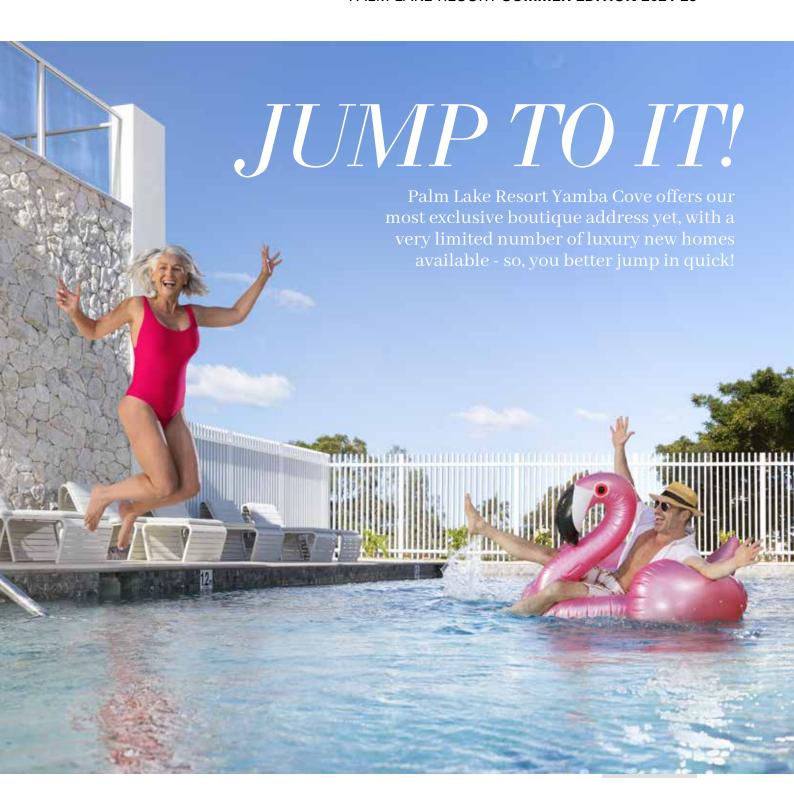
this is your time. PALM LAKE RESORT SUMMER EDITION 2024-25



Heaven on earth

There's so much to love about the idyllic Yamba area - no wonder we are building our second community lifestyle resort there!

DMF-free at Paynesville

Homeowners at our brand new Palm Lake Resort Paynesville address can choose a DMF-free pathway into their over-50s dream lifestyle

Wellness Centre opening

The highly anticipated first glimpse inside Pelican Water's iconic \$46 million Country Club is here, with the opening of the Mirador Wellness Centre

SUMMER EDITION 2024-25



WELCOME

IT'S OFFICIALLY SUMMER and the end-of-year celebration season is already firmly on most people's radars, including ours. Around the resorts and our aged caring communities, we are seeing Christmas decorations going up and there's loads of happy chatter among our team members, homeowners and care residents as they all busily prepare for the festive season. It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas...

Speaking of Christmas, we are delivering one epic 'present' to the homeowners of Palm Lake Resort Pelican Waters in the coming weeks, just in time for Christmas. The Springs Country Club is our biggest, most opulent and lavish community facility to date. This \$46 million building, akin to a seven-star international hotel, has been nothing short of a construction behemoth - but we were adamant we wanted our Pelican Waters homeowners to be enjoying the benefits of it as soon as they could. We strategised around our construction schedules and came up with a plan to complete the Mirador Wellness Centre component of the project first and will hand over this incredible wellness precinct on December 16. It includes a heated indoor swimming pool and spa, Milon gymnasium, yoga studio, reformer Pilates studio, his and hers saunas, steam rooms, Vichy showers, resort-style locker rooms and luxurious day beds. It's also been strategically situated lakeside to let those relaxing waterfront views permeate this world-class wellness haven. The balance of The Springs Country Club will be completed and handed over to homeowners around Easter 2025.

I recently took Palm Lake Group founder, Wal, up for a visit to Palm Lake Resort Pelican Waters so he could walk through The Springs Country Club construction site. I'll never forget his reaction. He turned to me and said: "These facilities are life changing." And he's not wrong. In all of our 26 other Palm Lake Resort communities, our homeowners treat their resort's respective facilities as extensions of their own homes. Imagine living at Palm Lake Resort Pelican Waters and having a world-class day spa in your backyard, for your use whenever you please? And that's not even considering the rest of this incredible facility - or the Greg Norman-designed golf course on your other doorstep! In fact, I've never, in all my years, seen a group of homeowners so happy with their purchase as those who currently call our Pelican Waters resort home - they know their homes represent good buying value, especially ahead of the full opening of The Springs Country Club early next year.

If anyone knows a thing or two about the importance and impact of great facilities in communities like ours, it's Wal. If you flip to Pages 16-19 of this magazine, you'll get an incredible insight into Wal's earliest years of his building career. Even back then, in the 1970s, before Palm Lake Resort was born, Wal knew of the importance of bringing likeminded neighbours together to engage with one another and support one another via community facilities adjacent to their clustered homesites. It's why we place such emphasis on building bigger, better, more featurepacked facilities at every new resort. Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove's Vantage Country Club is another incredible community facility. We have just 78 homes in that boutique resort masterplan but, size-wise, Vantage is the kind of Country Club that could service a resort offering 200+ homes. Our Yamba Cove homeowners have something really special on their doorsteps too.

These facilities are life-changing.

After 50+ years in the game, Wal knows (and I've learned from him) the importance of our homeowners' happiness. Facilities provide that happiness. Having welcoming likeminded neighbours definitely also helps provide that happiness. But our staff, and their support of our homeowners and care residents, really promotes happiness. I know that it's important to look after people and sort out any problems for them where we can. Their seemingly big problems can sometimes be easily resolved with the help of just the right Palm Lake Group team member

When I look back on 2024, I'm grateful for all the tangibles – the construction milestones, the homes and facilities we've handed over, the awards plaques, that kind of thing – but I'm mostly grateful for the team we've built around us. We have a really great core management group right now who each lead really great respective teams. I wish them all – as well as the other 10,000+ people who call Palm Lake Group home – a truly blessed and wonderful festive season. See you in 2025!

Scott Elliott,
Palm Lake Group Managing Director

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One of New South Wales' best kept secrets, Yamba is beloved by all types but none more so than those over-50s looking for a quiet coastal oasis that also provides all the big-city essentials.

PALM LAKE RESORT has a history of designing, constructing and operating over-50s communities that spans more than 47 years, so we know a thing or two about what makes a geographic area an over-50s haven. For some time now, we've been spruiking Yamba's beauty and benefits for over-50s – we've had a Palm Lake Resort there for years! So, when an opportunity came up to expand the Palm Lake Resort footprint in this idyllic coastal town, we jumped at the chance - and Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove was born.

Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove Sales Manager Monique Lee has been with the company for many years but is new to the local Yamba area.

"I'm originally from Toowoomba and have sold homes at Palm Lake Resorts in Toowoomba, Caloundra and Pelican Waters," Monique explains. "I'd been on the Sunshine Coast for seven years and when the opportunity came up for a move to Yamba, it didn't take me long to get excited. When I spoke to my partner, John, about it he didn't hesitate either. Yamba was the place where he spent family holidays and he knew how laid-back and stress-free he'd feel here – so he quit his job and here we are!"

For Monique – and the thousands of others who are lucky to call this unassuming paradise home – the beauty is in Yamba's small-town feel

"There are no traffic lights here," Monique smiles. "It's so easy to get around because there's so little traffic to contend with. And the people here are really friendly. I actually feel like I'm on a working holiday most days!"

Monique and John love to walk their toy poodle, Sadie, on Pippi Beach and swing by the weekly farmers' market to collect fresh local produce. They've been exploring the area as well and highly rate Broom's Head, as well as the Clarence River ferry over to Iluka. Monique says the dining scene here was an unexpected bonus.

"The food here is so good! Yamba has so many great venues – there's everything from amazing Asian fusion, to Indian, to Mexican and it's all the best we've tasted. We are really loving the food scene here

"And you just have to see Yamba Cinema. It's reminiscent of small-town cinemas from years gone by, with great staff and cheap ticket prices. It's another great night out."

While Yamba's charm is in its small-town feel, don't be mistaken for thinking you won't get big-city service and access to all the essential services you need. There's a reputable doctor's surgery only one minute from the resort, with Maclean District Hospital just 25 minutes' away and Grafton Hospital 40 minutes' away. You can be at Ballina Byron Gateway Airport in just over an hour, which is your literal gateway to Sydney and Melbourne.

"Yamba honestly ticks loads of boxes for over-50s," Monique says "It's quiet enough to ensure you feel relaxed and on holidays every day, but it's also got so much culture and life. And you can't go past this area's natural beauty. It really is heaven on earth."





Yamba Cove EAT,DRINK ANDBE MERRY!

It's plain to see the Yamba area offers immense environmental beauty. It's also close to essential services but far enough away to retain its holiday-everyday appeal. But did you know it's also an area known for its impressive foodie scene?

WHEN AUSTRALIAN TRAVELLER magazine names a town its Number 1 in the 'Top 100 Best Towns in Australia', you know you're on a winner. And Yamba has secured that crown. The natural beauty of this place is more than obvious, but you know you're on an actual winner when you also talk about the meals and coffee you've enjoyed, long after the visit is over. As Australian Traveller noted, Yamba offers "excellent eateries and more things to do than you can point a wet flipper at". For those lucky ones who already call Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove home (or are thinking about doing so), there's plenty of opportunity to eat, drink and be merry here...

Eating out

Karrikin: The location of our first ever Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove event, Karrikin prides itself on celebrating the region's local seafood industry and local suppliers to present a native cuisine experience you'll return for.

El Ocaso: Another venue that utilises the best local produce and seafood on its Mediterranean-inspired menu. Eat indoors or out - the choice is yours when the weather's this good. And it's always good here.

Paradiso: Enjoy your pick of delicious Modern Asian share plates, washed down with something off the wine list and a botanical cocktail (or three).

Playa Bodega: From the same team that brings us Paradiso, your authentic Mexican meal awaits. Share plates make the dining experience even more fun.

Thai Payu Restaurant: Great Thai food presented by friendly staff in a casual, welcoming venue. Tick, tick, tick.

Sassafras Pasta & Pizza: Your relaxed night out awaits. Sassafras is your go-to for an extensive menu of delicious pizzas, hearty pastas and salads.

