After a catastrophic fire season that is far from over, Palm Lake Resort Willow Lodge has thrown its support behind the bushfire relief effort, in a wide variety of ways.

Pictured left, staff member Taylor has taken time off work to support the Red Cross in their valuable work at Mallacoota. One of our residents, Anne Coram (inset photo), is also a Red Cross volunteer with decades and decades of volunteer work under her belt. She’s supporting those in the Gippsland bushfire area. We are proud to have people like these two in our community.

United together, staff and our Willow Lodge community are also raising funds to support volunteers and families who are affected by this ongoing natural disaster. Palm Lake Group Managing Director Scott Elliott has pledged a sizeable amount on behalf of the company’s Victorian resorts to support the CFA firefighters’ efforts.
WELCOME

Why wouldn’t we be proud?! Our very own resident, Ann Coram, has been a Red Cross volunteer for 26 years and continues to give her time to the current Gippsland bushfires. Staff member Taylor (who you can see on the cover of this Willow Talk along with Ann), has also recently given up work commitments to volunteer her time with the Red Cross to provide assistance in the aftermath of Mallacoota’s bushfires. Well done girls. Our resort has also been raising money for bushfire relief through a coordinated effort between the Residents’ Committee, Social Club, Darts Club and Bowls Club. It was wonderful to see Palm Lake Group managing director Scott Elliott and City of Greater Dandenong representatives on-site to get your pet registered on the day if you are hesitant in bringing your family member (and, yes, they will come to your Palm Lake Resort home on the day) or intimidated by other breeds. You can still participate in our pet fun day on February 6. We look forward to welcoming you to bring them along to join in the fun - and even win a prize! We also realise though, that some pets could be shy or intimidated by other breeds. You can still participate in our event. Simply bring along a photo of your pet to display. Among the things available to you at our Pet Fun Day will be:

- Microchipping for just $30
- Certificate with check of your pet’s existing microchip
- Council registration of your pet
- Sausage sizzle
- Prizes for the most outstanding/funny pet story.

The Social Club will also have activities including the all-important barbecue! The Social Club will also have activities on the public holiday Monday for Australia Day.

Also, make sure you check out details of our upcoming Pet Fun Day on February 6 and the Open Day on April 4. We look forward to welcoming visitors into our resort on these days, to show them just how grand life can be here at Willow Lodge! Remember, the first resident that recommends a person who purchases one of our custom new builds, will receive $500. Let’s spread the word and reap the rewards. See Page 10 for details. We have had residents enjoying these benefits recently and new residents loving the lifestyle.

Green thumb? Our Community Garden (pictured above) is growing both with resident interest and vegies! There are still some plots available for residents’ use, so come in to the office to book in.

Jan & Brendan
Resort caretakers

FOOTY TIPPING IS BACK!

Footy tipping returns on March 19! The Social Club will be running a football tipping competition again this year. Cost is $20 to participate and this needs to be paid before the first game. If you are interested in joining in the tipping fun, contact Social Club secretary Di Heenan on 0411 111 86?.
 Willow Lodge Social Club.

REPORT ON PAST FUNCTIONS

November 30: Christmas Dinner Dance. Entertainment was DJ – Flash Gordon. Dinner Dance was catered by Skaff, who supplied us with a wonderful Christmas dinner and dessert. This was well attended with 100 residents and friends in attendance. Santa even put in an appearance!

December 17: Carols in the Hall. Our Christmas carols, led by Kay Smart with assistance from the Village Carol singers and guests, was in its 10th year. Santa was in attendance and the Social Club gave a present to all children who came to the carols. We had more than 100 residents, guests and children in attendance.

December 31: New Year’s Eve Dance. Entertainment was by Rick Charles with a Michael Jackson floor show by Rick’s son, Adrian. This dance was also well attended and enjoyed by all.

January: This is usually a quiet month for the Social Club as we are busy organising functions for the year. Please note: We will not be having dances every month this year. Dances will be held March, May, July, September, November and on New Year’s Eve. Functions are being planned for the other months including bingo, sausage sizzle, trivia, etc. If you have any ideas of what you would like us to organise please contact one of our Committee members with your suggestions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14: Movie Night. Movie will be Downtown Abbey and supper will be pizza and ice cream. Cost $5.

March 7: Irish night/dance. Music will be supplied by Shanakee, Irish musicians. This will be a BYO everything dance and cost will be $15.

