



# Village Voice

Your monthly Clarence Village community newsletter

FREE



The Clarence Village's Junior Jacaranda Queen candidate Millie Lloyd, centre, with Clarence Village on Queen residents from left: Christine Calder, Noelene Ryan, Lorraine Grayson, Myrtle Cowan, Joyce Weatherstone.

## INSIDE:

- Sizzling success ..... 3
- Our village playwright ..... 4-5
- Buschy's a fixture ..... 6
- Footy tipping kicks off ..... 12
- Libby takes the cake ..... 13
- Wired for sound ..... 16

## Village sponsors its first Jacaranda candidate

The Jacaranda Festival will take on a whole new dimension this year with the Clarence Village having its very own candidate.

The village is sponsoring 13-year-old Millie Lloyd in the Junior Jacaranda Queen competition.

Millie is very excited to have the support of Clarence Village residents, staff and management, and is looking forward to representing everyone as part of this year's Jacaranda Festival.

Read more about Millie on page 7.

.....

# A note from the Village CEO



I recently had the pleasure of attending my eldest daughter’s Easter hat parade – her first as a kindy kid. Standing among the throng of parents and relatives as the kids zipped about with excitement certainly made me feel the community spirit we had been so concerned about during the pandemic had not only survived but thrived.

Easter is a time of renewal for Christians and thanks to the public holidays a great opportunity for all people to spend time with family. All people, young and old, need to feel they belong somewhere to lead a fulfilling life. Finding where you “fit” is a superpower we can help everyone in our community achieve by demonstrating our connectedness and importance to each other.

I sometimes talk to friends living in cities and wonder where and how (and ultimately whether) they’re able to find this for themselves and their families. It must be challenging. I believe we’re extremely fortunate to share a community that’s not only willing but eager to find a place for its members.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy Easter. Take care if you’re travelling.

Kind regards,  
Duncan McKimm

.....

## Mixing it up every month

I’m not sure why I’m still amazed about how many different stories pop up around the village each month. There’s always a lot going on and plenty of people doing a multitude of wonderful things at any given time.

It does give me a thrill to find all the new and exciting things happening around the village traps and it helps to make Village Voice an interesting and diverse read every month (or I hope it does).

This month’s issue couldn’t be more eclectic.

We’ve got footy, milestones, a playwright, poetry, new equipment, winners, fundraisers, a

recipe, and our first Jacaranda candidate.

Hope you enjoy the mix inside and look forward to collating the next fascinating line-up of stories for May.

Feel free to get in touch if you have a story tip.

*Lesley*

Email me:  
[news@clarencenvillage.com.au](mailto:news@clarencenvillage.com.au)





Maggie McDade and Ellen Wilson from Grafton Playgroup are front of house at the democracy sausage sizzle, with John Price and John Pullinger from Grafton Community Bus in the barbecue engine room.

## Election Day success for kids and buses

While Grafton residents exercised their democratic right on March 25, volunteers from Grafton Playgroup and Grafton Community Bus were out to convince voters at the Joan Muir Hall they needed to reward themselves with a tasty democracy sausage after completing their ballot papers.

Thankfully, their dedicated campaigning was effective and the team sold close to 200 sausage snags on the day as well as plenty of cold drinks.

To help with the cause, Woolworths kindly donated all the sausages and bread while Peter and Pam Dougherty also generously supported the event. Many thanks for their contributions.

The dual fundraiser raised a whopping \$1600, the proceeds shared equally between Grafton Playgroup and Grafton Community Bus. The sizzling event was so popular they are planning to hold another dual fundraiser sausage sizzle at Bunnings in July.

John Price and John Pullinger on the tools at the election day sausage sizzle fundraiser.



Maggie McDade spruiks the democracy sausage sizzle fundraiser.





Clarence Village resident, playwright and actor Steve North with two local productions he has performed in previously — *There Goes the Bride* and *Beside Manners*. He is currently preparing to get back on stage this month for the Criterion Theatre play *The One Day of the Year*.

## Steve’s dramatic turn of events

Village resident Steve North is no stranger to the stage, performance-wise or behind the scenes.

The actor and playwright is across both disciplines and has a prolific history in delivering on both fronts here in the Clarence Valley.

After he moved to Yamba in 1988, it wasn’t long before he was involved with the local theatre company.

