

The Tide



Tennis group rallies in China

Our tennis ladies took their latest get-together up a notch – with a trip to China!

We will remember them

On April 25, homeowners and guests came together to commemorate Anzac Day

Over the back fence

Keep up to date with all the good things your fellow Palm Lake Resort family is up to



Welcome.

Wow, how the months fly by. Winter is nearly here, although it certainly does not feel like it. We hope you are all safe, well and enjoying resort living. It was great to see another huge crowd for the annual Anzac Day commemoration service. We understand that Peter and Ann-Marie did a great job organising the service for the first time. A job well done by the Social Committee and all involved with the social aspects of the day. It was another great community event.

With the cost of fuel now and the ever-growing uncertainty in the world, some planned holidays may be being put on hold. Perhaps it's time to explore a little closer to home? There's plenty to see and do in Newcastle city. Check out the Newcastle Art Gallery – it's open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am, and punches above its weight compared to most regional galleries. Right next door, the Newcastle City Library regularly features quality exhibitions and is well worth a visit. The Newcastle Museum at Honeysuckle showcases exhibitions across science, industry, local history, and regional culture, with interactive and heritage-focused displays. All three of these attractions are an easy walk from the ferry wharf and within a five-minute walk of each other. If you're feeling a bit more active, a walk around the East End and past Nobbys and Newcastle beaches is worth the effort.

On the weather front, September through April, Williamtown has recorded just 389.8mm of rain. This is 359mm below the average for the same period, nearly half of our expected rainfall. This dry spell has been further compounded by the fact that daily maximum temperatures for this year are nearly 1.5 degrees above average. One only needs drive along Richardson Road between Raymond Terrace and Medowie and see how low Grahamstown Dam is to realise the impact. We ask that all homeowners be mindful of their water consumption. Be aware that a dripping tap or a leaking toilet can lead to thousands of litres of water being wasted over time. Please consider how much you water your lawn – grass is tough and you'd be surprised how little water it needs to survive.

Well, that's it for now. Stay safe. We hope to see you around the resort soon.

Until next time,

Jo and Ron Payne
Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay Caretakers



Contact us.

Looking for more information about Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay?
Here's how you can reach us:

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News in brief.



Congratulations to the newlyweds!

Congratulations are in order for our Grounds Supervisor, Ben, who married his lovely wife Dana on Thursday March 12. The nuptials took place at the historic Tocal Homestead, and is to be followed by a honeymoon in Japan in late April/early May.



Weekly activities list.

MONDAY

8.30am Ladies Tennis
8.45am Moving on Monday
9am Shopping Bus Run (check local guides)
9.15am Bowls
9.30am Monday Craft
1pm Line Dancing (Beginners)
1.30pm River Waters Country Practice (Oasis)
2pm Line Dancing (Intermediate) Mahjong (Library)
4.30pm Table Tennis

TUESDAY

8am Mixed Tennis
8.30am Dancefit
9.20am Stretch Class
10.30am Beginners Rock 'n' Roll
11am Intermediate Rock 'n' Roll
1.30pm Crochet, Knit and Natter
5pm for 5.30pm Residents' Dinner and Raffle
6.45pm Carpet Bowls, Cinema Movie

WEDNESDAY

7am Fishing Competition
8.30am Tai Chi
10am Sea of Sound (Ukulele) (Craft Room)
12pm for 12.30pm Residents' Lunch and Raffle
1pm Art and Painting Group (Craft Room)
1.30pm All Craft (Clubhouse)
2pm Turn the Page Practice

4.30pm Table Tennis, Fishing Weigh-In
4.45pm Twilight Bowls

THURSDAY

8am Tennis
8.45am Aqua Fitness
9am Shopping Bus Run (check local guides)
9.40am Stretch Class
11.15am Troy the Fruito at Sports Club
12.45pm Bowls
2pm River Waters Country Practice (Oasis)
2.30pm Mixed Tennis
5pm for 5.30pm Residents' Dinner and Raffle
6.45pm Carpet Bowls, Cinema Movie

FRIDAY

8am Tennis - Hard Hitters
8.30am & 9.20am Aqua Fitness
9.30am Patchwork and Quilting (Craft Room), Bible Study Group (Library)
12pm for 12.30pm Bistro Lunch
2.30pm Canasta and Cards - 500 (Clubhouse)
5pm Happy Hour

SATURDAY

8.30am Social Tennis
12.45pm Bowls
2pm Cinema Movie
7pm B-Boomers

SUNDAY

1pm River Waters Country

Tech Talk with Steve

It's great to be back again! Has anyone tried the "Back Tap" feature on their iPhone? Pretty handy once you get used to it.