Sandbar: Breakfast, lunch or dinner, it doesn't matter

the meal - you'll get brasserie-style cuisine and an everchanging array of daily specials.

Indian Fusion Tapas Bar & Restaurant: Follow your nose to find these delicious Indian curries with tapas options as well.

Drift Gourmet Pizza Bar: 48-hour fermented, stone-baked pizzas and antipasto, using the highest quality ingredients, including free range meats and handmade cheeses. Yum!

Yum Yum Angourie Café & General Store: Visualise the cutest country/coastal 'general store'. Your lazy breakfast awaits.

Yamba Bowlo: Yamba's entertainment centre for the whole family, offering great food and drink as well as lawn bowls for all ages, indoor bowling and rock climbing for the grand kids.

Yamba Shores Tavern: A luxury waterfront tavern offering your classic bistro menu and regular entertainment.

Caffeine hit

The Kiosk Yamba: Your post-swim caffeine hit is right here, under the navy striped umbrellas. The Kiosk is attached to Yamba SLSC on Main Beach. Your classic seaside cafe.

Gather Café: Celebrating the flavours of the Clarence Valley and beyond, this is the place to slow down and enjoy quality coffee and food.

Laneway Lunchbox Espresso Bar: A hidden gem behind the butcher shop for coffee and sweet treats.

Muse: If you ask the Palm Lake Resort sales team, Muse offers the best coffee in town (along with fashion and art!).

...and more

Yamba Farmers and Producers Market: Whether you live in Yamba or are visiting, don't miss an opportunity to stop by the weekly farmer's market for your snapshot of just how impressive the local producers are. It's so rewarding buying your food directly from the person who grew it or cooked it. Find it Wednesdays, 7-11am, in the Whiting Beach carpark.

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Paynesville

DNF-FREE AT PAYNESVILLE

Palm Lake Resort Paynesville represents the perfect blend of contemporary over-50s living and timeless appeal, in a coveted resort town setting, in Victoria's Gippsland.

FOR MANY PALM Lake Resort Paynesville homeowners and those who've passed through our Customer Experience Centre in Bairnsdale, the benefits of this style of over-50s lifestyle resort community are manifold.

Sales Manager Sandy Martin says she and her team have fielded a lot of enquiry from local Gippsland-area natives looking to downsize from their acreage blocks, or move into town from their current rural/remote locations, for this exciting next chapter of their lives.

"Many are drawn to our residences' architectural beauty and others are wanting to enjoy a more vibrant social life and that feeling of community connectedness," Sandy says. "We have also fielded interest from those seeking a relaxed lifestyle in a low-maintenance home nearby the serene waters of Paynesville's lakes.

"Whatever's on your over-50s era wish list, ours is a resort where you can truly enjoy the next chapter of your life. Secure, luxurious and surrounded by nature, it offers an unmatched lifestyle."

Beyond the beauty and amenity of this gated resort, Sandy says an important fact for those considering a Palm Lake Resort Paynesville home is that they will not be charged a deferred management fee (DMF), also known as an "exit fee", should they choose that option at the time of purchase.

"Homeowners here have the option to either pay the full purchase price on their Palm Lake Resort Paynesville home and not have to worry about a DMF upon leaving or they can choose a reduced purchase price upfront with a view to paying the DMF upon exit," Sandy explains.

To really understand the Palm Lake Resort difference, Sandy encouraged interested Gippsland locals to organise a tour of the resort. There are three impressive display homes newly open for inspection and they celebrate the architectural

beauty on offer at this exclusive address. These displays provide visitors with a taste of the premium fixtures and finishes on offer, as well as Palm Lake Resort's award-winning construction methods that have been perfected over the course of our company's more than 47 years of experience building over-50s communities here in Australia.

"We see it all the time - visitors who take the time to walk through these luxurious spaces make both physical and emotional connections with our residences. They get to put themselves in the picture of just how good life can be for them here.

"Paynesville is a peaceful town steeped in maritime history and surrounded by the natural beauty of the Gippsland Lakes," Sandy says. "Living at Palm Lake Resort Paynesville means a slower, more relaxed pace of life, where every day feels like a holiday in Victoria's boating capital.

"Paynesville offers endless opportunities to connect with the great outdoors, whether that's via boating, fishing or simply enjoying a lakeside walk. And while the town embraces its rich history, it also boasts a vibrant community atmosphere, making it a perfect blend of the past and present."

For those seeking a lifestyle change to Palm Lake Resort Paynesville, the cherry on top is the luxury Latitude Country Club that will be unveiled in April 2025. This multi-million dollar community facility will offer everything from an indoor heated swimming pool and spa, his and hers saunas and an exclusive gymnasium to those enjoyable social, creative and sporting opportunities. Think elegant dining areas, private luxury movie theatre, tenpin bowling alley, art and craft studio, and more.

"The wealth of incredible facilities that will be available at Palm Lake Resort Paynesville really puts the icing on this over-50s cake," Sandy says.

"We pride ourselves on including an extensive list of world-class facilities in our newest resort locations, like Paynesville, because we know there are health benefits for our homeowner demographic of staying physically active, socially connected and mentally agile."

Come and view our three new inspiring display residences at 78 Ashley St, Paynesville. Our Sales Information Centre is open seven days a week. You can also freecall us on 1800 960 943 or visit palmlakeresort.com.au





Paynesville

HERE'S THE SCOOP

If you're looking for the scoop on what makes a local area tick, there's one person you should seek out and that's the local newspaperman.

BOB YEATES IS the Managing Director/Publisher of East Gippsland Newspapers. It's a proud family business that's been bringing news to locals for more than a century - Bob himself represents the fourth generation of this newsworthy news-making family.

When you ask Bob about his favourite aspects of the Paynesville area, he excitedly rattles off dozens upon dozens Bob says, if you're looking for a "flash" meal, you can't go of bullet points in quick succession – places he likes to take his grandchildren, places to visit in your boat or kayak, places to eat, places to find a milkshake, and more. Here are Bob's insider tips on why Paynesville is the perfect place for over-50s to call home...

Places to see

According to Bob, the best swimming beach in the local area is at Dawson's Cove, a short way across the lake from Pavnesville. It's technically the Newlands Arm foreshore but if you're a local, you'll know it as "Birrells". It also offers swings for the kids and plenty of shade. "A great place to watch the sun go down," Bob says.

Sunset Cove, at Paynesville, is where Bob likes to take his own grandchildren, aged 2-11 years. It offers public barbecues and picnic tables, with a wonderful scenic walking track passing through there. The beach right on the esplanade at Paynesville is also great for a paddle with the kids or a picnic. Also, Ninety Mile Beach is a must-do.

Bob says the five-minute trip across to Raymond Island to walk the 3km koala trail is another great family day out.

"You can go across to Raymond Island on the car ferry for free, when you're on foot," he reveals.

Places to visit by watercraft

Bob reminds us that Paynesville is the boating capital of the Gippsland Lakes, if not the boating capital of Victoria.

"We've got the best inland waterway in Australia," he says. What makes it so great is that you can pull up on beaches or at a jetty in a variety of picturesque locations. And there's scope to enjoy the local waterways in any type of watercraft, from cruisers and speedboats to jet skis and kayaks. Bob suggests tying up your boat at Metung and stopping by the Metung Hotel for refreshments (pelican feeding is at

12 noon daily). You can moor your boat at Ocean Grange to see nature at its finest. Also worth a visit is Boxes Creek - a quiet, safe, pretty estuary, 2km east of Metung. And, for the kayakers, a gentle paddle up Newlands Arm or around the canals is a great way to spend a morning or afternoon.

Bob encouraged new boaties to chat to some of the longerterm locals for their boating advice, as the wind can whip up and make things "exciting" if you're not prepared for it. And, he says that if you don't own a boat, you can easily hire one or explore Paynesville's waterworld with H2O Tours and Adventures instead.

Places to eat

past Sardine Dining, which has scored One Hat in The Age Good Food Guide every year since 2019. A great meal with a great view can be enjoyed at Pier 70, the best fish and chips in town can be found at the Paynesville Hotel and you'll also enjoy a good meal at the Paynesville Motor Cruiser Club, on the water, adjacent to the marinas.

And the rest...

Bob says Paynesville offers great dental and medical services, has a really big IGA supermarket that is superb, and also offers great local bakeries and milk bars. It's home to the best chandlery that has an "astonishing" range of everything you'll ever need for your boat. You can also sign up your visiting grandkids for sailing lessons at the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club and keep an ear out for when the Motor Cruiser Club will next offer orientation classes for kids with boat licences in conjunction with relevant safety and training organisations - both great ways to get your Palm Lake grandkids into the boating scene here at

And, finally, keep your eyes peeled for Paynesville's Floating Tin Shed. The floating shed offers the most unusual and uplifting form of free entertainment you'll ever happen upon courtesy of two spirited community-minded locals - Bernie and Ruth Ryan. Bernie once held a Guinness World Record for owning the world's longest push bike but nowdays he's content bringing live musical entertainment to the people of Paynesville via his quirky floating shed/stage.

"If you asked me whether or not Bernie was a musician himself, I'd tell you that he just has a 'great appreciation' for music...," Bob smiles.

Editor's note: On the topic of music, if you're a keen male chorist who's looking for a place to "sing, laugh and drink" with likeminded locals, look no further than the Bairnsdale Gentlemen's Choir - you'll find Bob there with bells on!















WITH PALM LAKE Resort Paynesville under construction, we've got a wonderful Customer Experience Centre located in the middle of nearby Bairnsdale to help interested locals better understand the Palm Lake Resort package and lifestyle on offer. As well as all the information you'll need about our home designs, the resort masterplan and more, the space allows us to host some great interactive workshops that are helping our future homeowners get to know one another. Think paint-and-sip sessions and yoga, for example. If you're in the area and interested in meeting our Palm Lake Resort team to find out more about the future resort, simply FREECALL 1800 960 943 to join in the fun.



Pelican Waters MIRADOR'S OPEN

There's been a lot of activity across Palm Lake Resort Pelican Waters over the past few months, but nothing is more anticipated than the opening of the resort's Mirador Wellness Centre.

ON THE CONSTRUCTION front, Stage 1 is complete and sold out, Stage 1B is also now complete with only a few move-inready homes left, while Stage 2 is under construction and already 80 per cent sold. Such has been the demand for this iconic and exclusive over-50s address that we've just released Stage 3 ahead of schedule.

