

MEDIA RELEASE



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A well-travelled life settles in Highfields

After a lifetime of travelling the globe and serving his community, John Arthur, 85, chose a peaceful street in Highfields to enjoy his well-earned retirement.

A quick count on the pages of his passport will find 29 stamped visas, hinting at a working life that was never dull and certainly not static.

As a young man he pursued adventure in Europe and did not shy away from a hard day's work. He picked up jobs throughout Wales, England, France and Germany in spinning mills, cafes and on the busy wharves.

He returned to Australia and completed pharmacy before enlisting with the Australian Army. He served twice in Korea where he was the Platoon Commander with the 3rd Battalion.

A change in direction saw him join the international cosmetics giant, Avon, where he would spend the next 29 years working his way up the ranks to Marketing Director for the American and Australian divisions.

His late wife, Beverley, was an accomplished chef who trained with well-known industry elites Maggie Beer and Stephanie Alexander.

Together, they owned and operated restaurants in Victoria and on the Sunshine Coast and also bred Poll Herefords and Australian Cattle Dogs in Kenilworth.

Never the type to slow down, they decided to open a Bed and Breakfast when they moved to Toowoomba and operated the historic 'James Cottage' at 128 James Street.

Amongst the prolific travel and eclectic business pursuits, Mr Arthur has always found time for community service and has enjoyed a long association with Lions Australia and his RSL Club.

He shares his Highfields home with cat Mischa and dog, Alli, and enjoys the serenity and security of living in his own home.

Government-funded programs such as Home Assist Secure, delivered in Highfields and Crows Nest by YellowBridge QLD, help Mr Arthur to stay living independently by providing financial assistance for home maintenance and security improvements.

"I like my own place. I can have my cat and dog, a study for all my books and photos, and enough room for when the family comes to stay," he said.

"I have lovely neighbours. They brought me a cake the other day and every Friday we head out to the café for a coffee. It's a pretty good place to live."

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YellowBridge QLD is a local, independent, not-for-profit organisation that provides housing, disability support and home services across the greater Toowoomba region.