Alright, let's jump into it. This one applies to pretty much everything – PCs, Macs, iPhones, Android devices, apps, you name it. We're talking updates and upgrades. Keeping your operating system up to date isn't just a good idea – it's a must. Cyber threats are getting smarter, and older systems are an easy target for malware, ransomware, and data breaches. Regular updates help plug those gaps and keep your data safe.

On top of that, newer systems from Apple and Microsoft tend to run smoother, use battery more efficiently and just feel more stable overall. Sure, they come with some cool AI features too, but honestly, the security side is the real reason to stay updated.

Compatibility is another big one. If your system's out of date, you might find apps stop working properly – or won't install at all. For example, Windows 10 is no longer supported, so moving up to Windows 11 (or newer) is pretty important if you want to stay protected. But before you hit that update button, just take a few minutes to:

- Back up your data
- Make sure you've got enough storage
- Check your device can actually handle the update

If you're on a Mac, Time Machine makes backups easy. On Windows, the PC Health Check app is great for seeing if you're good to go. At the end of the day, updates aren't something to put off anymore – they're key to keeping your device secure and running properly. And as always, if you're not sure what you're doing, it's worth having a chat with a tech professional before diving in.

Until next time,
Tech Steve

Lest we forget.

OUR 2026 ANZAC DAY CEREMONY WAS THE 11TH FOR OUR COMMUNITY. THE TRADITION STARTED IN 2015, WITH ONLY ONE YEAR MISSED (2020, DUE TO COVID).

Homeowners Alan and Robyn Boyes had always initiated and organised the ceremonies, but since their recent move to the Central Coast, Ann-Maire Slevison and Peter Fitzpatrick have taken up the mantle.

This year we started early, around 6.30am, with almost 200 people (homeowners, family members and guests) attending for the march, flag ceremony, prayers, addresses, laying of wreaths and of course, The Ode.

The march was led by flag bearer Ann-Marie Slevison, who was followed by 'Sam the Piper'. We were fortunate to have him provide traditional marching music and moving renditions on his bagpipes.

The service, conducted at the flagpole, was led by MC Peter Fitzpatrick, with speakers including Rod Mallinson and a special guest, Flight Lieutenant Nathan Howarth (RAAF Base Williamtown). His address was informative and inspirational, perfect for the occasion. He is a credit to the RAAF and ADF, and made this year's ceremony extra special.

The formal ceremony was followed by a gunfire breakfast of bacon and egg rolls in our clubhouse, which was meticulously organised by our tireless Social Committee. They decorated the clubhouse, and everyone loved the display of family memorabilia – and the 100 board and coin toss, with a bottle of Scotch as the prize. We were treated to another recital by 'Sam the Piper', as well as some Anzac poems read by homeowners Rod Mallinson and Lloyd Hynd.

The morning finished up with 'The Anzac Spirit', a well-attended audio-visual presentation by Fitzy in our cinema. It was a moving insight into why we commemorate this very special day.

The Anzac Day ceremony has become a highlight of our community's year, and a time for homeowners to reflect on Anzac Day – a day to honour the Anzac Spirit, which is the very Australian belief that everyone deserves "a fair go."

Thanks to all those in attendance, a total of \$1063 was raised on the day and donated to the Newcastle/Hunter Valley Vietnam Veterans. Another special thank you to the Residents Committee for covering the catering expenses, and to everyone who worked so hard on and before the day to bring everything together. As with all our community events, our Anzac Day ceremony is made possible by the many generous volunteers who give their time freely to benefit all residents.





Tennis ladies take China.

OUR PALM LAKE RESORT FERN BAY TENNIS LADIES DECIDED A TRIP TO CHINA WOULD BE A FUN ADVENTURE – AND WHAT AN ADVENTURE IT WAS!

