



# Village Voice

Your monthly Clarence Village community newsletter

FREE



Clarence Village residents Karlie Stockton, left, and Marcia Muldoon got into the spirit of 'Jacaranda' at the recent festival-themed high tea at the Joan Muir Community Centre. Karlie even made a special purple cake for the occasion.

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## Happy Jacaranda villagers

Purple is in the air in Grafton once again, and the Clarence Village is not one to miss an opportunity to celebrate.

The high tea crew were at it again with their Jacaranda themed event at Joan Muir Hall where residents spent the morning reminiscing about festivals gone by, sharing personal recollections while community connections officer Ros Houlahan read out some fascinating history about the event. Village poet John Sullivan wrapped things up with a delivery of one of his very clever poems, on this occasion, Prince George: Words from the Royal Crib.

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# A note from the Village CEO



It's wonderful to see more freedoms returning as the level of community vaccination against Covid 19 continues to climb. With over 90% of our community expected to be double-dose vaccinated by Christmas, it goes to show you that community spirit and collective action are possible in this day and age.

It also goes to show that younger people can be relied on to care for their elders – something we see everyday in our work when teenagers and young adults provide terrific care with wisdom beyond their years.

I think we should be particularly thankful that we live in such an authentic and genuinely caring community. I also think the pandemic has caused something of a reassessment of the power, value and importance of community in our lives. I hope that insight isn't lost as we move past the tragedies and inconveniences of the past years. As we build a new normal on the other side of the pandemic, we'll find the issues and challenges facing the needy in our community (particularly the aged) are not only still there, but have become more difficult. We'll need that community spirit to conquer them.

Kind regards,  
Duncan McKimm

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# Happy Jacaranda season

Where did October go? Next, we will be welcoming that big guy in the red suit but before we do that, we all know the colour of the moment is purple.

This time of year the town turns 50 shades of mauve so we thought Issue 3 should also follow suit and get into the spirit of Jacaranda season.

While the festival itself will be held in December because of that COVID conundrums, for the jacaranda trees it's business as usual so we have paid tribute to those beauties in this edition.

We also feature the only member of jacaranda

royalty in the village (page 5) as well as another pretty special lady who holds the title of the most senior village resident.

There are also more staff milestones, footy tipping champions and a special story on Dougherty Villa celebrity feline Sylvester the cat. If you know him, he's sure to love the attention.

Hope you enjoy this issue.

*Lesley*

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



# Time old Tradition

Grafton's jacaranda season is in full swing as the city explodes with purple thanks to its famous trees. While the festival program has been postponed to December for the first time due to the pandemic, other traditions like the crowning of the Grafton Clock Tower are lighting the way. The tradition of adorning the clock tower goes back to 1953 when it was decorated with flags and bunting along with a huge crown to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Each year the tradition of the crowning continues to signal the arrival of the festival. Photo: Lesley Apps



## New club for film buffs

join us @ **graffton library** for

**vintage film club**

**bookings essential**

your library is starting a monthly film club to help our community stay social and connected.

join us in watching a classic film, with this month's being 'what we did on our holiday'. after the movie you can enjoy a guided film discussion, free morning tea, and vote on the film for next month.

**refreshments provided**

**book here**



**wednesday 1st december**  
**10:30am - 12:30pm**  
**graffton library**

Proudly funded by



www.clarence.nsw.gov.au

Grafton Library | libraryevents@clarence.nsw.gov.au | www.crl.nsw.gov.au | (02) 6641 0100

While the Grafton Library is well known for its books, come December you can also enjoy special film screenings.

The inaugural Grafton Library Vintage Film Club kicks off on December 1 with the feel-good festive movie 'What We Did On Our Holidays' starring Billy Connolly.

This film club was developed by the library to help members of our community engage with each other socially.

After the screening, moviegoers can enjoy a discussion about the film and what they would like to see on the program in the future.

Refreshments, including coffee freshly-brewed using the library's new machine, will be provided.

Clarence Village residents are most welcome to attend but bookings are essential. Book your seat on 6641 0100.