“My friend encouraged me to audition for a local production and I scored the part of the Irish priest in *Once a Catholic*. I’m not Catholic but I put on a very good Irish accent.”

Involved with both Criterion and Pelican Playhouse productions over the years, Steve said he has probably performed in about 40

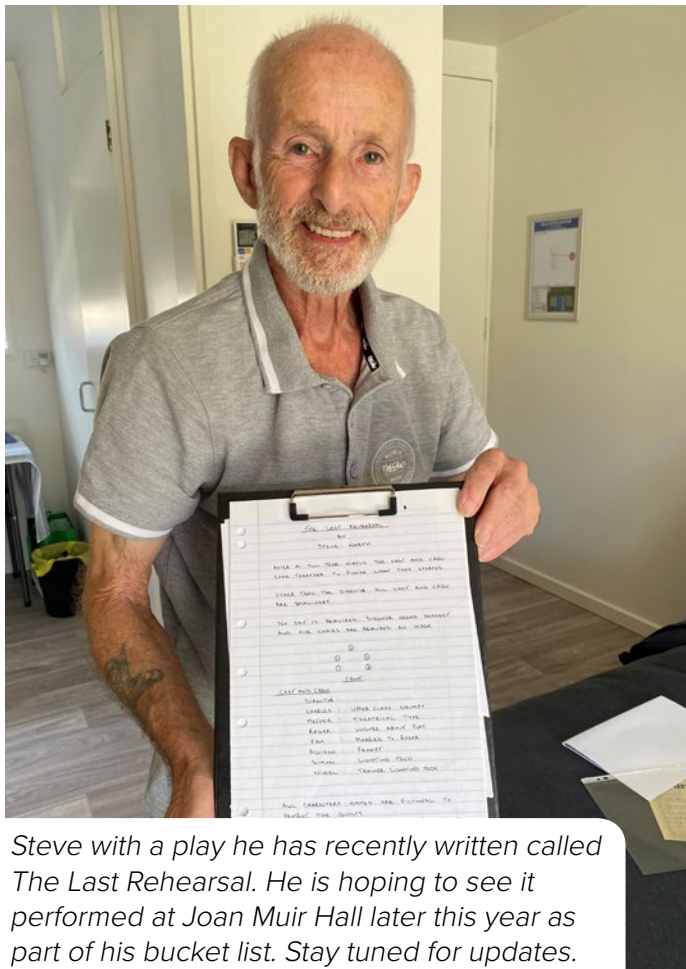
local shows but it’s been “about seven or eight years” since he stepped out on stage as an actor.

“After finishing (writing) my latest play I was thinking how I’d like to get back on stage again.”

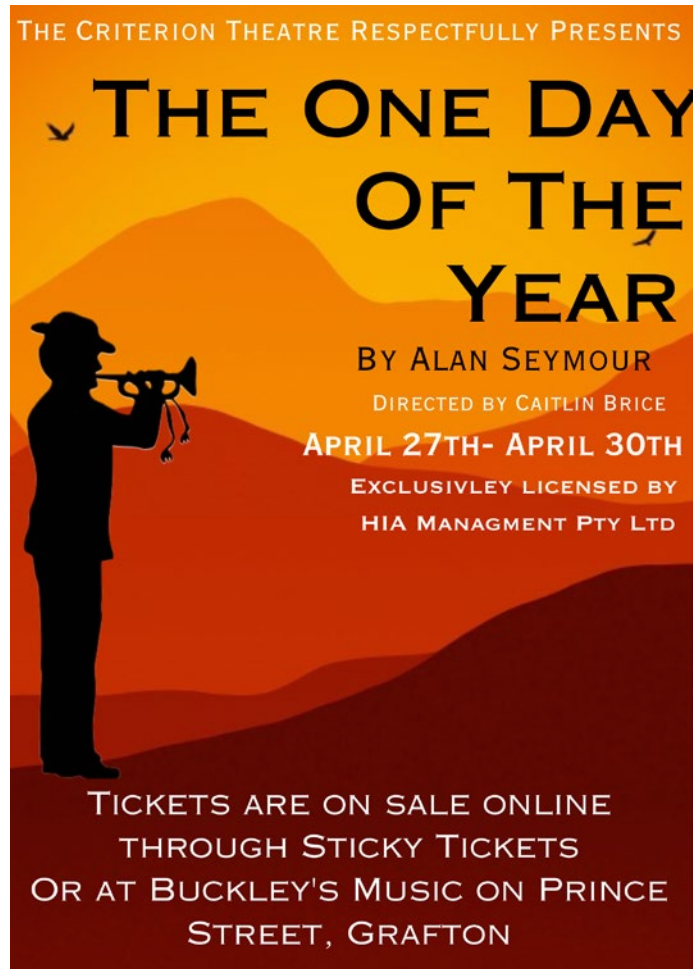
This will happen later this month with the Criterion’s production of *The One Day of the Year* (see flyer opposite).

