



Village Voice

Your monthly Clarence Village community newsletter

FREE



Flood waters lap the top of the levee wall at Grafton's Memorial Park.

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Flooded with memories

Grafton is no stranger to big floods and the most recent certainly was cause for concern almost peaking at 8m at the Prince Street gauge. Thankfully, the magnificent piece of infrastructure that is our flood levee wall stood its ground and saved the Jacaranda City from another potential disaster.

Our surrounding areas were not so lucky with many properties and shops flooded in the villages and towns downstream and people isolated for several days waiting for the waters to recede.

It's been a testing time but our thoughts are with our northern neighbouring regions who experienced the worst floods on record.

More photos inside.



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A note from the Village CEO



Part of living in our beautiful valley is the knowledge that flooding is a danger we must prepare for. While those in Lismore have long lived with that same knowledge, the last few weeks have proved that even with careful planning, the extreme or the unexpected can still happen.

The township of Grafton was again protected by the engineering marvel of our levee system, but many out of town were not as fortunate. I can only imagine the devastation those in Lismore, Coraki, Mullumbimby and Murwillumbah have faced over the last week and will have to find a way back from over many months and years.

If the last couple of years have taught us anything, it's the value of community and that spirit has been on-show across these devastated areas and closer to home. In times like this community is all we can rely on.

Kind regards,
Duncan McKimm

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Facing challenges together

This month's issue was going to have an adventure and travel theme but that all went out the window when the flood hit, so it's turned into a bit of a disaster edition.

It feels like we've only just shaken the COVID monkey off our backs and then 'bam' hello, record flooding. Of course Grafton can hardly complain when we see the devastation north of here in Lismore and surrounding areas.

Clarence Village is doing their bit to help our northern neighbours with plans afoot for a special fundraiser which you can read about in this issue.

Besides the flood-related photos, we have a couple of stories from residents who have faced or been close to facing, disastrous weather events.

Clarence Gardens' residents David Morgan and Ray and June Evans have both been impacted by harrowing situations. David aboard a boat in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and the Evanses lost their home in Darwin when Cyclone Tracy hit.

But it's not all doom and gloom in this issue as the monthly activities photos attest, so hang in there Villagers, we'll keep getting through this together.

Lesley

Email me:
news@clarencevillage.com.au





The army was in town

With all the flooding emergencies on the Northern Rivers recently, the Australian Army were deployed to help the region cope all the various crises arising from the recent extreme weather event.

While Grafton wasn't subject to the devastation

of some surroundings areas, the officers were here to assist and do safety checks around the Clarence Valley, including a brief stop-in at Stage 2 of Clarence Village where resident Valda Morrison was thrilled to receive a visit from her officer grandson Jamie and his army colleagues.

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.

To all the great Dougherty Villa staff.

I would just like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your efforts over the last few months. You have all worked under extreme difficulties and have gone above and beyond to ensure the residents were looked after and given support to cope with being in lockdown.

It is a credit to everyone that none of the residents contracted Covid.

It has been very comforting for me and my family to know that our mother (Sheila) was safe and well cared for. Thank you all so much.

Best wishes,
Linda Smith

..... Colleen's doubly happy with her win



The new 100 Club competition is off to a flying start and growing in popularity so fast organiser Ros Houlahan is soon introducing a 200 Club to run in conjunction with the 100.

The first round of 100 Club winners were recently revealed and top spot, or more accurately top spots, were claimed by Colleen Donovan (pictured with Ros) who took out both the \$30 1st prize and \$15 2nd while lucky third went to Sheryl McIvor who got her ticket money back.

The second round winners were also announced recently with Joan Want taking out 1st, Roxanne Deece 2nd, and Marie Murray 3rd place.

Each completed 100 Club raises \$50 for the Grafton Community Bus.

A special Easter Raffle will also be running through March/April at \$1 ticket and will be drawn on April 14. Look out for Connections Officer Ros Houlahan and get your tickets now. You've gotta be in it to win it!

