

# Living Gems\* Thrive

FEBRUARY 2023

## Love's great adventure *City slicker meets her cowboy*

Highway of love  
Shared interests keep  
the spark alive

Join the club  
Amber's Country Club  
taking shape

Enduring love  
Secrets to long, happy  
relationships revealed

[livinggems.com.au](http://livinggems.com.au)

# Message from the CEO

Welcome to the second issue of *Thrive*, Living Gems' brand-new magazine. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, this month's theme is all about love. We share some great love stories courtesy of our residents, explore how to go about finding love in later life, as well as provide insights into the secrets of long-lasting relationships, and much more!

At our newest resort, Living Gems Glass House Mountains, in Beerwah in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, earthworks are well underway with 90 percent of this part of the program completed. The civil construction team is set to begin internal pipe work at the site this month. I am also pleased to share that the resort's sales team, headed up by experienced Sales Manager, Victoria Dent, is now in place. This resort promises to be one of our best yet! Watch this space for updates and more details throughout the year about this very special development. Turn to page 38 for more information and contact details.

At Living Gems Toowoomba, our lovely, established rural resort, we will be holding an open day on Saturday, 4 March showcasing move-in-ready homes plus more under construction. If you're ready to enjoy idyllic over-50s living in the Darling Downs, be sure to save the date! Turn to page 42 for information about how to register to attend.

Construction is progressing well on the Country Club building at our Amber by Living Gems resort in Logan Village. The lower block work is nearly done, and the formwork on the suspended slab began last month. Concrete pouring for this slab will take place in February and March. Turn to pages 34 to 35 for details.

Building of the last homes at our wonderful Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront community is moving ahead at pace. Set on fabulous premium sites, these homes won't be available for long. If you're looking for a simply lifechanging move to the magnificent Moreton Bay region, turn to pages 36 to 37 for more information.

Finally, I am pleased to share that Living Gems' new website is now live, reflecting the refreshed look and feel that we are currently rolling out. See page 3 for details.

I hope you enjoy reading this month's magazine and I look forward to providing more Living Gems news and updates in the March issue of *Thrive*.



**Adrian Puljich**  
CEO

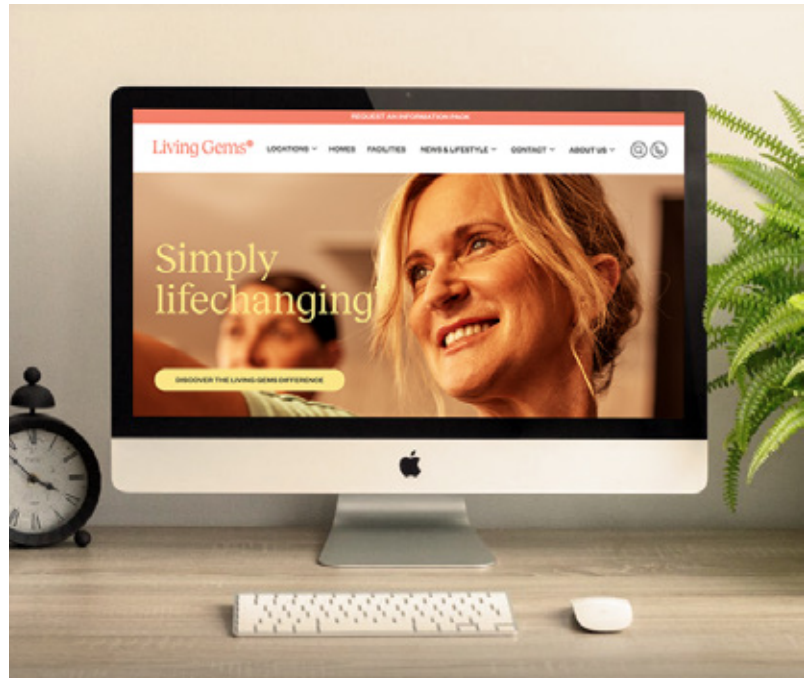
# Living Gems' new-look website is live

Living Gems' upgraded website is now live, featuring a fresh, contemporary look and feel in keeping with the company's rebranding roll-out which sports an updated colour palette and logo.

Living Gems CEO Adrian Puljich said the primary goal of the redesign process was to create a more visually pleasing, user-friendly and responsive website that was simple to navigate across all platforms and devices.

"After many months of hard work and dedication by the marketing team, I am thrilled about the launch of the updated website. The site has lots of terrific new imagery for a modern and consistent appearance, with a warm overall look to communicate the easy-going, upbeat vibe that is part of the Living Gems DNA," Adrian said.

"In addition to the new look, the website boasts an easy-to-read typeface and information-rich pages which are



straightforward to locate and explore, not only on users' desktops but also their mobile phones or tablets," he said.

On the resort-specific pages, prospective buyers can now browse details about home designs complete with floorplans and facade options. In addition, there is plenty of information about nearby attractions and amenities for each location.

