

The Lakes



January - February 2024



2023

MASTER BUILDERS AWARDS

WINNER

Bowled over

Our eight-rink undercover lawn bowls green is almost ready for play and we couldn't be more excited to roll up!

Over the back fence

The Palm Lake Group is one big 10,000-strong 'family' - find out what your counterparts are up to in our new regular series



Welcome



Hello and welcome to our latest edition of *The Lakes* newsletter.

Wow, what a summer we have had! Plenty of sunshine and lots of above-average temperatures. Thank goodness for our famous “nor-easterly” breeze that reliably picks up each afternoon. We are fortunate to be located on the peninsula between the ocean and Wallis Lake, and this means our local climate is scientifically described as “close to perfect” for human habitation. Of course, our beautiful homes are fully insulated in the walls and ceilings, and fitted with ceiling fans throughout, as well as having a fantastic ducted air conditioning system that keeps our homeowners comfortable all year round. The solar panel systems that are included as standard on all our homes make a big difference to the running costs, and the rendered hebel panels that clad the outside of our homes are famous for improving climate control inside the home. If you have found this summer a bit too sticky, then I would encourage you to google the climate averages for Forster and I’m sure you’ll agree, it is an ideal place to live!

The Christmas season and school holidays saw many homeowners welcoming their family and friends to our resort. It was lovely to see the pool and barbeques in the alfresco area of the Belleair Country Club being enjoyed, as well as the tenpin bowling centre and the cinema – all fabulous ways to entertain the grandchildren on those days when it wasn’t so nice at the beach. Our first pontoon was installed just before Christmas and has been a great hit for accessing the waters of Boomerang Cove. An additional adjoining structure will soon be added to the pontoon to improve access for our kayakers. Our two resort vessels will soon be moored at this pontoon – a 13-seater party boat and smaller fishing runabout – both will be available for homeowners to book through the Caretaker soon. What wonderful resort toys!

Our amazing new Rhodes Sports Club is so very close to being finished - we can hardly wait! Suffice it to say, we are excited to know our homeowners will have access to these facilities in a matter of weeks. There are just so many opportunities for our homeowners to get the best out of their decision to join us at Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes, with more fun being added to the list as the resort grows.

The pace of home building continues to push forward, with only a handful of homes remaining across Stage 7. The release of Stage 7B a few weeks ago introduced the first of our (50 or so) two-storey homes that will be constructed within the Precinct 2 area - and they were quickly snapped up by buyers waiting for details. If you would like to view any of the new designs in this stage, our Sales Team would be happy to book an appointment with our construction colleagues to arrange access within the construction zone. We do have some absolutely stunning two-storey homes available and ready to occupy – these homes have (by far) the best outlook in the entire resort, and are worthy of your inspection sooner rather than later. We look forward to seeing you here soon!

Jen, Jo and Shona - Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes Sales Team

Contact us

Looking for more info about Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes? Here’s how you can reach us:

FRECALL: 1800 577 542

Street address:
6 Tea Tree Road,
Forster NSW 2428

Office hours:
9am-4.30pm,
seven days a week

Email:
salesforster@pallmlake.com.au

Find us online at:
pallmlakeresort.com.au

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

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News briefs

Environmental update

The ecological areas at Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes are making great progress as newly planted vegetation flourishes.

Palm Lake Works Project Coordinator Jessica Rissman says an independent ecologist consulting on our development project has provided “positive insights from recent inspections” of our resort grounds, in the lead up to Christmas.

“The independent ecologist’s report reiterates the success we’ve noted on the back of our team’s long-running rehabilitation efforts,” she says.

Jessica confirms that reforestation plantings are ongoing across the Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes site. This work is being coupled with regular environmental maintenance (while those areas establish), as resort construction continues in earnest.



A great excuse to come and visit us!