Sailing out of trouble

It's been reasonably smooth sailing for Clarence Gardens couple David and Colleen Morgan since they moved into the community six years ago as one of the first arrivals.

And David would know because the seasoned sailor has taken on the challenges of navigating 30-foot (9-metre) seas before.

That was in December 1970 and David, then manager of The Australian newspaper (another story perhaps), had crew experience aboard the yacht known as the *Ilina*, courtesy of the vessel's previous owner, and his boss, Rupert Murdoch.

"It was a beautiful 54ft ketch."

After the boat was sold to a West Australian he had ambitions to enter in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and needed the right people to race it. "Because we were familiar with the *Ilina*, five of us become the nucleus of his crew."

David said the rest of the squad of 15 were made up of "supposedly experienced fellows from Perth."

"I think the extent of that experience was sailing to Rottnest Island and back."

After a week of training together they headed out of Sydney Harbour and enjoyed two days of "beautiful plain sailing" down the east coast making good time somewhere in the first pack.

"We got across and into Bass Strait and it was just coming on dusk. We could see this black cloud coming up on the southern horizon and loomed very nastily until it struck us and we went into a force 9 gale with 30-foot seas."

For reference purposes, the storm event caused similar conditions to the 1998 race that claimed six lives and five yachts.

Luckily, no lives or boats were lost in this race



Clarence Gardens resident David Morgan with some of this sailing memorabilia.

but 14 vessels returned to port.

"We lost radio communication for a period of time and at one stage we were described as lost."

The battles with big seas went on for "the best part of 20 hours". David and the handful of crew who knew what they were doing were taking turns on deck while the remainder disappeared down into the cabins and stayed there.

"We didn't have anywhere to rest or sleep because we were hot-bedding it and we really didn't eat anything during that time."

Then they fell off a big wave.

"We free-fell off the other side of a wave. In seas up to 30ft. Our yacht was 54foot. The fellow helping clung right up the face of the wave and got to the point of no return and fell off the other side. The yacht bow fell the best part of 60 feet." *(continued page 7)*



Dougherty Villa volunteer Zarah helps resident Pat Farrell with colourful jigsaw.



Marcia Muldoon and Carol Finn are monthly high tea regulars.



Lyn O'Hara , Roxanne Deece and Colleen Donovan enjoy a cuppa and chat at the monthly high tea events at the Joan Muir Community Centre.

(continued from page 5) Did you think you were going to die? “Yes”, David said plainly.

He also recalled the damage.

“The planks around the side of the boat opened up so we were taking in water. The mast fell down and was driven straight down into the bottom of the boat. I woke to that terrible noise.”

The core crew’s sailing experience, stamina, and ingenuity working with broken gear saw them finish the race. “I think we came 15th after all that but that was the last Sydney to Hobart I did.”

While all that was going on for two days, Colleen was back home not knowing whether her husband was dead or alive.

“I thought they were lost at sea. David’s mother also had stroke at the same time and our youngest one, the baby, was admitted to hospital with suspected meningitis. So it was not a good week.”



Young David with the Kelly Cup he won.

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Joan Muir Community Centre

Free activities every Tuesday from 10am

TUESDAY
15

St Patricks Bingo

TUESDAY
15

Poetry with
John Sullivan

TUESDAY
29

St Patricks High Tea
Dress up in green.

Please RSVP Ros by
Friday 25th for catering.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

Ros will be at Clarence Village and Clarence on Queen on Tuesday afternoons and Clarence Gardens on Wednesday afternoons.

On Wednesdays at Dougherty Villa, Ros will be connecting family and friend via phone, zoom and emails.

If any of these days change your stage reps will be informed.

Please call or email Ros if you would like a chat or visit. Stay safe.

RSVP to Ros - connections@clarencevillage.com.au or 0478 228 838



Village plans to help the residents of Lismore

Recent flooding across the Northern Rivers has caused catastrophic damage to our neighbouring cities and towns. One of the hardest hit was Lismore who were impacted by the biggest flood on record.