March 13: Movie Night: Movie will be Judy – The Judy Garland Story and supper will be pie and chips. Cost $5.

March 18: Social Club AGM. Information will be posted late February. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Di or Pat.

Flyers for all Social Club functions are posted on the noticeboard outside the Laundry and on the Social Club noticeboard outside the Main Hall.

Pat Johns (President): 9768 2373
Diane Heenan (Secretary): 0411 111 867

Bowls Club report.

BUSHFIRE DONATIONS: Thank you to all the generous residents who have donated to this cause. The coordination between management, Residents’ Committee, Social Club, Darts Club and Bowls Club working together to collect and receipt donations at front office from January 13-31. The Bowling Club has sent a donation of $5000 to Bendigo Bank Community Relief Fund.

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT DAY: This will be held on Saturday, April 4 and is a Mixed Triples event. $30 per team, BYO lunch. Morning and afternoon provided. The event will be sponsored by Pharmacy 4 Less. It will be two games of 15 ends. We will have prizes for winners, runners-up and ‘Best First Game’. Contact Maureen or Ron to enter your team before March 29.

PENNANT: After a nice break, Tuesday Pennant started back on January 21, with Saturday Pennant recommencing on January 25. Let’s hope we can finish off the season with some good wins. The sausage sizzle after each Saturday game is very popular. Practice is each Thursday, 2-4pm.

NIGHT BOWLS: Now that the warmer weather is here, we will start up night bowls again. The lists are out now, with names to be in by 5.30pm and games to start at 6pm.

SOCIAL BOWLS: This is held each Sunday at 1pm with names in by 12.30pm.

NEW BOWLERS: We are always looking for new bowlers. Come along and enjoy this great sport. Free uniform and low fees are a great enticement. Contact Maureen 9788 2344 or Ron 9706 5563.

SUNDAY NIGHT RAFFLE: This happens every Sunday, with at least 12 meat raffles, a hotel voucher, plus a members lucky number draw. Members must be financial to be eligible for the numbers draw and must be in attendance to collect, otherwise it jackpots by $5 each week until claimed. Social membership fee is just $12 per year. Please note, the raffle is drawn each week at 7.15pm sharp.

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP NIGHT: This event, on December 14, was a great success. A delicious two-course meal and entertainment by the Rhythm Kings was enjoyed by all.

CLUB GAMES: Club Singles were finalised before Christmas with John Shanahan and Maureen Atwell taking out the honours. Runners-up were Phil Minns and Lola Womersley (all four players, pictured above). Ladies and men’s pairs competitions are now underway.
As soon as you step inside this custom-built home you will see the attention to detail, not to mention the modern finish. The home features an open plan living space with the kitchen comprising stone benches, plenty of pantry and cupboard space and a study nook off to the side. The open concept lounge and dining area flows out onto a generous alfresco deck and with plenty of extras such as ensuite and walk-in robe to the master bedroom, large laundry, ceiling fans throughout and split heating/cooling system, comfort is right at your very own door!

Welcome to this delightful two-bedroom home which features a spacious open-plan living and dining area, a study nook to the side and a well-appointed kitchen with stainless steel appliances and plenty of pantry space. The master bedroom has a decent sized ensuite, split system heating/cooling in the lounge, ceiling fans throughout, internal laundry and a front deck area to enjoy time with family and friends.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have survived both Christmas and New Year celebrations and our focus is on the coming year and what it may bring. By the time this Willow Talk arrives in your letterboxes, your hard-working Residents’ Committee will be preparing for our AGM on Thursday, February 13, 2020. All committee positions will be declared vacant and may be contested at this meeting. Although I shall be seeking to continue as president, and encouraging as many of our existing committee members to do the same, no one knows what the outcome of the elections may bring. Whoever is elected to the committee, you can be assured they will be doing their best for the benefit of all Willow Lodge residents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Committee Members for their support and their dedication in working voluntarily for the welfare of Willow Lodge residents. Many hours have been spent on trying to improve the village and enhance your lifestyle here. The Residents’ Committee would also like to extend a warm and hearty welcome to Adrian, our new assistant caretaker, who has already made his presence felt by his diligent and hardworking attitude.

