

JUNE - JULY 2026



The Chat



Meet your neighbour

He's called our resort home for a decade – but how well do you know Gordon?

Take a trip back in time

The cooler months are the perfect time to explore Australia's best historic towns

Over the back fence

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



Welcome.

Welcome to the June-July edition of our Palm Lake Resort Tweed River newsletter, The Chat. Despite the rain, we hope everyone is staying warm and dry, and enjoyed the last days of autumn before we moved into winter.

We're now heading into June and July, and winter is in full swing. The days are getting shorter and cooler, with fresh, crisp mornings and the occasional light frost. This is a quieter time of year, allowing the gardens to rest and the wildlife to adapt to the colder climate. The coastal breezes are cooler but still refreshing, and the winter rains, which seem to have started earlier this year, help keep our landscapes lush and healthy.

While winter typically brings milder weather, rain and wind can still make paths slippery, so please take care when walking around the resort. During wet or stormy days, we encourage everyone to stay indoors where possible and continue to be mindful of slippery surfaces.

Our winter maintenance program will now get underway, and this includes preparing garden beds for the upcoming spring, pruning where needed, and ensuring pathways remain clear and safe. Palm trimming and garden tidying will continue, along with any treatments that will be clearly marked to keep everyone safe.

We look forward to the rest and rejuvenation this winter will bring, and hope you enjoy the unique beauty and tranquility of this season in Northern New South Wales.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our very own Alby Maxwell (Home 98) on his Order of Australia Medal, which was awarded in the King's Birthday honours list. As far as we know, Alby is the first of our homeowners to have received one. Well done!

Until next time,

Jordan Paix and Suzanne Lacey
Palm Lake Resort Tweed River



Contact us.

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

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News briefs.

Wedgetail Fundraiser

Sadly, this year will be the last big annual fundraiser, held by homeowners, for the Wedgetail Retreat. For what will be 10 years in September, this community has organised annual events that have raised a significant amount of money.

The last fundraiser will take place on September 5. It's going to have a birthday party theme, with fancy dress prizes for best themed/dressed and most colourful.

Tickets will be on sale on Wednesday July 8 and Thursday July 9 from 9am in the Craft Room. Cost per ticket is \$40.

The Wedgetail Retreat Community Hospice started with a dream: a deep desire to fulfil the need for an inclusive, 24/7 specialised palliative care facility in the region. Clients with a life-limiting illness and their families are welcomed into our modern home-like environment in a rainforest setting. Friendly Registered Nursing staff and trained volunteer palliative carers offer a client-centred approach to caring for you and your loved ones. The vulnerable and disadvantaged are cared for free of charge.

We want to hear from you

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



Sad goodbyes and warm hellos

We recently said goodbye to homeowners Gail and Steve (Home 22) and Robyn and Geoff (Home 85), who have moved onto new pastures (pictured above). We wish them all the best for this next chapter in their new homes.

Along with farewells, we've also had some warm welcomes. To our new homeowners Colin, Michael and Edie, we hope you love it here at Palm Lake Resort Tweed River. If you need anything, we are here to help.



Homeowners head out on the town!

Steve (Home 68) very kindly drove a group of homeowners to Lola's Mexican Cantina for dinner recently. Everyone enjoyed the great food, and would highly recommend this restaurant to their fellow homeowners.

Weekly activities list.

MONDAY

7am – 1pm Personal gym instructor
7.25am – 8.25am Pool exercises
10.30am – 12.30pm Card making (Hall/ Craft Room)

TUESDAY

7.25am – 8.25am Pool exercises
9am – 12pm Craft morning (Craft Room)
1.30pm – 3pm Bingo (Craft Room)
6pm Meal night (arriving around 5-5.30pm)

WEDNESDAY

7am Golf at Chinderah
7.25am – 8.25am Pool exercises
9am – 9.30am Balance class
9.30am – 10.15am Tai Chi
1pm Cards (Library or Lounge)
1.30pm Rummikub
7pm Movie night

THURSDAY

7.25am – 8.25am Pool exercises
9.30am – 1pm Art Space (moved from Friday)
9am Yoga (in Sportsman Bar area)
9am – 12pm Bus trip to Tweed City
1pm – 4pm 500
1.30pm Mah jong
2pm – 4pm Kelly pool
3.30pm Aqua aerobics

FRIDAY

7.25am – 8.25am Pool exercises
5.30pm Occasional Happy Hours

SATURDAY

9.30am – 10.15am Tai Chi

Don't forget to check your speed

Please remember the speed limit around our community is 10km/h. It is not hard to keep your foot off the accelerator so please keep an eye on your speedo as it is very easy for someone to have a mishap. Please slow down - and make sure to remind your visitors and/or invited tradespeople to do the same.



We will remember them.

OUR ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE WAS EXPERTLY ORGANISED BY OUR RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE, AND WAS A MOVING TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY.



The beautiful tapestries made by our homeowners



Good food, great company.

