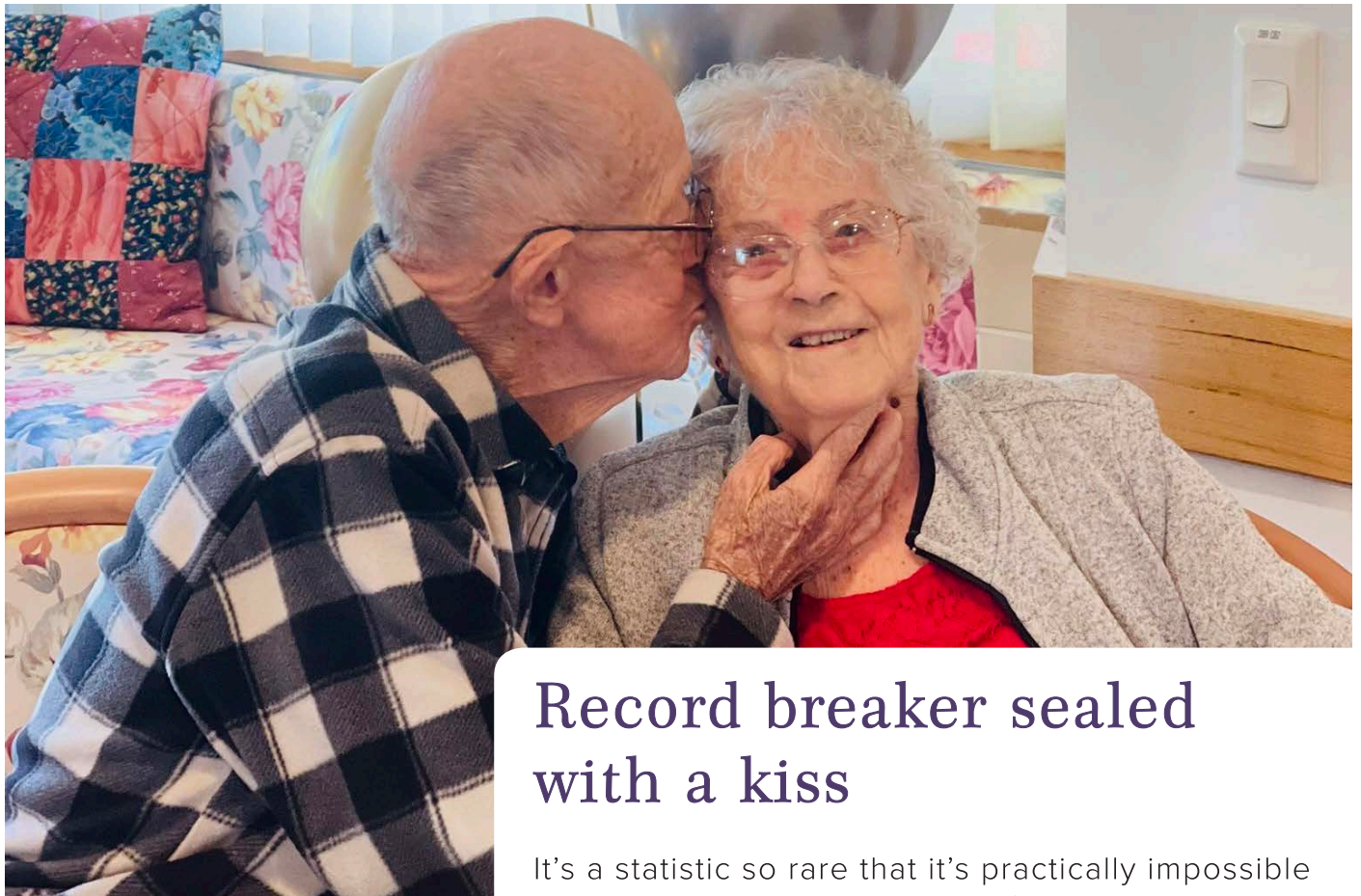




Village Voice

Your monthly Clarence Village community newsletter

FREE



Record breaker sealed with a kiss

It's a statistic so rare that it's practically impossible to measure but Dougherty Villa's Betty and Harry Layton are living proof it can happen.

