



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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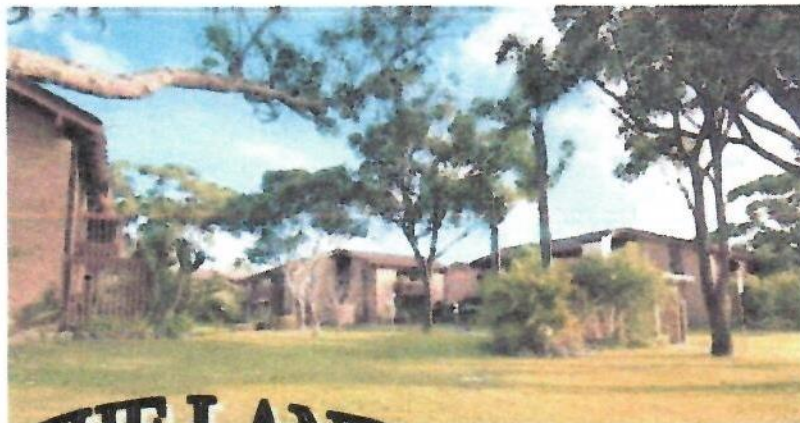
THE STORY OF KARAGI COURT (Masonic Retirement Village).

1966 - Around about this time the Freemasons on the Central Coast became concerned for the older Masons who lived on their own and weren't getting any younger and who, through the aging factor, were no longer able to look after themselves or their home.

Bro. Kevin Rubie of Lodge Rising Sun No. 311 initiated a plan to provide for such brethren and over the years that followed, the building of an appropriate retirement village was much in the minds of the Freemasons of the day.

Despite the concern, the many meetings, and approaches to the Lands Department, it was only eleven years later that light became visible at the end of this decade long tunnel. A parcel of 40 acres was offered to the Wyong Council at Bateau Bay for the construction of a retirement village.

The Freemasons on the Central Coast began building Stage One in 1977 which consisted of 10 units. The completion of this stage, was commemorated by, amongst other things, the unveiling of a plaque by the M.W. Grand Master Noel Warren. The village was named Karagi Court, after an aboriginal word meaning land between two waters.



**THE LAND BETWEEN
TWO WATERS**

This construction stage was made possible by a loan from a local bank, a loan that was guaranteed by one of the local church organisations.

Stage two was started in 1980 and completed in 1981. Ten years later the Department of Lands converted the land to freehold and the Freemasons were obliged to purchase it for 378,000 pounds.

Over the years this Retirement Village which, in accordance with Federal Government policy was open and available to anyone, not just Masons, developed into a thing of beauty and which won the Wyong gardening competition many times over many years.

Many facilities were paid for by the Freemasons who ran the complex, such as the meeting room and BBQ.

In 2005, new government requirements and the sad fact that many of the units were facing urgent maintenance became a serious problem. New government laws for retirement villages such as security, outside lighting, bathroom doors, passageways and steps plus onerous fire regulations became a major problem and a sum in excess of a million dollars loomed ahead.

As a result of this formidable objective in 2007, it was decided in the best interests of all concerned, that the project should be sold and the proceeds invested for the benefit of the Central Coast community.

This in fact did happen, settlement taking place on the 18th March 2008.

Karagi Court limited was established as a charitable company limited by guarantee and invested the sum of \$3.75 million, the returns on which are donated to the central coast communities by way of tangible needs. It should perhaps be noted that this is a company registered by Guarantee, and accordingly has no shareholders as such.

To date these community donations have exceeded \$700,000 and have included the provision of three defibrillators and life boats to the Surf Life Saving organisations. The Terrigal Ambulance Station, Youth Centres, Scouts, The Police Boys' Club, The Entrance Marine Station, Playground equipment, a 12 seater bus to Regional Youth Support Services valued at over \$57,000.

Overall, this Masonic effort, apart from the earlier provision of aged care accommodation, has contributed to the central coast communities various items valued in excess of \$700,000.

This continuing project, is indeed tangible evidence of our Masonic belief that service to humanity is indeed the best work of life.
