

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2024



The Tide



Meet your neighbour

Our resort is full of incredible stories. In this edition, learn about the life of Ann Ermer

Get busy at home this spring

It's the season for growth and renewal - is it time for a spring clean up, or a spring clear out?

Over the back fence

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



Welcome.



Hello to everyone at Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay, and welcome to the September-October edition of our newsletter, The Tide. Spring has sprung and hopefully the rain has dispersed for the time being. While winter seemed very cold and wet, overall it was quite mild. The nightly minimum temperature for August, 10 degrees, was actually warmer than average - by more than three degrees. During June and July, the nightly minimums were only slightly warmer than average but warmer, nonetheless. What made the weather seem so bad may have been the lower daily maximums, the seemingly constant drizzly rain and the wind. Probably the best place to gauge the season, however, would be your garden. At our farm, for example, tomatoes popped up in our garden in May and have been fruiting since mid-August. Did any homeowners here have similar unseasonal growth in their gardens?

As we prepare this welcome spiel, residents may have noticed technicians working around the resort on light poles and in the clubhouse communications room. They are installing the state-of-the-art upgrade to the resort's CCTV system. The new system will feature twenty hi-res digital cameras, 24/7 recording capability and two months of storage. We will have access to all cameras even when we're off the property via an app on our phone. Nine of the most important locations will be televised into your homes. Furthermore, work on the cinema upgrade will commence very shortly.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our hard-working staff for their ongoing efforts throughout the year. We'd also like to welcome our new groundsman Ben to the team. We believe that he will fit in well and help keep your resort looking spick and span. A big thank you also to all the wonderful volunteers who work behind the scenes to keep the resort ticking along. We appreciate all you do.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy,

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:

FREECALL: 1800 648 868

Street address:
1117 Nelson Bay Rd
Fern Bay, 2295

Office hours:
Monday to Friday (by appointment)

Email:
fernbay@pallmlake.com.au

Find us online at:
pallmlakeresort.com.au

Get social:
Follow us on Facebook
(@pallmlakeresort) and on
Instagram (@pallm.lake.resort)

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News in brief.

We want to hear from you!

Whether it's photos from a recent event or a new activity you'd like to announce, this newsletter is the perfect place to share the latest and greatest resort happenings. Ask your caretaker about deadlines for upcoming editions and how to submit content.

Go slow

Sometimes when we are in a hurry, we forget the limits and our speed creeps up but, for the safety of all including our wildlife, please stick to the 10km/h speed limit. Also, to those owners of bikes, buggies and motorised scooters, you also need to respect the road rules whilst moving around our resort grounds.



Refer a friend

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 a Palm Lake Resort home, you'll receive \$250 cash. Easy! Ask about our 'Refer a Friend' incentive at the Sales Information Centre.



Get social

Are you on social media? We are, too! You can find Palm Lake Resort on Facebook and also Instagram. Make sure you like and follow our social media profiles to see even more news from right across our dozens and dozens of locations, across the east coast of Australia.

Facebook: @pallmlakeresort
Instagram: @pallm.lake.resort

Four-legged friends

Palm Lake Resort understands how important pets can be in people's lives and we actively market our resorts as pet friendly. However, for the benefit and comfort of all homeowners, certain rules concerning pet ownership are in place. Initially, all pets in the resort need to be registered with the Resort Office. Your site agreement contains all the finer details in relation to this requirement and no reasonable requests have been denied.

