



# The Age of Enjoyment

ENJOY LIFE WITH THE LATEST NEWS AT OAK TREE

FREE

FEBRUARY Edition | 2011

## High and Dry SAFE AND SOUND

During the recent January floods throughout Brisbane & North Queensland, Oak Tree Retirement Villages fielded a lot of calls from concerned friends and family about the safety of our villages and welfare of our residents. We are happy, & very lucky, to report that all of our villages were unaffected by the floods & remained high and dry at all times.

"Like most people, we watched as the water levels rose but remained quietly confident that our villages would be safe having built our villages according to the council regulations and recommendations concerning the Q100 flood lines," said Oak Tree Director Marco De Pasquale.

Whilst all Oak Tree Retirement Villages avoided any flood danger, three Oak Tree villages were in areas hard hit – Warwick, Goodna & Rockhampton.

"We took all of the necessary precautions to make sure our villages & residents were prepared should water pose a threat."

"Some Oak Tree residents in Rockhampton, at the advice of the local & state governments evacuated their homes to stay with family just as a precaution, however, returned home only days later happy to see everything was how they left it.

"We, as a family of villages, have been extremely fortunate to escape this hardship, however, many around us, are still suffering," he said.

Oak Tree is doing our bit to help, having established, as part of our Trust Fund, a flood relief fund to help aid flood victims.

"We have put the challenge out to all of our residents to dig deep for this appeal.

"As we have done in the past, Oak Tree head office will match dollar for dollar the amount raised by our residents & staff with all monies being divided evenly between two of the most affected areas – Rockhampton and Goodna," he said.

Monies will be donated to the "Ipswich Mayor's Community Fund" as well Central Queensland Flood Appeal & go towards helping to re-build homes and businesses & get our local communities back up and running.

"The way Australians have rallied together to weather this natural disaster has been truly magical to witness. However, as life returns to normal for most, there is still much work to be done and we must not forget those who continue to struggle today & tomorrow as this long clean up process continues.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS FOR THEIR KIND GENEROSITY, AND TO ALL OF THOSE WHO SENT THEIR SUPPORT AND THOUGHTS DURING THIS TIME.**



Flooding around Rockhampton. Park Avenue Village remained dry.



Water flowing into the Condamine River. Warwick Village remained above the flood peak.



### This Quarter We Welcome

#### VILLAGE : BORONIA HEIGHTS

Blazenia Muzik  
Carol Anne Aston  
John & Pat Roydhouse

#### VILLAGE : GOODNA

Christopher Wells  
David & Dorothy Oxley

#### VILLAGE : PARK AVENUE

John Bennett  
Leila Nugent

#### VILLAGE : CAIRNS

John & Sharon McLeod

#### VILLAGE : SKYE

Helen Winnell  
Judith Watson  
Kenneth & Margaret Chadwick  
Maree Howard  
Mary Margorie Cerchi  
Tom & Marie Fearn

#### VILLAGE : YEPPOON

Patrick & Yvonne Wilson

Rae & Donald Goody

#### VILLAGE : WARWICK

Daphne May Cross

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the latest edition of 'The Age of Enjoyment'.

As I write, we have just learned that our Oak Tree village in Cairns has escaped damage from the ferocious Cyclone Yasi. This was a great relief to all of us in the Oak Tree family – we were obviously very concerned for our wonderful residents in the village as well as our management team of Troy, Cathy and Charlie. These guys in cooperation with the Cairns residents were extremely well prepared & we are immensely proud of how the disaster was handled before, during & after the event. Oak Tree Cairns proved a very safe place to be during the cyclone. We are also very grateful to our residents who were terrific throughout the ordeal. Well done Troy and the team!

Unfortunately, the news was not all good for people living in places like Tully & Mission Beach – many have lost their homes and businesses & our thoughts go out to these people.

Of course Cyclone Yasi comes at the end of a most extraordinary month of natural disasters. It's hard to imagine that only a few weeks ago we watched Rockhampton flooding closely followed by Warwick & Brisbane. Fortunately, Oak Tree villages in all of these locations were not affected by the flooding - Again, Oak Tree Villages proved to be very safe communities in the face of looming disaster.