*Clarence Village's most senior resident Doreen Sheehan turns 104 in November and she couldn't be happier. Pictured with Doreen is her 'baby' sister Shirley Craig.*

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## Life's busy when you're 104

A life well lived is a life worth living, and if the photographs on Doreen Sheehan's wall are anything to go by, she has certainly lived up to that. Motorbikes, Hawaiian bands, adventures. It's all up on the wall.

The self-confessed "recycled teenager" turns 104 this month reclaiming her title of the most senior of the village.

The former daredevil has quietened down since her last few birthdays when she took a joyride in a plane and rode on the back of a Harley Davidson, so when asked what she had planned this year her baby sister Shirley piped up "don't put any ideas in her head".

The Dougherty Villa resident said she was excited to have another birthday "I wouldn't mind a nice cake" but doesn't think about getting any older.

"I just think about things I'd like to do," she said.

While her prolific crafting days are now behind her, Doreen loves playing bingo and housie, her favourite thing, getting her nails done.

"She never did that in real life," Shirley said while Doreen held out her lovely manicure job in the shade of jacaranda.

Shirley said her older sister's positivity had travelled with her throughout life "accepting everything that has come her way without dwelling on things too much. We both love to have a good laugh."

And that includes when planning her own funeral.

"We've been talking about Doreen's funeral for four years now. She wanted a raft, set alight and pushed out into the Clarence River like they do in India. But that's not legal," Shirley said while Doreen giggled.

And while there isn't enough space to write about a life this big, there also wasn't enough time, there were art classes to go to and people to see.

"When you want to get something done, you do it," she said heading out the door.

# Queen-elect Claire's royal awakening

With close to 300 residents living around Clarence Village, odds are you might find some genuine royalty in the mix.

Ninety-two year old Dougherty Villa resident Claire Smith can lay claim on that title, having been crowned Jacaranda Queen in 1947

The process, then known as the queen-elect, meant Claire was chosen by a committee.

"My parents were asked would I be willing to be Jacaranda Queen. There was no competition back then," Claire remembers. "They knew I had the confidence and knew about local history so they said yes."

Claire's father was well known Grafton chemist WEO Steffensen "a quiet, hard working man" and her mother a "Red Cross lady" and former World War 2 nurse "who brought home the troops".

She said there was a lot of work, done mainly by her mother, so she could meet the requirements of the time. "Mavis McClymont organised the whole thing."

In those days the royal process started on the Friday night and finished with the crowning on the following Thursday at the Grafton Showgrounds.

"I had to have a new outfit complete, hat, bag, gloves, dress, brand new for every function I went to and there were 60 in the week (she said she may be exaggerating but there were a lot).

"My mother organised two dressmakers in town, a lady in Dovedale whose daughter did beautiful work. She ordered so many dresses from her and also bought some from Myer in Melbourne as well as bits and pieces locally."

On crowning night Claire remembers wearing an outfit the committee had hired from Brisbane, a gown made from stiff water wave taffeta and a heavy cape with faux fur trim. (Claire says her memory isn't good but these details say otherwise).

"My crown though," she laughs, "was made from genuine jacaranda blossoms, so of course by the time the night was over, they were all wilted and drooping."



*Dougherty Villa resident and jacaranda royalty Claire Smith (Steffensen) gets into the spirit of the season. Mrs Smith was crowned Jacaranda Queen in 1947 when she was 18.*