Hundreds and hundreds of households and business have lost everything, many people are now homeless after flood waters reached the rooftops of two-storey buildings, surpassing the city's record 1974 flood level by metres.

The clean-up has only just begun as people try to piece their lives back together. It's going to take months and months of work and support from the government and the community.

Clarence Village staff Ros Houlahan and Vicki Valja are in the process of organising a fundraiser so village residents can do their bit to help their northern neighbours recover and start to rebuild their community.

More details about the fundraiser in our next issue.



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Holiday to remember

Before COVID put the brakes on travel, Clarence Gardens' residents June and Ray Evans had enjoyed the odd holiday.

Besides the usual caravanning and Aussie destinations over the years, the couple have visited the United States on six occasions, namely to see their son and his family who live in San Diego on the West Coast.

But one of the most memorable holidays for the couple was the least likely, one that took them to Sydney to visit June's parents one Christmas with three young boys in tow.

It was 1974 and they left their home in Darwin four days before Santa was due to arrive. "It was the first holiday we'd taken together in years," Ray said.

A few Village readers might have twigged by now why the Sydney trip became so memorable.

When the Evanses woke up in Sydney on Christmas Day they also woke up to news of Cyclone Tracy and the devastation it had just caused their hometown.

"We lost half the house, two thirds of the roof came off and we'd just put a brand new verandah all along the back of it," June recalled.

When Ray returned on January 2 there was a boat in his pool. "It wasn't ours."

At the time Ray worked for the housing commission and was one of the first people allowed back into Darwin after the incident.

They needed me back there to work so I had to leave June and the kids in Sydney.

June returned in March for her work which



Clarence Gardens residents Ray and June Evans recall a few of their travel adventures.

included managing the accommodation for more than 200 police who were assigned there as part of the recovery project.

"When I got back to Darwin there were 29 people living in our house," Ray said. "It was the only one that had a flushable toilet. Us and the local school."

The pair said their house wasn't empty on the fateful night, their house sitters took refuge in the bathroom and survived, which would not have been the case if they were back at their place.

"They were living in a caravan and when they went back to look for it, it was gone. They never saw it again."

June said while the cyclone damage was horrendous, the hardest part of the ordeal was having to leave the three boys in Sydney while they worked and rebuilt the house.

"We didn't see them again until September that year. We were fretting like crazy for them but the kids didn't miss us one bit. They were too busy having a ball with all their cousins and grandparents."



Peggy Garland and Cath Callaghan.

Doing what's right, not what's easy

When you believe, as we do, in putting people first, it's very challenging and difficult for our team to do things like preventing families from seeing each other.

But while the last two years have presented lots of challenges, I'm actually thankful for them, as they've given our team opportunities to demonstrate their strength and character.

Good people make good places and our team has stood up in the biggest moments to do a sensational job.

Someone that has always done what's right but not easy in their time at Clarence Village is Cathy Callaghan.

As ACFI Coordinator, she's taken what is in

some organisations a dry, behind the scenes role and used her passion for people and the written word to make sure our residents get the funding needed for great care.

Through her work Cath not only made sure our residents needs were heard and responded to, but that staff were guided in how to respond to those needs.

Cath's health challenges over the past few years have led to her having to resign, which of course saddens us, but we wish Cath all the best of health and happiness and thank her for her efforts.

Duncan McKimm

Clarence Gardens has plenty of family trees

With a growing waiting list of people wanting to move in, Clarence Gardens, is a sought after destination for retirees and people looking to ease into their twilight years.

Two of the latest arrivals to make it to the top of that list are Grafton couple Keith and Christine Sydenham who moved into the Gardens in December last year.

Keith is a born and bred Clarence kid while Christine is a Sydney girl and still reluctant to apply the local tag because she only moved to Grafton in 1976.

The couple met in Sydney when they both worked for St George County Council, married and started a family before Keith convinced Christine that Grafton was where she wanted to be.

