

Apartments for Life at Ocean Street Community Newsletter



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Dear Resident

The Benevolent Society has plans for a new form of housing for older people on our site between Ocean and Wellington Streets, Bondi.

We have lodged a Development Application and it is currently being considered.

This edition of our regular Newsletter about the Apartments for Life project has information about the new community facilities and services that will be included in the complex.

We appreciate that when new building developments are proposed, neighbouring residents have an interest in the potential effects on them. We believe that this is an exciting project with many benefits for local people and the people of Waverley as a whole.

Sincerely

Richard Spencer
Chief Executive Officer

A new 'community hub'

Apartments for Life at Ocean Street will be a new form of housing, care and support for older people.

In addition to the apartments, the complex will include a range of community facilities at ground floor level and in the newly refurbished Scarba House.

The aim is to create an inviting neighbourhood atmosphere that

- has useful services and facilities for residents of the site and people nearby
- is a pleasant place for people to get together
- has ongoing activities, events and spaces for older people and the general community.

Some of the services will be particularly useful for older people (whether they live on the site or nearby). Others will be of value to people of all ages.



There will be rooms of various sizes for flexible use in and next to Scarba House. The idea is that these rooms will be used by local clubs for meetings, by interest groups, self help groups, craft groups, for fitness and dance classes, adult learning, social activities and so on. Kitchen and serving areas are included.

There will be a day centre for people with dementia. It will be a place where people with dementia can go for the day and be looked after by trained staff. This can be really important for the partners of people with dementia as it gives them a much-needed break.

In the small building between Scarba House and the park there will be a men's shed or workshop. Men's sheds have become popular with older men across Australia as places to spend time with others, share tools, work on their own or community projects, and so on.

There will be a café at ground level in the new Wellington Street building. As well as offering meals it will have basic supplies on sale for people who cannot make it to the shops. The café will be accessible by people who use wheelchairs and motorised scooters. It will include a child-friendly area for visiting families and local residents.

The upper floor of Scarba House will have consulting rooms for visiting health professionals, for example, a doctor, podiatrist or diabetes nurse.

The external garden areas will be landscaped with new trees and shrubs, footpaths and sitting areas. There will be a community garden/veggie plot for residents and locals with green fingers.

Key features

The Benevolent Society's aim is to create a stimulating and inviting environment where older people can continue to do things they enjoy and stay connected with their friends and family, even when health problems mean they need a lot of day-to-day help and support.

Apartments for Life will provide older people in Waverley with an alternative to the usual forms of retirement accommodation and aged care that is more in tune with what most people want.

Key features include:

- Apartments designed with older people's needs in mind.
- A new 'community hub' with facilities and services for residents of the site and people living nearby.
- A care advisor to help residents arrange to have health and care services come to their apartments, when needed.
- Ten percent of apartments for rent to disadvantaged older people.
- Another thirty percent at discount prices, so that they are affordable by local older people in a range of financial circumstances.
- A range of apartment sizes, 1 and 2 bedroom, all with separate living area, guest area/study, kitchen, bathroom and balcony or courtyard.
- Refurbishment of heritage-listed Scarba House.
- Half the site to be green space, open for the public to walk through and enjoy.

For more information see www.bensoc.org.au and click on Apartments for Life at Ocean Street or contact Lindy Ryan, The Benevolent Society: 9339 8000 or oceanstsite@bensoc.org.au