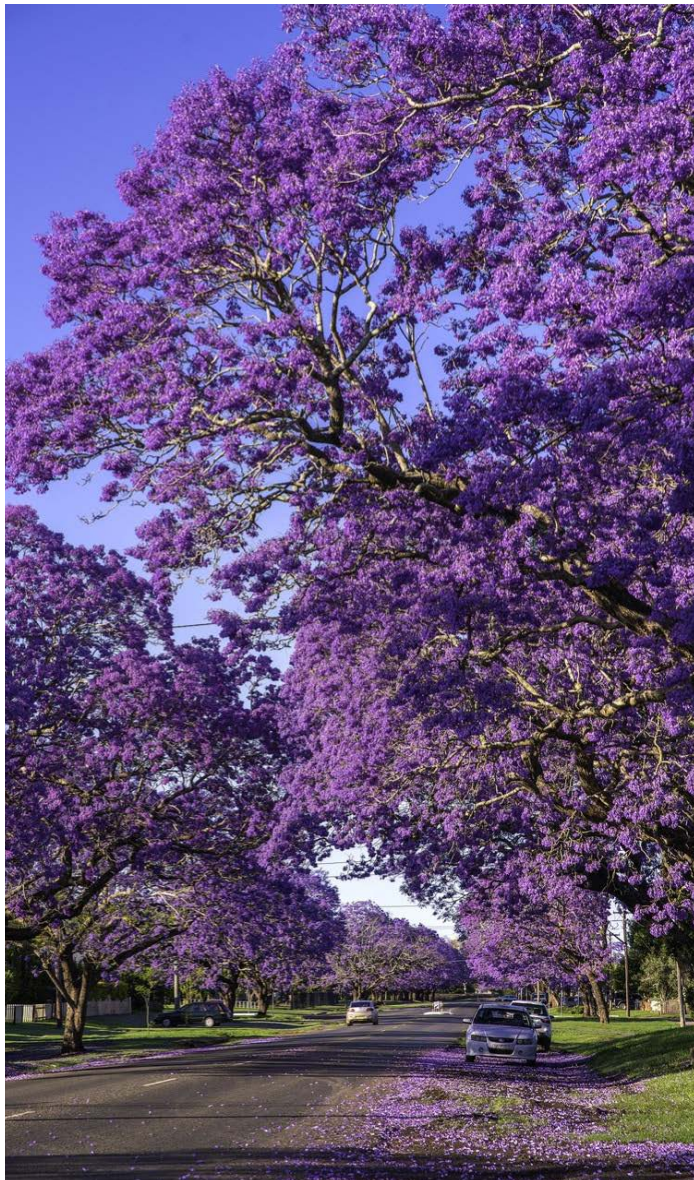


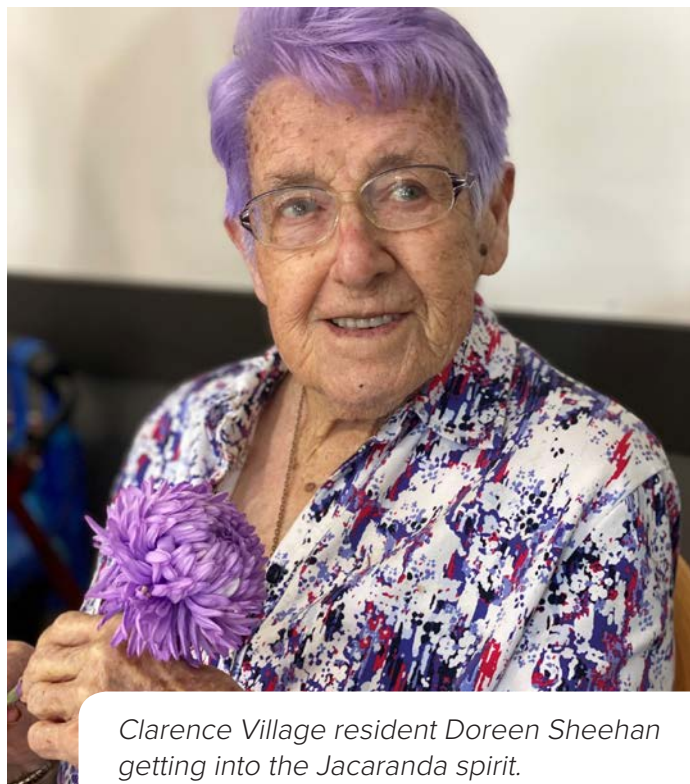
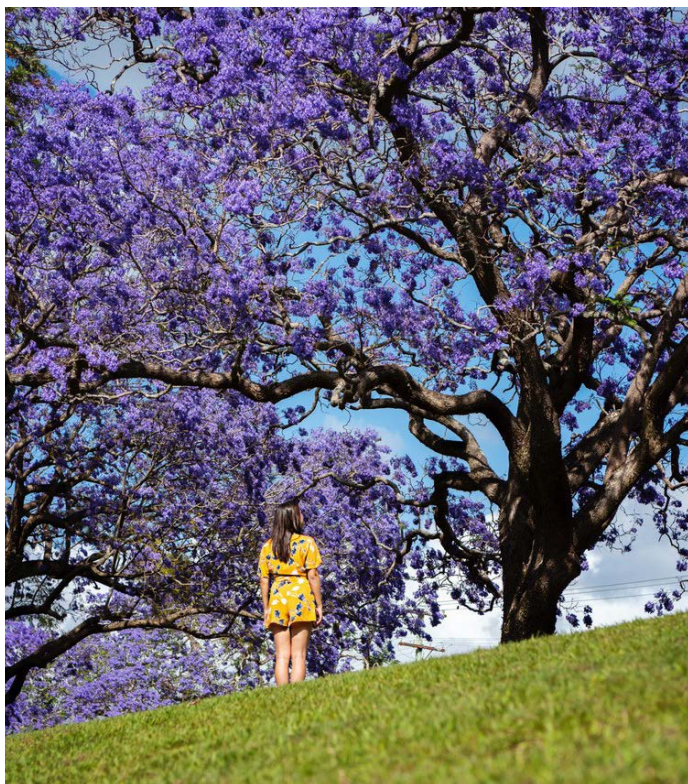