While Steve has put his play writing on hold while he learns his lines ahead of production rehearsals, he has big plans for his latest work co-incidentally titled *The Last Rehearsal*.

As part of the recent run of bucket list wishes, Steve is keen to see this play brought to life later this year, right here at Clarence Village’s Joan Muir Hall.



Steve with a play he has recently written called *The Last Rehearsal*. He is hoping to see it performed at Joan Muir Hall later this year as part of his bucket list. Stay tuned for updates.



“It’s a one-man show but has seven other imaginary characters involved so it needs a good actor to bring it to life.”

The play is centred around a theatre group that has been in isolation because of COVID so the production is two years late but they all come together for a last rehearsal.

“There is a spanner in works of course but I don’t want to give too much away. Let’s just say nothing is what it seems.”

Steve has also written two more full length plays that he hoped would also be performed in Grafton.

“One is half play, half song, and the other is based around a Christmas cruise where a guy thinks he’s won the lottery.”

He said he often has ideas in his head but they don’t come out ‘on demand’ so he has lots of paper lying around so he can write when inspiration hits.

“Then it eventually comes out being a play.”

While these local productions might be regarded as amateur theatre, according to Steve the local groups handle everything extremely professionally.

“If I see people walk out of a theatre, especially after a comedy, and they’ve got smiles on their faces, I’ve done my job.”

“We can spend three months trying to put a show together but it is worth the effort. If I see people walk out of a theatre, especially a comedy, and they’ve got smiles on their faces, I’ve done my job.”

Stay tuned for more on Steve’s bucket list production of *The Last Rehearsal* in future editions of the Village Voice.



*High maintenance: Andrew 'Bushy' Busch celebrated his fifth anniversary at Dougherty Villa in March.*

## Celebrating five years of Buschy

While he is usually happy to fly under the radar, one of Dougherty Villa's much loved staffers Andrew 'Buschy' Busch was the centre of attention recently when he wracked up the first milestone of what will probably be many if he gets his way and is on the job "until he moves into one of the rooms".

"I'll be that guy in the chair annoying the (next generation of) maintenance man saying 'hey mate, you're doing it all wrong.'"

The Villa's popular staffer clocked up five years in March, marked with a big cake in the lunch room.

Andrew was already a familiar figure to a lot of the residents, having grown up in Grafton and worked for McGraths Electrical for 20 years.

"I've been here most of my life and around the traps, so I know a lot of residents and relate to their old stories. They remember me but also my old man. He was a Waltons man so used to go around everyone's houses to collect money. Before that he was the ice man. They remember all of that. Everyone knows everyone here, that's the beauty of a small town."

After McGraths, Andrew left the area for 10

years to work in the mines in Queensland before returning to Grafton and his tradie roots at Rathgar.

"I was there for about two years and got to know the drill with aged care then opportunity knocked at Dougherty Villa and here I am. "

Andrew said getting to know residents was always the highlight of his work "everyday is different", and he is particularly popular with the men of the Villa, often getting involved socially.

"I catch up with the punting crew every Friday afternoon. We go down to the men's club — me, Mossy, Burnsey; Charlie comes down, and Arnold flips in and out. They love it. About 3 o'clock we go in, turn the races on, have a bit of a chat, and look at tomorrow's fields over a beer."

Besides general maintenance, this jack-of-all-trades has also been known to help residents with smaller tasks — changing watch batteries, gluing shoes, hanging pictures, and keeping them plied with amusing anecdotes.

"I've had a couple of residents tell me I'm not allowed to go anywhere until they go, so I guess I'm going to be here for a while."

# ..... Millie's the right candidate for the job

One of the scariest experiences you might have in life is having to get up in public and address a crowd.

So you can imagine how that might feel if you are just 13 years old.