The pair celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on June 7, 2022, one of only a handful of Australian couples to reach the exclusive diamond milestone.

To give the Laytons' marvellous innings some perspective, only 1000 couples in the USA (pop. 330 million) have currently reached 75 years of marriage or more. It's estimated 1/10th of 1% of all marriages make it to their 70th anniversary (75 is so unusual it's indecipherable statistically). The Queen and Prince Philip made it to 73 years.

Read more about the Laytons' amazing achievement on page 4.

INSIDE:

- Penny's a people person 5
- Home sweet home 6
- Crusoe's villa visit 8
- Stepping out 9
- Busy buses 10
- Social occasions 11-13
- Young at heart 16



A note from the Village CEO



As we finish another financial year, we find ourselves in the unenviable position of not being able to plan for our future. This is due to ongoing uncertainty around aged care funding, which accounts for about two thirds of our revenue. While the funding model used in aged care is to change on October 1, as things currently stand these changes haven't been legislated and the impacts haven't been communicated to providers.

Aged care employs around 280,000 people (about the same as the mining industry), for an industry of this size, this is a ridiculous situation to be in. Can you imagine the uproar if the mining industry was in this position due to Government action/inaction?

Providing a safe, dignified home for seniors is why we exist, so we will be in this industry long-term, but we can't meet our community's needs on our own. We need a strong aged care industry to do this and at the moment, with almost two thirds of operators making a loss, the situation needs attention and action.

Kind regards,
Duncan McKimm

Keeping it warm and friendly

Winter is well and truly here, which also means the July Racing Carnival is in our midst.

To mark the occasion, this month's issue features a few pages dedicated to some trackside fun, including a visit by a real live horse, as well as a bunch of other special gatherings and activities from around the village.

This issue will also welcome some friendly new additions to the village team and chat to one of our newest residents.

There's also the usual array of familiar faces and village news to keep you informed so grab a cuppa and a cosy rug and enjoy this wintery edition.

Lesley

Email me:
news@clarencevillage.com.au



Clarence Village



1st PRIZE

\$30

2nd PRIZE

\$15

3rd PRIZE

\$5



The 100 Club will continue throughout 2022.

Every completed 100 Club raises \$50 for the Community Bus. Let's see how much we can raise this year.

Get your tickets from Ros Houlahan or Vicki Valja.



Sarah Turner is one of the new friendly faces greeting visitors to Dougherty Villa.

Welcome to the Villa Sarah

Dougherty Villa's newest friendly front counter encounter is Sarah Turner.

Sarah joined the admin team in June and will be co-working three days a week with Judyann Ainsworth, who we introduced last issue.

While Sarah is looking forward to navigating all the front office comings and goings, she is already very familiar with the industry she will be working in having held various aged care roles across a 25-year career that included working in homes in South Grafton, Coffs Harbour and Queensland.

Adding a Cert 3 in business admin about 10 years ago gave Sarah the flexibility to work in both departments and said she was looking forward to her new role at Dougherty Villa.

"I've always been drawn to aged care because I

like working with older residents and enjoy the interaction with them. Although I won't be on the floor, I'm looking forward to getting to know everybody."

A Lower Clarence girl, Sarah (Cotten) was born in Maclean and grew up in Lawrence but under rather unusual circumstances didn't attend the closest public school to her family home.

"Basically because the bus to Maclean High was full, we had to come up to Grafton. Everyone else went to Maclean except us."

When Sarah's not behind the front counter at Dougherty Villa, she loves spending time with her three grandchildren aged 3, 6 and 9.

"I used to volunteer for the Lawrence SES many years ago but now most of my spare time is spent with the grandkids."



Harry and Betty Layton celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary at Dougherty Villa with a few of their family members.

When Harry met Betty

The Clarence Village record books recently added a new entry to its pages when residents Betty and Harry Layton clocked up an impressive 75 years of marriage.

The couple’s rare diamond anniversary was celebrated at Dougherty Villa on June 7 at a special morning tea with family and friends.