Weekly activities list

MONDAY

10am Social bowls
1pm Sewing & Craft
1.30pm Mah Jong, Sailing
2pm Table tennis
7pm Cards 500, Snooker

TUESDAY

7.30am Kayaking (Anzac Park)
9am Craft (Paint by Numbers), Tech Savvy (third Tuesday)
9.30am Zumba
10am Forget-Me-Nots (first Tuesday)
1pm Advanced Canasta
2pm Ladies' coffee afternoon (first Tuesday)
3pm Pickleball
7.30pm Movie night

WEDNESDAY

9am Bootcamp, Workshop open
10.30am Line dancing, Aqua aerobics (bookings via Unified Health 02 6555 9607)
11am Darts
1.30pm Ladies lawn bowls
2pm Art, Tennis
7.30pm Movie night

THURSDAY

10am Forget-Me-Nots (third Thursday), Ballroom Dancing
1.15pm Tenpin bowling
1.30pm Card making, Cards & Cribbage
2pm Table tennis
3pm Social bowls, Pickleball (WLCC)

FRIDAY

8.30am Shopping bus
10.30am Line dancing
2.30pm Social Committee Information Talk (last Friday)
5pm Happy Hour

SATURDAY

9am Workshop open
1pm Advanced Canasta
2pm Social bowls, Table tennis
3pm Pickleball

SUNDAY

1.30pm Mah Jong, Knit & Natter
2pm Movies, Tennis
7pm Cards/Crazy Whist (third Sunday)

Ann, our bonny lass.

ANN ERMER'S LIFE JOURNEY TOOK HER FROM THE SHORES OF ARBROATH TO AUSTRALIA. NOW, SETTLED AT PALM LAKE RESORT FERN BAY, SHE REFLECTS ON HER LIFE AND FAMILY FOR OUR RESIDENT ZINE, BACKFLIP.

Ann was born in Arbroath, a coastal town on the east coast of Scotland, 13 years after her sister Isabel, who now lives in Home 75. Their younger sister, Joan, was also born in Arbroath, though she now resides in London. Even now, Ann is unmistakably a Scottish lass and still speaks with a charming brogue.

Growing up, Ann always felt a strong connection to her father. During World War II, Arthur served as a pharmacist in Burma and India and Ann has a vivid memory of his return, recalling his deep tan from the war.

In 1959, Arthur decided to move the family from Scotland to Australia. Why? To play golf year-round, of course! At the time, Ann was only 17 and quite content with her life in Scotland. She had enjoyed home economics classes at school and was paid to recite Robbie Burns poetry locally. Knowing this, perhaps we should encourage her to recite "A Red, Red Rose" at the clubhouse in the near future?

The family settled in Cessnock, where Arthur continued working as a pharmacist. The following year, Ann began commuting by train to Newcastle for a job at the Co-op, where she quickly rose to become head of the Manchester department at just 18. A smart young lady indeed! To balance her work life, Ann enjoyed socialising at the Marine Ballroom, a well-known dance venue in the 1960s.

It was there that she met Mario Ermer, a dashing young Italian man. Ann admired his stylish Italian shoes, and Mario, smitten by her dark hair and complexion, initially thought she was Italian. He quickly learned of her Scottish roots, and their relationship blossomed nonetheless. They married at the age of 20.

The couple built a home on a half-acre block in West Wallsend, where they raised two daughters and two sons. Ann ran a catering business from their home. Meanwhile, Mario worked as a boilermaker at BHP until its closure in 1999, when 2000 workers and 1000 contractors were retrenched. For Mario, this was the push he needed to devote himself to his art.

Mario was an exceptionally talented artist – the portrait he painted at 18 reveals his natural skill. His artistic legacy lives on, as his painting of the Newcastle Harbour, now owned by Palm Lake Resort, hangs in the Sports Club. The painting came about after Mario and Ann purchased a home on The Hill, next to the Christ Church Cathedral, where they had a stunning view of the harbour from their dining room window.



Mario was later invited by the bishop to paint from the cathedral tower, resulting in the piece now displayed at the Sports Club. Ann and Mario were married for over 50 years before his passing. Their two daughters have inherited his creative flair: Gina is an artist, and Jennifer is an interior designer.

In recent years, Ann sought a safe and comfortable place to live and found her home at Palm Lake Resort Fern Bay. She now lives close to her sister, Isabel – something that has never happened before due to their age difference and life circumstances. This decision has brought great joy to both sisters, and Ann wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

The roving reporter.

