cat is saying thank you. On the next page, I’ve drawn the cat giving the boy a present and the boy says “Merci”. And what’s on the last page I asked. “Au revoir” and I’ve drawn a boy waving goodbye to the cat.”

I was excited to see this child’s open innocent unquestioning absorption of learning something new. What I loved most was seeing the profound simplicity shown here. Like all short stories and I think you’d agree that this definitely comes under the description of a short story, it leaves a lot for the individual reader to interpret. To me, it showed freshness, friendliness, kindness, and an awareness of another. Simplicity is what I saw in the child’s writing and drawings. Simplicity, so clear and pure. That’s what sparked my interest in reading and writing about Simplicity for today’s talk.

I found many articles published in Christian Science periodicals about simplicity and its connection with spirituality. I’ll quote from some of those writings and give examples of my experience in which a simple message packed with the power of God’s Love has brought healing. But first I will start with a quotation from “Miscellaneous Writings” (p. 53) where Mrs Eddy wrote: “The teachings of Jesus were simple; and yet he found it difficult to make the rulers understand, because of their great lack of spirituality. Christian Science is simple, and readily understood by the children; only the thought educated away from it finds it abstract or difficult to perceive.”

Mrs Eddy’s words were echoed in a 1952 Sentinel Editorial, titled “Simplicity is a Powerful Weapon”, Robert Ellis Key wrote “Simplicity is a quality of spirituality. The childlike thought was commended by Jesus because of its simplicity, sincerity and faith



Meg Hughes CS - our speaker

in good. It is not easy for some people to grasp the simplicity of Christian Science because they are perhaps striving to understand the deep things of God before they have grasped the simple ones.” Further on he writes, “There is no mystery in the simple teachings of Christ Jesus...It was not so much his words but the quality of his thought that healed, and included in his thought was the quality of simplicity.”

The apostle Paul talked about “the simplicity that is in Christ.”

Leslie C Bell titled his article in the 1933 Sentinel “Simplicity: the First Essential.” He wrote,

“It is probably the sweet, natural simplicity of a little child that made Jesus say, “Whoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.” A little child expresses the spontaneous simplicity of trust and love.” “Our Leader saw very clearly the connection between simplicity and great depth of meaning when she wrote in Science and Health, (p572) referring to 1 John “love one another is the most simple and profound counsel of the inspired writer.” (1 John, iii. 23)

The counsel to “Love one another”, wrote Mrs Eddy is simple and profound. Throughout her writings, she had a lot to say about Love. Divine Love is at the

heart of Christian Science.

In 1903, Mrs Eddy wrote: "Having all faith in Christian Science, we must have faith in whatever manifests love for God and man. The burden of proof that Christian Science is Science rests on Christian Scientists" (The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany, p. 158).

Here at the Heights, the Managers, those in the Office, the Kitchen, the House, the Carers, the Nurse, the gardener, the maintenance man, and the bus driver are all expressions of God's Love, and of course, as are the residents, at this special and unique facility. Each individual's contribution blesses those around them and in doing so blesses the world. Doesn't The Heights and what it stands for and expresses through those that work and reside here love in the practical way that Mrs Eddy describes in Miscellaneous Writings when she expanded on what she expected of love.

'I make strong demands on love, call for active witnesses to prove it, and noble sacrifices and grand achievements as its results. Unless these appear, I cast aside the word as a sham and counterfeit, having no ring of the true metal. Love cannot be a mere abstraction or goodness without activity and power. As a human quality, the glorious significance of affection is more than words: it is the tender, unselfish deed done in secret; the silent, ceaseless prayer;'
Miscellaneous Writings 250:16

And the founders of The Heights. The Christian Scientists who conceived the idea for this facility. Those that in prayer worked hard to bring the idea to fruition. This was a concept that came out of their love for God and their fellow man. Their love for their fellow man was expressed by their vision and thoughtfulness. They expressed intelligence and generosity. As a result of their love, Christian Scientists have been blessed with a home to freely practice what they believe and hold dear in a supportive environment. Much credit can be given to those founders who showed and implemented such foresight. Thanks must also go to the successive Victorian Welfare Association Board members who continue to voluntarily and conscientiously oversee its management.

The Board members of the Victorian Christian Science Nursing Services Association contribute a

lot to the uniqueness of The Heights through their love for their fellow man in their role of managing the nurse who is crucially pivotal to this facility. Kathryn Bouchard-West loved nursing Christian Scientists at and around The Heights for a number of years, and patients and residents alike loved her. Now Ruffine is the loving and loved nurse. The love she and all the staff and residents of The Heights show for her fellow man is exemplified in the passage from Matthew when Jesus is telling a parable about who will inherit the kingdom.