Thankfully, that won't be a problem for the Clarence Village's Junior Jacaranda candidate Millie Lloyd when it comes time to get up on stage at Market Square in front of a huge audience.

Millie says she is a pretty confident speaker, a skill she has learned from being a part of her school's debating team.

"I quite like public speaking. I often represent the school at town events and do the speeches."

Millie attends Clarence Valley Anglican School and was inspired to enter this year's Jacaranda Queen competition by some people pretty close to her.

"My teacher Mrs Hume was a Jacaranda Queen (Sara Filewood in 2012) and my mum was Holiday Princess in 1999."

Millie said being a part of the queen competition was something she had always wanted to do.

"It's been one of my lifelong dreams since I was little."

She said she approached the Clarence Village to see if they were interested in sponsoring her after seeing how the Village had donated the use of their community bus at last year's festival.

"I know Penny (village manager) too so I thought they might be able to support me."



*Junior Jacaranda Queen candidate Millie with her mum Sonia Lloyd.*

Now the deal is done, Millie said there has been a bit of excitement and hype around the Village office.

The residents are also thrilled to see Millie represent them in such a wonderful Grafton institution like the Jacaranda Festival.

The ladies at Clarence on Queen were very impressed with Millie's conversational skills when they got together for our front page photo, and were looking forward to getting behind her campaign.

Millie said the junior candidates do their fundraising together as a group, selling raffle tickets, hosting events and attending functions.

"I'm really looking forward to making some new friends."

That shouldn't be a problem with an entire Village behind her.



From left: Judy Williams, Chrissy O'Farrell, Cheryl Mclvor, Colleen Donovan and Jeanette Solomon get into the Easter Raffle spirit at the official prize drawing at Joan Muir Hall.

## Cracking results for our Easter raffle

Another successful Clarence Village Easter Raffle was recently held with \$485.00 raised from ticket sales for the Grafton Community Bus.

There was a superb range of prize packs up for grabs including handmade crochet rugs and

of course lots and lots of yummy chocolates and Easter eggs. Thank you to all the residents and supporters who kindly donated items and purchased tickets.

### Congratulations to all our 2023 Easter Raffle winners:

- Helen Barnier
- Christine Daniel
- Holly Donovan
- Ruth and Freeman McGowan
- Judy Smith
- Fred Holland
- Colleen Donovan
- Jeanette Solomon
- Christine Daniels
- Valda Morrison
- Maggie Blair
- Irene Mather
- Keith and Tina Sydenham
- Michalene Matthews



Easter Bunny helper Ros Houlahan with the wonderful array of prizes up for grabs in this year's Clarence Village Easter Raffle.



From left: Barbara Fraser, Marcia Muldoon, Roxanne Deece and Lorraine Grayson having an eggcellent time at the Easter Raffle draw/morning tea.



# WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

## Joan Muir Community Centre

Free activities every Tuesday from 10am - 11.30am

TUESDAY

11

Bingo



TUESDAY

18

Preparation (wrapping prizes) for our biggest morning tea in May



TUESDAY

25

ANZAC Day  
No activities



## NEW ACTIVITIES



### CLOCKTOWER MORNING TEA

Held last Thursday of each month 10am. Devonshire tea \$7.50 or coffee/tea with cake \$10. Resident and their guests welcome.

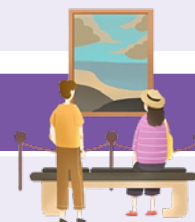
Meet us there or arrange transport with Ros.

### GALLERY WALK & TALK

April 27 | 10.30am | \$5 + booking fee

Join us at the Grafton Regional Gallery for the monthly Walk and Talk for the over 60s. Hosted by Maggie McDade, visitors will receive a guided tour of the newest exhibitions, in a safe and social environment.

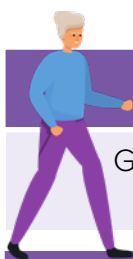
Book your bus seat with Ros or meet there.



## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

### WALKING CLUB

Group walks every Thursday morning leaving Joan Muir Hall at 8.30am for a 30-minute walk.



### AQUA AEROBICS

Weekly class at South Grafton Pool every Wednesday 8am picking up from around the Village from 7.15am. Book your seat with Ros.



### CARD GAMES

Card games every Thursday from 1.30pm at Joan Muir Hall.