The resort has also recently welcomed a new Sales Manager, Nicole Smith, who comes to Pelican Waters with a wealth of Palm Lake Resort experience.

"I've spent the past seven years with the Palm Lake Group getting to know and understand the intricacies and opportunities that the Manufactured Homes Estate model brings to over-50s," Nicole says.

"Previous to now, I was based at Palm Lake Resort Beachmere Bay and have proudly sold more than \$200 million worth of homes. I'm so excited to now be at Pelican Waters, selling the most opulent and luxurious homes that Palm Lake Resort has ever built, for a new breed of modern over-50s."

Nicole's welcome to the team coincided with the unveiling of Stage 3, which offers a stunning array of home designs including a number of highly anticipated golf course frontage sites - some also with water views.

"There are 50 homes available in this latest release," Nicole explains. "There are many selling points to this stage including all the popular single-level floorplans we have available and a three-bedroom design that we have been constantly asked for.

"A number of these particular homes are north-facing, with a lovely front garden and are within walking distance of The Springs Country Club. These ones tick a lot of boxes."

Nicole says the imminent opening of the first precinct of The Springs Country Club has buoyed interest and sales.

"Our Mirador Wellness Centre will be officially opened on December 16," she says. "Our team already knows just how popular the indoor magnesium pool, steam room, gym, reformer Pilates studio, yoga room and Vichy showers will be for our growing population of homeowners."

The balance of this incredibly opulent \$46 million facility. which spans some 11,200m² in total, is due to be handed over to eager Pelican Waters homeowners in April 2025.

If all this whets your appetite for a visit, Nicole and her team are available for private inspections of their four display residences and the impressive resort grounds, seven days a week, by appointment. Freecall the team on 1800 490 626 to organise your visit this summer.













THERE'S NOTHING LIKE walking through a display residence to put yourself firmly in the picture of your future life at any Palm Lake Resort - and none more so than our very exclusive Pelican Waters resort. The grandeur of this iconic address needs to be seen - and experienced - to be truly appreciated, as these redcarpet VIP guests found out recently.

Pelican Waters







DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

AS EVERY YEAR draws to a close, I always take time to reflect on the time that has flown by at Palm Lake Works – and 2024 has been a big one. The team, right across the country, have worked incredibly hard, dedicated to getting the job done. Highlights for me include the completion of Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove's Vantage Country Club, the opening of our first integrated Sports Club and eight-rink undercover lawn bowls green at Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes, as well as the first homeowners moving into our Palm Lake Resort Paynesville and Yamba Cove addresses. I'll soon be adding to that list the opening of the Mirador Wellness Centre at Palm Lake Resort Pelican Waters, just in time for Christmas. These milestones cannot happen without every integral member of every integral team across Palm Lake Works. Think planners, project coordinators, civil managers, construction managers, site admins, draftsman, operations managers, project admins and estimators. Without each of these team members playing their valuable roles, these amazing projects cannot become a reality. As they say, Rome was not built in a day – and neither is a Palm Lake Resort!

At Forster Lakes, we have opened the main entry to the resort for homeowners as the Reception Centre nears completion. We have also completed all civils across Precinct 2, allowing the builders full access for the construction of the remaining homes. We have also commenced construction of the final caravan storage area in Stage 10 and plans for mini golf are well underway.

At Paynesville, we have seen our first homeowners move in which is always an exciting time for our team. Paynesville's Latitude Country Club is also looking amazing now that it's at fit-out stage. We look forward to seeing this open in 2025.

Up at beautiful Pelican Waters, construction will soon commence on Stage 3 homes. The Springs Country Club construction is moving along with haste. With the roof now on and all structural components complete, we turn our focus to the internal fit out and finishing touches. It will be the most elaborate and impressive community facility of its kind ever seen in Australia - there is no doubt about that. We also have contractors back on site for the next stage of civils infrastructure, delivering a further 50 homesites with roads already being poured for this next stage. With hundreds of trades on site every day, this is currently our busiest site.

At Yamba Cove, with their Vantage Country Club complete, things are now a little calmer. The focus turns to the completion of Stage 1 homes and the start of Stage 2 homes. We have also started construction of some pickleball courts.

On behalf of Palm Lake Works, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and hope our staff members and contractors all enjoy some well deserved time off. I, on the other hand, am off to give birth to a baby boy just in time for Christmas. Somehow I think my holiday season will be a little busier than most!

Suzanne Jensen General Manager, Development



PALM LAKE PEOPLE

THIS 'SUMMER 2024-25' edition of our company magazine heralds the end of another rewarding year for the Palm Lake Group. As always, at this time of the year, I like to review the past 12 months before planning for the year ahead. In 2024, we've seen some key projects coming closer to fruition. Our resort communities at Pelican Waters and Forster continue to move ahead in leaps and bounds, and I am delighted to note our first homeowner has just moved into Palm Lake Resort Paynesville. It's when the first people move into our resort construction sites that the excitement level really grows for our team, on every project. Our modern resorts offer luxurious homes and exquisite award-winning facilities, but those structures are nothing without the warmth of the human community that enjoys them.

The Federal and State Governments have been very active in amending legislation relating to employment and residential communities in 2024. Beyond the busy day-to-day operations of our company (revolving around the construction and management of dozens of over-50s resorts and aged care communities), our team is busy working in the background, reviewing company processes and policies to ensure our compliance and a smooth implementation of any changes required.

On the topic of those behind-the-scenes projects, the upgrade of internet infrastructure across our resorts is now complete. It was quite an involved process and I must say a special thank you to our IT Business Partner, Jason Wiesemes, for making the magic happen. We have had a lot of positive feedback from our homeowners in relation to the improvement in speed and reliability of their internet connection. While I hand out the team congratulations, it would be remiss of me not to mention Charmaine Brewer – our Human Resources Manager – on reaching her 10-year anniversary with our company. When it comes to all things people, she is a strong leader and a great problem solver who works across all our business units. I am so grateful for the positive energy she brings to work each day and we all look forward to celebrating her next decade with us!

As we head into the festive season, enjoying time with our friends and family, I encourage you to think charitably and, if possible, support those who may be struggling at this time of the year. Here at Palm Lake Group headquarters, we are turning our attention to the RizeUp Australia 2024 Christmas Gift Appeal. RizeUp Australia is a local Gold Coast organisation doing great things right around the country. Their mission is to bring joy to children whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence. Our HQ team members have amassed quite the haul of new gifts that we will donate to RizeUp so they can pass on our presents to those most in need this Christmas.

Amanda Clements
Executive Manager, People & Operations

Palm Lake Resort NEWS IN BRIEF



We're always moving forward

While the general public follows the progress of construction of our newest resort addresses with enthusiasm, there are always a lot of other moving parts of the puzzle that go on behind the scenes, to ensure our family company's offering continues to grow to match industry demand. In the planning world, our General Manager of Development, Suzanne Jensen, says her team has recently lodged development applications for brand new over-50s community lifestyle resorts at our new Dundowran and Zilzie greenfield sites, both on Queensland's coastline. Dundowran is located adjacent to Hervey Bay, while Zilzie's nearest major neighbour is Rockhampton.

"In total, these sites will deliver a further 700+ homes to the Palm Lake Group portfolio in the years to come," Suzanne explains. "Our Old Bar Beach project in New South Wales is also seeing planning progress, with approval of the centralised beachside golf course and lodgement of applications to council for its beachfront country club."

Suzanne says her team is also confident there will be council and public support of the proposed 90-bed aged care community, currently under assessment, to be located on the corner of The Lakes Way and Tea Tree Road, adjoining Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes in New South Wales.

Milestone moment for Forster

Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes has just seen a memorable milestone in its construction schedule with its 200th home being handed over to excited new homeowners. Sales Manager Jen Nichols says she's always eager to come to work and watch the progress being made on the resort every day.

"On top of the homes being completed, we are also looking forward to unveiling a few more community facilities in the not-too-distant future including a Reception Centre that will also feature a bar," Jen says. "We can't wait!"

Local clubs bowled over

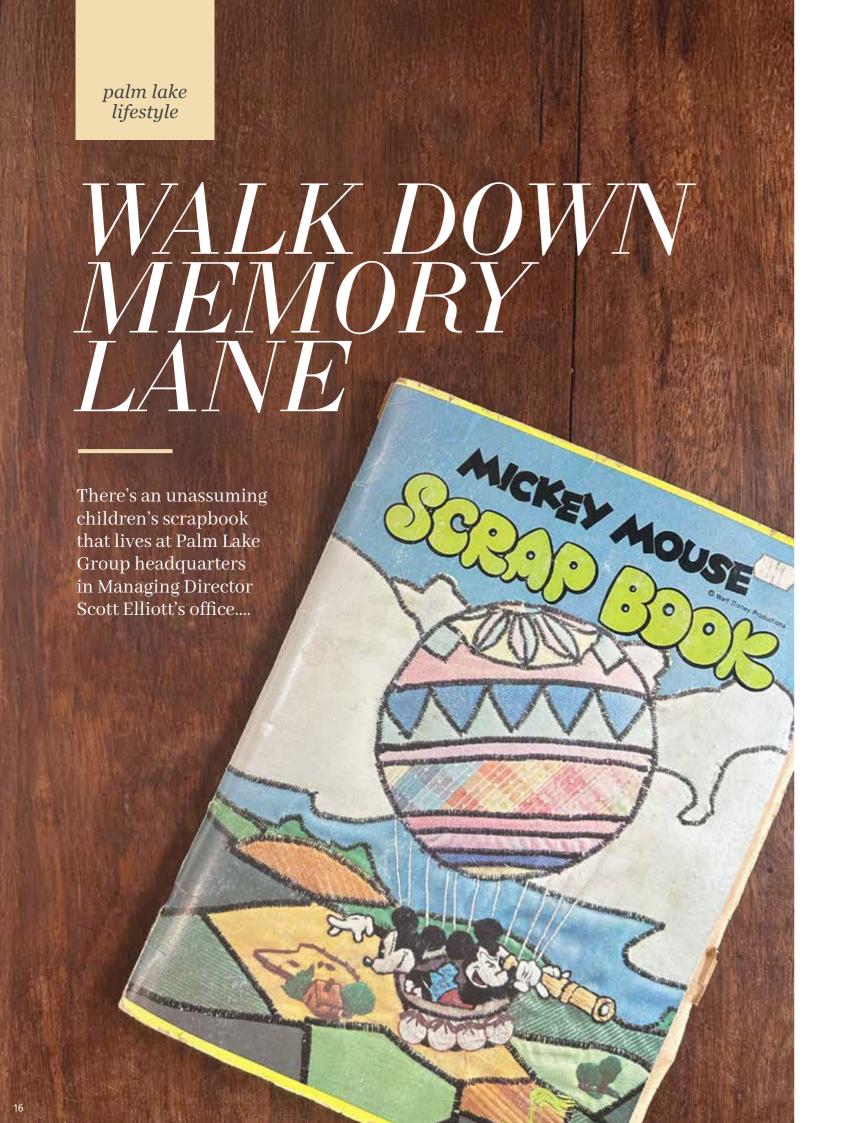
While on the topic of Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes, the resort's impressive new eight-rink undercover lawn bowls green played host to its first inter-club community competition day in November. Among the local clubs invited along were Forster Bowling Club, Pacific Palms Bowling Club, Sporties Tuncurry and Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club. Judging by the reactions from the visiting bowlers, the Palm Lake Resort green was the real winner on the day. But, so too was the local Forster-Tuncurry area's lawn bowls fraternity, with players able to mix socially and make likeminded friends.