OUR HOMEOWNERS SHARE MANY THINGS – A LOVE FOR TRAVEL AMONG THEM. IN THIS EXCERPT FROM BACKFLIP, ROVING REPORTER TERRY FORD (HOME 60) CATCHES UP WITH SOME OF OUR INTREPID EXPLORERS TO DISCUSS THEIR FAVOURITE DESTINATIONS.

JUDY AND WAYNE GALLAGHER (HOME 184)

Could Copenhagen and its surroundings be your next destination? With a population of 660,842, the Danish capital is located on the southern end of the Zealand and Amager islands. It was the city of choice for our homeowners Judy and Wayne, who spent five days here before embarking on a cruise through the Baltics, Norway, and Iceland. Lucky them! Wayne was particularly impressed by the city's rich history, stunning architecture, and ease of travel. Copenhagen's network of bicycle paths makes it easy to get around, and the friendly locals add to the charm. Even our own Queen Mary has a residence here! If you're considering a holiday, Copenhagen could be the perfect option.



Pictured above, right: Judy and Wayne enjoy Copenhagen



Pictured right: Steve in London

STEVE AND KERRI LORD (HOME 120)

Interested in visiting a city with an estimated population of almost 10 million? For our homeowners Steve and Kerri, London is their favourite destination. This couple loves to travel, and London serves as their base for trips to places like Germany, Belgium, Amsterdam and Paris. London is a vibrant, diverse city known for its impressive architecture, excellent bus and train networks and scenic river cruises. With its rich history, lively entertainment and colourful characters, it's no wonder Steve and Kerri consider it a top spot. Perhaps London is the place for your next adventure too!

Pictured below: Sa Pa locals, snapped by Gene and Lois

GENE AND LOIS KELLEY (HOME 242)

Sa Pa Village, located in Lao Cai Province in northern Vietnam, has a population of 9,412, which is primarily made up of the Hmong, Jay, and Dao hill tribes. In 2009, our homeowners Gene and Lois Kelley enjoyed a two-week holiday here, seeking a unique travel experience. They found the Hmong people to be incredibly friendly and stayed in a village compound, sharing meals with locals and witnessing a very different way of life. The lush, green countryside is largely devoted to intensive farming, with abundant fruit, vegetables, and seafood available in the markets. The locals even weave their own materials to make clothing. If you're looking for a different kind of adventure, Sa Pa may be the perfect choice for you.



The big spring clean out.



THE START OF SPRING HAS US THROWING OPEN OUR WINDOWS, LETTING IN THE FRESH AIR AND GIVING OUR HOMES A MUCH-NEEDED REFRESH. BUT BEFORE YOU DO A BIG CULL, STOP AND THINK – IS THERE A WAY TO BRING NEW LIFE TO YOUR OLD ITEMS?

REPURPOSE VINTAGE LINENS

Do you have a stash of old hankies, tablecloths and other household linens tucked away in a drawer? Instead of discarding them, take a moment to look at them in a new way. These vintage pieces can be transformed into beautiful, sentimental gifts for family members or friends. We guarantee your younger family members will have seen the current trend for using preloved linens in fashion – perhaps a dress made of repurposed handkerchiefs or a skirt made from a tablecloth? Head to Google for inspiration. Trust us – you'll find plenty!

TRANSFORM OLD BOOKS INTO ART

That stack of hardcover books you've been meaning to get rid of could be the perfect material for a unique piece of wall art. With a bit of creativity, you can fold the pages of these books into intricate patterns (like the example, pictured above right) and mount them on the wall in a group, creating a stunning visual display. This simple yet elegant artform not only repurposes old books, it also adds a personalised touch to your home. If you're looking for inspiration, there are plenty of resources online to guide you through the folding process.

CREATE A MEMORY BOX FROM SENTIMENTAL ITEMS

We all have those little keepsakes – concert tickets, postcards, or family letters – that we don't want to part with but don't quite know what to do with either. Instead of letting them clutter up your drawers, why not create a memory box? This can be as simple or elaborate as you like, using a decorative box or even an old suitcase to store your

treasures. Try your best to preserve them and you'll have a beautiful time capsule to pass down to future generations.