'The King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' **Matthew 25:31**

Mary Metzner Trammel in her Sentinel Editorial, writes '...simplicity in its higher sense has a lot to do with love" and further on she writes "This kind of thought movement, from materially confused and complicated to spiritually simple, occurs often with people who study Christian Science".

Nearly a year ago, I had an experience that demonstrated that statement. For several months I had been driving four hours to care for my older brother who wanted to stay in his home but was obviously not coping. I investigated ways to help him, trying to set up services so he could continue living on his own. I looked after his affairs doing his paperwork and everything else I could to make his everyday life easier and more doable. The trouble was however that with each suggestion I made he would argue against the idea. After many visits and managing a few improvements to his living standard, I was feeling more and more impatient and frustrated that he resisted all my attempts to do more. I was getting to

the end of my tether and I started to wonder if it was worth my while going to all that trouble when he was blocking such good ideas. At the point of walking away, I prayed for an answer. Then in the middle of him and me pointlessly arguing that day I felt Christ's presence. In a split second, I felt filled with love. All the anger and frustration dissipated and my whole demeanour softened. I stopped arguing in that instant and never argued with him again. The pattern of the past few months changed completely and when I calmly and more gently made major rather than the earlier more minor arrangements to improve his lifestyle he listened to me and accepted them.

This instantaneous healing through the power of divine Love of what had seemed like an intractable situation blessed us both. Looking back on that change I can see it was so simple. That simple change was brought about by Christ's gift of Love. A gift of love that blessed us both as well as everyone else we came into contact with. As an ongoing carer for my brother, I am asked to make the wisest decisions on his behalf. I am not stepping into his experience but through the study of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy has given us a framework to help our fellow man. This science that she learned by studying the works of Christ Jesus in his mission on earth always pointed us to God, Good, Love.

When I first started to study Christian Science literature and the Bible, simple statements became a key for me to understand how to deal with complex issues. I put sticky notes on the dashboard of my car that I could glance at while driving to work. They were short and simple lines from the Bible or Science and Health that gave me a lot to ponder and interpret and were easy to memorise. For example, If I trusted that "Truth is always the victor.", I reasoned, I did not have to outline any particular result. Yet, I was always amazed and in awe when the problems were resolved and often in totally unexpected ways.

This happened recently. My son and I have worked very hard for the past year to resolve a complex family matter and at each step have reviewed where we have come from and acknowledged the progress we've made. However, about two weeks ago we hit a brick wall and neither of us could see a way over, under or around it. I heard a firm, gentle reminder, "Trust in the Lord with all thine

heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy path." Throughout the day if I noticed that I was worried about the impasse, I'd quickly replace my thinking with the line. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding." The next morning an email from someone in the UK who'd heard of our situation offered a solution. I was in awe of this resolution from out of the blue, specifically, London, which allows us to go on to the next step. In the scheme of things this was huge, but what I did was so simple. A sincere prayer acknowledged God as the Omnipotent Mind to trust.

When Solomon prayed to God for help in his role as ruler, he humbled himself by saying he was but a little child. This humility endowed him with God-given gifts of wisdom and compassion.

One morning, decades ago, I mentally buckled at the thought of what this particular day would bring and what would be expected of me in a crowd, most of whom would be strangers. I thought I simply did not have the strength to go through with it. I desperately needed help. Then I read in the Weekly Bible Lesson, from The Book of James, 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and he shall lift you up." I humbled myself until I felt at one with God, Spirit. I felt enfolded in God's Love and at that moment all human responsibility and the need to be strong and brave left me and carried me through a humanly difficult and traumatic day. My body went through the motions of walking, singing, and conversing but I was only conscious of Spirit's, divine Love's presence. What needed to happen that day took place because I was supported by others' prayers and the simple sentence, "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and he shall lift you up." The simplicity of the sentence was packed with God's power.

Christian Science is based on a simple Truth that God is Love. As individuals, we are urged by Mrs Eddy to interpret this Truth in our lives. I am very grateful for this teaching and the blessing The Heights facility and all that it embodies gives through love for God and our fellow man.

Let me close with hymn 178.

Pto..