We're all social here

Are you on social media? Make sure you follow our company's various social profiles to see what's happening right across our dozens of Palm Lake Resort locations. Palm Lake Resort is on Facebook (@palmlakeresort) and also over on Instagram (@palm.lake.resort). We also feature many warm-and-fuzzy stories from our seven Palm Lake Care aged caring communities on both these social platforms (@palm.lake.care). With more than 10,000 people calling a Palm Lake Group address home, there's always loads going on!

Connect with us online

While we love nothing more than meeting people in person at our various Sales Information Centres, we know that this is not always achievable when you might be looking for your Palm Lake Resort over-50s dream home from interstate or even overseas. So, don't forget that there's a considerable amount of detail, for your viewing pleasure, in Palm Lake Resort's digital space as well. In fact, we're always updating our website with new display home walk-throughs and other informative features. We encourage you to dive into our palmlakeresort.com.au website and explore our portfolio for yourself.



...It's a book more than 50 years old, with pages so yellowed, they're closer to brown. The vintage cover image features Mickey and Minnie Mouse in a hot air balloon - and the scrapbook's original 44c price tag still remains in place. To anyone else, it looks like this book should contain a child's innocent scribbles. But, incredibly, what this precious 44c scrapbook represents are the seeds of a billion-dollar Australian family business success story.

AS YOU OPEN the ageing scrapbook's cover, you quickly learn that it's quite a fragile and precious tome - a time capsule, if you will - filled with equally as yellowed newspaper clippings that have been intricately cut out and lovingly glued in by a proud young family.

Scott remembers the scrapbook from his childhood. The clippings all relate back to his father Walter (Palm Lake Group's founder) and his earliest business dealings. It contains memories of properties bought, developed and sold - and stories of the emergence of a new style of community living that Walter pioneered here in Australia, in his home state of Victoria. It was Scott's (late) mum, Margaret, who maintained the scrapbook for all those years, although Scott remembers himself sticking odd things in there and handwriting notes under some of the photos.

"Mum said she made the book for me," Scott smiles. "She handed it to me a few years ago, before she died. I'd honestly forgotten about it. But now it's one of my most treasured possessions."

The book's first page offers the earliest glimpse into Walter's career. A carpenter by trade, Wal's 'chippie' skills were quickly overshadowed by his emerging business nous. He was a problem solver and was always looking for ways to do things more efficiently on the job site. For example, the young tradesman/builder, came up with a way to more quickly erect and remove scaffolding so that he could turn over his jobs more rapidly. More jobs completed equalled more profit. Easy.

The very first newspaper clipping dates back to August 17, 1972. A "Unique housing village" was the headline, and it tells the story of Elliott Enterprises' proposed \$1.5 million housing community, "patterned on overseas trends", including 70 various units on a five-acre site in James St, Dandenong. It was one of young Walter's earliest major developments and it offered 70 units and town houses, priced from \$15,000. 'St James Village', as the development would be called, also offered recreation parkland and a children's playing field.

"A general store-shop is proposed for the adjacent site and will be designed to harmonise with the overall design of the village," the article explains. "There will be a full-time resident caretaker at the village to ensure site security and well maintained gardens and amenities."

While the development sounded much like the 2024 iteration of the Elliotts' modern-day Palm Lake Resorts, these earliest communities were not specifically built for over-50s homeowners. In a further newspaper clipping dated May 19, 1973, *The Age* real estate section reported that eight of Wal's St James Village homes had already been sold to "a widow, a

single male school teacher, a young couple with children, and older people".

"The kitchen benches are arranged in a U shape so that whoever works here should have little walking to do," the article states. "The stove with its attendant hot plates is electric. The bathroom is done out in white, trimmed with gold."

Carefully flipping through more pages of the scrapbook, by July 24, 1976, *The Sun* Property Guide was reporting on Wal's next project on Somerville Rd, Hampton Park, five minutes from Dandenong.

"Throughout Melbourne's history, there have been many distinctly different eras of architecture and house design," the newspaper clipping states. "We are familiar with the terraced houses and their lacework and the crammed inner suburban homes with narrow frontages. In many areas there are weatherboards jammed on small blocks; neatly laid out triple-fronted brock veneers and town houses and villa units. And the latest development is 'cluster housing'.

"This concept is not new but took some time to get off the ground because of technical difficulties over titles and owners' rights and the attitude of certain local authorities. But these initial problems seem to have been overcome, and cluster housing is now an established fact – one which many people find interesting.

"The principle is simple. Instead of each home in a development being situated on its own block of, say, a fifth of an acre, the homes are clustered together on small areas of land. The area of land 'left over' surrounds the cluster of homes as a private parkland with shared amenities and facilities to which all the homeowners have access."

Sounding familiar? Walter was only a few developments into his career and was already realising success with his "cluster housing" idea. It was an idea he brought to Australia after an auspicious trip to the United States in the early 1970s where he saw similar community lifestyle developments that really piqued his interest.

"Speaking with some of the residents there, I noticed that people could live quite well in a managed village," Wal recalls.

The Toorak Times would go on to describe Wal's developments as offering "Luxurious living at reasonable prices".

"All homes are equipped with wall ovens, dishwashers, shagpile carpet, flywire screens, curtains and light fittings. All you have to do is move in the furniture.

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palm lake lifestyle

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"Where else could you afford the luxury of having tennis courts, swimming pools, sauna rooms, billiard rooms, table tennis and beautifully landscaped lawns for the children to play on," another 1970s newspaper clipping states. "No, you are wrong, it is not Paradise, it is Elliott Cluster Homes."

The Toorak Times journalist Jack Pacholli wrote: "After three years' trial and error, listening to the needs of people who had purchased their units and studying overseas trends, (Walter) came up with, in my opinion, the perfect answer.

"What a wonderful concept for people with young families. Beautiful playgrounds with no dangers of the kids getting run over by passing traffic and having nobody complaining about the family pets. What a load off Mum's mind. Another very good aspect is the security factor. Isn't it nice to go for a holiday without having to worry about your home being burgled? This is a very big plus for cluster homes."

On August 27, 1976, *The Australian* newspaper reported that Walter's sixth development, on Canterbury Rd, Vermont, would comprise 92 dwellings on 4.7ha and would be Victoria's first such development under the new Cluster Titles Act (previous to now it was the Strata Titles Act). "Vermont Village" offered three-bedroom town houses "with the added touch of a spiral staircase" priced from \$42,750.

"Each household pays \$50 a quarter (about \$4 a week) into the common fund used for the garderner's fee, general outside maintenance of the houses and caretaker fee," an advertisement for the development states. "A message to all people 35 years and over: Live where you are welcome. Each home has complete privacy but you have the opportunity to join in communal activity."

Scott says he has fond childhood memories of Vermont Village - and one in particular stands out. It was Christmas-time and Scott would've been about 12 years old. Wal had just paid all his tradies in cash when they decided to have a few Christmas drinks and play some Two-Up. The group set up for the game in one of the unfinished Vermont Village homes. Scott remembers swinging from the home's timber framework as he watched the men laughing, drinking and gambling away their Christmas income. It turns out Wal was on a winning streak that day and at one point, he was so far ahead in his Two-Up winnings that the tradies started to get restless.

"Dad came up to me and put his hands firmly on my shoulders and said 'We've got to get out of here - now!'," Scott laughs. "He won back most of the money he'd just paid them."

The addresses keep coming

This incredible scrapbook time capsule goes on to reveal more and more early Elliott Group developments including:

Hampton Park: 34 homes on 2ha on Somerville Rd, Hampton Park, ranging in price from \$32,250 to \$36,950.

Heathmont Village: A 21-home community. On January 6, 1978, *The Age* reported, "The Elliott Group finds young and retired couples are the major customers."

Hamilton Village: 40 homes on 1.5ha on Hamilton Rd, Bayswater North. Two- and three-bedroom homes priced from \$30,500 to \$34,950 with some homes featuring cathedral ceilings. "Communal facilities include a heated swimming pool and wading pool enclosed by a safety fence, community hall, landscaped open space with playground equipment."

Blackburn Rise: 17 "well-designed units" on 2.5 acres of Blackburn Rd, near the Burwood Highway, from \$44,950.

Boronia Village: 16 homes priced from \$37,500 to \$40,000, this development should attract "first-home buyers or older people seeking something smaller than what they had", according to a 1979 clipping.

Red Gum Park Industrial: Located between Hammond Rd and Ordish Rd, Dandenong, a 1983 newspaper article quotes Wal as saying his company had spent more than \$10 million over two years developing this industrial site.

In further scrapbook clippings, a handsome young "Wally Elliott" was shown to be winning industry awards from the early days. In 1977, he took out SEC's "Outstanding use of Electricity" award under the *Herald*'s "Finest in Family Living Contest".

Around the same time, Walter also established Australia's first long-term caravan park in Dandenong on 18ha along Frankston-Dandenong Rd, Dandenong South. Media coverage of the time stated the \$2 million park would accommodate about 400 vans and was believed to be the first of its kind to officially cater for long-term residents.

"A third of its area will be reserved for semi-permanent residents with people expected to stay for periods of up to 18 months. By law, caravans are required to change location every few weeks, a regulation that has often come under fire from caravanners and caravan park owners. But in this case, Springvale Council has assured the developers that the 'moveon' regulation will not be enforced," the story states.