I must make mention of our Village Managers in these flooded areas – Jenny and James in Rockhampton, Tarn & Ben in Yeppoon, Anna in Warwick, John and Merrilyn in Brisbane all maintained a very professional approach to possible disaster in their villages right through the ordeal.

The feedback from residents has been overwhelmingly positive in respect of their efforts & we thank them sincerely. We launched a flood relief initiative to help those who were affected by the flooding & will continue to think of them as they rebuild their lives.

Our Head Office staff is also to be commended for their response to our various challenges through the last month – we indeed have a great team and we are grateful to them all.

Tarin our Marketing Manager has launched our new website after a great deal of work over recent months – the result is outstanding in our opinion and she is to be congratulated for her work. Please visit us at [www.oaktreegroup.com.au](http://www.oaktreegroup.com.au) if you haven't for a while.

Welcome to our newest residents & staff members – as the Oak Tree family grows we all have the opportunity to contribute to making our villages the best they can be for our residents.

We hope to open new villages in 2011 in Cardiff (Newcastle), Armidale, Orange & Inverell. Peter Haley, our newest Village Manager helped us launch Kingston (Hobart) in November – early indications are that this will be a very successful village under his direction. Melissa Luck joins us also – Melissa will assist our prospective residents through the arduous home selling process. She is most experienced & will fulfill a critical function for the group.

Amongst the testing list of recent events lies a very positive outcome for Oak Tree – our villages provide safe & secure environments for our residents particularly during challenging times. We have a great management team empowered by us to do whatever it takes to support our residents. We have excellent insurance against disaster events to provide peace of mind. We'd love to have you come to the village again to consider this terrific lifestyle.

We wish you all the best for 2011

Cheers,  
Mark Bindon





# BORONIA'S Three MUSKETEERS

"THE NEED FOR COMPANIONSHIP IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST TRIGGERS CONVINCING SENIORS TO MOVE TO A RETIREMENT VILLAGE AND THIS IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HOW WONDERFULLY THINGS CAN TURN OUT - WHEN I HEARD THIS STORY I HAD TO SHARE IT," MARKETING MANAGER TARIN COLE - BOYLAND

When Betty, Nancy and Norma first moved to Oak Tree Retirement Village Boronia Heights, they didn't know anyone & wondered if they would ever be able to fit into the village and make new friends.

But almost instantly a charming friendship blossomed between the three women and it has been difficult to separate them ever since. It was Nancy's daughter who started the introductions, having met her mother's neighbour, Norma, one afternoon. The ladies all came to the first craft session the following day and all found they shared a lot in common. "I even discovered that I knew Norma's brother from the church I attended years ago," said Betty. "It is such a small world."

"Ever since moving into the village we have always looked out for one another, we are like the Three Musketeers!" she said. The ladies spend most of their spare time together, visiting one another, or just socialising in the community centre.

"The best thing about our friendship is we can say anything to each other and we don't take offence," says Nancy. "We are also comfortable around each other, and it has made the move to the village much much easier." After losing her husband, Betty found that life was a big adjustment but having such good friends around her has made her life very fulfilling.

"I don't think that any of us thought that we would find such supportive friends in the village, or this late in life," said Betty. "We are truly blessed and we all know that making the move to the village was the right choice for us."

All ladies moved into the village to be closer to their families and also enjoy a low maintenance lifestyle. "This was important to us at our age," said Betty.

The three can regularly be heard in bouts of hysterical laughter from within the community centre.

# Resident Profile



**Kieth Cherrie**  
Oak Tree Goodna

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Q. What do you love most about Oak Tree?                            | A. Watching TV.   |
| A. The living conditions  | Q. What is your favourite food?                                   |
| Q. What would you say to someone thinking about moving to Oak Tree? | A. Chicken Meals.   |
| A. Move here quick - there are some villas available now.           | Q. Where would you most like to travel?                           |
| Q. What words best describe Oak Tree?                               | A. Scotland & England.  |
| A. Best atmosphere and security.                                    | Q. What is something special about you that not many people know? |
| Q. What did you do as a job?  | A. I am a golf player on a very low handicap.                     |
| A. Royal Navy Officer WWII & Korean War.                            | Q. What is your favourite book?                                   |
|   | A. The bible.   |

# KINGSTON OPENING OUR BIGGEST YET



The long awaited Oak Tree Village in Kingston (TAS) finally opened its doors in November at an open day unsurpassed by any other.