Stay a night, on us

Many of our enquiries come from people in distant locations right around Australia. If you are coming from out of town, simply FRECALL us on 1800 577 542 to arrange a resort tour and a complimentary night’s accommodation on us. This offer is subject to availability and conditions apply, but there’s never been a better excuse to indulge in a Forster stopover to properly inspect our expanding resort.



You can bring your furry mates

Did you know, Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes is fully pet friendly? Palm Lake Resort has always welcomed our homeowners’ pups and MidCoast Council has also granted us permission to welcome homeowners’ cats. How purrrrrfect!

Refer a friend

We know your friends love coming to visit your Palm Lake Resort home. Refer a friend to join you and become part of our exclusive community, and if they purchase a new home here at Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes, you’ll receive \$500 cash. Easy! Ask about our ‘Refer a Friend’ incentive at the Sales Information Centre.

Let’s be 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 and Instagram: @palm.lake.resort



Your daily dose of greens

THE PALM LAKE RESORT FORSTER LAKES MASTERPLAN IS REALLY COMING TOGETHER NOW, WITH RESORT FACILITIES BEING DELIVERED TO GRATEFUL HOMEOWNERS AT A RATE OF KNOTS.

Palm Lake Works Construction Manager Jeff Foster oversees this resort's construction projects and says his team will soon be handing over one of the most impressive lawn bowls greens ever built in the more than 46-year history of Palm Lake Group. Featuring eight playing rinks, this undercover, floodlit facility will offer championship play in all weather conditions - at any time of the day or night.

"We've also fully enclosed the ceiling for the first time ever, to make the playing area even more comfortable for our homeowners and their invited guests," Jeff explains. "With privacy screening and the fact that the facility also backs on to bushland, there's a lovely ambience for bowlers and spectators there."

Expected to be completed in late March, Jeff says the lawn bowls green will become the dazzling centrepiece of the sporting masterplan for this ever-expanding resort.

Following the unveiling of the lawn bowls green, Jeff's team will then add tennis and pickleball courts to the mix and there's even a putt putt/mini golf course on the drawing board. And, of course, adjacent to all this is the Rhodes Sports Club - a place where many post-match stories (and drinks) will, no doubt, be shared.

For years now, Palm Lake Resort has committed to bringing only the highest quality lawn bowls facilities to resorts up and down Australia's east coast. But it's not just the obvious external structures that turn heads for their architecture and craftsmanship - the inner workings of these facilities have also been thoroughly considered. Graced with an expertly engineered Sportscrete base, the Forster Lakes rink will be the epitome of any lawn bowler's dream green. It will feature a world-class, Olympic-standard Greengauge woven surface to impress the most competitive of Palm Lake Resort bowlers.

Among the keenest Forster Lakes homeowner bowlers are Noel James, Bruce Hill and Graeme Munday. Back in November 2023, this trio raised their hands to form a steering committee tasked with bringing together a resort Bowls Club. Noel has been playing bowls for more than 40 years and is currently a member of Tuncurry Beach Bowls Club. While he admits he was originally a fan of tennis, his

back had other plans and lawn bowls became his alternative past time. In the four decades since, Noel says he's played all levels of competition including Number 1 club pennants and also zone rep games.

"We've surveyed the homeowners here to understand what they want out of our resort Bowls Club and we got more than 70 responses," Noel says. "There are many who have never played before who are interested in joining our club once the green is open, which is great."

Noel says the future of the resort's Bowls Club is bright given there are two Bowls Australia accredited coaches among the homeowner group here - one of whom is his wife, Barbara, who has been coaching for 25 years and playing for even longer. Her fellow coach is Jenny Baldwin.

"We're all really looking forward to the opening of the facility," Noel smiles. "We're itching to get on that green!"

Beyond the competitive aspect of this most popular over-50s sport, lawn bowls has also proven to unite the more social Palm Lake Resort homeowners. Casual, barefoot games are enjoyed in every resort, every week, across the Palm Lake Group, fuelled by community spirit and set on a backdrop of happy chatter and laughs - which is no doubt something we look forward to here at Forster Lakes.