To RSVP or contact Ros: [rosh@clarencevillage.com.au](mailto:rosh@clarencevillage.com.au) or 0478 228 838  
Please get in touch with Ros if you would like a chat or visit.

.....

# Going green for a St Patrick's Day morning tea



Seated: Judy Williams, Marcia Muldoon, Carole Finn, back, Val Sheehan and Chrissy O'Farrell go green for the St Patrick's Day morning tea. The awesome frog cupcakes were made by Judy Williams.

.....

# Your monthly dose of poetry from the Village poet laureate

## Beginning

A lovely sky blue sky today,  
a perfect summer morning;  
I saw the first rays of the day,  
the brand new day was dawning;  
I'm one of eight odd billion today,  
there's few I'm seeing today is proof,  
to me at least there is a higher being.

The moon was ninety-five per cent,  
and still was in my view;  
The sun's rays broke the darkness,  
as it's programmed to do;  
Our world is spinning endlessly,  
revolving around the sun;  
Today I'll just enjoy the ride,  
enjoy yours too, the day's begun.

— John Sullivan, January 2023

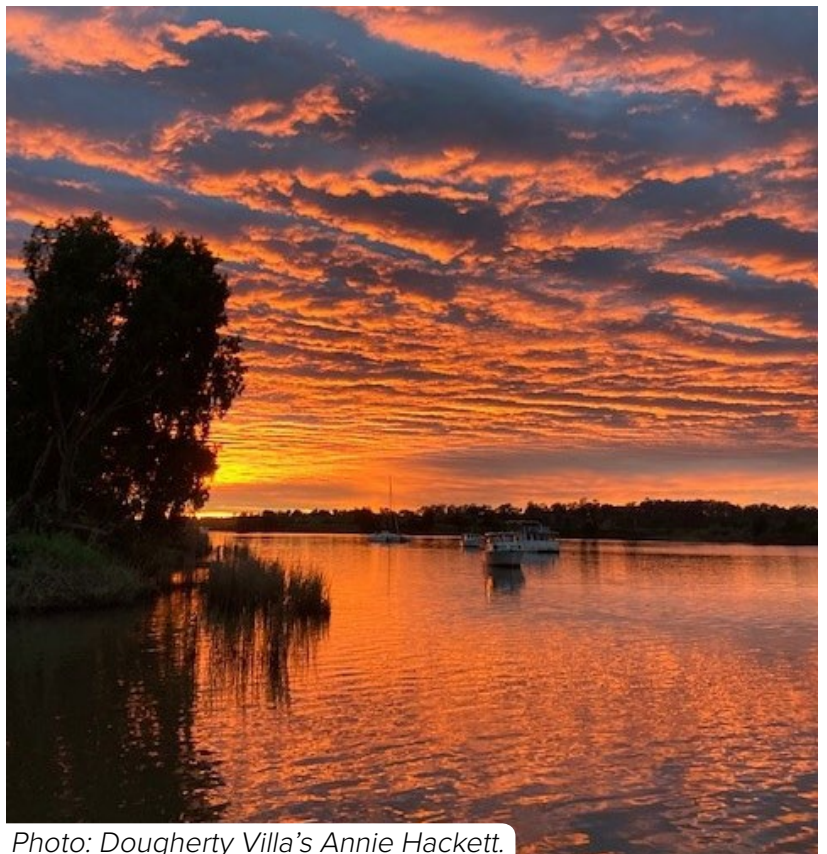


Photo: Dougherty Villa's Annie Hackett.

# Around the Village

I am lucky in my role at Clarence Village to get out to different stages and see the residents. No matter where I go, the residents and their families are always so thankful of our maintenance team and our activities queen Ros.

How very blessed we all are to have them as part of the Clarence Village Team. They are amazing people who dedicate themselves to making Clarence Village a wonderful place to both live and work.

Wishing you and your families a safe Easter and I hope the Easter Bunny finds you all

— Penny White, Clarence Village Manager.

## Time out for hard workers

Pez and Ryan are off for well-earned holidays – Pez off with Annie to sight see in Adelaide and Ryan and his family are off to Western Australia for a family reunion.

## Big jobs continue

Over the next few months we have lots of big jobs to get done. We will be replanting and trimming hedges at Clarence on Queen and we have also reconfigured the carpark there. The parking in front of the main building is now for emergency services and short-term pickup and drop offs. The remaining carparks are for residents only. The feedback to Darrel said it was going really well.

