

Fern Bay.

MAY/JUNE 2018



BUSY-BEE BOWLERS: The Fern Bay Bowls Club has been a hive of activity of late. After our team's win in the round robin against Bayway, The Cove and Stockton, we also scored a win against Palm Lake Resort Tea Gardens for the Interclub Shield! The day was a lot of fun and a good fellowship event for the two Palm Lake Resorts. Our return match will be at Tea Gardens later in the year.

Friendship, fellowship and fun

The Probus Club of Fern Bay was delighted to celebrate its first anniversary recently. The group was founded in early 2017 with 100 enthusiastic locals (essentially residents of Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay) officially inducted as Foundation Members on March 23, 2017. The aim of Probus is to enjoy 'Friendship, Fellowship and Fun' – the three Fs – and in its first year, the Probus Club of Fern Bay has certainly been living up to these ideals. Every fourth Thursday of the month, members meet and enjoy listening to a variety of interesting guest speakers. Morning tea, held before the guest speaker, is a favourite part of each monthly meeting with a selection of delicious homemade cakes, slices and sandwiches made by members.

Since the Probus Club's foundation, many outings have been arranged for members by our hardworking Tours Committee. These have included a Japanese submarine tour, lunch at Destiny Haven, a sand dune safari, cruise to Broughton Island (great to see all the seals, dolphins and whales), Morpeth River cruise, 'Music of the Guns' at Fort Scratchley (the people firing the guns had too much fun that night!) and a Christmas Party cruise on the Hunter River (*pictured above*). Additionally, trips to Sydney to see the shows 'Beautiful' and 'Kinky Boots' were both well attended and appreciated. Upcoming outings to the Maitland Gaol and to three wineries in the Lovedale area as part of the Lovedale Long Lunch have also been arranged. The lawn bowlers in

the club, too, are well looked after with visits to a variety of local bowling clubs to participate in friendly competition days against other Probians. More recently, a weekly darts afternoon on Tuesdays has been organised by our Sports Committee for both members of the Probus Club and other Palm Lake Resort residents. While we thoroughly enjoy the activities on offer at Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay, our members also enjoy the Probus Club's 'three Fs' together. The future of the club is very exciting.



RESORT NEWS

Welcome to another edition of the Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay newsletter. We've enjoyed a great start to the year and 2018 looks to continue with gusto.

We have a fantastic resident committee working hard to ensure we live in a positive and supportive resort. The social committee is keeping residents busy ensuring we are entertained on a monthly basis with various events and more. The staff are working hard too - Wayne and Megan continue to produce excellent, well-balanced fare every week and the gardens and landscaping are looking really good too. Well done to Scott and Darren for this. A special thank you must also go to Linda, our resident cleaner, who works tirelessly away in the background.

We would like to welcome into our Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay family the following residents and hope they enjoy and embrace the community spirit, activities and friendship available here:

Villa 179: Diane & Bob Chapman

Villa 203: Garry Harrison

Villa 171: Ray & Robyn Wilton

Villa 14: Denise Pyke and her mum.

Here's a quote to leave you with: *"Attitude is like a box of crayons that colour your world. Constantly colour your picture gray and your picture will always be bleak. Add some bright colours to the picture by including humour and your picture begins to lighten up."*

Christine & John
Resort caretakers



GOLFERS GET SPORTY!

Well, here they are, off on a big adventure to defend the shield that our Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay golfers won last year against Tea Gardens. This is a young Palm Lake Resort team – some cannot even get the aged pension – and they will be playing older more experienced players, some as old as 80! We have equipped them as best we can with their own driver, chef, nutritionist, defibrillator, Band-Aids and life coach! We were a bit worried to hear that some of the younger players were up late polishing their balls on one side and roughing up the other side. We have told them that this is not cricket (!) and it will not be tolerated by the champions of the past. Good luck boys and girls!