AN IMPRESSIVE 67 HOMEOWNERS JOINED IN ON A LUNCHTIME TRIP TO THE TWEED COOLANGATTA GOLF CLUB, ORGANISED BY MARY (HOME 93). THE FOOD AND THE COMPANY WERE BOTH EXCELLENT.



Meet your neighbour.

PALM LAKE RESORT TWEED RIVER HOMEOWNER GORDON FORRESTER HAS PACKED MORE INTO ONE LIFETIME THAN MOST PEOPLE COULD FIT INTO THREE.

At just 17, Scottish-born Gordon – who has called our resort home for almost a decade – enlisted with the Royal Air Force, meaning his career started with active duty in Borneo and Malaya.

After finishing his service, Gordon settled in Melbourne and began his next chapter – though his story would change course several times over the decades to come. He first worked with Telstra (then the Post Master General department) before joining the Australian Artillery Reserves. Then, he served with the Victoria Police, and later moved into Queensland Transport, handling investigations, statistics and road escort duties. And as if all that weren't enough, for 30 years of his career, Gordon was also involved with the SES – though when he first started, it was still called Civil Defence. Even today, he still remains active with the local Red Cross, pitching in during cyclones and emergencies.

Despite both being from the UK, Gordon met his wife Christine (who is English-born, though he's quick to note that has never been a source of conflict) in Australia. It was her parents in Tweed Heads who eventually drew Gordon and Christine north to the Gold Coast. And after 13 years in their house in Elanora, they made the move to Palm Lake Resort Tweed River – and they haven't looked back.

"We loved the resort, the people, the lifestyle," Gordon says. "It was a real change from suburbia."

These days, Gordon is the resort's self-appointed cinema man, researching and organising weekly film nights every Wednesday which are open to homeowners and visiting family. He's also happy to lend a hand to his neighbours, both as a JP and with any odd jobs that need doing. Christine, meanwhile, teaches arts and crafts, volunteers with local churches, and sits on the Resident Committee.

When they're not embarking on regular trips to Melbourne to visit family – including Gordon's two sons and grandchildren – life at Tweed River keeps Gordon and Christine very happily occupied.



Bright, Victoria

Travel through time.

AUSTRALIA'S BUSTLING COASTAL CAPITALS TEND TO GET ALL THE SPOTLIGHT, BUT THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID FOR PLACES WHERE THINGS MOVE A LITTLE SLOWER. IF YOU'RE PLANNING YOUR NEXT ROAD TRIP, WHY NOT STEP BACK IN TIME WITH A VISIT TO ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S BEST HISTORIC TOWNS?

What makes a town historic? Not just any old place (literally) can make the cut. The best historic towns combine both age and atmosphere. We're talking towns, not cities – generally under 15,000 people – where heritage buildings aren't just dotted around, but define the heart of town. Think preserved streetscapes, pubs that have been pouring since the 1800s, and post offices, courthouses and churches from the earliest days of settlement. Here are some of Australia's best...

Charleville, Queensland

If you're looking for classic outback charm – wide streets, federation-era buildings and a strong railway history – look no further than Charleville. Explore its rich heritage at the historic railway station or the remnants of the top secret WWII base (operated by the US Air Force), stargaze at the Cosmos Centre, and extend your stay at one of the historic Hotel Corones or classic Warrego Motel.

Charters Towers, Queensland

Walking down the main streets of Charters Towers, it's easy to believe it was once one of Australia's richest gold rush towns. From the grand Stock Exchange Arcade (Charters Towers is home to one of the world's first regional stock exchanges) and towering bank buildings to the old-school pubs with their classic verandah dining, Charters Towers may be just 90 minutes from Townsville – but it feels like a step back in time.

Braidwood, New South Wales

Many towns have a heritage-listed building or two, but few are heritage-listed in their entirety – that's what makes Braidwood so special. Established in the mid-1800s, Braidwood has become a popular tourist destination – not only for its rich history, but its slightly bohemian feel, too. Browse the bakeries and boutiques, hunt for antiques, and soak up the charm of small-town life (and all just one hour from Canberra).

Morpeth, New South Wales

Established in the early 1800s, this historic river port has been beautifully preserved over time – even despite its decline with the arrival of the railway in the late 19th century. Now, a stroll through Morpeth isn't complete without a visit to the old wharf precinct, a peak inside its sandstone buildings or a stop at the Historic Arnott Bakehouse.

Berrima, New South Wales

Boasting one of New South Wales' most intact colonial streetscapes, and Australia's oldest continually licensed pub (the Surveyor General Inn, established in 1834), Berrima is a must-visit if you're exploring the picturesque Southern Highlands. Visit the historic courthouse and Berrima Gaol, shop for antiques and artisan goods, and find out why Berrima has been frozen in time since the late 1800s.

Beechworth, Victoria

What sets a gold rush town apart from the rest? Some Ned Kelly lore, that's what. Beechworth was the site of Ned Kelly's 1880 trial, meaning a visit to its historic courthouse and 30-plus National Trust-listed buildings is a must-do when you're in town. Find out why they say that Beechworth's paths were paved with gold, then explore its darker history with a ghost tour you won't soon forget.