Walter was quoted in the same late-1970s article as saying the growing popularity of caravans and mobile homes here was following a trend he'd seen in the United States.

"The population is becoming more mobile and there is less emphasis being placed on real estate as the cornerstone," Walter was quoted as saying. "People want to live and enjoy life more without the burden of repaying long-term mortgages. This has been happening for some time now in the USA. The only reason it has been slower here is because of the regulations – such as the 'move-on' rule. Springvale Council is showing a great deal of foresight and understanding in not enforcing the rule. Even though we are servicing a small sector of the community – perhaps 10 or 15 per cent – there is a need for mobile homes."

Palm Lake Resort seeds are sown

While Willow Lodge Caravan Park's original 1970s design is so far removed from the 2024 iteration of Palm Lake Resort's most opulent luxury residences at coastal locations such as Pelican Waters, Yamba Cove and Forster Lakes, the first real seeds of the modern Palm Lake Resort formula were actually sown at that Bangholme van park. The site, purchased in 1977, would go on to become Palm Lake Resort Willow Lodge – a property still proudly in the company portfolio today.

Scott remembers mowing the lawns at Palm Lake Resort Willow Lodge as a teenager back in the 1970s. The family of four (including Walter, his wife Margaret, Scott and his younger sister) lived on site for the first few years as Wal bedded down his approach to managing the property and transforming it from a caravan park into the vision he had in his mind. Wal admits, "it was extremely difficult in the early years" but, almost 50 years on, Willow Lodge remains close to Wal's heart.

"Of all the Palm Lake Resort locations, it's my favourite because of the maturity and enhancement that we have achieved at that site," Wal says.

And it's an address still being enhanced today. Older style homes are, one by one, being replaced by luxury bespoke abodes designed individually for each homesite. The Palm Lake Group also handed over a \$5 million community facility, The Lodge Country Club, to Willow Lodge homeowners in recent years. From humble beginnings, this modern community magnet now offers a state-of-the-art 40-seat movie theatre, an exclusive Milon gymnasium, indoor heated pool, his and hers saunas, lounge and dining areas, a commercial kitchen, grand piano, dance floor, pool tables, darts room, indoor lawn bowls green, table tennis tables, a stocked art and craft room, library with free Wi-Fi and computer equipment as well as meeting rooms.

...and there's more

Still on the topic of Willow Lodge, an interesting newspaper clipping from February 1, 1990, shows a "Caravan park drama" unfolded there, as "Boys jump for lives as tree falls".

"Thirteens year olds Jeremy and Jamie were dangling their feet in the swimming pool at the Willow Lodge Caravan Park during last week's heatwave when strong winds swept through the park," the article states. "Jeremy said the sound of the branch cracking away from a gum tree swaying in the wind only metres away was like 'thunder'.

"Other caravan park residents told of other miraculous escapes from the crashing tree, including three elderly women who only moments before had been standing next to the pool fence before leaving the area to have a cup of tea."

The scrapbook also contains many articles relating to Wal's time serving as President of the Apex Club of Dandenong. There are also letters of commendation for Wal, proudly glued into the scrapbook, from the City of Dandenong Mayor, the Grassmere Youth Guidance Centre Chairman and even the Dandenong and District Hospital Manager, for example, all thanking him for some form of community service that he had provided over the years.

And then there are the vintage photos. Early format Polaroids featuring random residential and commercial property facades, as well as another throwback image featuring Wal's shiny 1965 HD Holden sedan and an early-1950s Morris Minor parked outside the family home in that same classic era.

This simple scrapbook offers an incredible journey back through Walter Elliott's formative business years. As you turn the pages, pour over the headlines and carefully unfold those larger newspaper clippings to reveal their full vintage contents, it's hard not to feel the pride put into the collection of these precious news pieces. Not surprisingly, it's the same type of pride put into each and every Palm Lake Resort home design and masterplan still today – 30 resort addresses and 50 years on.

It's clear, from this 44c scrapbook, that the Palm Lake Group has been built on rock solid foundations. It bodes well for the future of Wal's proudly family-owned-and-operated company.











KEEPING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY ALIVE

This festive season, why not celebrate with the gifts you already have? Forget spending a fortune on seasonal things. Your family, your past, your happy memories — these are the things more valuable than 'things'. Here are a few ways you can turn your family history into cherished gifts this season. They are the gifts that will keep on giving...

Handmade scrapbooks

A handmade scrapbook filled with photos, notes and keepsakes from the past is a beautiful way to bring your family's history to life. You can curate themed pages adorned with photos, ticket stubs or those collected mementos to reflect special memories – think family holidays, childhood memories or important milestones. Alternatively, consider a scrapbook-style frame to display a collection of items that together tell a story. These frames can hold vintage photographs, concert tickets or handwritten letters, creating a piece of art that blends memories with home decor. A perfect solution if you're creating gifts for more than one person.

Memory books

We each have a seemingly endless well of memories, but it can be hard to recall them all on our own. Memory books are a wonderful way to share stories from our lives – and you can find them just about anywhere. Of course, there are digital alternatives, too. Websites like Storyworth allow users to answer questions about their past (including questions submitted by their friends and family members). At the end of the year, the answers are compiled into a book. These stories offer insight into family traditions, adventures and life lessons. Can you think of a better gift for the next generation?

Photo albums and photobooks

Many websites offer easy-to-use templates to create beautiful albums that can be printed and cherished for generations. For tech-savvy grandparents, digitising old photos and videos is a special touch – turning fading hard-copy images into high-quality digital files that can be shared easily across devices.

Digital frames

A modern twist on a classic present, gifting a digital frame allows you to share hundreds of family photos in a rotating display. Certain frames allow you to preload a selection of family snapshots, while others can be added to remotely (via email and cloud technology) for a display that changes as your family does. If a picture tells a thousand words, we can't think of a better way to keep your family memories alive. Google "The Skylight Frame" for a clever option that anyone can email their photos to, at any time, for the frame owner's viewing pleasure.

Furniture, with meaning

Furniture may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think about sentimental gifts, but restoring or passing down a cherished heirloom piece can have great significance. Whether it's a rocking chair that's been used by generations or a coffee table where family game nights took place, these pieces allow memories to live on – even when the walls around them change. For a personal touch, inscribe meaningful dates or messages on the underside of the furniture, or write a note explaining the piece's history to your gift recipient.

Sentimental jewellery

As some of our most treasured possessions, pieces of jewellery can carry deep nostalgia – especially when they have been passed down through the generations. That necklace or watch that has been gathering dust on your nightstand could become a cherished gift for your child or grandchild. Or how about organising a jeweller to create a new custom piece from a broken or dated item? You could even incorporate a short engraved message? With sentimental jewellery, the possibilities are endless.

THE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

The holidays usually provide many opportunities to sit around a table with loved ones. Why not use these precious moments to spark new conversations about old memories, with a view to capturing your family's rich history.

as having a conversation. As we're heading into the prime time of year for catch-ups with extended family, maybe now's a great time to ensure your future generations have access to all the valuable intel that your memory holds. Just make sure you document these chats – you could make voice or video recordings or take notes. We've come up with a few questions to help get the conversation flowing and the ball rolling on documenting your family's history...

Childhood

- What was your favourite game to play as a child?
- Did you have a special toy or childhood security item?
- Who were your childhood best friends and what did you like to do together?
- Did you have any family pets? Tell us about them.
- What's a memory from school that stands out to you?
- What was your favourite meal as a kid? Who cooked it?

Family traditions

- What special traditions did your family have for Christmas when you were young?
- How did your family celebrate big milestones ike weddings, anniversaries, graduations?
- Was there a family recipe passed down to you?
- Are there any family meals special to you?
- · Did your family have any unique traditions?

The different eras

- What did you do for fun before technology?
- How did you communicate with your friends or family before the internet and mobile phones?
- Who were your favourite musicians/bands?
- What major events in history do you recall?
- · How did people dress when you were young?

Compare experiences

- What was school like when you were a kid? How is it different to now?
- How did you celebrate early birthdays?
- What was traveling like when you were younger, compared to now?
- What are some things you did that kids today don't get to experience?
- How was life different when you were my age, and how is it the same?

Family and ancestors

- Can you tell me about your parents/grandparents?
- What do you know about the place where our family originally came from?
- What's the most interesting thing you've heard about our family history?
- Did your family have any special heirlooms that were passed down that I might not know about?
- Are there any funny or memorable stories about our family that I haven't heard before?

Life events

- Tell me about your first job? What did you learn?
- What was one of the most important decisions you made in your life?
- Can you tell me about the day you met your life partner? What were your initial thoughts of him/her?
- What's one of the best pieces of advice you've received?



palm lake lifestyle



ADAYIN THE LIFE OF APALM LAKE GRANDKID

It's no secret that Palm Lake Resorts are built for families. While our communities are designed for over-50s, it's those smallest, most delightful members of our homeowners' families who we really love seeing around the resort grounds!

THERE'S NO DOUBTING it takes a village to raise a child. And never before has there been a time in modern history when the need has been so great for the generations to come together to raise their young.

Parents are working harder to meet cost-of-living pressures and an ever-increasing number of women are in the workforce. With more than 47 years of our own company history designing, constructing and managing over-50s lifestyle communities along Australia's east coast, the Palm Lake Group is seeing more and more of our homeowner grandparents plugged into supporting and raising their

In this respect, our approach to designing modern Palm Lake Resort communities has evolved – and continues to evolve. You'll find that many of our newest lowmaintenance homes feature floorplans designed for sharing. Our newest resorts offer home designs with additional bathrooms positioned to best support guest rooms and additional living spaces in strategic locations to allow visitors their own level of privacy when they seek it.

Beyond the tangible assistance our Palm Lake Resort grandparent homeowners are providing their offspring, to raise their offspring, there are myriad emotional and wellbeing benefits that provide the 'icing on top' in these family situations. Children reap the benefits of the lessons they learn from their grandparents, and grandparents benefit from the emotional connections they make with their grandchildren and from having another level of purpose in their life.

At Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes, homeowners Liz La Salle and her husband Henry Stevens will tell you they are overjoyed to be able to help raise their granddaughters. who have become regulars around the resort grounds.

"The 7- and 8-year-old girls come up and stay with us, by themselves, every school holidays for four or five days or even a week at a time," Liz beams. "And they've been doing that ever since we moved into the resort about two-and-ahalf years ago."