DOGGIE DAY OUT

Million Paws Walk is the RSPCA's biggest annual fundraiser. On May 20, thousands of supporters in dozens of locations across the state will walk with their pooches to fight animal cruelty. We know how much Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay residents love their pooches in our pet-friendly resort, so join the walk locally at Newcastle Foreshore Park, Wharf Rd, Newcastle East. Registrations open at 8.30am and the walk itself will kick off at 10am. It's going to be a special day where kids can have their face painted, meet clowns and fairies and enjoy a jumping castle. There will be stalls and competitions for owners and their furry best friends, as well as plenty of giveaways, a silent auction, live music and food. For more, visit the official website at www.millionpawswalk.com.au

MAY / JUNE EDITION

What's happening.



FERN BAY STARS FEATURE

Did you know, a little part of Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay featured at the Commonwealth Games recently? No, we didn't have any resident athletes competing, but we did have 550 colourful ribbon stars, woven by members of our community, featuring alongside around one million others in a public art installation in Brisbane's King George Square. The "One Million Stars to End Violence" project was proudly supported by the Queensland Government as part of Festival 2018 during the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. More than 15 countries contributed stars to the project and our stars were a great effort from a relatively small village! "Thank you for contributing stars towards this record-breaking installation that inspired the world during the Games," organiser Maryann (pictured above) told Fern Bay residents. "What an amazing platform for us to send our collective message for global peace."

MUMS RULE

Whether it's your mum, your grandma, your aunty, or a beloved female neighbour, make sure you take time to celebrate Mother's Day with the special ladies in your life on May 13. Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother in Grafton, West Virginia in the United States. Her campaign to make Mother's Day a recognised holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna Jarvis wanted to honour her mother by continuing the work she started and to set aside a day to honour all mothers because she believed that they were "the person who has done more for you than anyone else in the world."

BARBECUE AREA NOW OPEN

The recent opening of our new barbecue area was officiated by 'Dancing John' who cut the ribbon on the day (pictured right). John has been doing a lot of work for the Fern Bay Bowls Club. Anyone interested in learning to bowl should come along and join in for lots of fun and friendship – the club would love to welcome new members!



Sky high over the Bay.

The generally held notion of ‘back-seat driving’ rapidly took on a whole new meaning as Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay resident Mal Davies roared across the sky at 350kmh. Here is his story...



We are some 1000m above the Cessnock vineyards in a Chinese designed and built Nanchang CJ-6A fighter aeroplane. It all seems somewhat surreal - strapped into the rear of the two-seater cockpit, joystick clasped in my right hand, participating in an incredibly realistic in-cockpit simulation known as ‘ghosting’ as we bank, level off, gently climb, descend and bank again.

I arrived at Cessnock Aerodrome an hour before my scheduled flight where I completed the required paperwork and received a pre-flight briefing from Aerohunter’s Chief Pilot Dan O’Donnell. That done, we walked to the plane and Dan settled me into the rear seat of the narrow cockpit before lowering himself into the cockpit directly in front of me. Moments later the super-charged radial engine spluttered into life and we taxied slowly away from the terminal and onto the runway. A final exchange with the tower and soon we were airborne and climbing steeply.

As the earth rapidly dropped away below us Dan explained the plane’s capabilities and proceeded to introduce me, by way of ‘practical demonstration’,

to the crushing sensation of G-force, momentary weightlessness and a number of exhilarating and occasionally heart-stopping aerobatic manoeuvres including barrel rolls, stall turns and free-fall.

And then the crowning moment of the flight: I hear Dan’s voice in my earphones inviting me to try my hand - strictly in accordance with his instructions and under his supervision of course - at executing a loop-the-loop manoeuvre. There was a moment of hesitation before committing but overall an intense feeling of excitement as I realise that what I’m experiencing is as close as any person – untrained and totally inexperienced - will ever come to actually flying a fighter aircraft on their own. I pull back firmly on the joystick. The plane seemingly responds, nosing up quickly, its engine roaring with effort as it spears vertically upwards and over onto its back before plunging earthwards and finally levelling out to regain its normal flying orientation. I can hear Dan’s voice in my earphones: “You’ve just performed a loop-the-loop. How do you feel?” Only one word readily comes to mind - unbelievable!