## Successful talks

Rachelle from Services Australia held the final presentation at Clarence on Queen to talk about aged care planning choices. Her three sessions were very well received by residents across the Village.

## Fencing improvements

We are in the process of gathering quotes for the replacement of fencing for Stage 3 in Richards Close. These fences back onto numerous neighbouring properties and will take some considerable negotiations to reach the construction phase.

## Carpark painting

Over the next few months, Pez and Rob will be repainting the carpark spaces around the Village. During this work we will ask residents to temporarily relocate their vehicles for a short time but you will be given plenty of notice.



# Footy tipping season warms up

It's that time of the year when residents, staff and management put friendships aside and get down to the serious business of trying to out do one another on the footy field.

With both NRL and AFL footy tipping titles up for grabs, the competition is only going to get more fierce with every round.

Presently we have Vicki from accounts in the AFL, and Natasha Cook in the NRL, making an early charge to the top of the leaderboard, albeit hotly pursued by last year's clean sweeper Duncan 'the CEO' McKimm.

We'll revisit the ladder in a couple of issues to see who has been most consistent on ground.

## NRL Tipping Table

RANK	TIPPER	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	TOTAL
1	Natasha Cook	4	5	5	7	5	26
2	Suzie Hudson	5	4	4	6	6	25
3	Duncan McKimm	5	2	5	5	6	23
4	Ros Houlahan	5	4	4	6	4	23
5	Robbie Coulton	2	6	4	6	5	23
6	Marion Lloyd	5	4	3	5	5	22
7	Andrew Busch	5	4	3	5	5	22
8	Brooke Gorman	3	6	4	2	6	21
9	Kaye Ball	3	5	4	6	3	21
10	Judy Ainsworth	4	3	5	5	4	21
11	Kevin Burns	4	5	2	5	4	20
12	Harry Layton	5	3	4	4	4	20
13	Tayla Wall	5	2	4	5	4	20
14	Ray Wilson	4	3	4	5	4	20
15	Pat Connelly	0	5	2	6	3	16

## AFL Tipping Table

RANK	TIPPER	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	TOTAL
1	Vicki Valja	7	8	5	20
2	Duncan McKimm	7	5	4	16
3	Ryan Gudz	7	5	3	15
4	Ros Houlahan	6	5	2	13
5	Laura Gudz	4	3	4	11



---

## Recipe of the month

This scrumptious and simple recipe is from Clarence Village's answer to Maggie Beer — resident and excellent cook Libby Shearer.

Libby says this cake makes afternoon tea with coffee or tea a special treat. She said the cake goes well with cream or ice cream but has also included a tip for her favourite serving suggestion – spiking the cream with natural yoghurt, crème fraiche or even sour cream to give it an extra kick.

### LIBBY'S LEMON BLUEBERRY TORTE

- 3 cups Plain Flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon bi carb soda
- 3 Eggs
- 2 cups Castor Sugar
- 250g Unsalted Butter
- 1 cup Buttermilk
- 2 ½ tablespoon Lemon Juice
- 2 teaspoon Lemon Zest
- 200g blueberries

### GLAZE

- 1 cup Icing Sugar
- 30g Unsalted Butter

### METHOD

1. Beat eggs, sugar and butter until combined.

2. Mix in flour, salt and bicarb soda.
3. Add buttermilk, lemon juice and zest.
4. Mix until combined.
5. Pour mixture into ring tin or fluted tin which needs to be well greased.
6. Bake in 160 degree oven for one hour and 15 minutes.

**Glaze:** Melt all ingredients in saucepan over low heat or microwave. Brush glaze over cake while cake and glaze are still warm