# Purple people greeters

Photographic tribute to Grafton's beautiful jacaranda trees.

*Photos: My Clarence Valley/Clarence Valley Council*





Clarence Village resident Doreen Sheehan getting into the Jacaranda spirit.

# WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

## Joan Muir Community Centre

Free activities every Tuesday from 10am (note change of time)

TUESDAY

9

Games  
(charades,  
word, and trivia)

TUESDAY

16

Knit and Natter  
(BYO hobby or  
just come and  
chat)

TUESDAY

23

Hoi  
(card game)

TUESDAY

30

Hawaiian  
morning (cold  
drinks & food,  
no high tea).  
RSVP by  
29/11/21.

## November Bus Trip

THURSDAY

11

Bus trip to  
Ulmarra area  
leaves 1.30pm.  
Book your spot  
with Ros.

## Clarence Village on Queen

Free activities every Tuesday from 1.30pm - 2.30pm

TUESDAY

9

Bingo

TUESDAY

16

Hoi  
(card game)

TUESDAY

23

Wrapping  
items for  
Tombola  
Game\* (play  
next week  
30th)

TUESDAY

30

10am Hawaiian  
morning Joan  
Muir Centre  
1.30pm  
Tombola Game  
in Pergola

## Remembrance Day

THURSDAY

11

Lest we forget.

\*Tombola Game:  
Buy a ticket and  
win a mystery  
prize

RSVP to Ros - [connections@clarencevillage.com.au](mailto:connections@clarencevillage.com.au) or 0478 228 838



*Dougherty Villa resident Sylvester the cat has been living the life of Riley (as the expression goes) since he was adopted by staff six years ago.*

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## Sylvester: top cat of the Villa

If you weren't quite sure who the boss was around Dougherty Villa, then you haven't met Sylvester the resident cat.

The 13-year-old feline has lived a charmed life at Dougherty Villa for the past six year after being adopted from Happy Paws animal shelter at age 7 by Pat and Trish on page 11.

If you are a Villa regular, you might see him waiting at the automatic doors staring at people in the hope someone for someone will trigger them open; or walking down the red line of the hallways, the safe spot away from the mid-lane foot traffic and wheelie walkers.

Sylvester has his favourites residents, the ones who like him and have nice fluffy blankets down and the ones who he stays clear of.

Once he learned a hard lesson when he accidentally hitchhiked to South Grafton in the back of a worker's ute. After missing for some time and the search party looking on the wrong side of the river, his Villa fame saw him spotted

by a Southside resident and he back home again. Scrawny and hungry enough eat eight meals at once, Sylvester bounced back and has never strayed far since.

Why would you when you have 74 beds to choose from?



*Dougherty Villa regulars will be familiar with the sight of Sylvester the cat waiting at the automatic doors for someone taller to open them.*





Clarence Village has brought three generations of the Tees-Morgan family together, from left, Kim Morgan, Shirley Tees and Karen Morgan.