As we come in to land, I reflect for just a moment on the last 20 minutes of my life. What an experience! Aerohunter offers a number of adventure flight packages to the public including ‘warbird manoeuvring and acrobatics’ and a number of ‘reconnaissance’ and ‘full military mission’ simulations. Whichever flight you choose, in addition to the thrill of the hands-on experience during the flight, you will be awe-struck by what you see beneath and around you.

From the cockpit of the aircraft you will enjoy 360-degree views and see some of Newcastle’s and the Hunter’s most spectacular scenery as you have never seen it before. You’ll catch breathtaking views of the city itself, beautiful Lake Macquarie, the mighty Hunter River, the patchwork of vineyards and farms in and around Cessnock, the Watagan Mountains, the spectacular coastal beaches stretching north and south of Newcastle, the Stockton sand dunes (the largest coastal sand dune system in Australia), our Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay of course and beautiful Nelson Bay, the jewel in the crown of the Great Lakes Marine Park. Already I’m planning my next adventure flight.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Diane and Bob



Where did you grow up?

Diane was a country girl, raised on a Poll Hereford Stud called “Wootton” near Bunnan (between Scone and Merriwa) and attended Scone High School. Bob was born in Muswellbrook and attended Muswellbrook High School.

What do/did you do for work? Diane worked in the office of the Upper Hunter County Council until they married, then took a number of smaller jobs across New South Wales and Queensland until the pair’s kids came along. She then took on the most important job of all, being a full time mother for two children! Bob started out at the construction of Liddell Power Station as an apprentice electrician, then followed the construction industry around New South Wales and Queensland before settling back in Muswellbrook working for Costains in open cut coal mining. Bob spent 27 years there before starting his own electrical engineering consulting/contracting company. The pair officially retired last year.

What drew you to Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay?

We wanted to downsize from our home of 43 years. We also wanted to extensively travel in our van and leaving the house and gardens for long periods was an issue. We were looking to live in a safer environment, looking forward to the cooler summers and milder winters. Probably most of all, we were looking for a more social life with a host of activities available and the friendliness of the existing residents.

What are your hobbies/interests? Diane enjoys craft, swimming, walking and talking. Bob enjoys road cycling as well as building and repairing things.

What are the resort activities you are interested in? Swimming, aerobics, tennis, bowls, snooker and socialising.

What’s your dream holiday destination? None in particular. We’d like to spend more time exploring this beautiful country of ours in our caravan. We also enjoy travelling in New Zealand.

What makes you proud? Following the achievements of our son and daughter and watching our three grandchildren develop.

Favourite inspirational quote? “Look forward - don’t look back.”

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY

9am Bowls Competition
9.30am Craft
3pm Mah-jong
5pm Table Tennis
6pm Tennis
6.45pm Women of Note chorus

TUESDAY

7am Bend & Stretch, Gym Classes, Tai Chi
7.30am Tennis
9.30am Art Classes
10am Paper Tole
12.30pm Residents’ Lunch
1.30-3.30pm Mah-jong
7pm Line Dancing

WEDNESDAY

8.30am Tennis, Tai Chi
10am Ukelele Group
1.30pm Sketching & Perspective
1.30pm Craft Finishing School
4.15pm Twilight Bowls
6pm Table Tennis

THURSDAY

8.30am Tennis, Aqua Aerobics (low intensity)
9.30am Aqua Aerobics (high intensity)
5.30pm Residents’ Dinner
6.45pm Cinema
7pm Carpet Bowls

FRIDAY

8.30am Tennis
9.30am Aqua Aerobics (high intensity)
12pm Bistro Lunch
1.30pm Line Dancing
2.30pm Cards
5pm Happy Hour

SATURDAY

8.30am Tennis, Aqua Aerobics (medium intensity)
12.45pm Bowls Comp
3pm Cinema

Picture yourself here.



VILLA 240 - WATERFALL DR: \$554,000

This lovely home has a high raked ceiling in the open-plan living room. Light and spacious, the main area features a kitchen with island bench, lounge and dining space that opens onto an enclosed outside living area which can be used as additional living space. There are two bedrooms, both with built-in robes and an adjacent bathroom off the main. A separate powder room and laundry are located at the rear and lead to a well maintained rear courtyard and shed. The home has ceiling fans throughout and split system air con to the main bedroom and living area. The kitchen has a stone bench top, polyurethane cabinets and gas cook-top. A central multi-purpose room is perfect as a study or craft room and would accommodate a sofa bed.