Hymn 178,

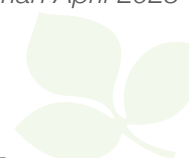
**Love is life's true crown and glory
Love the splendour of the light
Truly is God's counsel gentle
Truly all His ways are bright;
Jesus knew the law of kindness,
Healing mind and heart of blindness;
And in heavenly wisdom taught
Holy works of love he wrought.**

**Love, the Golden Rule of living,
Showeth forth the perfect Mind;
Love, our debt to God who gives it
All compassion is, and kind;
Charity the law fulfilleth,
Mid the nations rancor stilleth;
Loving hearts in friendship blend,
One in Him, our heavenly Friend.**



Betty Walters,
Incoming Chairman April 2023

Wendy Renehan, GM
& Dianne Dallas-Selover



*Newly freshened upstairs room available for rest and study, or a Melbourne stay.
Each with their own ensuite, TV and internet.*

- Salaries and associated costs accounted for 69% of the outgoings
- Repairs and maintenance work accounted for 6.5%
- Depreciation accounted for 4.1%
- Household services and provisions accounted for 3%
- Council rates accounted for 3%
- Maintenance fees for unleased and rental units 2.7%
- The other 12% (approx.) of expenses was spread over all other expense categories. Examples of other expense categories are:
 - insurance cost
 - lighting heating and power and
 - accounting and audit fees

Staff costs are the largest expense for the VWA at \$803,716. Last year Angela Parkyn resigned after many years of faithful service. Long services payments are included in the salary costs for the year.

The cost of repairs and maintenance for 2022 amounted to \$77,009. With a properties as large as the Heights and Leslie House there are always many building and garden maintenance expenses.

Overall, our total income was \$1,612,203 against total expenses of \$1,168,625 giving a surplus of \$443,578. An excellent result.

Next, we will examine the Statement of Financial Position. While the P&L shows how the VWA did in a single year, the purpose of the statement of financial position is to give us information about the VWA's assets, liabilities, and equity. This report gives a longer term view and also shows the financial position of the VWA as at a particular date, in this case the 31st December 2022.

The Statement of Financial position for 2022 shows the value of the VWA's total assets as \$9,527,554 as compared with \$7,987,275 in 2021. This is principally due to the increase in the value of the share portfolio over the year. Assets are items that the VWA owns

such as the property and buildings here at Kerferd Road, Glen Iris and Leslie House at Power Street, Hawthorn. In addition, assets include investments that the VWA has made, cash that is held in our bank accounts or money that is owed to the VWA.

On the asset side the two major items are our investments represented by the line titled 'Financial assets' and the property represented by the line titled 'Property, Plant and Equipment'.

You will notice that the value of the investments has increased from the 2021 value in round figures by \$1.4 million. The increase is, as I have already pointed out, principally due to the lease of additional units in 2022, which allowed further investments to be made.

The Financial Statements also show that our Property, plant and equipment are valued at \$2,575,493. The land and buildings owned by the VWA make up 98% of the value of property, plant and equipment. Plant and equipment includes items such as office equipment, furniture, and vehicles. Our property value is based on what is termed "cost value", that is what the property cost us. The current value of our property is obviously much higher than its cost, however, cost value is what most not-for-profit organisations quote in their audits. Our auditors have advised that there is no need to revalue these assets at present although change in accounting practices may require this in future years.

Next, we will examine the VWA's liabilities. Liabilities are what the VWA owes to others including bills that were still owing at the end of December 2022. By far the largest amount that the VWA owes is under the heading, Other Liabilities. The value of this is \$3,054,564, this value represents the money that is held in trust on behalf of Life Lease unit holders and is refundable when Life Leases are relinquished. This money is of vital importance to the VWA during the period of the life lease as it provides investment income.

Our total equity, ie assets less liabilities, or what we as members own is shown under the heading, Total Equity. The value at the end of 2022 was \$6,008,762 – up \$291,620 on the value in 2021.

VWA financial members who would like a full copy of the audited reports may request this through the office at the Heights.

THANKS

The VWA expresses our deep gratitude to our dedicated staff. They all give so much of their time and love to this very precious organization.

Our success is also the result of having a dedicated and effective Board of Directors. Their unity and commitment to the VWA makes it a very productive team. All board members serve in an honorary capacity.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to share the words of one of my favourite hymns, hymn 199 from the Christian Science Hymnal.

*Now thank we all our God
With grateful hearts and voices
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom the world rejoices;
Who from the days of yore
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.*

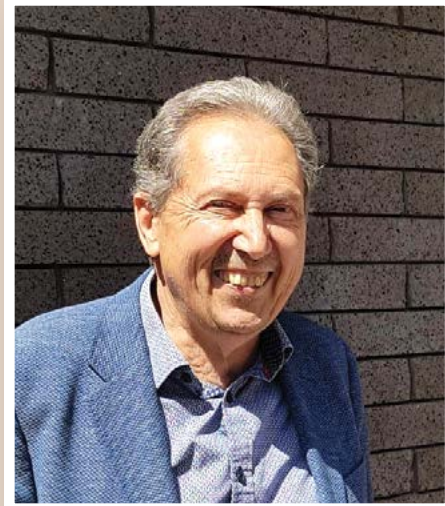
*We know our gracious God
Through all our life is near us,
To fill our thoughts with light,
To strengthen us and cheer us;
From His eternal care
We never shall remove,
Encompassed by His grace,
Enfolded in His love.*

Mark Pilkington

25th March 2023.