Ten of us travelled together, and our guide affectionately called us 'the 10 sisters'. We explored the vibrant cities of Beijing and Shanghai, walked along the incredible Great Wall of China, and stood in the vast Tiananmen Square. We wandered through beautiful gardens and magnificent palaces, soaking in the rich history and culture.

We embraced the full experience – sampling the local cuisine, learning to navigate with Google Translate, and even getting a glimpse into the future, where robots may soon be doing our housework and cooking our dinner (we can only hope!).

Now, with wonderful memories made, we're already planning our next adventure... and who knows, maybe next time there will be 20 sisters!



Friendly competition.

ON SUNDAY APRIL 19, WE HOSTED OUR FRIENDS FROM PALM LAKE RESORT TEA GARDENS FOR A GAME OF BOWLS – THE WINNER OF WHICH WOULD EARN THE RIGHT TO HOLD THE INTER-VILLAGE SHIELD.

This game provided one of the best comebacks our team has experienced. Our side had fallen behind early in three rinks, being 10 points or more down after seven of 16 ends. On aggregate, we were in total more than 20 points behind covering all eight rinks.

An eventual turnaround saw more than 40 points clawed back to achieve an overall victory of 18 points. It was great to see our fighting spirit come back to reduce the margins, assisting in the overall win. Not to forget the winning teams, including one rink completing a 33 to nine salute.

Overall, the rink scores were three wins, one draw and four losses, and the final tally was Fern Bay defeating Tea Gardens 122.

A big thank you from all the bowlers to the wonderful ladies in the kitchen, as well as the volunteers who assisted in making this a very successful event once again. Our return game is at Tea Gardens on October 11, where we will try to repeat a run of five victories in a row.

On Sunday May 31, we will travel to Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes to defend the shield we currently hold.

Sunday July 12 has also been set for the inaugural North vs South Internal Fern Bay bowls event. Please watch for the nomination sheet to participate, and note that the boundaries are to be determined by the number of entries and their geographical status.

Mike, Bowls Club President



Cash buyers await.

Listings wanted

Word has spread about our secure resort grounds, low-maintenance/high-quality homes, world-class facilities, myriad weekly activities and welcoming coastal community - so much so, we have a number of buyers looking to purchase at Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay.

If you're a homeowner here and your situation has changed, call our Sales Team for a free market appraisal. We have qualified buyers waiting to hear about any new homes as they hit the market. To find out more, phone 1800 648 868 or stop by the Sales and Information Centre between Monday to Friday, by appointment.

Commission-free transition

Did you know that if you are a resident of any Palm Lake Resort and relocate to a new home in a different Palm Lake Resort location, you won't pay any agent's commission on the sale of your original Palm Lake Resort home?



Marketing and advertising services include:

- Professional photography of your home
- Listing on realestate.com.au
- Listing on Palm Lake Resort website
- Presented in our sales newsletter
- Printed professional flyers included in our information packs
- Homes for sale emailed to potential buyers on our database

ONLY
\$550



Helping friends become neighbours.

We know your friends love coming to visit your Palm Lake Resort home and enjoy sharing our resort facilities with you, right? Refer a friend to join you and become part of our exclusive community, and if they purchase one of our established Palm Lake Resort homes, you'll receive \$250 cash. Easy!

\$250

cash incentive when you refer a friend to buy an **established home** at Palm Lake Resort

For more information and to refer your friend, simply contact our Sales Information Centre on 1800 648 868. *T&Cs apply



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Over the back fence.

THE PALM LAKE GROUP SPANS 27 RESORT ADDRESSES ACROSS THREE STATES AND SOME 12,000 PEOPLE CALL PALM LAKE GROUP HOME, SO THERE IS ALWAYS PLENTY OF GOOD NEWS AROUND OUR GROUNDS.

AN EVENING
WE WON'T SOON
FORGET!



Truganina bowls us over!

Our **Palm Lake Resort Trugagina** bowlers delivered an outstanding performance during the most recent pennant season, achieving not one but two premierships wins, along with two runner-up finishes. Well done to everyone involved – a great team effort!



