



An excerpt from the Gracemere Gazette, Issue 23 of Peregian Springs Retirement Country Club, dated December 2005 says

"The license application for the bar has been approved and the bar opening will be on the 30th of November, after Carols by Candlelight. "

And "Richard and a couple of helpers have been preparing the bar for operation. "

In Issue 24, dated January 2006 it was reported "St. Andrew's College Primary and Junior school pupils gave us a wonderful Christmas concert. Thanks go to the college and management for arranging this memorable occasion. The pupils also delivered small gifts to some of the residents the following day. These were very much appreciated by the recipients."

'The bar was officially opened in great style. All patrons appeared to enjoy the evening!! Our wonderful bar people looked after everybody really well and their time and work when the bar is open is very much appreciated."

Recently re-reading past copies of the Gracemere Gazette, I came across the above items that I thought would be of interest to present residents who attend The Manor Bar for Happy Hours. The Tenth Anniversary of The Manor Bar will be on 30th November 2015 and it is hoped that some celebrations will be arranged! Now I am going to give you the History of Happy Hours before and after The Manor Bar 2003 - 2015. (as I remember).

The original Happy Hours were held in Villa 16 (our community centre) which was fully furnished and used by our weekend caretaker, Allan Brown. Allan was the husband of the Sales Manager, Wendy Brown and Happy Hour was held on Monday afternoons because Wendy and Alan could then go home together that night.

Martin Brims, our original Village Manager, hosted Happy Hour and dispensed drinks from a large fridge in the kitchen of V16. These were at first provided by FKP but later, residents formed a Social Club and put in a few dollars a month to pay for drinks and nibbles. FKP had supplied the glassware and crockery for V16. Many very happy social functions were held in V16 and there are great photos of the original residents having fun. We had monthly BBQ's, Melbourne Cups, Olympic Night, Trivia nights and one memorable Soup/Trivia night when the ladies provided enough leftover soup to feed the FKP construction workers for a week!

Many current residents would not know that even though we had the Official Opening of The Manor in March 2005, on that night FKP/AVEO had brought in outside caterers and the food and drinks were dispensed at different areas in Gracemere Manor, because the bar had not been built at that time. Later on that year, construction of the bar began to take place in its present position and this necessitated the relocation of the original small (Ladies') pool table into the Library.

Martin Brims held the first licence for Aveo Peregian Springs Country Club and organised the first purchases of wine, beer, spirits and soft drinks and chips. FKP supplied all the glassware and ancillary equipment. Some of the barmen who have dispensed drinks include Richard, Athol, Brian, Cliff, Ray, Win, Don, John, Arnold, John, George, Trevor, John, and Ron. If I have missed any I apologise. Notice that we have never had a (Lady) Barmaid? All the barmen have undertaken the R.S.A. Certificate and further training.

I remember the night of the official opening of The Manor Bar very well. It was a wonderful night with two choirs and musicians from the St Andrew's College presenting a wonderful night of traditional Christmas Carols and beautiful music and songs. The concert took place in the area around the Grand Piano. The parents and siblings of the children were invited as well and there were many people crowded into the Manor. FKP/AVEO supplied ALL the food and drinks for the night. It was a wonderful way for FKP to involve the Village and our neighbour, the College, in the official opening of The Manor Bar and to enjoy Carols by Candlelight. At that time the village population had increased to 102 Residents.

Since then, the Bar has been the centre of the Manor, hosting many Happy Hours, Melbourne Cups, Australia Day, Anzac Day, Remembrance Day,

special occasions and always the Barmen have dispensed drinks with good humour and skill.

As the bar is the only revenue-raising feature in the Village, all residents are invited to come along as often as possible, to join in and mingle with other residents. Buying and enjoying your drinks helps the Residents Association Committee(RAC)raise money for the many groups and activities in the Village. The Manor Bar provides very well priced, good quality wine, beer and spirits. Over the years the RAC have outlaid thousands of dollars for the benefit of all Village Residents. For example, in 2014 the RAC paid for Licences, Legal Fees, Chairs, Skip Bins, Pool Shade Cloth, BBQ covers, website and entertainers for special dinner. Over the years they have paid for Christmas Dinner subsidies, Library Books and bookcases, the Sony wide-screen TV in the lounge, the Apple iPod that streams music in the Manor, donations to the Knitting Circle for wool, subsidised Golf and Bowls Days and donations for raffles. The committee is very eager to use the accrued funds to the benefit of ALL residents.

Please keep attending Happy Hour and enjoy the companionship of other residents and be aware that you are assisting in accumulating funds to be used for the benefit of all residents!

Many Happy Returns to The Manor Bar on its TENTH anniversary!

**Written by Trish Kelly V126
October 2015**