"We knew there was demand in the area and that we would be busy on the day, but the sheer number of people through was extremely overwhelming and gratifying - we had our busiest day yet!" said Oak Tree Director Marco De Pasquale.

Approximately 400 people came to view the furnished display and support the project. "All feedback was also extremely satisfying with many personally mentioning that more of this type of development is needed in Hobart," said Marco. "This pleasing response shows the incredible demand for our product which aims to provide quality and affordable homes and care-free lifestyle to over 55's." The village boasts breathtaking views of the mountains and country-side and will ultimately include 54 villas to be built over several stages.

To come later will be a large community centre boasting an activities area, hair salon, media room, computer room and library; not to mention outdoor facilities including a bowls green.

The public can view the display villa any time from 8.30-4.30 pm Tuesday to Friday. Phone Peter on 1300 367 155 for an appointment.



DRESSED IN ALL THINGS RED, WHITE AND BLUE, AND OF COURSE, IN A PAIR OF OLD COMFY THONGS, OAK TREE RESIDENTS STOOD UP AS PROUD AUSTRALIAN'S AT CELEBRATIONS HELD FOR AUSTRALIA DAY.

Never needing much of an excuse for a party, or a delicious "Barbie," residents across the board went all out decking out the community centres with all things Australian - from brightly coloured table cloths, Australian flags strung left, right and centre, streamers, balloons, even the dinnerware was Australian.

"Our residents had a great time goofing around wearing funny Aussie-flag glasses, joking with each other and of course, enjoying some great food," said Boronia Heights Village Manager John Elder. While some villages had a fairly relaxed easy going day (so typical of the Aussie laid back style), others had full days planned with games to keep everyone entertained.

Oak Tree Park Avenue residents had a costume competition with their "Gold Coast Metre Maids" voted best dressed.

"And just for the fun of it the residents all decided to give each other nick names - some of them hilariously funny and well suited," said Park Avenue Village Manager, Jenny Brown.

"We had a Trevor Done-with-it (Trevor Dunnett), Pam Shake-a-leg (Pam Shanahan), Mr and Mrs Harassment (Clive & Doris Harris) just to name a few."

Residents laughed themselves silly playing scenes from the hit TV show "Thank God You're Here" as well as taste testing damper to pass judgement on the villages "damper cooking" competition.

A great day was enjoyed by all who participated in the celebrations. It is fair to say the Aussie Spirit is alive and well at Oak Tree.

# NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

After much planning & collaboration, we are proud to re-launch our new website - [www.oaktreegrup.com.au](http://www.oaktreegrup.com.au)

We know that making a move into a retirement village is a big decision. This is why we aim to give you as much information as possible, at your fingertips, to allow you to make the right decision, for you.

The website has alot of newly added features which we believe will help make it much more user friendly. You can now locate information on each of our villages, including price lists, floor plans, photo galleries, & even watch videos or see what fun our village residents are getting up to.

We will also be able to provide you with up-to-date news via our News web page, and weekly updates on activities happening within Oak Tree.

Over the coming weeks even more pages will be added so make sure you visit us regularly.

We also have a facebook page so "like" us on facebook for up to the minute news & special offers.



# CYCLONE YASI: CAIRNS IMPACT

MANY ARE THINKING FIRST THE FLOODS, NOW CYCLONE YASI - WHAT A START TO 2011 - BUT LUCKILY OAK TREE RETIREMENT VILLAGE CAIRNS ESCAPED UNSCATHED.

As North Queensland braced for its worst cyclone yet, Oak Tree Cairns residents were among the many anxious about what the night would bring, however, they remained calm and focused on what they needed to do to protect themselves and their homes.

Residents, with the help of Village Manager Troy Bishop, prepared the village as best they could in the ready for the worst.

With a background in the Navy, Troy put his experience to the test putting in place precautionary crisis plans.