According to Betty, the couple’s union outlasted the timber church they made their vows in, St Luke’s Anglican, which was then located on the corner of Hoof and Mary Streets.

“It’s been moved out to Cangai since.”

The pair first met when Betty lived at Newbold on a farm and a young Harry would often visit the property whenever he could hitch a ride from Grafton.

“It was way up past Copmanhurst and Harry

used to come up with a chap who used to drive the cream lorry. He would often come back and forward for an outing.”

Somewhere in between those outings, Betty caught Harry’s eye and the two became fast friends before things got romantic.

“We used to go into Grafton for the dances (at the Barn) or to the Saraton for a movie. I was an usherette there for a good while,” Betty recalled.

Married at 20 and 21 respectively, Betty and Harry enjoyed life in their Alice Street home for many years, Betty raising three children, while Harry spent his days as a small goods butcher in Grafton “down near the river where the dairy co was”.

“He was a butcher there for a long time.”

Betty said Harry was also a keen cricketer in

his day and in the ambulance. “He was the first aid man for the Grafton football team.”

Tennis was Betty’s sporting love and she was a member of the Grafton City Club for many years.

The couple also enjoyed many holidays over the years travelling around Australia, and while they are both comfortably ensconced in life at Dougherty Villa now at 95 and 96, Betty is enjoying her own space in Rose Cottage while Harry is being well looked after in Magnolia Wing.

“Seventy five years is a long time to be with one person. Now he’s at one end, and I’m at the other but he does still come down and have morning tea with me.”



Penny White started her new role as Clarence Village manager in June.

.....

Penny returns to her calling

It wasn’t long into her career change when Clarence Village’s new manager Penny White realised aged care industry was her calling.

Grafton raised (she arrived when she was three weeks old) and educated, Penny spent 18 years working at St Catherine’s Residential Aged Care before switching to a council job in procurements where she stayed for 18 months before jumping at the chance to join the Clarence Village crew.

Penny started in her new role as village manager in June working alongside CEO Duncan McKimm who is no stranger, the pair already well acquainted as contemporaries of Catherine McAuley College and the teenager’s rite of passage — the McDonalds shifts.

“When the opportunity came along to work with Duncan again I thought BINGO, here’s my chance to get back into aged care.”

Like many aged care admins, Penny began in the industry working ‘out on the floor’ as a care service provider across all aspects including kitchen, laundry, cares and incharge shifts

before adding administration to her role by assisting the facility manager at St Catherine’s.

“This will be my first independent living management role within aged care but it’s been really enjoyable so far. The level of legislation is less intensive but I still get to work with older residents so I’m really looking forward to getting to know everyone.”

Penny will be working out of Joan Muir Community Hall four days a week and when she’s not she will be navigating life on the family farm at Ulmarra.

“I have three kids, 14, 3 and 2 and my partner has sugar cane and cattle which is never-ending work.”

While life will be busy, Penny said the interaction with people was one of the main reasons she wanted to return to aged care.

“Paperwork without people is not my cup of tea so I’m looking forward to being here at Clarence Village for the long term.”



Marilyn Davison recently moved into Stage 3 at Clarence Village, an opportunity she described as a lifeline.

Having a place to call home

Home ownership is no longer the great Australian dream — it's the stuff of dreams.

And while it's mostly the younger generation that are impacted by this, there are many older residents who are renting, and much more vulnerable in the midst of a housing crisis.

Pensioner Marilyn Davison was faced with that reality at aged 71.

Having worked all her life in aged care while raising four children, her journey to retirement didn't end with the privileges of property ownership.

She had owned real estate previously, in Sydney and Tucabia, but two marriages and the debts left by both partners meant assets had to be sold while Marilyn worked full time to repay the debts and keep up with the rent.

For many years things were okay and she could stay ahead but more recently it became

a living nightmare.

After renting in Woolli to start a job with Home Care in 2015, Marilyn had her routine upended when the owners wanted to move back in. "I was there for six years and loved being involved with the community. At that time I had trouble trying to find somewhere to live. "

After finding a granny flat on Gumtree she rented the downstairs of a Brushgrove house of a retired couple, occasionally looking after the place and their pet. "They'd only just moved there but unfortunately they weren't happy there and after 12 months they told me they were selling the house."