Whichever way you enjoy your bowls - competitively or socially - it's an easy, low-impact sport that's keeping homeowners physically and mentally active and healthy. And it's just another way that Palm Lake Resort leans into its more than 46-years' experience in designing, construction and managing over-50s resort communities to provide the ultimate lifestyle experience for modern retirees.



Pictured: Homeowners Noel James, Bruce Hill and Graeme Munday have volunteered to bring our Bowls Club to life!



A wonderful water world awaits!

Easier access to our local natural wonders

AS MORE AND MORE COMMUNITY FACILITIES ARE UNVEILED AT PALM LAKE RESORT FORSTER LAKES, LIFE JUST GETS SWEETER FOR THOSE HOMEOWNERS LUCKY ENOUGH TO CALL THIS RESORT THEIRS.

Recently, a private resort pontoon was installed, providing convenience to those who enjoy the kinds of hobbies and pastimes that bring them closer to nature and the unrivalled beauty of Wallis Lake.

Palm Lake Works Civils Manager Matt Eddy says Stage 1 of the project saw a 12m x 4m main pontoon installed on the northern side of the resort's Wallis Lake inlet. Stage 2 of the project will see an additional kayak-launching system added to the main structure.

"The main pontoon was designed to provide access for boats," Matt explains. "The second part will adjoin the main structure to provide a stable launching platform specifically for our kayaking enthusiasts."

Matt says he and the team were happy to see the new pontoon getting quite a workout over the summer holiday season – whatever your preferred choice of watercraft.

"Heaps of people were using it – homeowners and their families, with their kids. Boats were pulling up. People were also using it as a platform to watch the dolphins swim by."

Albert Lau and Geoff Gray are two Palm Lake Resort homeowners who are already benefitting from the new pontoon in their 'backyard'. On the eve of their second anniversary as Forster Lakes homeowners, the keen anglers have been casting their lines from the pontoon with great success. In just their first few visits, between them the pair have reeled in a flounder, an eel and some other smaller species but Albert was especially chuffed to land himself two flathead – the largest of which was 38cm!

"We took that one home and have already shared it with some of the other homeowners here," Geoff smiles.

Geoff says he and Albert have been long-time residents of the Forster area. The pair downsized a large family home to join the Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes community after watching the resort grow up out of the ground all those years back. Together as a couple for 13 years, with their French Bulldog 'Alfie' in tow, Geoff says that the Palm Lake Resort community is filled with wonderful people who have been especially accepting of his and Albert's relationship.



Pictured above: Forster Lakes homeowner Albert Lau and his prized 38cm flathead, caught from the resort's new pontoon.

"There's such a good sense of community here," Geoff says. "I organised a street party at Christmas that was great fun. There was a Christmas lights competition as well and everyone had their flags up for Australia Day. It's great."

Geoff says that once word got out around the resort grounds about Albert's 38cm flathead, the new pontoon has understandably seen a lot more angling action.

"Bream is the most common species here in Wallis Lake but you'll also get tailor and flathead, of course, as well as mulloway. The Forster-Tuncurry bridge is another popular local fishing spot where people chase black fish," he explains. "But to get the best result here at the pontoon, you really just need to follow the tides."

Albert and Geoff would previously drive 30 minutes to fish their favourite spot at Tuncurry which Geoff says was full of sticks and the like. Now, they've got a new favourite spot, in a nice clear area, walking distance from their front door. Perfect.

Matt says another pontoon will be installed on the southern side of the Wallis Lake inlet in the future, as part of the resort's masterplan.

Weekly activities

HERE'S WHAT'S ON AROUND THE GROUNDS EACH WEEK AT PALM LAKE RESORT FORSTER LAKES...