Liz says the sisters love nothing more than sharing the resort's facilities with their Nana and Gramps. As does their other granddaughter, who's 3.5 years old and lives in Sydney, and is fondly known as "Hurricane Harper" by those Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes community members who have enjoyed her toddler exuberance over the years!

"The girls all love the pool, the spa, the tenpin bowling alley and the cinema," Liz says. "We take the bigger girls fishing down at the resort pontoon. We're excited to show them how to play pickleball on the new courts when they come and stay this summer and we also can't wait until the resort's putt putt golf course is completed - they will absolutely love that."

This family also has a special tradition of delicious hot chocolates from the Belleair Country Club café after a swim.

"I actually have to bribe them with hot chocolate just to get them out of the pool," Liz laughs.

This vibrant grandmother is an avid reader and a volunteer at the resort library. She says the library has become another special place her granddaughters love to visit. There's a dedicated section set up for all the visiting grandies that offers age-appropriate books, games and DVDs. And, of course, the smooth new roads and pathways within Forster Lakes' safe, gated resort grounds are perfect for their little bikes and scooters, when escorted on rides by Nana and Gramps. Liz says for those homeowners with slightly older grandchildren, the golf simulator rooms and lawn bowls green are additional magnets for fun.

Liz says her granddaughters have made themselves so at home at the resort, they've formed their own little relationships with other homeowners and their grandchildren. Such is the level of connection, Forster Lakes homeowners try to coordinate the neighbourhood grandchildren's visits so the kids can spend time with one another. Cute.

Back at home, Liz and Henry's Palmetto designer abode was the perfect option for multi-generational living. Liz explains that she has set up the front activity room as a dedicated bedroom for the girls, allowing the home's official second bedroom to remain available should the girls' parents also want to stay. This devoted grandmother even painted her Palm Lake Resort home's activity room the same colour as the girls' room in her previous family home, to ensure her beloved grandkids would make a seamless transition into their new Palm Lake Resort abode.

Beyond their perfect resort home and Forster Lakes' worldclass facilities, Liz says the local Forster area provides even more excitement for her visiting grandchildren.

"We love a beach day and head to Main Beach whenever we can. The girls love to collect shells and we'll usually stop by Beach Bums Café for lunch or a milkshake," she says.

Liz also rates the Forster-Tuncurry Golf Driving Range's 'Water golf' as a brilliant activity for visiting grandchildren, as well as any of the local bushwalks. They also love to watch a newrelease film at the Great Lakes Cinema 3 (where they offer "city movies at country prices").

"If we were still living in our house at Sydney, it would be a completely different dynamic - we would have to go out for everything with the kids. Here, everything is right on our doorstep and we don't have to get in the car at all if we don't want to. The kids never get bored," she smiles.

"Henry and I absolutely love it here. It's a little tough being twoand four-hours' drive away from the kids but we know that we are in fact very, very lucky here and we wouldn't change it for the world.

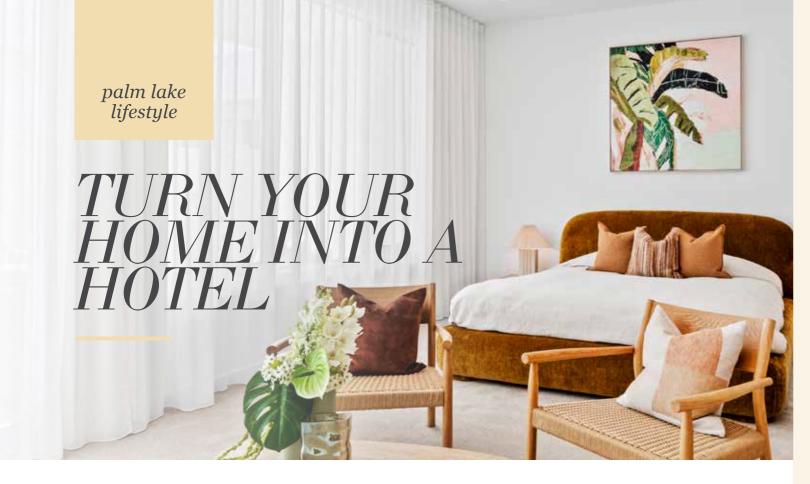
"You would struggle to find anything that matches what we have here at Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes anywhere else in the whole of New South Wales."











Welcoming loved ones into your Palm Lake Resort home this festive season? Making your abode guest-ready is about more than providing a place to sleep - it's about creating a space that feels warm, inviting and memorable. Here are our tips for doing just that.

Make your guest room a retreat

It may be their only private space during their stay, so it's important that you transform your guest bedroom (or bedrooms) into a cosy, hotel-like escape for your visitors. Start by making the bed with fresh, crisp sheets – they should be washed in the hottest temperature the fabric can handle, ensuring there is still plenty of room in the machine. For that crinkle-free hotel feel, make the bed (leave the corners untucked) and spray them with a mist of tap water. Shake the top layer until the creases start to settle, then tuck in the corners to finish making the bed.

For that extra hotel touch, leave your fluffiest towels neatly folded at the end of the bed. Other thoughtful touches like a bedside lamp, a small stack of books or magazines, a bottle of water and extra pillows and blankets for comfort will make the room feel even more luxurious. You could even consider leaving a little 'welcome kit' with your Wi-Fi password, their own mug and a few spacks

Make your bathroom sparkle

Whether you're staying with relatives or in a hotel, a clean, sparkling bathroom makes all the difference. Ensure your bathroom is guest-ready by stocking it with essential toiletries (like new toothbrushes and toothpaste, for a start), spare toilet rolls and a non-slip bathmat. Provide soap, shampoo and conditioner in a small basket for that extra luxurious feel.

A freshly cleaned space with neatly folded hand towels is

always appreciated, while a scented candle or diffuser will make your bathroom feel like a spa. If you have a bath, some bath bombs or bath salts will always be appreciated. If not, a shower steamer is an easy way to offer added relaxation, with minimal effort.

Stock up your kitchen

Plan ahead by stocking your pantry and fridge with snacks, breakfast options and easy-to-prepare meals – we all know how hectic the holidays can get, but having these supplies on hand can ensure smooth sailing. Make sure to cater to dietary needs by asking your guests in advance about their preferences. Having a coffee or tea station ready for self-service is a simple way to make guests feel at home – be sure to show them how to use it at the beginning of their stay or include instructions in their 'welcome kit'. Of course, festive treats like mince pies or a platter of Christmas biscuits add a seasonal touch.

Create communal spaces

Arrange your living areas for comfort and conversation. Scatter a few festive cushions or throws to add a holiday vibe and set out games, puzzles or decks of cards for spontaneous fun. If you have an outdoor area, spruce it up with fairy lights or lanterns to encourage alfresco evenings – a summer essential.

Taking the time to prepare your home doesn't only ensure your guests feel comfortable – it also allows you to relax and enjoy their company. After all, the best part of the holiday season is spending quality time together.

FOOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Christmas is a time for gathering with loved ones, sharing good food and creating lasting memories. But for those hosting the festivities, it can also be a time of stress and last-minute preparation...

THE GOOD NEWS? Putting on a Christmas feast doesn't have to feel like a marathon. With a bit of planning and a few clever tricks, you can pull off a celebration that's as enjoyable for you as it is for your guests.

Set a festive table

Your dining table sets the stage for the meal, so take some time to make it special. Start with a seasonal centrepiece – fresh greenery, such as eucalyptus or pine branches, paired with candles or a bowl of baubles. Opt for cloth napkins for an elevated touch and personalise each setting with name cards or small festive details like sprigs of rosemary tied with ribbon. Layer your plates and glassware for depth and style, and make sure everyone has easy access to cutlery, extra napkins and drinks. For a bit of whimsy and classic festive fun, scatter some Christmas crackers around the table.

Plan your menu

Keep it simple yet delicious with a menu that mixes makeahead dishes and quick, crowd-pleasing options. A grazing platter with cheese, cured meats, crackers and fresh fruit is an ideal starter - minimal effort with maximum impact. For the main course, go classic with a glazed ham and roasted turkey, then add a vibrant vegetable tart for variety. Complement these with roasted vegetables, fresh salads and crusty bread. Don't forget to consider dietary needs by including a vegetarian or gluten-free option. Finish with a quintessentially Aussie dessert like pavlova or a rich trifle layered with custard and sponge.



Cheers to festive drinks

A well-stocked drinks station keeps things running smoothly and allows guests to help themselves. Offer a variety of beverages, including a signature festive drink like a summer sangria, spritz or sparkling fruit punch.

For those who prefer non-alcoholic options, prepare mocktails garnished with fruit skewers, mint or sugared glass rims for a festive feel. Make sure there's plenty of water with slices of lemon or cucumber, and keep ice buckets handy to keep drinks chilled in the summer heat.

Add some dinner table fun

Entertainment doesn't stop at the meal. Organise games or activities to keep the energy lively and laughter flowing. A round of trivia, 'two truths and a lie' or Christmas charades can be great fun for all ages.

Alternatively, try introducing a small gift swap, like Secret Santa or a 'White elephant' exchange. For a quieter moment, provide guests with pens and cards to write down their favourite Christmas memory to share later.

Enjoy the moment

The most important part of hosting is enjoying the experience alongside your guests. Prepare as much as you can ahead of time to minimise stress and don't sweat the small details. It's the connection and joy shared at your table that truly makes the celebration special. Simply follow these tips and you'll create Christmas memories that will last a lifetime.

 $^{\prime}$

SAY CHEERS!

It's officially family get-together/ party season! Whether you're hosting a backyard barbecue or a more refined party in your Palm Lake Resort home, these easy yet elegant cocktails will add a touch of sparkle to your summer celebrations.

Mango Bellini

Bursting with vibrant mango flavour, the Mango Bellini is a smooth, tropical twist on the classic drink, ideal for warm weather.

Ingredients

90ml champagne

60ml mango purée (fresh or frozen mango, blended until smooth)

Splash of ginger syrup (optional, for a spicy kick) Mint sprig for garnish

Method

Pour the mango purée into a chilled champagne flute.

Slowly top with champagne and add a splash of ginger syrup if desired.

Garnish with a mint sprig.

Make it a mocktail: Swap champagne for soda water.



Tropical Sparkler

A refreshing mix of coconut and pineapple, the Tropical Sparkler brings a hint of the tropics to any festive celebration.

Ingredients

90ml champagne

45ml coconut rum

30ml pineapple juice

Splash of lime juice

Fresh pineapple slice or lime wheel for garnish

Method

In a cocktail shaker, combine the coconut rum, pineapple juice and lime juice with ice. Shake well.