Things had become even worse on the rental front Marilyn said. "We'd just been through COVID and I couldn't find anything."

After looking for places in her price bracket of \$350pw she was shown one-hole rooms under houses with exposed plumbing and "putrid"

flats out the back of businesses with doors that wouldn't open or close and bathtub showers she couldn't get in or out of.

Marilyn was staring down the barrel of homelessness. "I was on edge the whole time and ended up getting sick because of all the stress."

She applied to NSW housing, did all the paperwork, walked the streets to ask at real estate agents until she fulfilled the obligations. "It was a nightmare but I did it."

In the meantime she was getting ready to move in with a sick friend to look after her so she had a bed and was organising to put her things into storage.

That was until the dedicated volunteer was working with some seniors when they told her about Clarence Village.

"At that stage I hadn't even thought about that."

“I feel like I've won lotto”

Then a short time later, after she finished a shift at Vinnies, she came back to the call there was a unit available.

"I just cried when I saw this place. I was overcome. I knew I had somewhere to live."

"My daughter also cried when she came here to see me. I feel like I've won lotto."

While Marilyn is now adjusting to her new found security and stability, she is looking forward to getting to know the village community she is now a part of.

"I like to keep involved. Volunteering and giving back. I can't wait to start doing that again."

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

Joan Muir Community Centre

Free activities every Tuesday from 10am - 11.30am

TUESDAY

12

Bingo

TUESDAY

19

Bingo

TUESDAY

28

High tea with entertainment. Wear your most colourful clothes.

WALKING CLUB

Group walks every Thursday leaving Joan Muir Hall at 8.30am for a 30-minute walk to Brewery Cafe arriving approximately 9am. If you aren't up for the walk you can meet the group for a social catch up there. The group walks back to hall afterwards.

CLARENCE ON QUEEN

Bingo every Tuesday at 1.30pm followed by games at 3pm. Everyone welcome.

To RSVP or contact Ros: rosh@clarencevillage.com.au or 0478 228 838
Please call or email Ros if you would also like a chat or visit.



Joan Baker



Heather Freeman



Elisabeth Katte



Colleen Thomas



Fran Hampshire



Muriel Mackie

Crusoe makes some new friends

It's racing carnival time but Dougherty Villa residents didn't have to venture out trackside to see a real live horse.

The four-legged friend came to them thanks to its owner and staff member Cassandra Page who rode the quarter horse named Crusoe into Grafton from her property just outside town for some exercise.

It was Crusoe's first visit to Dougherty Villa and

for a young five-year-old destined for trailing riding and dressage he did really well.

His gentle nature was a hit with the Waratah Wing residents who got to meet Crusoe up close and give him a pat.

"It's pets as therapy on a larger scale," one of the staff said.



Enjoying the new Thursday Walking Group are from left, organiser Ros Houlahan, Colleen Donovan, Molly McArthur, Roxanne Deece and Joan Want.

Stepping out every Thursday

The Thursday morning walking group has been operating for a few weeks now and is growing in popularity every step of the way.

Now boasting seven members, the weekly walk was organised by community connections officer Ros Houlahan and is conducted at a relaxing pace leaving Joan Muir Hall every Thursday from 8.30am.

Trekkers then head off along the Turf Street footpath to North Street and down to the old Tooheys Brewery for a coffee (not a beer) at the popular Brewhouse Cafe.

Normally it take about 30 mins to get there and then after a social catch up and refreshments the group walks back to hall.



The walkers enjoy a breather and coffee at their social destination, the Brewhouse Cafe, before walking back to the Joan Muir Centre in Turf St.

Why not come along next week? Everyone is welcome. Just rock up in your walking shoes and bring a few dollars for a cup of coffee or treat.

If you would like to know more about the walking group before joining in give Ros a call on 0478 228 838.



Community Bus volunteers left, John Price and right, John Pullinger with Clarence Village CEO Duncan McKimm and manager Penny White.