UPCYCLE FURNITURE AND HOME DÉCOR

Before you decide to get rid of that old chair, lamp or dresser, consider whether it could be upcycled into something new and exciting. A fresh coat of paint or some new upholstery can completely transform a piece of furniture. If you're handy with tools, you might even consider reconfiguring old furniture into something entirely different – a chair can become a plant stand, or a dresser can be turned into a stylish vanity. Upcycling not only gives new life to old items but also allows you to personalise your space with unique, one-of-a-kind pieces that reflect your style. These pieces are also, perhaps, the kind of gift a sentimental family member will adore.

REIMAGINE GARDEN TOOLS AND OUTDOOR ITEMS

If you've got a collection of old garden tools or outdoor items like pots and planters that are no longer in use, consider how they could be repurposed. Old wooden ladders can be turned into charming plant stands, while mismatched pots can be painted in a similar colour and grouped together for a garden display. Even rusted or broken tools can be transformed into garden art – think of creating sculptures or using them as trellises for climbing plants. These repurposed items can add character and personality to your garden, making it a more enjoyable space as you spend more time outdoors this spring.

HOST A SWAP PARTY

One person's clutter is another's treasure, so why not host a swap party with your friends and neighbours? Everyone can bring items they no longer need, from clothing to kitchen gadgets, and trade them for something new-to-them. It's a fun way to declutter while also finding new homes for your items – and new items for your home. Plus, it's a great excuse to socialise and catch up with your community.



TURN
YOUR OLD
BOOKS INTO
WALL ART

DONATE TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS

If your collection of wool, yarn or other craft supplies has been slowly accumulating over the years, now is the perfect time to sort through it. Instead of letting these items gather dust, consider passing them on to someone who can put them to good use. The wider Palm Lake Resort community is home to several active knitting and crafting groups, and they're always on the lookout for materials for their charitable projects (see Page 10 for some great examples). Donating your excess supplies is a great way to support these groups and contribute to their mission of creating handmade items for those in need.

SHARE WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS OR CHARITIES

Don't underestimate the value of donating items to local schools, charities or community groups. Schools often need supplies for art projects and charities can benefit from clothing, toys and household items. By donating locally, you're not only clearing out your space but also contributing to causes that make a difference right here in our community. If your resort craft group doesn't need your items, ask around to see whether there is a business that could use them. The Nest in Brisbane, for example, upcycles donated vintage linens and other haberdashery items into something new, ensuring they continue to bring beauty and function to the world.

Spring cleaning doesn't have to mean getting rid of everything you no longer use. By repurposing or donating items, you can declutter your home while also making a positive impact on your community and the environment. So, as you begin your spring clean, take a moment to think about how you can give new life to the items you no longer need. Who knows? You might just discover a hidden treasure in the process!



Spring cleaning, made easy.

'TIS THE SEASON OF CLEANING! WHILE CLEANING IS NOT GENERALLY HIGH ON PEOPLE'S FAVOURITE JOBS LIST, THERE ARE DEFINITELY WAYS TO MAKE THE TASK EASIER ON YOURSELF. HERE'S HOW...

LISTEN TO PODCASTS OR AUDIOBOOKS

One of the easiest ways to make time fly while you're cleaning is to listen to something entertaining. Whether you're into true crime, comedy, or self-improvement, there's a podcast or audiobook out there for you. Pop in your earbuds, hit play, and you'll be amazed at how quickly you get through your chores. It's like having a friend chat with you while you work! Plus, did you know that many local libraries let members borrow audiobooks for free? Chat to your librarian to find out how to get free audiobooks on your smartphone.

TRY FUN CLEANING HACKS

Why not add a little fun to your cleaning routine? There are plenty of clever hacks that not only make cleaning easier but also more enjoyable. One popular trick is using aluminium foil to clean silverware. Simply line a baking dish with aluminium foil, add your silverware, and sprinkle in some baking soda. Pour hot water over the top and watch as your tarnished silverware starts to shine like new!