Trauma teddies go overseas.

Ladies from the **Palm Lake Resort Hervey Bay** knitting and craft group have been producing these adorable 'trauma teddies' for the local Urangan Branch of the QCWA. The best part? The teddies have been sent to Indonesia, so that they can be distributed among flood-affected children.

Le dîner en blanc.

Over a year ago, the **Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes** community was deeply moved by the story of a young boy's brave battle with brain cancer – especially since the young boy's grandparents call the resort home. Immediately, one question was on everyone's lips: 'Le Dîner en Blanc' (a "White Dinner"). The global phenomenon began in Paris in 1988, but has since spread across 85 cities – and now, Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes.

The 'White Dinner Working Group' spent months planning how to bring their vision to life, holding top-secret meetings to plan every last detail, right down to the elaborate white tablescapes. Without those dedicated volunteers crafting floral arrangements, managing entertainment and handling set up and pack down, the night couldn't have taken place – nor been so successful.

When the night of the dinner finally arrived, it was more than just a visual spectacle – it was a show of community. Homeowners came together, forging new friendships and strengthening existing ones, and all for an excellent cause.

The night was an overwhelming success, and now a new question is being asked: "When is the next one?".

We look forward to seeing this become a much-anticipated tradition, not just to come together as a resort, but to support the grandchildren and families within our special community.



Living the high life.

Our homeowners love living in luxury – and having a laugh! At **Palm Lake Resort Carindale**, a newly-created lounge area has quickly been dubbed 'The Qantas Lounge', and homeowners love using it for downtime, church group and coffee catch-ups. One talented homeowner has even created a wooden sign! Meanwhile, at **Palm Lake Resort Yamba**, homeowners have established an exclusive 'corporate box' (dubbed Bay 13, just like at the Melbourne Cricket Ground), and it's the perfect place to watch pickleball games on the new court.



Cooking for a cause.

Our **Palm Lake Resort Bargara** homeowners regularly join forces with the QCWA Bundaberg Branch members to cook for those in need – and have a lot of fun in the process! Recently, on one day alone, the group cooked enough lasagne and cottage pie to serve 174 people. Thanks for caring for your community, one meal at a time!

Friendly rivalry.

There's nothing quite like a bit of friendly competition to bring Palm Lake Resort communities together – and four of our locations have been doing just that!

Palm Lake Resorts Beachmere Sands and **Beachmere Bay** went head-to-head in their bi-annual intervillage lawn bowls competition on March 29. Despite a windy lead-up, the day delivered fine conditions and plenty of entertaining play. Beachmere Bay took home the win, but both teams could put aside their rivalry to celebrate together over burgers and a cold beer in The Sands clubhouse. Rumour has it The Sands are already sharpening up for the next round – watch this space!

Meanwhile, **Palm Lake Resorts Tea Gardens** and **Forster Lakes** teed off in their annual golf challenge. The tournament is played across four games using the Stableford scoring system – and this was the first. Forster Lakes claimed the day's honours, with a combined score of 230 points to Tea Gardens' 218. Jo Nolan of Forster Lakes was the standout individual performer with an impressive 41 points. The next round is set for Hawks Nest Golf Club on July 20.



We love our staff!

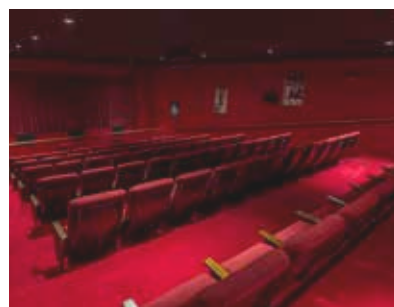
The **Palm Lake Resort Toowoomba** Social Committee put on a morning tea on behalf of all the homeowners to show their appreciation for their staff – much to everyone's delight! Homeowner Leanne Day put together a wonderful slideshow of images of the resort, and performed some songs to compliment them.

What's over your back fence?

Has your resort got a warm and fuzzy "Over the back fence" story to share with the whole Palm Lake Resort group? We'd love to include it in the next editions of our resort newsletters. **Simply contact your Caretakers or email the details to Belinda at belinda@bellepr.com**



Your happy place.



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