“I was a city girl but when Keith’s sister Mavis and her husband Fred were going to sell the Turf Street Store we bought the shop and moved up here,” Christine said.

After their shop days were done, Christine went to work for Greensills logging contractors and stayed there for next 30 years.

Keith, an electrician by trade, worked at Always Hire, the abbatoirs and was a maintenance man which is one of the things he likes about living at Clarence Gardens.

“You don’t have to do any of that yourself,” he said.

“We have a plumber, a maintenance guy, a mower man that just turns up. You just ring up the manager if you want something fixed. It’s a good set up.”

Christine said she enjoys the community feel of the Gardens and how everyone keeps an eye out for one another.

“You don’t live in each other’s pockets but



Keith and Christine Sydenham are recent arrivals to Clarence Gardens.

when you need people they are there.”

Some of those people include Keith’s sister Mavis and brother-in-law Fred previously mentioned. They also have called Clarence Gardens home for about 18 months.

While they are navigating health issues, Christine said it was good to be close enough to be helpful.

“We go around to their place everyday with the newspaper after we’ve read it and check in with them,” Christine said “We also get an hour’s talk everyday,” Keith pipes up.

Christine said the social activities held at the Gardens every week in their community hall were also a great aspect about living there. “The movie afternoons for the girls, and there’s Friday happy hour. That’s where we are off to this afternoon.”

Flood in images

Photo Contributors: Tim Howard and Duncan McKimm



Storm water flooding in the Dougherty Villa carpark.



Grafton hockey fields.



Water across Bacon Street at the Grafton Army Barracks.



Grafton rowing club.

Around the grounds

The huge amount of rainfall we've had over the summer has had our Groundsman Terrence on the hop trying to keep the lawns under control. The flooding over this last fortnight also made the ground too wet to mow in many places.

Once it dries somewhat Terrence will be back into it, but be aware it will take a month or so before the lawns are looking their best again, as he'll have to mow without a catcher until the length is more manageable.

Thanks for your patience.





February 26



February 27



February 28



Flood levels start to drop at sailing club.

