



# Grapevine

## From the Editor



### Footnotes to History.

On Anzac Day we remember the fallen, in particular the fallen of the two world wars, but also all the fallen in all wars which involved Australian armed forces. And this is as it should be as they died to keep our way of life free. They were the lucky ones as “age shall not weary them nor the years condemn” as it does those who have survived.

We also remember those who returned home, home to a very different Australia. It is a cliché that the world had changed but returned soldiers were expected to ‘just get on with it’, no counselling for them. For them their One Day of the Year was not a drunken booze up but a remembrance of hardship and comradeship. For many “age (did) weary them and the years (did) condemn”.

We should also remember those who could not ‘go’ to war. We forget the many men who would have joined up but were not able to for many reasons. Under manpower regulations in both Wars, all engagement of male labour was controlled and a national registration of both male and female labour was completed. The government had the power to say what every man should do whether in the armed services, war industry or civilian industry. Doctors, clergymen, teachers, agricultural workers, industrial workers and many other occupations were not required, or not allowed, to join. These roles were described as ‘Scheduled (or reserved) Occupations’.

Many service personnel who served at home in Australia are similarly not recognised.

We should remember all the wives, mothers, fathers, children of servicemen who died or came home damaged just as we remember those who served in wartime.

Lest we forget these footnotes of history.



Ray Cooper

**Welcome** to our new neighbours who have moved in or are about to.

Maree Dawes – Lot 192 (27th March)

Chris Dean – Lot 116 (29th March)

Kevin & Helen Petterson – Lot 218 (1st April)

Ron & Jenny Perry – Lot 202 (11th April)

John & Colleen Meinberg – Lot 184 (18th April)

Colin & Coral Draper – Lot 216 (29th April)



## From Your Residents Committee

Submissions have now been received for the distribution of the money granted by the Owners in response to the survey completed by the residents.

This year, with only 83 homes responding, we were allocated the sum of \$830.00 and submissions totalling \$1303.00 were received from 11 different activity groups.

The Residents Committee is working on the allocation of the funds so that each group will be granted an amount, but obviously not all will receive their full request. In this regard we are taking into consideration the benefit to all residents, whether the item purchased can be used by other activity groups and also the previous allocation of \$2000.00 in 2016.

We expect to finalise the allocation of funds and notify the applicants within the next week.

Diane Lewis  
Acting Secretary

## The Patriotic Crochet

Charlotte worried. Her oldest son, Victor, had gone to war. He was only 5 feet 5 inches tall and his fair complexion made him look younger than his almost 19 years of age. Victor preferred his quiet life as a fisherman on the Hawkesbury River near Brooklyn. And now, here he was, in Europe she supposed, surrounded by men, filth, injury and death.

Charlotte could only pray that Victor would survive and come home safely. She had already lost his father at the age of 32. Far too young to die, far too young to be left widowed with children. But now they were growing up and leaving her with time on her hands.

Time to worry. But also time to pray, and to crochet. 'Patriotic Crochet', the pattern in the newspaper supplement said, "ANZAC - Our Hero, We're Proud of You". That was so true. No matter what happened, Victor was her hero. He was a good son and a fine example to the younger children.

Oh, how she missed him! But while he was away, she would crochet this tray cloth, to show him when he returned. No time to waste, it would all be over in a few months.

But it was years, not months. Victor had shipped out with the 34th Battalion in 1916. During his time away Charlotte received two of the dreaded cables from the Australian Imperial Force. There was some relief that Victor was not dead, but wounded, how badly she had no way of knowing. "Satisfactory progress" was all the information she had.

The 34th Battalion was originally sent as replacements for those killed in Gallipoli. They fought on the Western Front. Passchendaele saw them with a casualty rate of 50%. This was a major defeat but some months later, replenished, they were part of a victory at Villers-Bretonneux.

Finally, there was peace and in July, 1919 Victor came home. He was alive! Charlotte's prayers had been answered. He had suffered gunshot wounds to his right leg, then to his left leg and arm. But he was alive, and home!

Charlotte proudly spread the Patriotic Crochet on the tray table and then covered it with his favourite foods. Family and a good home-made cup of tea, that's what he wanted. During the afternoon the teapot was spilt - onto Charlotte's crochet! "It will wash out," she said. "He's home, that's what's important today." In the celebrations it was forgotten, and that small stain at the bottom of the tray cloth never did wash out.

Victor had suffered severe wounds but recovered enough to take on a job as Marine Fireman (stoker) with the Port Jackson Steamship Company. Sydney to Manly, Manly to Sydney many times a day. Some years later, at a dance, he met Edith. She was taller than he was with a ginger complexion. But she had a good sense of humour and wasn't too prim and proper. Like him, she loved the water.