Port Fairy, Victoria

It doesn't get much more charming than Port Fairy, Victoria's heritage fishing village. Beginning as a whaling station in the 1830s, and becoming one of the country's busiest ports two decades later, Port Fairy has retained more than 50 National Trust-classified buildings. Walk the wharf, admiring its whitewashed cottages, and take in the sea air at a waterside pub. The perfect end to a Great Ocean Road adventure.

Bright, Victoria

Once a thriving gold rush town, nowadays, Bright shines for a different reason – the vivid autumn leaves that line its quaint streets. Close to Mount Hotham, it's the perfect place to go if you're looking for an alpine escape – especially one that includes cosy cafes, a strong brewery scene and rewarding rail trails.

Hahndorf, South Australia

Unique Hahndorf was established in the 1830s by German Lutherans, making it Australia's oldest surviving German settlement. Nestled near the Adelaide Hills wine region, its famous for its 19th century Prussian architecture and delicious German fare, meaning Aussies don't need to travel to Hanover to indulge in authentic schnitzel or pretzels.

Richmond, Tasmania

Tasmania is rich in history, but the fittingly-named Richmond is one of its most famous villages – for good reason. Dating back to the 1820s, when it began as a convict-era garrison town (military outpost), Richmond's streetscape hasn't changed all that much since then. Pay a visit to Australia's oldest stone bridge, one of the country's oldest gaols, and the many cosy tearooms and shops in the town's centre.

York, Western Australia

Western Australia's oldest inland town – with one of the state's best heritage main streets – York was a key stop en route to the 1890s goldfields boom. Set in the beautiful Avon Valley, about an hour and a half from Perth, it provides the perfect day trip destination: country pubs, wildflowers, and heritage stays if you can't bear to leave just yet.

New Norcia, Western Australia

Founded in 1847 by Spanish Benedictine monks, New Norcia is Australia's only monastic town. It was first developed as a mission, but has bloomed into a religious and cultural centre in the decades since. Quiet, contemplative and honestly surreal, its distinct European architecture and classic outback setting make it well worth the two-hour drive from Perth.



Richmond, Tasmania



Charters Towers, Queensland



Morpeth, New South Wales



York, Western Australia



Hahndorf, South Australia

Welcome, Nathan!

Kia ora, everyone! My name's Nathan, and I'm excited to have recently joined the groundskeeping team here at Palm Lake Resort Tweed River.

I was born and raised on a dairy farm in New Zealand, where I learned the value of hard work, practical skills and good people from an early age. After school, I studied outdoor instruction and guiding, which opened the door to years of adventure, travel and some incredible life experiences around the world.

Over the years I've worked as a white-water rafting guide in Canada, an expedition guide through Nepal and Morocco, spent a season in Japan, and even sailed from Fiji back to New Zealand. A lot of my life has been shaped by adventuring, travelling and surfing. I love throwing myself into different cultures, perspectives and ways of life. I've surfed throughout the USA, Central America, Indonesia and Mexico, volunteered with Sea Shepherd in Mexico, completed my yoga teacher training, and started a men's yoga group back home that grew to around 20 blokes getting involved each week.

I've always enjoyed hands-on work just as much as adventure. Before moving to Australia, I also worked as a builder's apprentice and in various maintenance roles, which eventually led me toward the work I'm doing now.

My partner and I moved over to Australia to enjoy the warmer climate, surf, camping and outdoor lifestyle. Most weekends you'll find us off exploring somewhere in our rooftop tent setup.

This year we started a mobile IV wellness business in Coolangatta called Common Good. The idea behind it is simple: we want people to feel great and look after themselves in a world that can feel flat-out at times. Starting something from scratch has been a big learning curve! Networking and cold calling have become part of everyday life lately.

After nearly a decade working in tourism and adventure guiding, I've taken the exciting leap into running my own New Zealand adventure company, 41 South NZ. We build tailored trips throughout New Zealand and get to share the places, people, and experiences that make home so special to me. I genuinely love creating experiences and memories that people carry with them long after the trip finishes.

More than anything, I just feel incredibly grateful for the life I've lived so far, the people I've met along the way, and the opportunities adventure and travel have given me.

Thank you to everyone who has already welcomed me so warmly. For those I haven't met yet, I look forward to sharing a story and a laugh sometime soon.

Cheers,

Nathan



CASH BUYERS AWAIT.

Listings wanted

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

If you're a homeowner here and your situation has changed, call our Sales Team for a free market appraisal. We have qualified buyers waiting to hear about any new homes as they hit the market. To find out more, phone 1800 881 041 or stop by the Sales and Information Centre anytime from 9am-3pm, Monday-Friday.

Commission-free transition

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



Marketing and advertising services include:

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

**ONLY
\$550**

Over the back fence.

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

AN EVENING
WE WON'T SOON
FORGET!



Truganina bowls us over!

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



Trauma teddies go overseas.

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

Le dîner en blanc.

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

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

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

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

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



Living the high life.

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



Cooking for a cause.

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

Friendly rivalry.

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

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

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



We love our staff!

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

What's over your back fence?

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



Your happy place.



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