



Village Voice

Your monthly Clarence Village community newsletter

FREE

Celebrating the first anniversary of the Village Voice at Clarence on Queen Street are from left: residents David Barlow and Barb Melbourne, editor Lesley Apps, designer Tanya Kelly, resident Ron Clare and CEO Duncan McKimm.



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Looks who's turning one

Can you believe the Village Voice has already clocked up a year's worth of issues?

Neither can we but it was definitely cause for celebration with a lovely big cake and some of the players involved in its production, getting together with a few of the Village Voice's avid readers to mark the occasion.

We look forward to another year of telling your stories and covering all the happenings around the Village. Read more about the Village Voice's first year on page 3.



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A note from the Village CEO



How quickly the milestones roll around - so much has taken place in the 12 months since we first printed the Village Voice for the first time. It's a credit to Lesley and Tanya that the Voice established itself as a part of Village life so quickly.

Over the last year we've celebrated, mourned and borne witness to huge events like the floods and Covid. I think the Village Voice has certainly achieved the modest but important goal we had for it, of connecting the different parts of the Village together each month.

I'm sure the Village Voice will continue to be a valued source of news, levity and a way of recording the history of our community in real time. Here's to another great year!

Kind regards,
Duncan McKimm



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Voice for the village community

As you may have gleaned by now, the Village Voice is celebrating its first year of publication this issue.

Despite the ups and downs of COVID, the monthly editions kept coming thanks to all of the wonderful residents and staff who stopped to chat and share their news and stories (and let me take their photo).

Before working on the Village Voice, I didn't really have much to do with residential and aged care bar covering a handful of 100-year-old birthday stories for the local paper.

Now after a year of being privy to the inner

machinations of Clarence Village and Dougherty Villa, I can see how incredibly inspiring it can be.

It's been a real pleasure to get to know the wonderful people of Clarence Village and hope to meet many more of you this coming year.

Feel free to email:
news@clarencevillage.com.au
with your story tips.

Lesley



We've only just begun: Village Voice's first year



It's been a big 12 months of news and story-telling for the inaugural year of the Village Voice.

The importance of connection has never been more apparent than during the past two years.

While things are mostly returning to some kind of normality, there was one constant since arriving in the Clarence Village community 12 months ago, a regular presence throughout all the ups and downs of the past year.

The Village Voice is officially into its second year of publishing with this September issue, so to honour the mini milestone partaking in some reflection and a quick stocktake of what it has brought into residents' lives, can't hurt.

Over the past year there have been:

- 118 stories and articles
- 280 different photographs
- 24 puzzles, quizzes and horoscopes
- Two elections (council and Federal), a funding announcement, major flood, Anzac Day, racing carnival and floral festival covered
- All across the 118 pages published

Most of the stories feature residents (as it should), followed by staff and activities, as well as keeping you up-to-date with all the crucial Village information including the latest footy tipping results.

We've celebrated achievements, marked milestones, and said goodbye to many familiar faces (including a famous feline's) many of whom have appeared in these pages.

More importantly, we got to know some of our Village people a little better, which is what The Voice is all about.

We look forward to featuring a whole new bunch of stories and people over the next 12 months.

Happy anniversary readers.



Cheers to Dougherty Villa's George Smith who recently turned 100 and has the newspaper article to prove it.

Cheers to George's milestone year

Dougherty Villa resident George Smith has had a big year.

Not only did his family and friends help him to celebrate his 100th birthday on March 1, the Royal Australian Air Force also honoured the milestone in July, an event so significant, it made the local paper.

Tasmanian born George joined the RAAF as an 18-year-old after World War 2 broke out.

After qualifying as a flight mechanic, he spent two years in the tropics, in Labuan and Morotai Island in North Borneo, working as fitter to help to keep those legendary Kittyhawks in the air.

Following the war, George returned to domestic life, marrying Joan and raising four children on the Apple Isle before changing directions and heading to Lightning Ridge to

give opal mining a go.

Arriving in the Clarence Valley around 20 years ago, George wasted no time in joining the Grafton RSL Sub Branch.

After his wife Joan passed away in 2017, George spent his time with family members and attending sub branch gatherings.