In March 1928 at St Matthews Church, Manly, they became man and wife. Charlotte was delighted and prayed that soon she might be a grandmother. Again, Charlotte's prayers were answered. A baby was on the way. Vic was sure it was a boy. "Our

Jimmy” he christened the growing bump. Edith stopped work and enjoyed making a home for them. Having worked as a dressmaker and tailoress for years, this was her time to sew for her own little family. The baby was due in late January.

One day in October she had a message. Vic had a fall at work and had been taken to hospital. He had slipped going from the ferry deck down to the engine room and hit his chest. When she arrived at the hospital, he was awake and talking, promising her that he would be home soon. Of course, he would be, he had survived more than this. She would let his mother Charlotte know in the morning. Edith didn’t want her to worry.

Late at night that rest was interrupted by another message. Edith was needed at the hospital. He looked so peaceful there in the hospital bed. Pale, which was unusual, but still her handsome Victor, soon to be the proud father of their Jimmy. She hoped it was a boy, for his sake. Edith touched his hand, then kissed his forehead. He was stone cold.

Victor Henry Williams died of “heart disease” according to his death certificate. He was 32 years old, the same as his father. The funeral was held in late October 1928 at St Matthews Manly, the church where Victor and Edith were married only seven months before. “A crying shame.” so many said. “Survived the war only to die after an accident on the ferry.”

Together with their families Charlotte and Edith grieved. Their one hope was the arrival of the baby. Born in Manly on the hottest January day in memory, Victor James Williams was huge and healthy.

Charlotte often made the trip to see Edith and her growing grandson. She gave the tray cloth to Edith, stain and all. “It’s made to be used” she said, and it was used every time she came to visit.

The tray cloth and the story has passed down through the generations. As the only granddaughter of Victor and Edith it’s now in my possession. Now over 100 years old it is no longer used but has been framed, stain and all.

The Patriotic Crochet tray cloth is a tangible memory of my Great Grandmother Charlotte and

her life. As we remember those who served in wartime, we also remember those who stayed home, who worried, prayed and crocheted.



**Faye Moses**

#### **From Your Social Committee.**

#### **Upcoming Events at OCR.**

#### **Meet 'n' Greet is back!**

On the 3rd Friday of each month in the Clubhouse starting at 4:00pm, with the exception of April when it will be the 2nd Friday (Friday 12th April) because of the clash with Good Friday.

#### **What to bring?**

A small share plate of nibbles and your own drinks, plus a few gold coins for the Easter Basket Raffle which will be drawn on the night, and the 100 Club.

The Lucky House draw also begins again with a Jackpot of \$100...be there or miss out!

#### **Monthly Sunday Lunchtime BBQ.**

Venue: The Clubhouse Verandah

Date: Sunday 7th April (and the first Sunday of the month thereafter).

Time: 12 noon for 12:30pm

BYO: Drinks and meat, and a dish to share.

A list will be placed on the bar in the Clubhouse to let us know what you will bring to contribute to the day, e.g. salad, dessert or (other, could be bread, nibbles, etc). \* Please take note of the dishes others are supplying to avoid too many duplications.

With Easter soon upon us, our Easter Basket raffle tickets will also be on sale, \$2 each or 3 for \$5 Looking forward to seeing you there.

### **Mother's Day Luncheon.**

When: 12th May

Where: Clubhouse

Time: 12 noon for 12:30pm

BYO: Drinks

Cost: \$5.00 per person which includes a glass of bubbles/orange juice on arrival and a cold luncheon.

Details of payment to be advised at a later date.  
Five lovely door prizes to be won. Come along and let us spoil you for the day.

Jill Howard

On behalf of your Social Committee

### **Conversations at OCR in The Clubhouse Theatre Hosted by Kevin Lewis #132.**



The first two presentations in the Conversations Series for 2019 have proven to be diverse and most enlightening. The next two will undoubtedly be just as diverse and enlightening.

The 3rd in the Series will be presented by Glenda Thomas addressing the very serious issue of our personal online security. This session is highly recommended for anyone who values their online privacy and security. The session will be held on Thursday 11th April 2019.

The 4th in the Series will be presented by Guenter Bieniasch who will tell us the amazing story of his father, Alfred, who went from being a chimney

sweep to joining a Luftwaffe special unit in WWII, fighting at many front-line battles.

After finally being released as a POW three years after the war and with two Iron Crosses to his name Alfred Bieniasch ended up in Australia.

Come and join Guenter at the Conversations Series on Thursday 9th May 2019 to hear his story.

The presentations are held in the Clubhouse Theatre commencing at 9am and concluding approximately 10am. As seating is very limited, please register early. Registrations can be made on the Conversations Registration sheet in the Clubhouse bar.