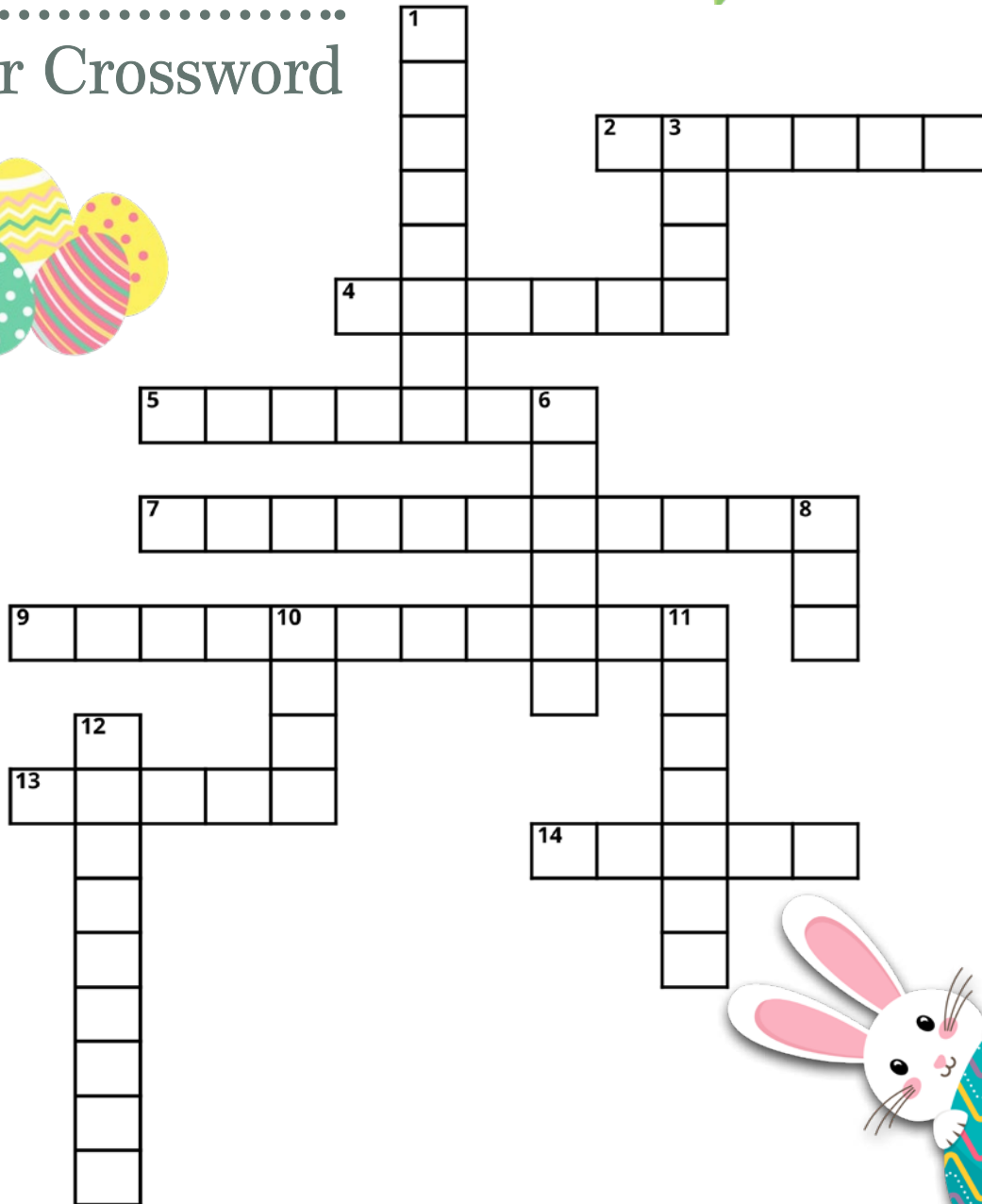
Serve with whipped cream or ice cream (or both) and blueberries.

**Libby's serving suggestion for cream:**

Whipped cream with yoghurt and crème fraiche in around equal quantities. Add vanilla and icing sugar to taste.



# Easter Crossword

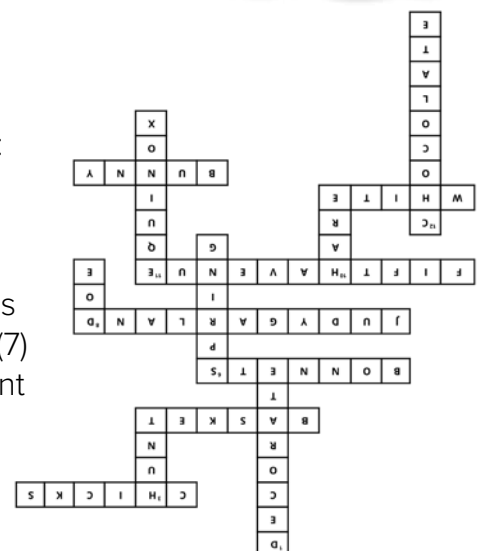


## Across

2. These hatch out of real eggs (6)
4. Something used to collect Easter eggs (6)
5. Traditional Easter hats usually tied with ribbons (7)
7. Female star of the film 'Easter Parade?' (11)
9. In the song 'Easter Parade' what street do they walk down? (11)
13. In 'Alice in Wonderland' what colour is the rabbit with the pocket watch? (5)
14. Another word for 'rabbit' (5)