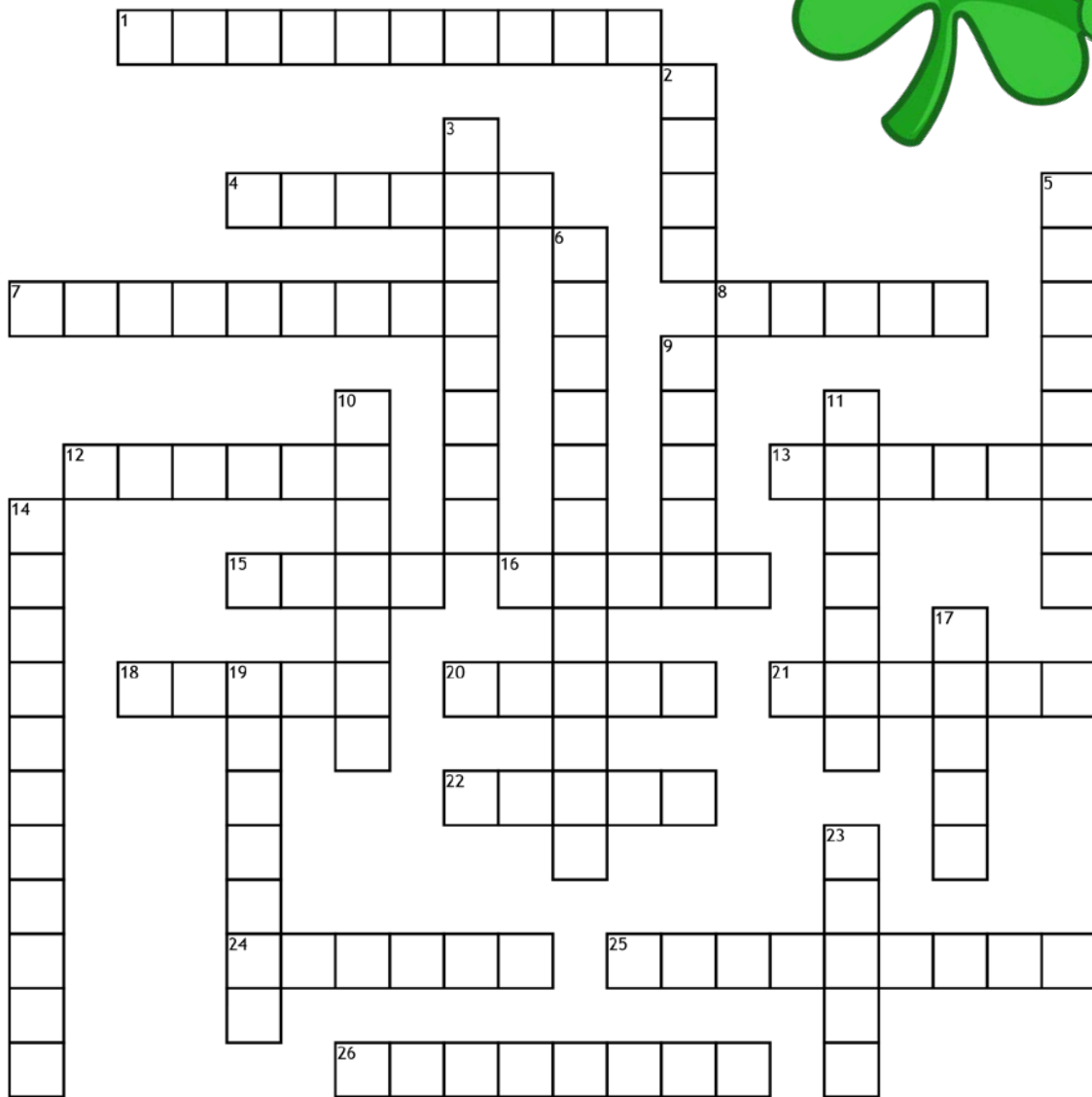


Grafton Bridge.



Crown Hotel in Prince St.

St Patrick's Day Crossword



Across

- 1. A mischievous elf in Irish Folklore
- 4. A branch of the Indo-European languages that was spread widely over Europe in the pre-Christian era.
- 7. To publicly party
- 8. The Celtic language of Ireland
- 12. A plant of the genus *Trifolium*
- 13. March in a procession
- 15. Something likened to the metal in brightness or preciousness
- 16. A month of a year
- 18. Resembling the colour of

growing grass

- 20. An occasion on which people can assemble for social interaction and entertainment
- 21. A staple food of Ireland
- 22. Occurring by chance
- 24. A story about mythical or supernatural beings or events
- 25. An inherited pattern of thought or action
- 26. Another word for 3-leaf clover

Down

- 2. Invoke upon
- 3. A humorous verse form of 5 anapestic lines with a rhyme scheme aabba.

- 5. A special kind of clover
- 6. Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland
- 9. Any art that invokes supernatural powers
- 10. Achieved independence from the UK in 1921
- 11. An arc of coloured light in the sky caused by refraction of the sun's rays by rain
- 14. The day of the month of St Patrick's day
- 17. A small being, human in form, playful and having magical powers
- 19. Highly valued as a gemstone
- 23. A form of money

Village stargazers - your monthly horoscopes

Welcome to your March 2022 monthly horoscopes by Sunsigns.org. You will get an idea about prospects for finance, love, social relationships, health, travel, and education.



ARIES

You will have minor issues with your finances. You and your partner will enjoy each other's company, and love will fill your life because you have allowed it to.



TAURUS

Remain humble in your interactions with people. Do not allow pride to cause you to look down on people. Love relationships can take a toll on lovers as they are faced with challenges.



GEMINI

Be diligent with how you spend your money this month. You will travel a lot for business purposes. In your travels, you will meet new people and visit new interesting places.