## Intergenerational care

Having the same family members working at Clarence Village isn't a rarity but when three generations are in the same place, that's worth trumpeting.

"Three generations are here but only two are working," soon to be Clarence on Queen resident Shirley Tees said with a smile.

Shirley was staying at Dougherty Villa for some respite ahead of the move into her new place in Clarence Village having recently made the big move into town from the family farm.

While she was getting accustomed to her new urban surroundings, she said it was a little easier given her daughter Karen Morgan and granddaughter Kim are both part of the personal care staff team there.

Team leader on the Magnolia Wing, Karen started at Dougherty Villa in 2015. The then registered nurse at Grafton Base made the move into aged care after looking after her father when he was unwell.

"I think that's when mum decided she'd rather concentrate on the caring side of her nursing role more, so here she is," daughter Kim said.

Seeing her mum enjoying her work at Dougherty Villa so much, Kim, who was qualified hairdresser, decided to follow in her mother's footsteps into aged care last year.

"Every time someone asked mum about her work she said how much she loved it. I was getting tired of hairdressing and thought I'd try something else. Mum dropped my resume in here and I got a call about a trainee position."

While Kim works evenings and Karen does mornings, they were both happy their mum and grand mum Shirley would be closer for visits.

And while Kim won't be looking after her nan as such, she put her arm around her nan and said it was the reason a lot of people end up working in aged care.

"It can get people into caring roles, especially if they've been looking after someone they love."

The monthly birthday gatherings at Dougherty Villa always pull a crowd. Here's the gang from the Waratah Wing enjoying their lunch time treats while simultaneous celebrations for all the October birthdays were held at Rose Cottage and in the Hibiscus/Magnolia wing dining room.



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## Word Search: Melbourne Cup



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

- Prize
- Hats
- Stirrups
- Hero
- Jodhpurs
- Horses
- Excitement
- Saddle
- Glamour
- Boots
- Whip
- Fence
- Bridle
- Fashion
- Gambling
- Trophy



*Dougherty Villa duo Trish Morgan and Lynette Page have worked together for 20 years, both starting on the same day in 2001.*

## Two decades of work and friendship

Lynette Page and Trish Morgan's 20-year friendship may have been written in the stars, but it was cemented at Dougherty Villa.

Before the pair even started there, they were working for the same company in Grafton — Telstra, but didn't know one another.

That was in 2001. Not a good year for New York or telecommunications as the women soon found themselves jobless after the company cut staff.

Like a lot of local job hunters, they heard about work at Dougherty Villa through word of mouth, sent in applications and fate was sealed.

"We were interviewed the same day, started our new jobs on the same day (October 29) and have been friends ever since," Trish said.

Neither of them knew much about aged care when they arrived but that all changed quickly.

"I was doing one a day week in the laundry

and was offered PC (Personal Care) work. At the time I thought 'what's PC work?'. I thought it meant professional cleaner," Trish said.

Between Lyn and Trish they've worked cleaning and kitchen shifts, out on floor doing PC, as a recreational officer, in administration and on overnight shifts. They also both studied and gained their Aged Care certificates.

Now in semi-retirement, Trish and Lyn feel like 20 years has flown by, and although not working together as much, their social life outside is still very active.

"We have barbecues and coffee dates, and been to Brisbane and Sydney for a few shows," Trish said.

Then women have loved the working environment of Dougherty Villa, and seen a lot of changes over two decades of aged care.

"It was a bit of shock coming from sitting in front of computer screens to showering residents. I quickly learned what PC meant," Trish said.



*Cathy Callaghan, Fairlie Slater and Suzie Hudson*

## All you have to do is ask

While it can be challenging being a “stand-alone” operator in an industry that’s very tightly regulated, Clarence Village has many advantages as a community owned organisation.

We’re advantaged in providing good quality care and housing for seniors because our team and residents are all part of the same community – which greatly improves the quality of the feedback we get.

Our staff frequently care for friends and relatives, so the line between action and reaction is extremely straight.

Through the course of the covid pandemic though, we found we needed more ways to gather feedback from residents, their families and our staff, as many of our usual opportunities for interaction have been hard to come by.