### **Future Conversations Presentations.**

The Conversations Series has and continues to provide presentations that are entertaining, enlightening and informative and are all presented by your fellow residents.

If you think that you might have a story to tell please give Kevin Lewis #132 a call or email [kevanddilewis@gmail.com](mailto:kevanddilewis@gmail.com) and we can discuss your story. Each presentation goes for approximately 40-45 minutes with questions and discussions either during the presentation or at the conclusion. time?

Venue: Clubhouse Theatre



### **A Painting Excursion.**

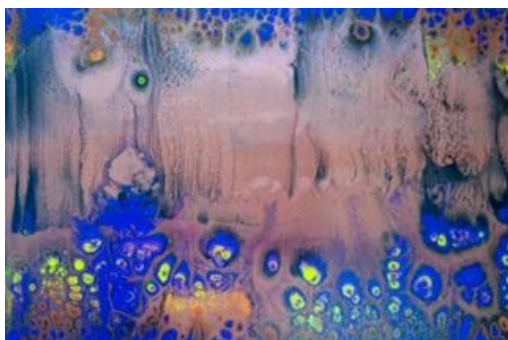
During March 6 OCR residents joined members of the Hastings Valley Fine Art Association for a 3-day workshop at the North Haven Community Hall. And what an enjoyable long weekend we had. Barry and Lucy McCann ran a wonderful workshop and we all added to our backpack of strategies, tools and techniques.



We were quite absorbed in drawing to scale and fascinated by the analysing and colour mixing techniques as well and strategies for attacking a complex subject. At the end of the 3 days, everyone felt their painting skills had improved.



Jacquie Rogers and Anna Wilson



Kerri McNamara #118

### Calling all artists.

If you are an artist painter, watercolour, pastels, acrylic, come join the Fine Arts Group in the Activities Shed at 9.30am every Tuesday



### Life on the Farm – (is kind of laid back).

From Shirley. (For those residents who may not be aware, Shirley ran a farm at Wingham on her own for many years.)

One of my cows, a white Charolais, had a swelling on her jaw so I called the vet. He told me she would need an antibiotic injection for ten days. As I had not done this before he showed me how to do it; you have to thump them on the rump a few times before plunging the rather big needle in so she wouldn't realise what you were doing. You also had to be careful to not hit the same spot or muscle each time.

I asked a couple of neighbours to help me get her locked into the chute. Because of my height I had to climb on the rail and straddle the cow before I injected her.

On the 10th day I was doing well until I hit a sore spot. The cow jumped. Unfortunately, on this day the gate of the chute was not locked down so she took off with me nearly riding her out! The neighbours just laughed and told me to enter the rodeo next time.

### From Woodstock 1969 to OCR Stock 2019.

Oh, what a night, or rather afternoon!

Sure, we only had three groups booked for the OCRSTOCK 2019 music festival compared to 32 at Woodstock. Sure, Woodstock had a few more attendees but imagine how much better Woodstock could have been if the program had included the OCR Singers, Charlee's Angels and The Band.

Before wafting further, I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of all the entertainers to thank you the residents for your wonderful patronage, support and inspiring words at the conclusion of the day. You applauded heartedly, sang and even danced along. You even managed to get my best mate Alan onto the floor to shake his bootie.

You were all just so wonderful. It was an opportunity to showcase the talent that looms among the dwellings at the resort and I'm sure

there are many more who I'm hoping may be inspired to join the choir or take up ukulele or any other instrument.



The Angels, and you are Angels (well most of you), have worked extremely hard over the past 10 months for which I am exceedingly thankful. The choir has done likewise and I believe it showed in both performances. Now the challenge is for the Angels and the OCR Singers to take it a step higher which I know they can and will.



Although, I have thanked you before Gary, I would like to thank you once again on behalf of all the entertainers and residents of OCR for your effort in putting the show together. Also, thank you again, to the people who pitched in and help clean up after show and the Yamba travellers who delayed their trip to support us.



The Band is a bit like the walking group on Thursdays, we only meet for the coffee. We boys don't get too mushy (except Andrew) but I would like to sincerely say that without the backing of Robert (lead guitar), Fred (keyboard), David (saxophone), Andrew (ok I'll include him, rhythm guitar and vocals), and my darling (perfectionist) wife Tracey (bass guitar, only 3 months) this would not have given me the wonderful opportunity to not only fulfil a lifelong desire, but to do so with

Tracey making it all the more special, so thank you one and all.

**Charlee Bruce**

### Let's Dance.

The Summertime evening dance class is winding up on 4th April as we reach the end of daylight savings.

We have tried and conquered 17 dances from the 50's, 60's and 70's. We danced Samba to Salsa and onto present day Hip hop and Funk. Such a fantastic achievement in so short a time.