Village ensures wheels keep turning

The Grafton Community Bus is travel institution for this area and an important connection service for its seniors.

Now in its 32nd year of operation, the volunteer-run organisation has had its future secured by Clarence Village after arranging to look after the day-to-day administration required to keep it going.

Village CEO Duncan McKimm said after all the hard work over the years by volunteers to get all the buses together it would have been a shame to see it dissipate because it's become too much work for them.

"If we can take some of the work off their plate hopefully they can keep driving."

Mr McKimm said Dougherty Villa had always been a big user of the community bus but all aged care places also used the service.

"You don't have to be living in an aged care

facility or retirement home to use the bus. Anybody senior living in a private residence or anyone living with a disability can access the service."

Longtime volunteer community bus drivers John Pullinger and John Price said they would love to have more volunteers get involved.

"At the moment we have seven drivers but if anyone would like to join us we'd be very interested in talking with them," Mr Pullinger said.

The men said it wasn't hard to get a light rigid licence, which is what you need to drive the larger bus. The smaller one can be driven with a standard licence.

If being a volunteer driver for the Grafton Community Bus is something you would like to find out more about please get in touch on 6642 5991 or email graftoncommunitybus@outlook.com.

.....

Out and about



The high tea crew got into the spirit of the July Carnival for their monthly gathering.



Entertainment for the June high tea was provided by David Maunsell (bass guitar) and Jan Jarvis (classical guitar). The duo, who are both members of the Grafton Ukettes ukulele group, performed a selection of pop folk numbers during the morning.

.....

Off and racing with the Village team

Village staff enjoyed a day out at the Westlawn Prelude Day on Sunday for some Christmas in July festivities.



Dougherty Villa girls just wanna have fun: from left Shiela Williamson, Samantha O’Shea, Kirsty Selleck, Brooke Gorman and Connie Nagle.



Dougherty Villa’s Quality Manager Tonia Fitzcosta and Facility Manager Mandy Stark with Edzard Van Basten Batenburg.



Village Executive Assistant Tayla Wall and her husband Anthony at the staff race day gathering.



Dougherty Villa RNs and admin staff Nerelle Reimer, Sophie Landenberger, Michelle Brown and Karen Smith.



Andrew 'Buschy' Busch getting his race tips sorted.



Daryl Smith and CEO Duncan McKimm.

It's a people game

Clarence Village has been running for over 50 years and hasn't changed its approach in that time – we always try to put people first. Perhaps because of this we're acutely aware of and focused on issues to do with staffing.

Care is a people game. If we don't have the right people we can't adequately care for seniors. I'm increasingly concerned at the lack of discussion about how we will find and train people to care for the coming generation of seniors, the Baby Boomers.

Home care and residential care are the two avenues we currently have available to care for seniors. Home care requires lots of manpower

to service in a regional community due the population being more spread out. Residential care, while more efficient, is getting much less funding and so isn't growing to meet future needs.

In 2016 there were 3 working age residents in the Clarence Valley for each person over 70. By 2036 there will be 1.5. The people who will be staffing the aged care industry in 2036 are in kindergarten now. The decisions to build the businesses and buildings that will address this problem need to be made soon – it's time for us to get real.

Duncan McKimm

July Racing Carnival Word Search

H W I S Q F A S H I O N E S
 O I W G T T R A H A T S R K
 T B E R B O O K M A K E R G
 T S S A E C D D R P B E N M
 I U T F S R O E U M D I A A
 P P L T A D E Y E I R I A R
 S H A O U B G M U G A T T Q
 T H W N W D E G N U C K W U
 E C N C T B M I E E E Y E E
 W Q D U L R T O F F H H C E
 A J A P O T K I M M O K W T
 R J Y F E A R A M O R N I E
 D P D B J T T L G K S A K A
 Y L Z X F G J O C K E Y Z E