So Clarence Village has implemented a system called CarePage, which allows people to provide feedback directly to us through an

online form, including anonymously if they choose.

This system sends all complaints, compliments and suggestions directly to our CEO, Duncan, who makes sure issues are dealt with promptly by the right person.

It’s an important part of demonstrating our value of Respect – we listen.

We’ll be using this system to make sure we’re providing a good place to live for our residents and to work for our staff.

Because all you have to do is ask.



*CarePage QR Code.*

*You can scan this code to take you directly to the online feedback form.*

# Village stargazers - your monthly horoscopes

Welcome to your November 2021 monthly horoscopes by Sunsigns.org. You will get an idea about prospects for finance, love, social relationships, health, travel, and education.

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## ARIES

Harmony and enjoyment will be in store for married couples. Singles will find love mates during the second half. Health prospects are delightful. Family environment will be congenial.



## TAURUS

Romance will pick up after initial hiccups for married people. Single persons will be fully immersed in their love affairs. Health conditions will be average. Finances are not encouraging.



## GEMINI

Marital life will be disturbed by professional obligations. Old flames may light up the life of singles. Children will excel in their activities. Chronic ailments will disturb health conditions.



## CANCER

Marital harmony requires more socialising to improve the bond. The last week of the month is propitious for love relationship of singles. Family affairs present a rosy picture. Health prospects are fabulous. Finances are a bit tenuous.



## LEO

The second half of the month is encouraging for love for married couples. Venus will help singles to get love mates. Health affairs will not present any problems. Family environment is turbulent.



## VIRGO

Love life will be enjoyable with the support of the beloved. Singles will get good love partners. No major health issues are expected. Finances present a bleak prospect for business people.



## LIBRA

Marital life will be blissful with good understanding. Singles will attract love by their charisma. Family environment will be full of conflict. Health will be exceptional without any major hiccups.



## SCORPIO

Romance and passion will dominate the married couples. Singles will get love mates without any hassles. Health prospects are highly beneficial. Family affairs will be volatile. Travel engagements will bring good gains.



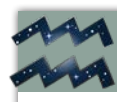
## SAGITTARIUS

Spouses will play a dominant role in the marital happiness of couples. Singles will find love at the end of the month. Health will be fabulous without major hurdles. Family affairs are depressing.



## CAPRICORN

Married life can be stressful during the first fortnight. Single may get love partners during the third week. Health will be marvellous. External influences create problems for family. Finances will be wonderful.



## AQUARIUS

Married life can be made enjoyable with some flexibility. Singles will get lovers in their social circle. Health affairs are encouraging. Family atmosphere will not be cordial. Travel activities will result in good monetary benefits.



## PISCES

Life of married couples will be delightful. Existing relationships will be confirmed by singles. Health condition will be fantastic. Family environment will be stressful.

# It's Quiz Time

In which Australian states can you find these towns:

1. Yamba
2. Gin Gln
3. Broken Hill
4. Kalgoorlie
5. Coober Pedy
6. Launceston
7. Port Fairy
8. Strahan
9. Hall
10. Arthur River



Yamba's Main Beach.  
Photo: Simon Hughes Photography.

## Answers (and interesting town tidbits):

**1. Yamba (NSW)** – of course you know where Yamba is, it's about 70km from Clarence Village towards the coast. The quiet fishing town boasts awesome surf, beautiful weather and a laid-back pace that sparks comparison to Byron 20 years ago.

**2. Gin Gln (QLD)** is a small rural town located on the Bruce Highway in central Queensland, approximately 50km west of Bundaberg and 370km north-west of Brisbane. The town owes its existence to its strategic location about halfway between Brisbane and Rockhampton.

**3. Broken Hill (NSW):** Known for its silver mines, the quirky town of Broken Hill has more

pubs per capita than just about anywhere else. It's the home of the School of the Air -- a "classroom" that transmits lessons by radio to communities spread over thousands of miles of Outback.

**4. Kalgoorlie (WA):** This is it, the iconic Australian country town. Vibrant Kalgoorlie sits on what used to be the richest square mile of gold-bearing earth ever. It still pumps around 2000 ounces a day out of the ground.

