

# Kokoda Residences marks history, reaching its first summit.

Vasey Communities Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

Waitara recently witnessed the celebration and sharing of a significant event for Vasey Communities, WMK Architects and Richard Crookes Constructions of the eagerly awaited Kokoda Residences retirement apartments on Waitara Avenue.

Vasey Communities Chairman Kate Gunton and CEO Graham Hooper jointly conducted the traditional construction 'Topping Out' ceremony, where each contributing party was acknowledged for their invaluable roles in Kokoda Residences reaching and completing the consummate 12th level of its structure.

One particularly significant and symbolic element of the Topping Out ceremony was the inclusion of six Aleppo pine trees. Propagated from a single pine planted on the building site in its previous life as a Vasey Communities village, the Aleppo pine seedling brings a lineage and heritage all on its own.

Stemming from Gallipoli origins, and the Battle of Lone Pine, Aleppo were common, evergreen Mediterranean pines cleared for Turkish trenches... apart from one solitary pine.

After his brother died on the battlefield, an Australian Lance Corporal sent pinecones home to his mother in Australia who planted the seeds, raising two seedlings. One of which was sent to the Australian War Memorial to be planted in its grounds in honour of all sons who fell at Lone Pine ridge.

A forestry tube seedling program then designated the Aleppo pine for commemorative purposes. Vasey Communities, with its own ADF heritage, received a seedling, planting it on the current site.

The pine seedlings were then propagated from the Aleppo pine on site before it was cleared for the construction that has been recently celebrated.

The Aleppo 'Lone' pines will be planted in the planned terrace gardens of Kokoda Residences in conjunction with the planned opening of the innovative and, truly, inspired retirement community village of 117 apartment sanctuaries and facilities, scheduled as soon as July 2022.

## Contact Profile

### Vasey Communities

Vasey's mission is to achieve excellence in the provision of secure, independent residential accommodation to members of the community in need, particularly those with a defence connection.

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