"I presented a cyclone action plan to the residents, outlined our evacuation plans, informed them on how best to secure themselves and prepared them what may lay ahead," said Village Manager Troy Bishop.

"They were nervous, we all were, but at least we were prepared." The village was equipped with all of the necessities including plenty of water, gas and a generator in case power was lost. Troy described the noise as the most incredible sound he's heard.

"It was like a 747 was just hovering above the ceiling, the wind was that strong."

Bunkered down the residents were apprehensive about what they would find this morning, having heard all sorts of bumps and crashes during the night, however, all were extremely relieved that the village suffered no damage at all. "The worst we had was one small palm tree has toppled over," said Troy. "We were lucky - extremely lucky." The overall feeling in the village post Yasi is relief and a sense of gratitude to Troy's experience and obvious capability in this kind of an emergency. "Now hopefully life will get back to normal and we can get on with the construction of stage 2," said Troy. Oak Tree Retirement Village Cairns hopes to have another eight villas complete by April.



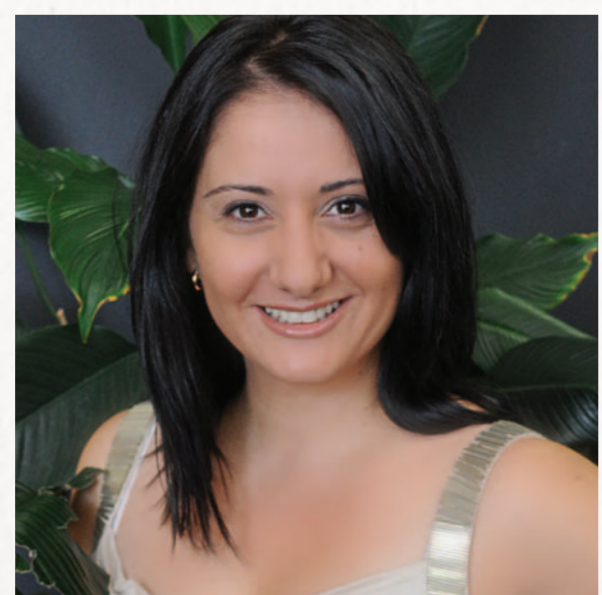
# NEW SERVICE

If you are considering moving into an Oak Tree Retirement Village and you have a home to sell, our newly established sales support SERVICE may be of some help to you. Here at Oak Tree Retirement Villages we are very aware that current market conditions are somewhat challenging at the moment and we want you to know we are here to help. We are proud to bring you Oak Tree Residential Sales.

### THE SERVICE WE CAN OFFER INCLUDES;

- Assistance in choosing a reputable real estate agent or review & evaluation of your current real estate agent,
- Market appraisals & guidance on establishing your sale price,
- Review of marketing and advertising strategies,
- Review and guidance on the appointment of your real estate agent,
- Continuous communication with your real estate agent and reports back to you,
- Assistance in presentation of your home in readiness for sale,
- Thorough understanding of & assistance with the whole sales process, and
- Guidance & recommendations for packing & moving

It is with great confidence that we recommend Melissa to you. So once you choose your villa, and pay your deposit, Melissa will be in contact with you.



Melissa Luck has joined our team to bring you this service. Melissa's aptitude and experience in the real estate industry gives her the skills to partner you during this process providing you with extensive knowledge, understanding and certainty.

# WELCOME HOME DINNER



Oak Tree Park Avenue Residents were treated to a welcome home dinner post a precautionary flood evacuation when the January floods cleared.

Many residents decided to follow state and local government advice and evacuated their homes for their own safety, but all returned only days later to find everything was just as they had left it.

To celebrate Village Manager Jenny

Brown arranged a dinner party to welcome everyone home.

"It was a lovely night with some great food and lots of laughter," said Jenny.

"The mood was certainly light with everyone happy to be safe and sound back in their own homes.

"Many treated the time away as a little holiday, but as they say, there's no place like home," she said.

# YEPPON - ONE YEAR IN and loving it



OAK TREE YEPPON RESIDENTS CELEBRATED THE VILLAGE'S FIRST BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER AMAZED AT HOW QUICKLY THE YEAR HAS FLOWN BY.