At July's branch gathering he was "over the moon" to be presented with a special framed memento honouring him as a RAAF centenarian from Group Captain Iain Carty, a Senior Australian Defence Force Officer from the Amberley RAAF Base in Queensland.

"It's a wonderful recognition of George's service to his country," sub-branch secretary Denis Benfield said at the presentation.

Job fit for a PM

Clarence on Queen Street resident Ron Clare is a relatively new arrival to the Village, the 92-year-old moving into his place in May bringing a story-telling acumen that would out class adults half his age.

Ron has enjoyed an illustrious career in the liquor industry as well as a swag of other jobs as a young man, but one of his most interesting appointments occurred in across 1949-1950.

The disillusioned carpenter chucked the trade in at 21 before heading to his uncle's cattle station at Tullymorgan for a change of scenery. Seventeen months passed and a concerned Mr Clare thought his son was in a rut. "So he said to me, do you want a job. Sir Earle Page, (then also managing director of The Daily Examiner where Ron's father worked) , his driver sacked himself so he needs someone to take him somewhere.

"I was 21 and adventurous so I said why not."

When Ron went to see Sir Earle "he looked down on me and said can you drive?"

"I said I sure can and showed him my licence and he said right, I want to leave this afternoon."

Ron said that was the kind of pace Sir Earle kept. "He had three rules he followed all his life. Do it now. Do it now. Do it now. He was a man who did everything with speed. He talked quickly, walked quickly, thought quickly."

When Ron was his driver, Sir Earle was "probably in his late 50s, early 60s."

"He was a doctor of medicine, brilliant surgeon, prime minister for 19 days and for 40 years he held the seat of Cowper now Page. He formed Country Party and was on the war cabinet during WW2 supported by the Prime Minister Mr Menzies when Churchill was PM (of England) at the time. He was a brilliant man and great orator. Smartest fellow I've probably met."



Clarence on Queen Street resident Ron Clare used to be a driver for former Prime Minister Sir Earle Page.

Ron said Sir Earle had two vehicles both "very little used".

"He had a '47 Pontiac, very long car, what you'd see on the TV in those days (American) with beautiful big white bone steering wheel (right hand drive) you could steer with your finger. That was for NSW. Then there was a grey '48 Dodge practically new registered in Queensland for incognito running."

Ron said they would travel there a lot to visit Sir Earle's dairy farm 16 miles west of Gympie. They would also travel to various Queensland senators' places and stay. "I remember staying with Tony Anthony at Coolangatta. His young son everywhere. His name was Doug."

Despite hanging around all the political powerbrokers of the day, Ron said Sir Earle "really looked after me."

Story continued page 11

Cream of the crop

And just like that, the seedlings that were lovingly planted and tended by the Dougherty Villa gardening squad a couple of Village Voice issues ago have responded with a bountiful display of goodness destined for the Villa kitchen our residents' plates.

Purple was a reoccurring theme with the winter vegetable harvest that included giant cabbages, jacaranda-coloured cauliflowers, beetroot, silverbeet, and those hugely expensive and sought after lettuces.

The crop rotation will continue with new season seedlings sown in preparation for the warmer weather ahead.



Resident Ernie Really gets some weight-lifting practice in courtesy of this jumbo cauliflower grown in the Dougherty Villa courtyard garden.



Jim 'Broncos' Armstrong and Ramon Wilson show off the huge purple cabbages from the Dougherty Villa courtyard garden.



Gardening gurus May Orr and Vi Shanley show off the spectacular purple cauliflower grown in Dougherty Villa's recent refurbished market garden.



Jim Armstrong with the iceberg lettuce haul supplied by the Dougherty Villa garden crew. Must have a street value of at least \$500.



The Dougherty Villa gardening crew show off the bountiful produce destined for the villa kitchen: Ramon Wilson, James Armstrong, Rita Battye, May Orr and Miriam Collison.



Ramon Wilson gets down to the beets and gives them the thumbs up.



Special delivery: Rita Battye's wheelie walker also makes a great garden cart for transporting produce.



Garden transport worker May Orr looks pretty pleased with the walker-load of Asian greens ready for delivery to the kitchen.