We worked hard both physically and mentally but each week the smiles grew wider and wider and boy was it fun. So much so, we have decided to take it into the Winter months, realising if we stopped there is a good chance we could forget all the dances by next summer!!!





Starting on Saturday 4th May at 3-4pm we will meet again to get down and boogie some more. The class will then continue on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's every month. All welcome.

**A new partnered dance class starting Saturday 11th May at 2pm.**

Rhythm Dance - learn to dance to almost any music, from slow romantic songs to upbeat rock and roll music.

Designed for couples who think they can't dance or have two left feet! If you can walk forward, sideways and backward and can count to 8, then you can succeed in this dance. Charlee and Tracey promise to take it real slow, adding a new step each week, or when you are ready for it.

It is most suited to beginner dancers. However, the more experienced dancers can use it and make it more interesting.

It's Free so if you love music, you could at least come and give it a try. Every Saturday for 7 weeks from 2-3pm. Starting the 11th May. We go for 4 weeks then a week off (due to the garage sale, long weekend) then continue for another 3-4 weeks depending on needs.

If you would like to know more have a chat to Charlee or Tracey #200.

**Tracey Bruce**

**OCR Travellers – Yamba**

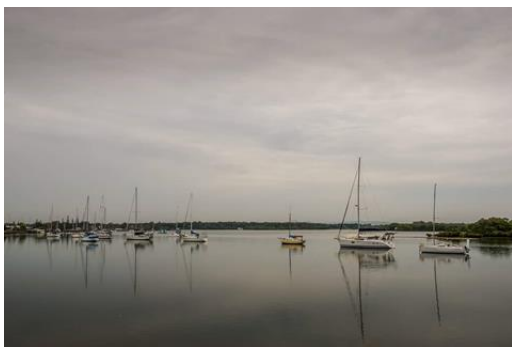
With 40 plus residents joining together for the first travellers outing of the year, it was bound to be fun. The weather was good to us considering the forecast from a few days before. We had the usual dice game, which because of the numbers we split into two groups with Christine Franklin winning one group and Gary Jackson winning the other.

We had quite a few people who had never attended before, and by the time we left on the Thursday, we all knew each other a little better. It was really nice to meet people that we hardly get to see at home; especially the people who decided to join us and book into cabins so the OCR family grows bigger with every trip.

Congratulations must go to Gary Gannell who won the music bingo afternoon (more out of luck than good judgement!!)

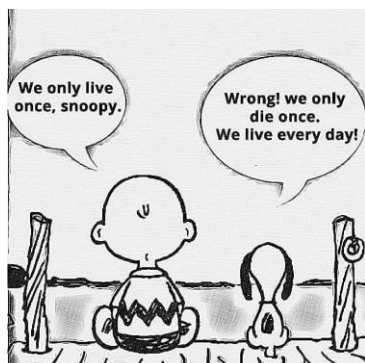
Apart from the humidity it was a fun afternoon, and we do know that most residents know the chorus of Delilah.





Bring on the next one. Gloucester in June

## Audrey and Nerida



## Human Behaviour Seminar



Eric Idol (Monty Python) once said, 'There are two kinds of people and I don't like either of them'. Or as Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones said about Chuck Berry, "I couldn't warm to him if I were cremated beside him".

Why is that? Why are there people we warm to and those we don't? I have been studying these phenomena for the better part of 40 years. I still don't like some people but now I at least understand why.

Through my studies I have now come to fully comprehend my own personality, allowing me to appreciate why people don't like me. The problem I have is I agree with them.

So, if you would like an insight into understanding what dictates your behaviour and your annoying neighbours, I will be presenting a seminar on Human Behaviour in the theatre room in the near future so as they say 'watch this space'.

**Charlee Bruce**

## The OCR Residents Guide.

Many new residents may not be aware of the OCR Residents Guide, which has a great deal of information relevant to living in OCR.

A trade directory where residents have placed recommendations of local providers of various trades, appliance repairs, plumbing, building repairs etc;

A 'residents to the rescue' page listing residents who are willing and able to help with putting flat packs together (a must assistance for new residents), assistance with transport needs (to doctors, to the railway station at Kenndal or Wauchope), Justice of the Peace etc;

A calendar and activities guide listing what activities are available and when they are on;

Updates on upcoming movies and events;

An Items 4 Sale page;

A photo gallery of images from events held over the past years, Melbourne Cup, New Year's Eve, the 2017 Art Exhibition and more.

<http://www.ocrresidentsguide.com.au>.

## The End



**Grapevine #25 April, 2019. This is your News letter** – your Comments, Letters to the Editor and Contributions are invited. Please email to Ray Cooper, [alfred.cooper01@bigpond.com](mailto:alfred.cooper01@bigpond.com).