*There's always something going
on in the garden!*



IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARK PILKINGTON

The Board acknowledges with deep gratitude the wonderful contribution to the VWA made by Mark.

He joined the Board of the VWA in August 2017 and immediately accepted the responsibility of Secretary and Treasurer. He served in that honorary capacity for six years with dedication and love. Not only did he prepare financial reports, but he supervised the installation of new water heaters and new insulation in the units in The Heights village. Mark always welcomed visitors and new residents, with practicality and love, to this special place. Board members really appreciated his dedication to the VWA and his impeccable integrity.

Mark was a giving and loving neighbour. His enduring qualities of joy, kindness, generosity, and spirituality will be treasured by us all.

*Green pastures are before me,
Which yet I have not seen;
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,
Where darkest clouds have been.
My hope I cannot measure,
My path in life is free;
My Father has my treasure,
And He will walk with me.*

(Christian Science Hymnal, No. 148:3)

HEARTFELT THANKS JOHN BRUCE



Ladies and gentlemen, we are very deeply indebted to John for his many, many years of service to the VWA. As young Christian Scientists, in the 1950's, he and Ellie helped clear blackberries from the land before Leslie House was built as a care facility for the nurse and with flats for Christian Scientists. That was in the days when everything was done by hand!

Looking back through the records, John has served the Victorian Welfare Association at different times in so many ways. – Initially as architect, from 1977 he was involved in seeking new premises for a larger Care facility than Leslie House for the Nurse Service. This eventually resulted in The Heights property being purchased here in Kerferd Rd.

Ultimately this led to the amalgamation of the VWA with the then Victorian Visiting Nurse Service, as there was an overlap in what the two services did. Many years later, in order to more easily facilitate the visiting service aspect of the nurse's work, the "Visiting Nurse Service" once more separated from the VWA into 2 separate organisations, such as we have today.

John gave many years of service on the VWA Board, first as Secretary when he was involved in the lengthy applications to set up the care facility here at The Heights. The purchase of the property was enabled when a loan was granted by the State Government on condition that we were registered as a "Special Accommodation House". This required involvement with the medical authorities, which we were keen to end as soon as possible by repaying the loan and being registered instead under the Retirement Village Authority, (as is now the situation). Initially the care

facility was run with one staff member on duty 24/7!

The Heights residence was adapted for the care facility under John's guidance both as architect and on the VWA Board. In 1981 rooms 1-8 were added, extending the Residence. At the same time units 1 – 10 were built. Before these units were finished, units 11 – 20 were under construction. The Craft Room was added in 1985.

Ellie too has served on the Board, so she is likewise thanked for her wonderful gift of service. Thank you Ellie.

John has thus been involved with and on the Board for over 45 years. He has been Secretary, and Chairman several times. Now John has stepped back, but is not entirely out of touch. He has agreed to act as building advisor if we need it. Generous as always. John is a giver and a hard worker. He has served willingly and diligently, and for the most part in an honorary capacity. We really owe him such deep gratitude. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks, John. Thank you!

Kerri Callaway

VWA Chairman 2020-March 2023

A get together in September to celebrate



June Buck, Mark Pilkington, Rob Kitchingman



John Bruce, Dianne Dallas-Selover



Are you a Financial Member of the VWA?

Thank you to all supporters who renewed their subscriptions for 2023.

We are grateful to those of you who chose to take out Life Memberships. These members do not need to return the renewal form each year.

Annual Membership is \$20 and Life Membership is \$300.

Renewal forms for 2024 will be sent out in March next year with the invitation to the 2024 AGM. If you would like to subscribe sooner or would like a copy of our new brochure, please email us at the address below, or phone to speak to the General Manager, Wendy Renehan, or one of our administration staff members.

Are you thinking of life-leasing at The Heights?

Be our Guest

Stay in a furnished unit for 2 nights, on us.

We'd love to welcome you to experience Retirement Village life amongst fellow Christian Scientists.

Phone 03 9885 2202 to speak to Wendy Renehan.



Take a
video tour

www.vwa.net.au

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS AS AT APRIL 2023

Chairman/Director
Betty Walters

Treasurer/Secretary
Mark Pilkington

John Bruce

June Buck

Kerri Callaway

Leonie Tidd

Robert Kitchingman
June 2023



ADMINISTRATION STAFF

General Manager
Wendy Renehan

Care Coordinator
Dianne Dallas Sellover

Administrative Officers
Jaci Todd

Katy Hood

Registered Office: 15 Kerferd Road, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146

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