Queen Street a hive of activity

Trees are wonderful things until they get too big for their surroundings.

At the Clarence on Queen apartments there were roughly 6-7 large overgrown trees that needed to be trimmed for safety and to reduce the structural impact on buildings.

The village's maintenance men were faced with an enormous job and it took a few weekly meetings to brainstorm some ideas about the best approach and most cost-effective way forward.

But as the famous saying goes “where there’s a will, there’s a way”.

The Village reached out to local high school McAuley Catholic College, and they very generously volunteered some of their students for the working bee. They helped the maintenance team with the removal of green waste after Rob, Ryan and Terrence took care of the major tree-logging and cutting down.

Throw in a farmer with a cattle truck to take it all away and the job was done.

Thanks to everyone involved. It was an exceptionally exhausting but very satisfying day. And what an amazing bunch of kids. Clarence Village can't thank them enough for all their help.

Special thanks also to the wonderful Sean, Darrell and Tracey who made sure everyone was well fed and watered on the day.





Clarence Village



1st PRIZE

\$30

2nd PRIZE

\$15

3rd PRIZE

\$5

**Tickets
\$1
each**

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.

Out and About



Clarence Village resident Molly McArthur celebrating her 90th birthday with friends and family at the Joan Muir Hall.



Father's Day raffle winners

- 1st prize: Mary Austin
- 2nd Prize: Ron Clare
- 3rd Prize: Ron McClymont
- 4th Prize: Bob and Trish Cummings
- 5th Prize: Irene and Barry Mathers
- 6th Prize: Billy Read

- 7th Prize: Molly McArthur
- 8th Prize: Penny White
- 9th Prize: Irene and Barry Mathers

Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to everyone who supported the raffle.



“ At Dougherty Villa, we believe everyone deserves great aged care, regardless of their bank balance.

We're community-owned and save half our rooms for pensioners because we believe everyone in our community deserves great care.

Don't think you can't afford the best – call us today to discuss how we can care for you.



Clarence Village | Dougherty Villa

Ph: 6643 2377 | www.clarencevillage.com.au

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“I ate with him when we were away. He treated like one of his own. When I was with him it was Doc, when we were in company it was Sir Earle.”

After two years of driving the now newly appointed Minister for Health, Ron was offered a job on his staff and told him to think about it for two or three months because “you never know what you’ll get into.”

Ron didn’t go back, instead swayed to take up taxi driving before his long career in the liquor industry revealed itself (that’s another story).

“I did look back and regretted it for a while. What I could have done (working with Sir Earle). I’m not saying I could have been Prime Minister,” he laughed, “But I’ll never know and my life has been pretty good since.”

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.



Philip Ledingham, Keith Wright and Bob Booth man the barbecue at the monthly Grafton Midday Rotary Club men’s lunch at Dougherty Villa. Club members host and sponsor the popular social event for residents on the first Thursday of every month.

Busy month of August

A monthly wrap-up of what's been happening around the village and what's in-store.

Calling all green thumbs

Would anyone like to adopt a village garden?

There are two gardens at the front of Joan Muir Hall that desperately need some TLC. With help from our gardening guru Ryan, we are after someone that would like to take on this garden, all plants will be supplied. Please contact Clarence Village manager Penny if you are interested.



Christmas is coming

As Christmas is just around the corner we have set dates for our Clarence Village and Clarence on Queen Christmas parties so save the dates for a wonderful festive time.

Clarence Village Christmas Party will take place on December 12, 5pm at Grafton Racecourse.

Clarence on Queen Christmas Party will take place on December 19, 5pm at Grafton Racecourse.

Concrete plans

NJS Concreting has been busy putting in new footpaths for Stage 1 residents. The paths will run from the front and back doors of residents' units to meet existing paths. This will make it safer for everyone to move around.

RIGHT: The new footpaths going in at Stage One will make it safer for residents to move around.





Stage 2 updates

Clarence Village Stage 2 garden work commenced September 5 — stayed tuned for its progress in the October issue.