VILLA 169 - PONTOON AVE: \$650,000

This three-bedroom home features a walk in robe and his & her vanity en-suite off the main bedroom and another generous bedroom with guest bathroom and BIR. The open plan living area leads to a low maintenance north facing courtyard with extra enclosed outside living area. The home has ceiling fans throughout and split system air conditioning to the main bedroom and living area. The kitchen has plenty of storage, polyurethane cabinets and gas cook-top. A centre multi purpose room could be used as a bedroom, study or craft room. The villa is completely fenced and houses a double garage.



VILLA 24 - SUNRISE PDE: \$599,000

This three-bedroom home features a walk-in robe and his and hers vanity en-suite off the main bedroom and another generous bedroom with guest bathroom and built-in robe. The open-plan living area leads to a low maintenance courtyard with a covered alfresco area. The home has ceiling fans throughout and split system air conditioning to the main bedroom and living area. The kitchen has plenty of storage, polyurethane cabinets and gas cooktop. A central multi-purpose room could be used as a bedroom, study or craft room. The villa is completely fenced and houses a double garage. It is situated within steps of amenities such as the swimming pools, bowls and clubhouse.



VILLA 202 - AQUA AVE: \$645,000

This well-presented home has a lovely wide entrance leading into an open-plan living area. The modern kitchen features polyurethane cupboards with drawers being featured throughout and a quartz benchtop. The open plan living areas also feature a multi-purpose room that could be used as a study, third bedroom or dining room. The property features a double garage which is close to amenities such as swimming pools, bowls and clubhouse and has an Odyssey ventilation system, tandem garage, quality window furnishings, ceiling fans and reverse cycle air conditioning.



VILLA 10 - BILLABONG WAY: \$698,000

This gorgeous Seacoast design home is thoughtfully presented and features three generous sized bedrooms. The master bedroom comes complete with walk in robe and en-suite with twin vanities and built in robe in second bedroom. The spacious and smartly designed kitchen features stone bench tops, polyurethane cabinets and gas cook top. Zone ducted heating and cooling throughout, the open plan living areas include plantation shutters and tiled dining area that leads out onto an enclosed outdoor area with double glazed windows and tiled flooring. This villa also includes a fully landscaped, low maintenance garden, double sized garage and is close to amenities such as tennis courts, bowls and clubhouse with cinema, indoor heated pool and more.



VILLA 42 - STILLWATER DR: \$690,00

A unique corner block with views overlooking natural habitat, beautifully presented inside and out consisting of 3 good sized bedrooms with WIR and his and her vanity en-suite, BIR in 2nd bedroom. Air-con to Bedroom 1 and main living area. The larger rear area is tastefully landscaped with timer decking which extends to a covered alfresco overlooking attractive well maintained garden and grassed area, it also hosts a further side covered alfresco for further outdoor living. The corner aspects ensures you enjoy privacy and views. Good size garden storage area.



VILLA 22 - STILLWATER DR: \$680,000

This gorgeous three-bedroom home has a sunny, northerly aspect with open-plan living room and plantation shutters to the front windows. Light and spacious, the main area features a kitchen, lounge and dining space that opens onto an undercover outside dining alfresco area.

There are three bedrooms, walk-in robe, ensuite with his and hers vanity. The home has ceiling fans throughout and split system air conditioning to the main bedroom and living area. There's also a double-sized garage with a longer drive and larger back matured garden with a double side gate.



VILLA 94 - SUNDANCE CRES: \$560,00

This lovely home has a high raked ceiling in the open-plan living room. Light and spacious, the main area features a kitchen with island bench, lounge and dining space that opens onto an outside alfresco area. There are two bedrooms, both with built-in robes and an adjacent bathroom off the main. The third bedroom is a multi-purpose room perfect as a study or craft room and would accommodate a sofa bed. The home has ceiling fans throughout and split system air conditioning to the main bedroom and living area. The villa has a 1.5-sized garage and is close to amenities.



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