The birthday celebrations were held at the Cooe Bay Hall (which was a backup plan due to wet weather) where residents from Yeppoon, Park Avenue and St Matthew's cottages joined in to celebrate this milestone. The day kicked off with two pop quizzes - one being a general Oak Tree knowledge quiz with lots of enthusiasm from all in learning more about Oak Tree and its Directors, the second being on the Yeppoon village in honor of its birthday.

"The residents have a lot of fun with these - I was surprised at how easily we stumped them. No one could tell me my phone number even though it was



right there on the back of the sheet!" said Village Manager of Yeppoon, Tarnya Mayes.

Residents enjoyed a BBQ lunch cooked by Oak Tree Staff, Ben and James, who came along to lend a hand, and filled in the afternoon in with lots of chatting/laughter and raffle draws.

"Our multi draw raffle was another huge success with approximately 60 prizes and \$375 raised for the Royal Flying Doctors Service," said Tarnya.

In just one year the Yeppoon village is going forward in leaps and bounds with over 75% of the village now sold and/or occupied.

"With more and more residents moving in, the village is coming alive with social activity and now has a very homely feel."

# What's On

Visit our website for up to date event information

March 2nd 2011

## OAK TREE RESIDENTIAL SALES MORNING TEA - CAIRNS

Those interested in buying into Oak Tree Village Cairns, and who have a house to sell, may be interested in the services Melissa can provide. An experience real estate agent, Melissa can guide you through the entire sales process. RSVP to Troy on 07 4036 0298.

March 12th 2011

## PRE-RELEASE STAGE TWO VIEWING - CAIRNS

A series of brand new two bedroom plus study villas will be unveiled at the Cairns Stage Two pre-release BBQ. All welcome to attend. 8am - 2pm.

March 26th 2011

## CAIRNS GARAGE SALE

Residents do this every year to get rid of the old and start afresh for the new year. Come along and pick up a bargain or two.

2nd April 2011

## OPEN DAY - KINGSTON

Construction has been motoring along and we now have more to show you. Come along to our open day and see how much we have grown.

For a complete event list for each village, please visit [www.oaktreegroup.com.au](http://www.oaktreegroup.com.au) for weekly updates and additions.

# Ernie's Poem

## OAK TREE HAPPY HOUR

BY ERNIE ROY - CAIRNS

There is a place in this old town  
Where 'Village Folk' seldom wear a frown,  
Contentment seems to reign supreme  
When Village Folk say "How ya been?"

We raise a glass to friends new and old,  
A place to be, from a world so cold.  
The people seem to fit so well  
In this happy place we choose to dwell.

These people weather the "storms of life"  
But, still they care for those in strife.  
A caring 'family', not joined by blood,  
But by kindness shown come fire or flood.

So! Roll on Happy Hour each Friday eve,  
And bring some joy to those who grieve,  
Where smiles and laughter seem to flow

Where Happy Hour is the place to go.

14 OCTOBER 2010

## OAK TREE PHOTOGRAPHY WINS GOLD

Oak Tree Goodna Residents Ralph & Barbara Strudwick had fun playing it up to the camera for a brand concept photoshoot for Oak Tree but never did they realise they would be subject to the critical eye of professional photography.

