

Paradise Press



2023 in Review

This is a special edition of our Paradise Press newsletter where we get to look back at the events and happenings at GemLife Pacific Paradise over the last 12 months. Some of it will bring back memories to residents and some of it will show new residents what we got up to in 2023.



Ladies Lunches



Over the year, there have been many ladies lunches

All of them noisy and fun!



Having fun at Happy Hour – come and join us



Unfortunately, not everyone is able to find the Joker, but we did have winners. Only people present on Friday night are eligible to try and find the Joker. So the jackpot amount continues to build until it is discovered

Did you know that it costs us residents about \$20,000 a year to service our insurances, liquor license, IT costs and other resident extras?

We know that not everyone can come to Happy Hour for a number of reasons, but if you can come then you will join with us for the fun as well as the community benefit.



February Floods

What wonderful community spirit exists here at GemLife Pacific Paradise!

It was well and truly displayed as neighbours banded together with all manner of equipment to clear the flooded roads after the recent deluge. Do you think the big kids enjoyed playing in the rain? The flooding was caused by drain filters being blocked. These have now been rectified!



Spish splash, we were taking a bath, In the street on a Friday night . . .

March



An enthusiastic group of residents hopped on the bus on Friday April 8th to enjoy a day of barefoot bowls and lunch at Coolum Beach Bowls Club. From all accounts, a good day was had by all and thanks go to Steve Turk for organising the outing.





Black & White movie at the Majestic Theatre, Pomona

On Saturday 10th June, residents enjoyed a visit to the Majestic Theatre in Pomona, to watch the hilarious silent movie 'Lights of Old Broadway'.

The Majestic is Queensland's only continuously operating picture theatre and the only one in the world to continuously show silent movies.

Ron West, the 90 year old organist, not only played the organ brilliantly throughout the movie adding drama and romance, but regaled us later with the fascinating history of the theatre and organ.



Pamper Raffle Night

June

Congratulations to all of our raffle winners at the Pamper Night. I think some of the blokes need the Pamper Packs desperately!



Grand Opening of the Second Art Exhibition

Thursday 22nd June 2023

Jude

We had about 50 people come to the Exhibition of works by our resident student artists. Such great talent on display!

We are all indebted to Jude, our multi skilled teacher.

Thank you to those who helped provide food and drink



Gregbrandt



Winning painting – Frank's

Paints
in Water Colours by
Frank Vanderhorst



27th July 2023



What an absolutely fabulous time we had at the Maroochy Bridge Hotel to celebrate Christmas in July. In all, 70 residents made the most of our time together with plenty of laughter and noise.



A great big thank you to the Social Committee for organising this wonderful event. We also appreciate the HOC and Gemlife for subsidising the majority of the costs so that we could enjoy ourselves at a very reasonable price.
This is an example of putting our profits back into the community for practical outcomes!



Volunteer Appreciation Afternoon 10th August



A big thank you to the HOC for putting on an appreciation afternoon for our volunteers here at Pacific Paradise. We have a number of people who support our community by volunteering their time and talent in many different ways. We would love to have more people volunteer and share the work and fun around.

Positions Vacant There are opportunities available for new volunteers for next year. There are always bar staff needed and other social events positions. If you are interested please see an HOC member for contacts.

Helpful Information for new residents

Due to our solar systems, you should use your dishwasher, washing machine, etc, during the daylight hours to minimise your electricity bill.

Did you know that you can program your water heater to come on during sunlight hours, thus minimising your electricity costs?

As we are a cashless community, payments for the bar, events and raffles are all made via your villa card, which you can top up with your credit card.

The HOC has a list of volunteers who can assist you with home maintenance, meals, transport, etc - if you ever need help.

If you are on the pension, you may be eligible for rent assistance on your site costs

Produce from the community gardens can often be purchased (gold coin) at our Friday night Happy Hours

The coffee machine at the Pavilion is only operated by tokens, which are available for purchase at the bar

Our Home Owners Committee

Our new HOC

Mary Earnshaw
(Ex President)

Graham
Butler (Acting President)

Jill Rickertt
(Secretary)

Jim
Walsh

Tanneke Booth
(Treasurer)

John Harvey, Glen Hall and Sonia Smithers were unable to be at the meeting

29th August

Congratulations to our newly elected Home Owners Committee (HOC)

On behalf of the residents, we want to thank the HOC members who have served us so well over this last 12 months.