The Stage 2 laundry recently had a much-needed facelift. Thanks to the maintenance crew for creating a more appealing and practical area for our residents. We will also be incorporating a notice board at each Village Stage to post information for residents. (Thank you to the resident who suggested this great idea).

TOP LEFT: The new notice board area installed at Stage 2 laundry area. The rest of the village stages will follow suit.

BOTTOM LEFT: The nifty new laundry set up at Stage 2.



Caring conversation

Clarence Village Co-ordinator Libby Shearer has been visiting “The Gardens” to talk about Advanced Care Directives with residents and provide information on the process involved. Look out for Libby and find out more about the benefits of having a care directive in place.

ABOVE: Co-ordinator Libby Shearer talks to Clarence Gardens residents about the benefits of having an Advanced Care Directive in place.

Village stargazers - your monthly horoscopes

September will be filled with happiness and joy for members of all 12 zodiac signs. You will generally be happy through this period though you will face some challenges here and there.

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ARIES

This month will be full of blessings. Health will be excellent, and you will have great relationships with loved ones. Be open to communicating your feelings and emotions to people that know your worth. Trust in your abilities and yourself.



TAURUS

Always listen to your instincts and do as they tell you. Surround yourself with people that influence your life positively. You may face some challenges with family members. You need to walk with others and learn new ways of doing things.



GEMINI

Predictions foretell a period of bliss and happiness in your life. It has been a while since you were happy. Take every chance you can get to spend time with your loved ones. Do not let anything get the better of you when you know you can do something about it.



CANCER

Your health will be delicate; you need to ensure that you do everything possible so that things do not get out of hand. Even though you can achieve things independently, you need to be willing to get the help you need from the people that care.



LEO

You will face some challenges with your health. You need to work on restoring your health to what it was before. Focus on strengthening your immune system by keeping fit, taking enough fluids, and eating a balanced diet.



VIRGO

Family life may pose some challenges because your children are behaving out of the ordinary. The economy is yet to get back on its feet; therefore, money matters will be challenging for the better part of the month.



LIBRA

Always accept support from your loved ones and work towards making your health better. This month you will suffer from minor illnesses that you will be able to manage.



SCORPIO

Appreciate the blessings in your life and be glad of your achievements. You should be proud of the person you have become. People are happy to associate with you because of your positive influence. Always be optimistic.



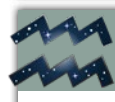
SAGITTARIUS

You will face challenges in many aspects of your life, but you should never lose hope. Always be proud of yourself for everything that you have achieved in life. Be a good example to your children because they look up to you.



CAPRICORN

This month will see you opening up to positive changes in your life. You need to embrace changes if you want to make your life better. Listen to your instincts and follow your heart. This way, you will be able to make the right decisions in life.



AQUARIUS

You will enjoy good health for the better part of the month. Do not worry about the things that you have no control over. Many positive changes will take place in your life. Be ready to embrace them.



PISCES

Extended family members may get on your nerves this month. Keep away from negative thoughts and you will be surrounded by positive energies. Good luck will follow you this month, and you will achieve great things. Your health condition will be blissful.

NRL Word Finder

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

Panthers

Cowboys

Sharks

Storm

Rabbitohs

Broncos

Eels

Roosters

Raiders

Sea Eagles

Dragons

Bulldogs

Warriors

Knights

Titans

West Tigers

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		L						T			D	S	R
		E						S			I	E	R
S	R	S	E	R	S	T	E	R	O	S	A	H	E
T					Y	E					B	R	T
H		S	G	S	O	D	L	L	U	B	D	N	I
G		N		B				R	I	G		A	T
I		A		W				A	T			P	T
N		T		O		O	G	E				S	
K		I		C	H	O				A		E	
		T		S	N							W	E
				S	R	S	O	R	I	R	A	S	W



Somewhere over the rainbow

Well, we know where that pot of gold is. On either side of the Grafton bridge it seems.

Village Voice editor Lesley Apps captured this magical rainbow display down on the riverfront after a recent afternoon storm and thought it

was a lovely way to conclude this anniversary issue of the Village Voice.

“Rainbows signify hope and new beginnings, and after the two years we’ve just had, who doesn’t need a dose of that.”



**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