Strain into a champagne flute and top with champagne.

Garnish with a fresh pineapple slice or a lime wheel.

Make it a mocktail: Swap champagne for soda water or Sprite.



Australian Spritz

This Australian Spritz combines elderflower and Aperol with champagne for a light, floral cocktail that's perfect for summer gatherings.

Ingredients

90ml champagne

30ml elderflower liqueur (such as St-Germain)

30ml Aperol

Fresh berries (strawberries, raspberries) or a slice of orange for garnish

Method

Pour the elderflower liqueur and Aperol into a wine glass filled with ice.

Top with champagne and stir gently.

Garnish with fresh berries or an orange slice.

Make it a mocktail: Leave out the Aperol, swap the champagne for blood orange soda water and the liqueur for elderflower cordial.



Passionfruit Mimosa

The Passionfruit Mimosa infuses tropical flair into a traditional mimosa, delivering a fresh, tangy taste that's ideal for summer.

Ingredients

90ml champagne

45ml fresh passionfruit pulp (about 1 passionfruit)

15ml orange juice

Slice of orange or edible flower for garnish

Method

Add the fresh passionfruit pulp and orange juice to a champagne flute.

Top with champagne and

gently stir.

Garnish with a slice of orange or an edible flower.

Make it a mocktail: Swap champagne for soda water.



Berry and Thyme Sparkle

Fresh berries and thyme add a touch of garden charm to this drink, making it an aromatic choice for day or night celebrations.

Ingredients

90ml champagne

30ml gin

15ml fresh lemon juice

Fresh raspberries or strawberries

Fresh thyme sprig for garnish

Method

In a cocktail shaker, muddle a few berries with the

gin and lemon juice.

Strain into a champagne flute and top with champagne.

Garnish with a fresh thyme sprig and a few extra berries.

Make it a mocktail: Leave out the

gin and swap the champagne for soda water or Sprite.



Festive Pomegranate Fizz

With the bold colour and flavour of pomegranate, this Festive Pomegranate Fizz is a holiday-ready drink that's as beautiful as it is delicious.

Ingredients

90ml champagne

45ml pomegranate juice

15ml orange liqueur (like Cointreau)

Pomegranate seeds and a rosemary sprig for garnish

Method

Pour the pomegranate juice and orange liqueur into a chilled champagne flute.

Top with champagne and gently stir.

Garnish with a few pomegranate seeds and a sprig of rosemary.

Make it a mocktail: Swap champagne for soda water.



Ginger and Lime Sparkler

Crisp, zesty and just a little spicy, this ginger and lime drink is a sparkling refresher with a hint of warmth (courtesy of the ginger).

Ingredients

90ml champagne

30ml ginger beer (chilled)

15ml fresh lime juice

1 tsp honey or agave syrup (optional, for sweetness) Fresh lime wheel and candied ginger for garnish

Method

In a champagne flute, mix the ginger beer, lime juice and honey or agave syrup, if desired.

Top with champagne and stir gently.

Garnish with a lime wheel and a piece of candied ginger.

Make it a mocktail: Leave out the champagne (or swap it for soda water).



palm lake lifestyle

RAISE A GLASS

'Tis the season for celebrating – and no celebration is complete without raising a glass. Whether it's filled with a cocktail or a mocktail, say cheers with this selection of party-approved glassware.



1. Maison Balzac champagne coupes, set of two, \$149 2. Maison Balzac Iris flutes, set of two, \$179 3. Luigi Bormioli Optica champagne coupes, set of four, \$99.95 4. Kmart ruffle flute glasses, set of four, \$16 5. Maison Balzac Grand Soleil coupes, set of two, \$149 6. Fazeek wave flute glasses, set of two, \$119 7. Country Road Daisy coupe, set of two, \$69.95 8. Cristena Re champagne flutes, set of two, \$74.95 9. Ichendorf Milano champagne bowl, \$49.95 each 10. Spode Italian glassware, set of four, \$80 11. RCR Opera coupe, set of six, \$129.95 12. Vue Jordan champagne glass, set of four, \$49.95 13. Country Road Vivi coupe, set of two, \$49.95 14. Wheel&Barrow coupe glass, \$14.95 each



Palm Lake Care

CHEFS IMPRESS

When it comes to the dining experience across our seven Palm Lake Care communities, our approach is simple: involve the residents in the process.

BY HAVING OUR residents work closely with our chefs to develop seasonal menus that reflect their tastes and preferences, we are well on our way to creating a dining experience that is both memorable and meaningful. But it doesn't stop at the food – we strive to create a beautiful and welcoming environment within our dining rooms, where every meal feels like a special occasion.

Take, for example, Palm Lake Care's signature breakfast buffets, which have become a staple across all our communities. To further enhance this experience, we are developing new and improved permanent purpose-built cabinetry. These upgrades are designed to make the buffet setup more accessible and visually appealing, promoting independence for those residents who enjoy helping themselves while still offering the option to be fully served

if that's their preference. It's all about providing choice and comfort while ensuring the dining experience feels personal and tailored to each individual's needs and desires.

We also have our monthly managers' lunches, where a select group of residents dine with our management team in one of our elegantly presented private dining rooms. These events are a highlight for many, with chefs creating mouth-watering menus that showcase their culinary skills and versatility.

Our chefs are not only passionate about great food but also about celebrating the diverse cultural backgrounds of our residents. Larry, Chef Manager at Palm Lake Care Toowoomba (pictured above right, with Hotel Services Manager Russell Middleton), took the opportunity during NAIDOC Week to feature dishes like kangaroo pie as well as salt and pepper crocodile, bringing a taste of Indigenous Australian cuisine to the table. Meanwhile, Jay, Chef Manager at Palm Lake Care Mount Warren Park, hosted an Offal Day recently, based on resident feedback and their desire to re-live the 'good old days'.

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At Palm Lake Care Deception Bay, Chef Manager Amit delighted residents with a Curry Day, offering a variety of flavours that brought a touch of exotic spice to the community. Neil, Chef Manager at Beachmere, impressed with a seafood buffet that became an instant favourite. Served on their expansive back deck overlooking Moreton Bay, the dining experience reminded everyone of the fresh, coastal flavours that many grew up with or experienced on family beach holidays.

Our recent introduction of icecream carts has also been met with joy and nostalgia. One resident fondly recalled the excitement of hearing the icecream man's bell as a child, and now, that same joy is brought to life in our communities with a vast choice of toppings and flavours.

In preparation for the upcoming changes to the aged care standards, we have established a Dining Experience Working Group. This panel of dedicated employees is tasked with creating tailor-made dining experiences for each community, always engaging with residents to understand what's most important to them. This initiative not only enhances the dining experience but also provides fantastic training and development opportunities for our staff, ensuring a consistent, memorable experience at every meal.

Looking to the future, we're not stopping with just the dining room. We're in the process of upgrading our tea trolleys to enhance presentation, usability and the range of beverages available. After successful trials at Deception Bay and Bargara, where we listened to staff feedback and made necessary adjustments, we're ready to roll these out to more communities.

This is a truly exciting time to be part of the aged care sector. The changes on the horizon present an opportunity for us to make even more of a difference in the daily lives of our residents.

Palm Lake Care is committed to pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve in food and dining in aged care. We encourage our talented team members to embrace these opportunities, to be proud of the work they do, and to continually strive for excellence.

Pictured left: Palm Lake Care residents enjoy restaurantquality meals each and every day. The dining experience is key to ensuring our residents' health and happiness which is why our chefs constantly engage with their residents directly through monthly Food Focus Group meetings, and more.



HER LIFE OF SERVICE



When it comes to tacks, Palm Lake Care Deception Bay's Marcia McIntosh is as sharp as they come. So, it doesn't come as a surprise to learn that even in her eighties, Marcia's still proudly serving her community.

PALM LAKE CARE Deception Bay's Salt Café is quite the vibrant central meeting point for residents who call this residential aged care address home. Sitting across a café table from one of Deception Bay's most highly respected residents, Marcia McIntosh, it's quite understandable that your conversation will be peppered by interruptions from fellow residents and care team members who adore this 83-year-old resident and want to say hi or stop for a quick chat. You quickly learn that she too loves a chat.

Make no mistake - Marcia is as busy as this café setting, and as vibrant and warm as the bright orange Country Road jumper that she chose to wear today. And, did we mention she's sharp as a tack? Marcia has a commanding presence in this crowd but it's one that befits her colourful life story. From growing up on farming land in Queensland's South Burnett, to marking 50 years' service as a high school teacher, to spending 11 years in the Anglican Church as a lay minister, this woman has lived a life of service - and continues to, still today.

When Marcia and her (late) husband Ewen were in their early years together, life was all about the family farm. They helped raised cattle and pigs and grew lucerne among other commodities. Following in her own mother's footsteps, Marcia began teaching and quickly found a passion for educating kids. Starting her career in education in coastal Pialba, her early rural roots drew her back to teach in those more remote areas of Cloyna and Murgon. These were one-school towns where it was commonplace for Marcia to teach her own cousins. As a high school educator of many indigenous local students, Marcia found her greatest delight in teaching them English and maths.

"Yes, you remember the good kids, but you probably remember the naughty ones most," she grins. "I used to think of them a bit like cattle – you just needed to herd them gently in the direction that you wanted them to go. Seeing their achievements was what made me proud."

Interestingly, among the students on Marcia's daily Murgon roll call were former professional rugby league football player Steve Renouf and 2024 Logie-nominated actress and novelist Leah Purcell. Such has been her impact on her students, Marcia had a former student (now aged 50-odd) contact her in recent years to check over a university

assignment he was working on. And when word got around on social media that Marcia was recuperating through surgery several years back, about 200 of her ex-students reached out with messages of support to make sure their beloved teacher was doing OK. She's even had past students come and visit her at Palm Lake Care.



Although Marcia spent many decades raising thousands of students, she and Ewen also found time to raise seven of their own – six sons and, finally, a daughter. Three of their brood followed their mother into teaching but it's her only daughter who remains in the education department today.

"I'm so proud of all my kids," Marcia beams. "Not just the teachers – I'm proud of all of them."

The other proud aspect of Marcia's life again relates to service. From 2004 – 2015, she was a lay minister in the Anglican Church. With seven centres in her parish, Marcia was called on to officiate up to 200 funerals in her time. And her connection to the Anglican Church remains to this day. Every Sunday at 6.45am, a car pulls up in the Palm Lake Care Deception Bay driveway to shuttle Marcia over to St Mary's where she plays the organ in the weekly service.

