

President's Report:AGM: 12 August 2026

It is with mixed feelings that I deliver my final report, as President, to this AGM, it is thus appropriate that I tender some reflections.

I have had an interesting career, in which I developed some survey, legal and managerial skills, much of which have been applied in a major extra-curricular activity prior to my becoming a resident in a retirement village.

I am a retired Registered Land Surveyor, with additional specialist skills in mine, engineering and geodetic surveying. In addition I received specialist training in legal procedures and prosecution in 3 separate courses successfully completed at the Tasmanian Police Academy. As part of my duties as the Regional Surveyor (North) in the then Forestry Commission, I was responsible for all Commission survey staff in the North, their duties included road location and design, mapping of State Forest infrastructure and the location and marking of State Forest/private property boundaries. In my later years in the Forestry Commission I was responsible for investigating and prosecution of forest offences (in both the Magistrates Court and as instructing council in the Supreme Court).

After leaving the Forestry Commission I have enjoyed my roles as a senior surveyor and company director in three different, successful survey businesses.

Importantly and relevant to my role today, I was an unpaid director of the Masonic Peace Memorial Haven of Northern Tasmania for 14 years and Chairman for 10 of those years. During my time as Chairman, Peace Haven also operated the Garden Village in Norwood, the Fred French Masonic Nursing Home as well as Peace Haven's aged care facility. At the same time, Peace Haven went from a being in a difficult financial position, to building the Tamar Valley Court retirement village at Exeter, building the Flowers Court village at Norwood, purchasing the land opposite Bunnings at Kings Meadows, and achieving debt free status and savings of \$4m in the bank. My role ceased with the merging of Peace Haven, Fred French and Southern Masonic Homes to form Masonic Care Tasmania, which later merged into the Respect Group.

On a quirky note, prior to my late father's retirement, he was the CEO of the Lillian Martin Home for the Aged in Mornington. He and I both shared a desire to improve the welfare of aged persons (he was also one of the founders of Huon Elder Care).

It would seem that one way or another I was destined to both live in a retirement village and be involved as a volunteer in elderly people's matters.

And so until 2023, every Australian State except Tasmania had their own residents' association. Tasmania joined them with the launch of the Tasmanian Association for Residents of Retirement Villages (TARRV) on 13th February, 2023. The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Steering Committee for the formation of the TARRV, Mr Frank Nott. I note with pleasure that Frank is about to re-join the TARRV Committee.

What are some of the things achieved for residents in Tasmanian retirement villages in the 3½ years since TARRV's launch:

- TARRV has become an incorporated association with a constitution and today's meeting will see further improvements in our constitution
- TARRV has opened and maintains connections with similar bodies in other States
- TARRV now has nearly 600 members from 35 villages
- TARRV is recognised by the government as the peak body representing residents in retirement villages (as first stated to us at a meeting in Hobart on 11th September 2023 with senior staff from the Department of Justice)
- TARRV applied for and received a Government grant of \$3,600; this was for the necessary equipment for our secretariat and presentations at villages. Indeed, the secretariat has grown so much, that we now need one or more volunteers to assist our secretary with these critical duties
- TARRV has developed and maintains an extensive and informative state-of-the-art website, special thanks to our very hard-working secretary, Jon Hosford
- TARRV successfully lobbied the Tasmanian government to amend the Retirement Villages Act to correct the power imbalance that existed in the Act. It included the requirement for resident approval for recurrent fee increases together with a formula for calculating CPI increases to those fees. The current formula and latest calculations are available on our website
- TARRV has a current proposal for an extensive review of the Retirement Villages Act and has identified 20 recommendations for improving the Act; this is about to be presented to CBOS and either 2 selected politicians or all State politicians, this is yet to be decided
- TARRV has developed a discussion paper, for the Committee to consider, in regard to SCC's current practice of requesting "offers over" & "expressions of interest" in regard to applications for life tenancies in retirement villages; the paper concludes with some possible legislative resolutions
- The TARRV committee is very active and meets every month
- TARRV regularly produces and distributes a newsletter to all TARRV members, with thanks to the editor, Jon Hosford
- TARRV has made presentations at 16 different retirement villages. I have written and presented a report at every TARRV Committee Meeting and General Meeting. I have also prepared and presented 27 monthly reports to General Meetings at Glenara Lakes.

In closing, I offer my sincere thanks, firstly to every member of TARRV for your loyalty in electing me as your president for the last 3 ½ years and secondly to the current and past TARRV committee members for your time and devotion to both TARRV and your fellow retirement village residents. Thank you.