MONDAY

9am Craft. See Lyn (Home 168) or Deb (Home 171)
12noon Librarian in attendance, Sue (Home 185)
2pm Mah-jong. See Robyn (Home 188)
4pm Stretch and Relax. See Janette (Home 225)

TUESDAY

10am Librarian in attendance, Jan (Home 251)
10.15am Balance exercise in the Auditorium
1.15pm Craft: various
2pm Craft: flower tooling workshop with Marcia
2pm Cards (500) in the Belleair Country Club. New players always welcome!

WEDNESDAY

10am Aqua aerobics in the indoor pool
1.15pm Craft: Cardmaking and scrapbooking, Maureen (Home 217) and Dorren (Home 180)
2pm Tap dancing for beginners. See Lynn (Home 277)
3pm Librarian in attendance, Jenny (Home 283)
7.30pm Movie night, in the Theatre

THURSDAY

9am Art class. See Barbara (Home 230) and Lynda (Home 245)
12.30pm Craft: Sewing. See Diana (Home 180)
2pm Librarian in attendance, Dianne (Home 160)
6.30pm Trivia at the Belleair Country Club
7.30pm Rugby league match, on the big screen in the Theatre

FRIDAY

9am Gentle exercise, in the Auditorium
10.30am Aqua aerobics in the indoor pool
2pm Librarians in attendance, Cheryl (Home 184) and Liz (Home 151)
4pm Happy Hour at the Belleair Country Club
7.30pm Rugby league match, on the big screen in the Theatre

SATURDAY

2pm Librarian in attendance, Jen (Home 274)

SUNDAY

2pm Librarian in attendance, Gail (Home 227)
7pm Movie night, in the Theatre



Life's a peach

PANTONE'S COLOUR OF THE YEAR IS... PEACH FUZZ! IT MIGHT BE AN UNUSUAL NAME, BUT WE COULDN'T AGREE MORE WITH THE THEORY BEHIND THIS CHOICE.

Did you know the international Pantone Colour Institute dates back 60 years and the 'Pantone Colour of the Year' celebrates its 25th birthday in 2024? It's quite the authority on all things colour. Pantone describes the 2024 Colour of the Year, "Peach fuzz", as a comforting hue "softly nestled between pink and orange" that was chosen to express a yearning for community and cosiness in uncertain times. A colour whose "all-embracing spirit enriches heart, mind and body".

"At a time of turmoil in many aspects of our lives, our need for nurturing, empathy and compassion grows ever stronger as does our imaginings of a more peaceful future," Pantone Colour Institute Vice President Laurie Pressman says. "We are reminded that a vital part of living a full life is having the good health, stamina and strength to enjoy it. That in a world which often emphasizes productivity and external achievements, it is critical we recognise the importance of fostering our inner selves and find moments of respite, creativity and human connection amid the hustle and bustle of modern life.

"As we navigate the present and build toward a new world, we are re-evaluating what is important. Reframing how we want to live, we are expressing ourselves with greater intentionality and consideration. Recalibrating our priorities to align with our internal values, we are focusing on health and wellbeing, both mental and physical, and cherishing what's special — the warmth and comfort of spending time with friends and family, or simply taking a moment of time to ourselves.

"With that in mind, we wanted to turn to a colour that could focus on the importance of community and coming together with others. The colour we selected to be our Pantone Colour

of the Year 2024 needed to express our desire to want to be close to those we love and the joy we get when allowing ourselves to tune into who we are and just savour a moment of quiet time alone," Laurie explains.

"It needed to be a colour whose warm and welcoming embrace conveyed a message of compassion and empathy. One that was nurturing and whose cozy sensibility brought people together and elicited a feeling of tactility. One whose gentle lightness and airy presence lifts us into the future."