We appreciate your efforts.

The HOC are volunteers who give up their time to work on our behalf and it sometimes can be a frustrating and thankless task. This year will be a big year for the HOC as we have to fit out the new Clubhouse and they will be lobbying to try and get all the features that we expect. In addition to this, they will be trying to seamlessly integrate our new residents. So please ensure you give the HOC your full support.

DAFFODIL DAY FUNDRAISING

31st August



*Pictured is Wendy and Gail handing over a cheque to the Cancer Council of Queensland to the value of \$2,420. Well done to the whole team that put on the **Daffodil Day** event and to everyone that attended and contributed.*



Navigating cancer together.

Anyone can call our 13 11 20 Information and Support line to talk about anything to do with cancer.

In 2022, donations to the Cancer Council made an impact:

- 1,700 hours of free counselling were provided to those affected by cancer.
- 3,537 guests stayed at our free accommodation during treatment.
- 2,200 wigs and turbans were provided and fitted for those experiencing hair loss.
- 181,000 km of transport services including lifts to and from treatment were provided.
- 395 marquees were gifted to protect Queensland children from harmful UV rays.
- \$8.52 million in cancer research funding was raised.

Gemlife Games

The Gemlife Games was held on the 8th September at Gemlife Maroochy Quays.

Thanks to John 'Emu' Kirkby for coordinating the gathering of our teams to represent us in the events.

We had teams or individuals in:
PICKLEBALL, LAWN BOWLS, TEN-PIN
BOWLING, POOL and GOLF SIMULATOR



We may not have brought home any silverware but we had fun and we looked cool!



The style and grace of a true champion



Some of our team and supporters

In 2024, when we have experience on our own Gemlife equipment, we will be able to give the other locations a run for their money!



On Father's Day 3rd September, the Spud Man served up great meals for all

46 residents enjoyed a Fathers Day get together at the Pavilion whilst enjoying Kev's delicious 'spuds'.



As well as the great events that our Social Committee organise, there are a number of like minded people who get together for ad-hoc events.

One such group got together for the Pirates of Penzance play.

There are so many things to do here if you want to be involved.

Log on to our Facebook page or Website for information about such events



Don't forget our BBQ on the last Sunday of each month

We really appreciate Glenda and her wonderful band of cooks and servers who have worked so hard for us this year



Bingo is held in the Pavilion on the 3rd Saturday of the month

Thank you Dee and Joe for organising it for us

Sisters of India morning tea



20th September

Once again the residents of Pacific Paradise have stepped up to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We really appreciate the work that Sue and Dawn did to organise this event.



The hand made table arrangements were amazing

The Sisters of India raise money to help rescued women fund their own businesses and become self sufficient

Sharon Stevens spoke about the work that the Sisters of India were doing



The display of some of the Sisters of India items that were for sale



Oktoberfest

70 residents enjoyed a wonderful time at the annual Oktoberfest held in the Pavilion.



A spectacle of blue and white adorned the Pavilion and many guests dressed in the traditional colours

Dee entertained us with an Oktoberfest trivia and all guests merrily joined in singing with Mario Lanza the traditional drinking song.

A wonderful time was had by all.

A big thank you to Sue and her team for organising this for us





ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

Neil Underwood, the owner of Underwood Jewellers in the Plaza, gave an interesting presentation on jewellery and reviewed the bling that was brought in by residents .

He spoke about each of the jewellery item's true value, the importance of insurance and how to keep jewellery looking it's best.

Thank you Jude for organising this event



RAFFLES AND PRIZES

This year we have given out hundreds of dollars in raffles and prizes. Congratulations to all of the winners.



Thank you Glenda and team for all of the work put into the Numbers Board and the prizes during the year.