On a more sombre note, we have all been horrified by the bushfires raging from the eastern half of Victoria to Queensland. The herculean and often heroic efforts of the firefighters is almost beyond belief. Many small towns and farming areas have been devastated and will require all the help and support we can give them. The long road to recovery to rebuild properties and livestock numbers may take years. An unprecedented loss of wildlife, almost beyond number, adds to the pain we are all feeling. Hopefully by now the worst of the fires are over but we can all do something to assist these communities by generously donating to charities that are going to be the backbone of any relief efforts. Every donated dollar will give tangible proof to those communities affected that every Australian shares in their pain and wishes them a speedy recovery.

David

PUBLIC TRANSPORT TIPS

- Plan your journey to minimise time spent waiting at train stations at night.
- Choose a well-lit and clear walking path to and from the station and stand where you can be seen.
- Take time to locate safety features such as emergency buttons, CCTV cameras, safety zones and public transport staff.
- Keep your valuables concealed.
- If you feel unsafe, alert the Protective Services Officers, public transport staff, police or other passengers to help.
- If you feel uncomfortable with the person near you, consider changing your carriage or seat.
- If you leave your car at a station, park as close as possible to the building.
- Plan your journey to minimise time spent waiting at train stations at night.
- Take time to locate safety features such as emergency buttons, CCTV cameras, safety zones and public transport staff.
- Keep your valuables concealed.
- If you feel unsafe, alert the Protective Services Officers, public transport staff, police or other passengers to help.
- If you feel uncomfortable with the person near you, consider changing your carriage or seat.
- If you leave your car at a station, park as close as possible to the building.

Tips courtesy of Victorian Police

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Pictured above left: My six-year-old grandson’s phone. Pictured above right: The phone I had when I was six!

THE VOUCHER NUMBERS GAME

Congrats to these winners:

**Draw No. 265** Barbara Anstis, No. 11, drawn 13/11/19
**Draw No. 266** Christine O’Connell, No. 13, drawn 20/11/19
**Draw No. 267** Robyn Treloar, No. 34, drawn 27/11/19
**Draw No. 268** Josie Barton, No. 83, drawn 04/12/19
**Draw No. 269** Brian Morris, No. 2, drawn 11/12/19
**Draw No. 270** Barbara Anstis, No.78, drawn 11/12/19
**Draw No. 271** Terry Maguire, No. 17, drawn 18/12/19

100 numbers are on sale again at just $2 each. Available on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30-11am outside the laundry as well as Sundays at the Sports Club from 6-7:15pm. Games are drawn when all numbers are sold.

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President: David Duckworth 0419 354 124
Vice-President: Roth Lorimer 0407 947 650
Treasurer: Ray Baker 0425 782 624
Secretary: Carmel Perkins 9706 5854
Committee: Ailsa Richardson 0435 571 143
Committee: Aileen Pollard 0419 892 502
Committee: Robyn Ridgeway 9768 2747

Correspondence should be sent to:

Willow Lodge Village Residents’ Association Inc
6 Willow Road,
Bangholme VIC 3175

This box can be found in the Glade Drive block of letterboxes on Willow Road. Otherwise, drop your mail into the association’s letter box in the Willow Lodge Village main community hall.

FELLOWSHIP RESUMES

Christian Fellowship Group resumes for 2020 on February 11. Attendees are asked to please be prepared to share a poem, favourite verse/thought, fun joke etc. On March 10, we will enjoy a movie. On April 7, guest speaker Merv Jensen will present a special Easter program.

Fred & Ruth Strong
12 Warrick Drive
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*some terms and conditions apply

FOR MORE INFO: 03 9706 5011 or email willowlodge@palmlake.com.au www.palmlakeresort.com.au

ESTABLISHED HOMES FOR SALE

This impeccable home is situated at the end of a quite court where you will find comfort with the many features in this home such as two decent sized bedrooms with built-in robes (master bedroom with ensuite), second generous sized bathroom and a multipurpose room which can also be a third bedroom or study. Spacious open-plan living area which has access to the large decking space, the dining area with access to the alfresco space, the kitchen comprising stone benchtops, a separate laundry and the remote double garage with internal access.

8 Birch Court - $390,000

This neat two-bedroom home offers a spacious living/dining area alongside the well-lit kitchen, plenty of cupboard/pantry space, as well as a glass display cabinet. This home is located at the end of a court and has a well appointed master bedroom overlooking the verandah and well-manicured backyard. For the hands-on types, there is also a large shed located at the rear of the property.

Key features:
• Prime quiet court location
• Large kitchen/lounge room
• New split system heating/cooling
• Verandah
• Garden shed

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6 Pokolbin Court - $255,000

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