There are many synergies between Pantone's thinking and Palm Lake Resort's approach to people and community. We know our homeowners are at a place in their lives where they cherish special human connections and coming together, while also taking important time out for themselves. More and more, Palm Lake Resort homeowners are also putting themselves first and focussing on their health and wellbeing — our facilities and activities lists are supporting this trend now more than ever. So, if there's one reason why you should incorporate some Peach Fuzz into your life in 2024, it's simply to remind yourselves of all these things that Pantone suggests we should hold dear — with community, health and wellbeing at the core.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Country Road shirt, \$159, countryroad.com.au 2. SMEG kettle, \$299, appliancesonline.com.au 3. Kanoko dinner set, \$118, saltandpepper.com.au 4. Finmat cookware, from \$120, ikea.com.au 5. Bed Threads linen duvet cover, \$196, bedthreads.com.au 6. Hue dinner set, \$99.95, saltandpepper.com.au



Doris & Zigi



Tammy & Gil



Carmen & Hans-Juergen



Domenica



Judy (with Jo)



Lyn & Greg



Geoff & Bron

Welcome!

BIG BLUE BOWS MEAN MORE DELIGHTFUL NEW NEIGHBOURS! WE WELCOME YOU HOME..

Arty farty fun for all

SINCE THE OPENING OF THE BELLEAIR COUNTRY CLUB, MANY NEW ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO OUR SOCIAL CALENDAR - THE RESORT'S INAUGURAL ART EXHIBITION BEING ONE OF THEM.

Professionally staged on Belleair's dance floor in the spacious main dining area, there were more than 80 artworks on display from 12 homeowner artists — the fruits of their weekly resort art classes.

One of the event organisers, homeowner Lynda Bowden, says exhibition pieces crossed a variety of mediums from

oils and acrylics on canvas, to graphite drawings and even photography.

The exhibition called for guests to dress in "arty farty, glamour" attire - an event where top hats and bow ties were the dress-code du jour. The event was a true fusion of all things Palm Lake Resort: like-minded homeowners, bonding over common interests, while having fun.

"During some of our weekly art classes, it's so quiet you could hear a pin drop - everyone is concentrating," Ms Bowden said.

"Then other times it's a space filled with chat, chat, chatting! Everyone brings a little talent with them and we wouldn't be doing any of it if it wasn't for the Belleair Country Club and our lovely art room."



Join our art class: Thursdays at 9am

Over the back fence

THE PALM LAKE GROUP SPANS 30 RESORT COMMUNITIES 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 new 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 palm lake resorts, 'people' really is our superpower!



Waterford's own toy story

THERE'S A GROUP OF MODEST WOODWORK ENTHUSIASTS USING THEIR PALM LAKE RESORT WORKSHOP TO GREAT ADVANTAGE.

The aptly named 'Toy Boys' is a band of merry toymakers - akin to Santa's elves - who spend their spare time in their Palm Lake Resort Waterford workshop turning timber into toys for underprivileged kids each Christmas.

Current president Ray Johnstone says the Toy Boys utilise donated timber offcuts and fundraise to purchase other materials from their local Mitre 10 store, which also comes to the party with its own generous donations to the Toy Boys' cause. The Boys spend the whole year manufacturing everything from toy trucks to rocking horses to children's play furniture and then, at Christmas time, they make a donation to Beenleigh Special School and place the rest of their toys under the Mitre 10 Christmas tree as part of its annual appeal. Ray says the Toy Boys have been making and donating toys for the best part of 15 years. Many hundreds of toys have passed through this resort's workshop on their way to grateful children.

Ray says the Boys were devastated to learn of the passing last week of one of their original members, Jim Blackwood, who was "the backbone" of this incredible group right up until the day he passed.

If you'd like to support the Toy Boys' cause, Mitre 10 and Bunnings gift cards are greatly appreciated, as well as any material donations. For more, phone the Palm Lake Resort Waterford caretakers on 1800 028 428.

Caloundra golfers reign supreme

For the second successive year, Caloundra Cay has won the coveted Palm Lake Inter-Resort Golf Classic, retaining the Palm Lake Resort Cup.