Melbourne Cup

A great time was had by all those who were watching the Cup on the big screen up at the Pavilion. Congratulations to all the winning punters and also to the competition prize winners

Thank you to Sue and the team for organising the event and Steve for the sweepstakes



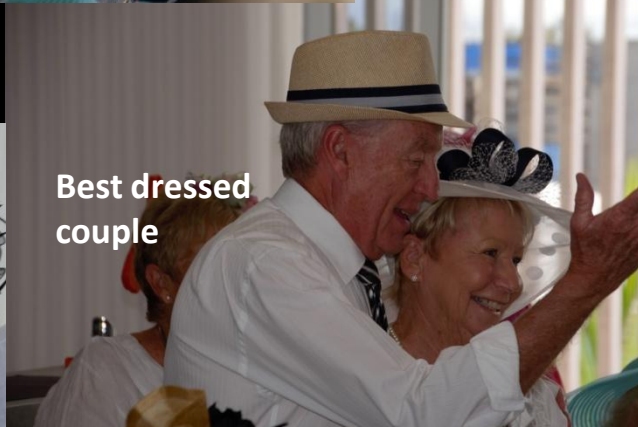
Not all the punters were happy!



Plenty of dress ups for the occasion



Best dressed lady



Best dressed couple



Dodgy looking bagman



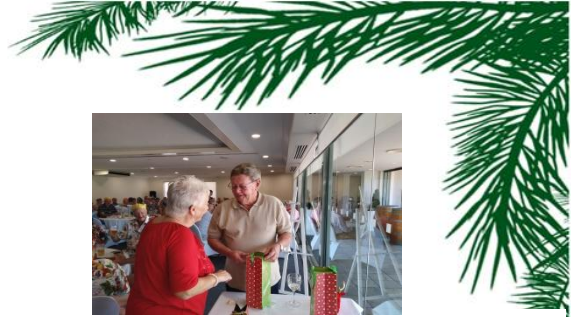
Movember

This year, the participants in the Movember fund raisers were able to present a cheque to the Movember Foundation for in excess of \$3000. Well done to the participants but especially to all those who donated to this worthy cause.



The big 'shave off'





CHRISTMAS PARTY



What an amazing time we had at the Twin Waters Golf Club on 7th December. The food was great, the service was great and there were a number of lucky door prizes given out.



A big thank you to Sue, Jude and the whole team that put this together.

Lorei and I would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Please remember the Reason for the Season



Featured Special Interest Groups

Here at Gemlife Pacific Paradise we have a number of special interest groups, which will only grow as we get new facilities and we also get more people into our community.

Currently we have groups that cater for Cycling, Community Gardeners, Craft, Art , Bible Study, Zumba, Aqua Aerobics, Ukulele, Mahjong, Pickle Ball, Stretch and Strength, Ladies Poker, Men's Poker, Craft Beer Appreciation, Canasta, Karaoke and Bingo

So we have something for everyone!



A big shout out and thanks to the following groups for their efforts this year:

BAR STAFF

To Heather and her team we thank you for raising a profit of over \$16,000 for the 2022/23 financial year

BOTTLE COLLECTORS

To Ross and his team, we thank you for having raised \$16,000 in cans and bottles

Communications

We cannot end the year without thanking some of our many volunteers who organise events for us and keep us informed as to what is happening.

Social events emails from Lynn Roper

Our residents website which can be accessed at : glpp.com.au

Our Facebook group can be accessed at :

[GemLife Pacific Paradise Residents](#)

(Please register with Tanneke Booth to join the group)

HOC Updates will be sent out by the HOC Secretary: Jill Rickertt

Social Committee:

Sue Story – Villa 23 **Convenor, Events**

Lynn Roper – Villa 40 **Communications**

Greg and Lorei Blunden – Villa 38 **Newsletter**

Glenda Larsen – Villa 31 **Events, BBQs and Raffles, etc**

Dee Beath – Villa 24 **Bingo**

Jude Hall – Villa 15

Wendy Potter – Villa 42 } **Events**

Bring on 2024!