**5. Coober Pedy (SA):** Because of the intense summer heat, and because the inhabitants who've spent their lives excavating opal mines are pretty handy when it comes to digging out underground passages, the townsfolk here have created a subterranean town -- the biggest in Australia. Even the churches are underground.

**6. Launceston (TAS):** Tasmania's second city is packed with Victorian and Georgian architecture and remnants of Australia's convict past

**7. Port Fairy (Vic):** Victoria's oldest port offers a

taste of the Irish in a traditional fishing town. It was a favourite hunting ground for whalers and sealers in the early days, and then a destination for Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine back home.

**8. Strahan (Tas):** Strahan is located 300km north-west of Hobart. It lies at the northern edge of the wild, savage and unspoiled beauty of Macquarie Harbour. It is the last town on Tasmania's west coast. The British brought their most hardened criminals to Sarah Island in Macquarie Harbour and the result was a penal colony of unimaginable hardship.

**9. Hall (ACT):** Hall is a small village in the north of the Australian Capital Territory. At the 2011 Census, the village had a population of 332 people. It was founded in 1882, named after the first landholder in the area, Henry Hall.

**10. Arthur River (WA):** Arthur River is a small town located in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia, named after the river that flows through it (a headwater of the Blackwood River). The river was named by Governor James Stirling in October 1835 after Arthur Trimmer who was a member of the his exploring expedition.



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## Clarence Village Annual General Meeting

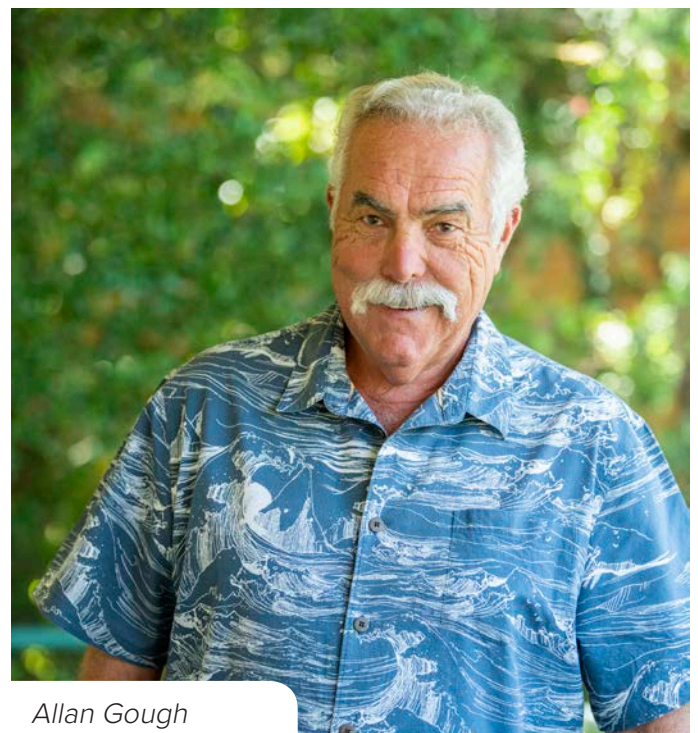
Clarence Village's Annual General Meeting on 1 November saw the retirement of long-serving Chairman Geoff Shepherd, with Deputy Chairman Mark Dougherty stepping into the top job.

Geoff will continue to serve as a Board member and Allan Gough has moved into the Deputy's role.

Clarence Village's board members have provided over 60 years of service to the organisation – we're very lucky to have such dedicated directors.



Mark Dougherty



Allan Gough



## Winners are grinners

Here are the top three tippers in this year's footy tipping competition. Keep an eye out for details of next year's tipping competition which will be released once finalised.

### Dougherty Villa resident tipping comp winners

1. John Treacy – Magnolia Wing
2. Jim Armstrong – Waratah Wing
3. Len Wadling – Waratah Wing

### Staff tipping comp winners

1. Suzie Hudson – Hibiscus Wing Team Leader
2. Andrew Busch – Maintenance Manager
3. Duncan McKimm – CEO



*Better than cartoons – Lucy McKimm, daughter of CEO Duncan, enjoying Issue 2 of the Village Voice*



**Clarence  
Village**

### 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)