Golfers from Palm Lake Resorts Toowoomba, Cooroy-Noosa, Beachmere Sands, Beachmere Bay, Pelican Waters, Caloundra Cay and Hervey Bay descended on Pelican Waters Golf Course (owned by the Palm Lake Group) for the annual event, with 128 homeowners competing in a four-person Ambrose.

Caloundra Cay retained the trophy won in 2023 when the event was played at Woodford Golf Club and the team of Bernie Reddan, Archie Deans, Ian Ponton and Ray Pickup returned the best score of the day - an impressive nett 55.875. Head of Golf, Dale Williamson, said it was the biggest field the course had enjoyed since re-opening.

"To have Palm Lake Resort represented by seven resorts and so many homeowners, was encouraging," Dale says. "Hopefully we can have even more of our resorts and homeowners involved next year."

Charitable Cooroy sewers rewarded

PALM LAKE RESORT COOROY-NOOSA'S UNIFORMS 4 KIDS SEWERS ARE BEYOND HAPPY WITH A SET OF NEW SEWING MACHINES PAID FOR BY BENDIGO BANK, VIA THE LOCAL HERO AWARDS.



Our homeowners are sew good!

Uniforms 4 Kids (U4K) is a dedicated charity that sees sewers produce children's clothing items from old uniforms donated by the Police, Border Force, Flying Doctors, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Australia Zoo and more. The clothes produced by these dedicated sewing enthusiasts is donated to underprivileged children in need.

The pioneer and founder of U4K is Palm Lake Resort Cooroy-Noosa homeowner Yvonne Pattinson OAM. One day, Yvonne wanted to clean out a cupboard crowded with material collected over a lifetime

of sewing. She decided to turn that fabric into children's clothing that a friend of Yvonne's wanted to donate to an orphanage she supported in Asia. In stepped Yvonne's daughter, Debbie Platz (then a Queensland Police officer), who pointed out there were many underprivileged children right here in Australia who needed clothing and why not use the police uniforms she and her colleagues had to discard? U4K was officially born.

U4K sewers exist in groups spanning Cooktown to Canberra and have made a total of almost 30,000 items of clothing for children in need since the

charity began - what an incredible effort! U4K sewers have also made lasting friendships and have a new purpose in life through their volunteer work with this charity.

The U4K ladies of Palm Lake Resort Cooroy-Noosa (pictured above) were rewarded by Bendigo Bank recently with a donation of brand new sewing machines to enable them to continue their good work. Congratulations to you all - you make us proud!

Maybe you can start a U4K group with your Palm Lake Resort friends? Visit www.uniforms4kids.com.au

Tea Gardens' jam-packed day

FORGET TURNING LEMONS IN LEMONADE - A GROUP OF PASSIONATE PALM LAKE RESORT TEA GARDENS RESIDENTS ARE TURNING THEIR RESORT CUMQUATS INTO DELICIOUS JAM FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

Palm Lake Resort Tea Gardens is filled with many fruit-bearing cumquat trees - some on resort grounds but many in the residents' own backyards. Noticing this, a band of enthusiastic jam-lovers came together and the annual PLR Cumquat Jam Production Day was born. One resident spent a year collecting, washing, de-labelling and storing hundreds of jars. Others organised the donation of masses of sugar and the collection of all the required cooking utensils. The resort's Bowls Club kitchen was booked, and dozens of residents arrived early on the day to form teams, washing, cutting and weighing fruit and sugar, sterilising jars and lids, cooking the jam, then bottling and labelling it. Of course, a community event like this would not be a Palm Lake Resort event if there wasn't a morning tea shared and a few glasses of bubbles later in the day! By 7pm, the job was done. Some 38kg of fruit (all grown around the Palm Lake Resort Tea Gardens grounds) and 38kg of sugar produced more than 200 jars of jam. What a wonderful community initiative - and a delicious result!



What's happening over your back fence?

Has your resort got a warm and fuzzy "Over the back fence" story to share with the greater Palm Lake Resort community? We'd love to hear from you!

Email belinda@bellepr.com

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