## Down

1. Make eggs look pretty (8)
3. What do eggs represent at Easter? (4)
6. A female rabbit (6)
8. The search for Easter Eggs: Easter Egg (3)
10. An animal that looks like a rabbit with long ears (4)
11. The date for Easter changes every year because of this (7)
12. Most popular Easter present (9)



# Village stargazers - your monthly horoscopes

Welcome to your April 2023 monthly horoscopes.



## ARIES

It's your season for celebration and being the centre of attention! You can feel reinvigorated and aligned with your sense of purpose, and your confidence and determination may take you very far in the coming year.



## TAURUS

You're craving quality time alone with yourself, more rest, and the opportunity to explore your spirituality. This can be a powerful time for meditation, journaling, making art, and connecting with your inner voice.



## GEMINI

It's an exciting time to connect with friends, explore new social circles, and enjoy your hobbies. You might become involved in a group or community that's working toward a cause you're passionate about. It's also a productive time for teamwork.



## CANCER

In general, you're standing in the spotlight quite a bit during this season. Cancers are often described by astrologers as shy and cautious, but that's not all there is to you, and the side of you that's fearless in the face of challenges is shining at this time.



## LEO

Your words can be influential at this time. You might be traveling or planning your next adventure. You could be working on publishing something, or find yourself wowing crowds at speaking engagements. Your focus may also be simply about learning new things.



## VIRGO

It's all about making a fresh start for yourself. You could be settling a debt, offering or accepting an apology, or taking care of any loose ends in your life! You can find the courage to tackle issues you haven't been keen to deal with, like bills or a difficult conversation.



## LIBRA

It's an exciting time to connect with new people, grow new relationships, and spend quality time with established partners. Connection can come easy, but that doesn't mean other people always make sense. You may learn more about people's personalities and perspectives.



## SCORPIO

It's a productive, energised time of year for you. Health and wellness are on your mind, and you could also find yourself rearranging your schedule because this time of year can be so productive. But don't over-do it. Set yourself up to meet some goals but make time to rest.



## SAGITTARIUS

Fun, romance, creativity, and celebration make it an exciting time! This can be a fruitful period in your love life; exploring a connection or stoking the fire with an established partner. You're making great strides in artistic endeavours and on the social front.



## CAPRICORN

You are eager to get cozy at home, cuddle up with loved ones, and reminisce about the past. You might also be engaged in your spiritual practice. This is a fantastic time of year to donate items you no longer need and energetically cleanse your surroundings.



## AQUARIUS

It's a productive atmosphere for sharing ideas, writing or research, or taking care of paperwork - getting the answers you need! Your local neighbourhood might also be busy so enjoy what it has to offer. If you have siblings you could also be connecting with them as thoughts turn to family.



## PISCES

You are generally not a materialist, but this could be a financially successful time! It may be a period of abundance, materially and creatively. It's a great time to rework your budget. You may sell or buy something special or rearrange belongings. Keep an ear out for an exciting negotiation opportunity.

.....

# Coming in loud and clear

Village residents will be wired for sound with the arrival of a new dual microphone amplification system. The portable piece of equipment will be able to do the rounds across the village footprint whenever a booming voice is required. The new and improved acoustics means you will never miss another bingo number again.

*ALL EARS: Showing off Clarence Village's new public address system is activities officer Ros Houlahan and village manager Penny White.*



## Clarence Village



CarePage QR Code.  
Scan this code to take you directly to our online feedback form.

### Aged Care

Dougherty  
Villa

206 Arthur St, Grafton

6643 2377

### Supported Living

Clarence Village  
on Queen

166 Queen St, Grafton

6642 5991

### Independent Living

Clarence Village &  
Clarence Village Gardens

194 Turf St, Grafton

6642 5991

[www.clarencevillage.com.au](http://www.clarencevillage.com.au)