Westlawn Day

Grafton Cup

Ramornie

Hats

Betting Ring

Fashion

Racehorse

Jockey

Beer

Members

Marquee

Bookmaker

Trifecta

Steward

Form Guide

Hot Tip



G V A W L J J O C K E Y M F
 D O Z B X T G U J Z S J U Y
 R R Y F E C R A M O R N I E
 A X A P O T J I A M O W G Z
 W M D U B R T G F E H C L E
 E R N C Z Y M I F E E B I E
 T C W N M C Z G N D C T H U
 S W A O A B W M U G A T H Q
 P F L T U L E Y E I R I A R
 I D T F M E V E G M D I W A
 T L S A J D W M R J B E N M
 T H E R B O O K M A K E R G
 O H W G Q S R R H A T S R S
 H H J E F A S H I O N Y S

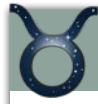
Village stargazers - your monthly horoscopes

July is a time to be yourself and embrace the positive changes that are possible in all the aspects of your life. Always focus on the things that will make you happy.



ARIES

Your love life will be great because you will be on great terms with your partner. You will be able to achieve the happiness and peace you always wanted. You do not see eye to eye with children.



TAURUS

Your health will be excellent. There will be no need to worry, your health is in check. Marriage life will have its challenges, but you can find solutions. Singles will find love in social gatherings.



GEMINI

Family matters will be excellent. To maintain such a relationships, you need to ensure that you achieve balance. Your health will encounter some problems, but do not to let these issues get the better of you.



CANCER

You should live your life to the fullest. Do not listen to people that tell you that you can't. This month calls on you to believe in yourself and your abilities and have the confidence to achieve what you want. Be careful with your finances.



LEO

July is the month for you to explore your creative abilities. Great things will manifest in your life. Appreciate those who have always been there for you. Make your life and their lives better in the best possible way.



VIRGO

Do not take life for granted. Focus on the things that matter most. You develop a new perspective in life that will help you improve all aspects of it. Physical health will pose no problems for you. Focus on your spiritual and mental health.



LIBRA

Focus on attracting positive energies into your life. Do not focus much on the negative. Yearly predictions for Libra foretell a month filled with good luck and blessings. Do not let anything or anyone cause you to doubt yourself.



SCORPIO

Surrounding yourself with positive people will positively influence your life. Harbour positive thoughts and stay clear of negative thoughts and emotions. Negativity will only bring you down, and you do not deserve the same in your life.



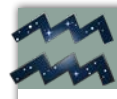
SAGITTARIUS

You will bump into new possibilities and opportunities that will enable you to become the best version of yourself. Trust in the process and things will soon get better. Forget about the things that did not work out in the past and focus on the future.



CAPRICORN

Allow yourself to have feelings of love towards the people in your life that care for and love you. When it comes to your family life, you should do everything in your power to have a great relationship with your children. Trust in yourself.



AQUARIUS

This month sees a period of bliss and wonderful achievements in some aspects of your life. With commitment and confidence, you will be able to make things work in your favour. Listen to positive advice and stay optimistic.



PISCES

Health prospects are excellent. Family relationships will face some challenges, but all will be well at the end of the day. Celebrate your achievements and work on your weaknesses. This month will bring you joy like never before.

Cuddles for Charlotte

Dougherty Villa residents recently had a lovely time with 14-month-old Charlotte Clark, daughter of staff member Alexandra Douglas. Alexandra brings Charlotte in for a visit once a month as a friendly gesture.

“It really brightens up their day. They love to nurse her and the interaction, and she loves all the attention,” Alexandra said.

Since COVID, the organised visits by youngsters to Dougherty Villa have been off limits but Alexandra said they were organising for the daycare kids to start coming again.



Dougherty Villa’s Noela Barnier, left, and Marion Coombes, right, take turns at nursing 14-month-old Charlotte.

“Residents really benefit from a visit from children. When they spend the morning with them, they all have a better afternoon.”

STAYING COVID SAFE



WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, or clean and sanitise them with an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.



COVER YOUR NOSE

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing, or use your elbow, not your hands.



STAY HOME

Avoid close contact with people unwell with cold or flu-like symptoms, and stay home if you have symptoms.



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE

Avoid touching your face and don’t shake hands with others.



SOCIAL DISTANCE

Try to maintain a distance of 1.5m from others at all times.



AVOID CROWDS

Avoid public places if they look over-crowded.



**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