Which brings us back to the place she now fondly calls home. It was in February 2023 that Ewen moved to Palm Lake Care Deception Bay as his health deteriorated. Married for 60 years, Marcia joined him the following month, as soon as another suite became available. The pair spent three months together at Palm Lake Care before Ewen's passing in June that same year.

Nowadays, reflecting on her life's journey, Marcia insists that she still wants to be of service. As such, she's taken on the role of Palm Lake Care Deception Bay's resident representative. In that role, she consults to management on the needs of her neighbours and suggests ways the care team can improve their offering. In one of the conversation interruptions mentioned above, Palm Lake Care's Chef Manager Support Officer, Clayton Wilkinson, is told in no uncertain terms that he needs to ensure the kitchen is supplying lemon wedges with servings of fish and chips because there was one recent fish meal, sans-lemon, that the residents swiftly let Marcia know about!

"I'm quite independent and still do my own washing," she smiles. "I play bingo two times a week, I like to do the group exercises that the Lifestyle Team organise, and I often meet people for coffee. I have friends here and I thrive with people around. I could have moved out when Ewen passed away but I didn't want to. I'm really comfortable and I'm happy here."

PALM LAKE RESORT



Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove

NEW HOMES NOW SELLING! Yamba Cove offers a boutique Palm Lake Resort experience for this thriving coastal holiday town. While smaller in footprint compared to those Palm Lake Resorts that have come before it, this exclusive address offers upmarket residences and the stellar Vantage Country Club. Displays open seven days.





1800 960 946 2 Orion Drive, Yamba NSW 2464



Palm Lake Resort Pelican Waters

NEW HOMES NOW SELLING! The epitome of opulence in over-50s living and our most exclusive address yet. This resort neighbours our Greg Norman-designed Pelican Waters Golf Course. Some residences will enjoy water frontage, some will have direct golf course access and some will offer both. All homes enjoy a complimentary Club Car golf car, valued at \$35,000. Displays open seven days.







1800 490 626 40 Mahogany Drive, Pelican Waters QLD 4551



Palm Lake Resort Paynesville

NEW HOMES NOW SELLING! Construction is well underway on this site, with close to 200 ultra-modern homes planned, along with the most outstanding community facilities including the Latitude Country Club. The rich maritime history of the region will be captured in this project that offers the best in affordable luxury. Displays open seven days.





1800 960 943 78 Ashley Street, Paynesville VIC 3880



Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes

NEW HOMES NOW SELLING! Palm Lake Resort Forster Lakes is situated right on the edge of Wallis Lake and takes its inspiration from the Florida coast. The best of the almost 300 homesites will enjoy coveted lakefront positions. Our \$18 million Belleair Country Club was named New South Wales' Best Sporting Facility by the Master Builders Association. Displays open seven days.







1800 577 542 223 The Lakes Way, Forster NSW 2428

BALLINA

1800 335 666 120 North Creek Road, Ballina NSW 2478

BANORA POINT

1800 641 665 67 Winders Place, Banora Point NSW 2486

BARGARA

1800 501 119 39 Wearing Road, Bargara QLD 4670

BEACHMERE BAY

1800 338 382 194 Bishop Road, Beachmere QLD 4510

BEACHMERE SANDS

1800 338 333 218 Bishop Road, Beachmere QLD 4510

BETHANIA

1800 774 866 43 Goodooga Drive, Bethania QLD 4205

CALOUNDRA CAY

1800 556 677 96 Village Way, Little Mountain QLD 4551

CARINDALE

1800 770 057 2 Ford Court, Carindale QLD 4152

COOROY-NOOSA

1800 885 851 19 Trading Post Road, Cooroy QLD 4563

DECEPTION BAY

1800 725 652 1 Webster Road, Deception Bay QLD 4508

EAGLEBY

1800 781 101 272 Fryar Road, Eagleby QLD 4207

FERN BAY

1800 648 868 1117 Nelson Bay Road, Fern Bay NSW 2295

HERVEY BAY

1800 455 307 25-67 Pialba-Burrum Heads Road, Eli Waters QLD 4655

MT WARREN PARK

1800 282 314 1 Mt Warren Boulevard, Mt Warren Park QLD 4207

PHILLIP ISLAND

1800 066 482 48-80 Settlement Road, Cowes VIC 3922

TEA GARDENS

1800 756 740 50 Spinifex Avenue, Tea Gardens NSW 2324

TOOWOOMBA

1800 280 129 97-161 Hogg Street, Cranley QLD 4350

TRUGANINA

1800 686 096 7 Taronga Road, Truganina VIC 3029

TWEED RIVER

1800 881 041 2 Barneys Point Road, Banora Point NSW 2486

UPPER COOMERA

1800 757 457 40 Riverbrooke Drive, Upper Coomera QLD 4209

WATERFORD

1800 028 428 29-71 High Road, Waterford QLD 4133

WILLOW LODGE 1800 974 981

2 Willow Road, Bangholme VIC 3175

YAMBA

1800 084 119 1 Orion Drive, Yamba NSW 2464



2

PALM LAKE CARE

Palm Lake Care Bargara

Palm Lake Care Bargara was built alongside one of our largest Palm Lake Resort locations (one that is still expanding!) therefore families in the Bargara/Bundaberg area enjoy a convenient care structure to support every member's differing health needs. An onsite hair salon, movie theatre, sporting and leisure facilities and more provide residents here with all they need to thrive.

1800 501 119 55 Wearing Road, Bargara QLD 4670

Palm Lake Care Beachmere

Palm Lake Care Beachmere's exquisite Hamptons styling was the perfect option for this most impressive absolute waterfront location. With sand between their toes, sun on their skin and salt air in their lungs, residents here are lucky to call Moreton Bay their nextdoor neighbour. Our coveted luxury waterfront suites are the cherries on top.

1800 338 382 145 Bishop Road, Beachmere QLD 4510

Palm Lake Care Bethania

With relaxing lakeside views from many vantage points around this community and loads of birdlife, Palm Lake Care Bethania's residents also benefit from a wonderful team of lifestyle facilitators and care providers. In fact, every one of the team is committed to ensuring our residents live their best life.

07 3086 3000 1 Goodooga Drive, Bethania QLD 4207

Palm Lake Care Caloundra

Situated conveniently alongside Palm Lake Resort Caloundra Cay, this luxury aged caring community was recently named best Aged Care Facility at the Sunshine Coast Master Builders Association's 2023 Housing and Construction Awards. Just like its adjacent over-50s resort, this impressive community has been styled with a Caribbean feel, to ensure residents here enjoy a holiday-everyday lifestyle.

1800 24 66 77 96 Village Way, Little Mountain QLD 4551

Palm Lake Care Deception Bay

Palm Lake Care Deception Bay holds the coveted title of being the very first aged caring community in the Palm Lake Group. This location has recently undergone a renovation, with a vibrant new cafe added and other administrative and community facilities upgraded.

1800 725 652 42-46 Bay Avenue, Deception Bay QLD 4508

Palm Lake Care Mt Warren Park

Palm Lake Care Mt Warren Park is a two-storey beauty, home to one of the most active and engaged communities of them all. Residents here are making a difference by organising wonderful fundraisers and are staying connected to their local communities through excursions and other visits.

1800 282 314 33 Mt Warren Boulevard, Mt Warren Park OLD 4207

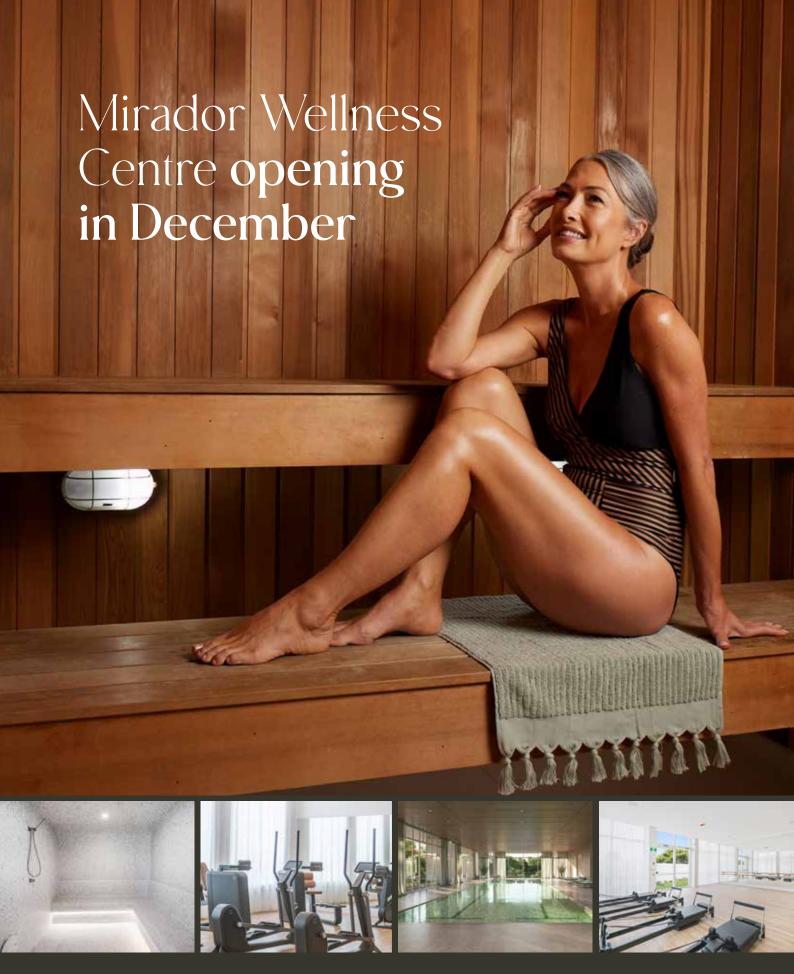
Palm Lake Care Toowoomba

Palm Lake Care Toowoomba offers a breathtakingly stunning building with luxury design cues taken from its semi-rural location atop the Great Dividing Range. Independent construction industry judges from the Master Builders Association were so impressed, they awarded Palm Lake Care Toowoomba 'Best Community Accommodation' in 2021.

1800 280 129 97-161 Hogg Street, Toowoomba QLD 4305









1800 490 626 | salespelicanwaters@palmlake.com.au 40 Mahogany Drive, Pelican Waters QLD 4551