CANCER

March 2022 will see you communicating more with your partner. Family relationships can be volatile. Your health will be excellent, while your platonic relationships with people will improve.



LEO

March 2022 will see you want to become the best that you can be. Focus on the things that matter. Be kind and honest. You need to rest well and take lots of fluids to keep your health in check.



VIRGO

Your family matters a lot to you. This month you will live in harmony with each other. Virgo natives should know that all aspects of their lives will work out fine because the stars are aligned in their favour.



LIBRA

Your career will improve this month because of your hard work and determination. This month will see you take your life into your own hands. Do what makes you happy, and always allow positive energies to flow in your life.



SCORPIO

Do not worry about the things that are not working out in your life this month. Focus on the things that matter most. Be open to making positive changes in life. Love relationships will improve because love is in the air.



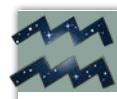
SAGITTARIUS

You have great prospects for health, finances, and career. Things will generally work out for the better in your life this month. Be confident about the decisions that you have made in life.



CAPRICORN

Family matters will not cause you headaches this month. When it comes to your health, you will need to take care of some things. Be keen on the things that go in your body. Ensure that you rest well and eat a balanced diet.



AQUARIUS

This month will see you enlarge your social circle. Interact with different people and learn great things from them. The first few weeks of the month will see Aquarius men finding love. They should, however, be careful not to rush into things.



PISCES

Your finances will be in check because of the financial discipline you have mastered. Family life will be a bit challenging because you and your spouse and not seeing eye to eye.

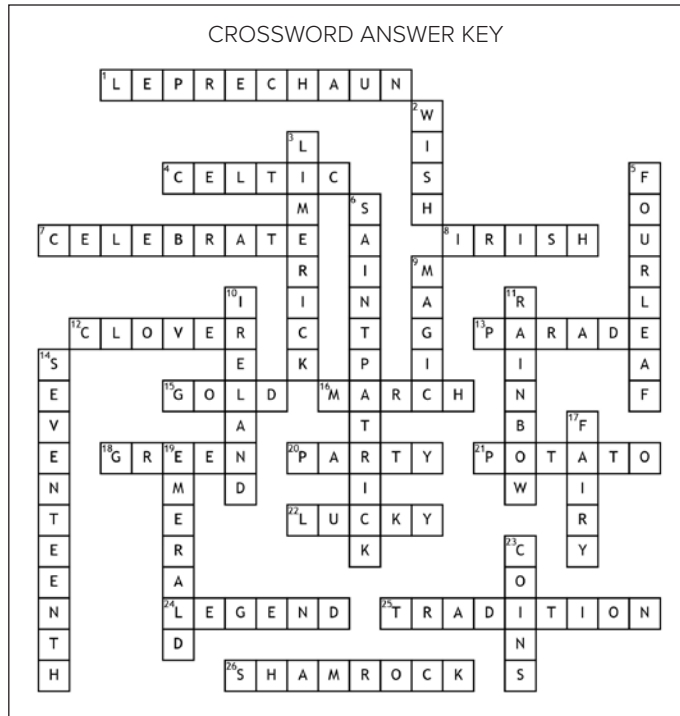
Footy is back!

Footy tipping is back and will be one competition across Clarence Village in 2022. With almost 230 residents, 120 staff tipping NRL and AFL this is a big undertaking, so we're going digital to help make the collection of tips manageable. Due to the floods we'll be starting the comp from round 2.

Each comp (NRL & AFL) costs \$25 to enter but you don't have to tip in both comps. To participate go to footytips.com.au, create a profile and search for Clarence Village AFL (password Village2022AFL!) or Clarence Village NRL (Village2022NRL!)

If you aren't able to enter your tips online, please get in touch with us at footytipping@clarencevillage.com.au or contact Bryanna at Dougherty Villa 6643 2377 to talk about how you can still take part.

Prize money announced next month.



Clarence Village

100

CLUB

1st PRIZE	2nd PRIZE	3rd PRIZE
\$30	\$15	\$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.



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