Another fun hack is using lemon and baking soda to freshen up your garbage disposal. Just toss in a few lemon wedges, add a spoonful of baking soda, and let it grind away. It leaves your kitchen smelling fresh and clean with minimal effort.

BREAK IT DOWN WITH SMALLER CLEANS

One of the best ways to make your big spring clean less overwhelming is to keep up with smaller cleaning tasks throughout the year. Instead of waiting for things to pile up, try to tackle a few quick chores each week. Set a timer for 10 or 15 minutes and focus on one area – whether it's wiping down surfaces, dusting, or tidying up a cluttered space. These small bursts of cleaning will make the big spring clean a lot less daunting when the time comes. You can also put together small 'cleaning kits' to keep in each high use area – a bathroom cleaning kit, for example, could contain a spray for soap scum and a glass-friendly cloth. You could also keep a dust cloth in your bedside drawer to wipe down fan blades and window sills when needed. When the equipment you need is close by, it's harder to make excuses!

REWARD YOURSELF

Finally, don't forget to reward yourself for a job well done! Plan a treat for after you've finished your cleaning – whether it's a favourite snack, a relaxing bath, or watching an episode of your favourite show. Knowing there's a reward at the end can make the whole process more motivating and enjoyable.

Homes for sale.

WANT TO BOOK A PRIVATE TOUR AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR RESORT?
FREECALL 1800 648 868 OR EMAIL FERNBAY@PALMLAKE.COM.AU.
YOU CAN ALSO VISIT US ONLINE AT PALMLAKERESORT.COM.AU

Home 58 - \$895,000


Beds
2


Bath
2


Living
1


Study
1


Garage
2

A delight to inspect.

This popular White Wave design is situated across from the resort bowls clubhouse and only a short walk to other facilities. The modern kitchen is generously-sized, with a large stone benchtop that's ideal for entertaining. The laundry has direct access to the side yard. The open-plan living room has a large window and sliding door giving the home a light and airy feel. There is also a study, two generous-sized bathrooms and bedrooms with the master having ensuite, walk-in robe and direct access outside into a peaceful yard.



Home 80 - \$920,000


Beds
2


Bath
2


Living
1


Garage
2

Everything and more.

This home is conveniently situated across from our River Waters Country Club, which boasts amenities such as an indoor heated pool, gymnasium, cinema, and library - just to mention a few. The home has a north-facing fully enclosed room that runs the entire width of the back area. You can turn this peaceful oasis from a sundrenched winter retreat to a shady breeze-filled room haven, with the slide down screens. This home features two modern bathrooms, and two bedrooms with the master bedroom being a generous size, ensuite and walk-in robe.



Over the back fence.

THE PALM LAKE GROUP SPANS 30 RESORT ADDRESSES ACROSS THREE STATES AND SOME 10,000 PEOPLE CALL PALM LAKE GROUP HOME, SO THERE IS ALWAYS PLENTY OF GOOD NEWS AROUND OUR GROUNDS. IN THIS REGULAR SERIES, WE SHARE WITH YOU SOME STORIES OF WHAT YOUR FELLOW PALM LAKE RESORT 'FAMILY MEMBERS' HAVE BEEN UP TO RECENTLY - WHETHER THEY'RE JOINING FORCES TO DO GOOD IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY OR JOINING FORCES FOR FUN. ACROSS ALL OUR PALM LAKE RESORTS, 'PEOPLE' REALLY IS OUR SUPERPOWER!



Community helping community.

We hear so many lovely stories of our craftiest homeowners donating their time and talents to support the less fortunate in their community.

At Palm Lake Resort Upper Coomera (QLD), the lovely ladies from the Monday Craft Group have been busy knitting trauma teddies for donation to their local doctors' rooms. Pictured above left, the teddies are kept with the pathology nurses to give to any tearful visiting children, to help cheer them up on a sad day.