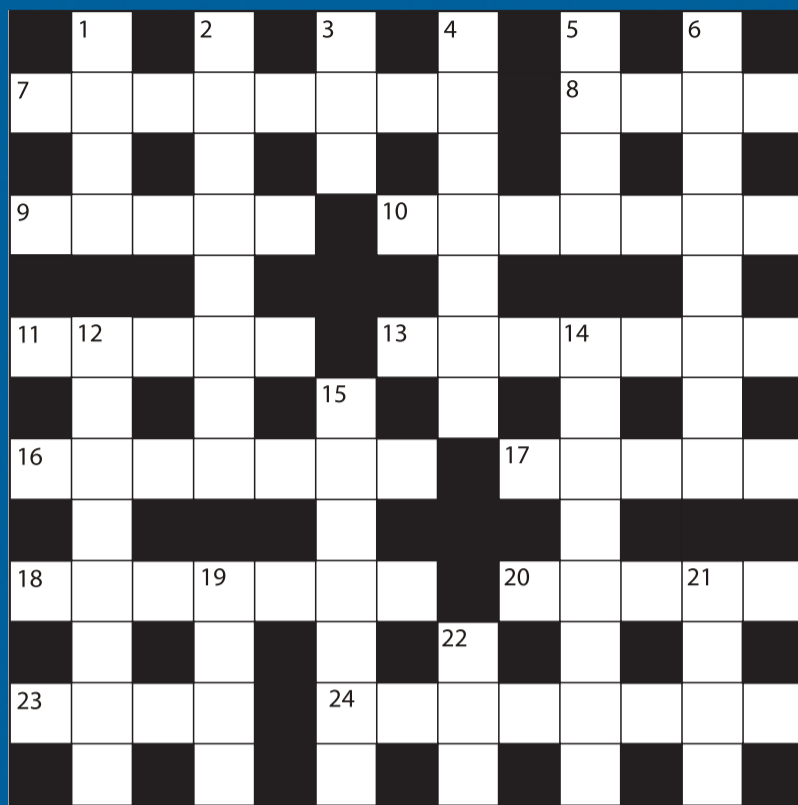
Oak Tree's Photographer, Sean Condon (Media Playground), entered this photo into the 2010 International Aperture Awards and recently celebrated winning gold.

"Well done to Sean, Ralph, Barbara and all of the crew who invested their time and energy into this photoshoot. It's great to see good work paying off," said Oak Tree Marketing Manager Tarin Cole-Boyland.



CREDITS >  
Photographer: Sean Condon  
Hair & Makeup: Steve Mena  
Assistant: Jonn MacIndoe  
Producer: Sean Condon/  
Tarin Cole Boyland

# Crossword



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Be okay for
- 2 Increase in scale
- 3 Type of poem
- 4 A referee
- 5 Supporting underwear
- 6 Interim
- 12 Made holy
- 14 Put in order
- 15 Flower seller
- 19 Fit & well
- 21 Not strong
- 22 Leafy tree

### CLUES DOWN

- 7 Non-resident
- 8 Shipping danger
- 9 Good meat
- 10 A tonic plant
- 11 Not expensive
- 13 Porcelain-like material
- 16 Getting older
- 17 Small river
- 18 Some parents
- 20 White-haired
- 23 Close securely
- 24 An astronaut



## OAK TREE CAROLLERS

Making the most of the festive season, Oak Tree residents from all over attended Christmas carol events - now the most popular social event of the year on the village social calendar.

Dressed in all things red, white, green and flashy, residents came along in droves with carol book and candle in hand to enjoy some live music and carol singing amongst a community of friends.

"Of course, no carol event is ever complete without a visit from Santa & presents for all the grand kids," said Marketing Manager Tarin Cole-Boyland.

Several villages raised money for charity this year and presented cheques to the Alzheimer's foundation, as well as the Leukaemia foundation.

"Oak Tree matched dollar for dollar what the residents raised - it is our pleasure to be able to give back to the community at this time," said Tarin.

Residents danced, sang and, where the wet weather allowed, enjoyed the fresh festive air underneath the night skies.

Oak Tree staff also joined the jolly fun coming together for a staff Christmas party as part of the National Conference held at Spices Clovelly Resort, Montville.

All staff were treated to a delicious dinner prepared by the Oak Tree Directors, followed by dancing, music, even an attempt at learning to play the didgeridoo; only Mark Bindon has any success with this!

Plenty of laughs were enjoyed over some entertaining secret santa presents and celebrations continued well into the night.



## Kate's Joke Corner

Three ladies were discussing the travails of getting older. One said, "Sometimes I catch myself with a jar of mayonnaise in my hand, while standing in front of the refrigerator, and I can't remember whether I need to put it away, or start making a sandwich."

The second lady chimed in with, "Yes, sometimes I find myself on the landing of the stairs and can't remember whether I was on my way up or on my way down."

The third one responded, "Well, ladies, I'm glad I don't have that problem. Knock on wood," as she rapped her knuckles on the table, and then said, "That must be the door, I'll get it!"

Joke supplied by  
Kate Erbs



Crossword Solutions