Down at Truganina (Victoria) on Wednesday afternoons, a group of homeowners gets together to handcraft the most beautiful items for the greater good. The Craft Group ladies have been working hard getting beautifully handmade crafts ready for delivery to vulnerable children in war-affected Syria. It is no understatement to say that these pretty little bags

filled with haircare accessories for the dear children in war-affected Syria will make such a huge difference in their lives (pictured above, middle). You can imagine just how special these children will feel when they open their packs to reveal their beautiful handmade bag with goodies inside.

The group also makes and donates other goodies to Victoria's most loved family charities including St Kilda Mums, Geelong Mums and Eureka Mums. Items they create for donation include knitted jumper, beanie and mitten sets, beautiful baby cardigans, blankets and toys.

The Truganina Craft Group ladies all say it's rewarding to knit for such wonderful causes. They know there will be such joy among the children when they receive a handmade gift.

At Palm Lake Resort Bethania (QLD), the wonderful Tuesday morning ladies'

Craft Group (pictured below) has also been giving back to their local community knitting beanies, scarves and gloves for the homeless as well as dolls for the children's hospital. These ladies are always seeking donations of wool to continue their great work. You can also purchase one of their handmade beanies for just \$10 with all funds raised going towards the purchase of more wool for knitting and stuffing for the dolls.



'Love' these milestones!

Celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary recently, Kevin and Helen of Palm Lake Resort Carindale (QLD, pictured above) were congratulated with cheers and acclamation by all at the resort's Wednesday dinner. The pair met at a tennis night in Sydney on July 10, 1959. Both are keen gardeners who have been living at Palm Lake Resort for 16 years where they have graciously endeared themselves to fellow homeowners and our management team. Congratulations to you both!

Over at our sister company, Palm Lake Care, another incredible milestone anniversary was recently noted. Max and Joan of Palm Lake Care Caloundra (QLD, below) just clocked up 73 years of wedded bliss! What an incredible achievement!



Organ brings back yesteryear.



There's a beautifully restored cinema theatre organ that now stands pride of place in the Palm Lake Resort Beachmere Bay (QLD) resort cinema. It looks great in its rightful place, akin to the days of yore when all the prestigious cinemas featured theatre organs. Beachmere Bay homeowner/organist Barry Moore not only painstakingly restored the organ himself and then donated it to the cinema, he is also willing to play it whenever asked. Thank you, Barry!

'Big O' bash at Beachmere Sands.

Palm Lake Resort Beachmere Sands (QLD) residents recently came together to celebrate a very big milestone - several of them, in fact. The resort's annual 'Big O' party is held for those celebrating a milestone birthday that year. This year's 'Big O' event was another fantastic night. There have been whispers around the resort that it was the 'best one yet!' The most impressive 'Big O' of them all was Agnes (right), who turns 100 this year!



Award winners, five years in a row.

The Master Builders Association Queensland's independent judges recently named a Palm Lake Resort Pelican Waters' display residence the best in its category on the Sunshine Coast.

At the same glittering awards ceremony, the renovation of Pelican Waters Golf Club (also owned and operated by the Palm Lake Group) was named best Commercial Refurbishment/Renovation project.

These two recent wins see Palm Lake Group's award-winning streak stretch to five consecutive years - a proud achievement for all those involved and for anyone who calls a Palm Lake Resort address home!

Tell us what's happening over your back fence.

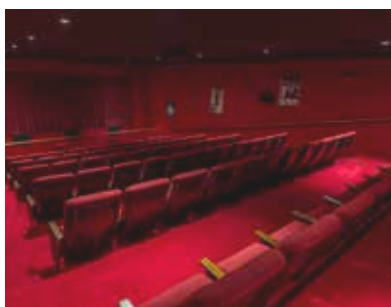
Has your resort got a warm and fuzzy "Over the back fence" story to share with the whole Palm Lake Resort group? Are you and/or your neighbours doing something special that you're proud of - and you know we'd be proud of too?

We'd love to hear from you and include your story in these pages in the next editions of all our resort newsletters.

Simply contact your Caretakers or email the details to Belinda at belinda@bellepr.com



Bring
your **best**
mates.



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