The website also has a news section for the latest Living Gems information, including the monthly magazine *Thrive*, as well as a section about upcoming events such as open days and FAQs.

"I hope people enjoy using the new website and welcome feedback so we can keep improving user experience," he said.

Living Gems invites visitors to explore the new website at [livinggems.com.au](http://livinggems.com.au)

For any suggestions, questions, or comments, please contact us at email [website@livinggems.com.au](mailto:website@livinggems.com.au)

## Share a story or subscribe to Thrive

If you have a story idea for future issues of *Thrive*, we'd love to hear from you!

Whether it be news, happenings, local events and activities, feature stories about interesting residents or their achievements, don't be shy – share the details with the *Thrive* content team.

Email your idea to [content@livinggems.com.au](mailto:content@livinggems.com.au)

### Subscribe

Have you subscribed to *Thrive*? To receive a digital copy of Living Gems' free monthly magazine directly to your inbox, be sure to sign up online at [livinggems.com.au/thrive](http://livinggems.com.au/thrive)



# Farmer wants a wife

## *City slicker meets her cowboy*

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront couple, John and Mary Skene, celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary this year. The long-time lovebirds take us on a trip down memory lane.

“How long have you been married?”

“53 years,” Mary responds.

“It’s 54, love, not 53,” John laughs.

“Good heavens you’re right John.”

It began in the summer of 1967. A group of young women venture to Cairns and secure midwifery positions in the local hospital after graduating nursing from Prince Henry Hospital, Sydney.

They start their new jobs, counting down to their RDOs. One of Mary’s friends has family living close by, so they take a roadtrip.

“We had days off and Jan and I bought a little Volkswagen and our friend Marilyn wanted to visit her family in Gordonvale, a small sugar town, so we drove her up,” Mary said.

Mary tells us that Marilyn’s mother invited them to stay for dinner, and that is when the magic happened.



“When we had our first son Rohan, a bat flew into the house and I was in the cupboard with the baby hiding, while John ran around with a tennis racket chasing the bat.

“For a Gordonvale girl, that was just another normal day on the farm, but for me, that was such a romantic thing my husband did.”

When we ask John what the most romantic thing his wife ever did, he gives us an interesting response.

“We made three sons together, what’s more romantic than that?”

“Summers were always hot, and I’d come in at lunchtime all hot and bothered, and instead of making me a normal salad, Mary would make little faces from vegetables to make me smile,” he adds.

“Two slices of tomato for eyes and she’d have a face on the plate with a bit of carrot sticking up for the nose. I found that romantic and always remember those days.”

Mary shares another, romantic, recollection.

“On one of my birthdays, I made a joke asking John if he would buy me a diamond. When he returned, I said where’s my diamond darling?” laughed Mary.

“He said he didn’t get a diamond but handed me two round the world trip tickets instead and I thought wow, that’s a thousand times better than a diamond, he’s a keeper.”

With so many beautiful memories spanning over 55 years, we ask John and Mary to share their secret to a long-lasting marriage.

“Always remain tolerant of each other through the tough times, and enjoy the good times,” John shares.

“You need to have similar interests, get along and just be together. You get used to each other, so find happiness by doing what you want, while sharing the interests you have in common,” Mary adds.

“We were at the dinner table that evening, and I couldn’t stop looking at Marilyn’s handsome brother John, who gave me butterflies,” she said.

“One thing led to another, and we fell in love. He proposed and we were engaged for about 12 months before going to Sydney to get married in Matraville on 8 June 1968.”

Life wasn’t easy for them. As a city slicker, Mary found it hard to adapt to the harsh country, but John was country folk, so knew exactly how to take care of her.

“I was such a city girl when I first arrived, and suddenly I came into this big house with no flyscreens and was covered head to toe in mosquito bites. I learnt quickly to add netting over our bed. Oh, the memories,” Mary laughs.



# A rural romance grows

## *Teen attraction blossoms into a lifetime love*

For some couples, it's 'opposites attract' and for others, like Jim and Lillian Staal, it was an instant connection that goes back more than 65 years.

A partnership in love and life was forged the moment Jim and Lillian met as teenagers in their farming community of Greenwood in 1957.

"We met at a meeting of Queensland Junior Farmers," said Jim.

The organisation was founded in 1946 to help young people living in rural areas to connect with one another and to foster better farming practices. Today's Young Farmers Connect provides similar opportunities.

Jim and Lillian, Living Gems Toowoomba homeowners, met at one of the monthly meetings and soon Lillian was appointed secretary

of their local chapter. One year later, Jim was elected president.

"We got on well straight away, but I was only 16 at the time and my parents wouldn't let me date until I was 17," Lillian recalls.

But the attraction was already there, and it blossomed into love at Lillian's debutante ball.

With both sides of the family being longstanding farmers in the area, it was only natural that Jim and Lillian's first home should be a farm also.

Knowing that Lillian was the girl for him, Jim worked hard, and by the age of 21, had saved up enough to



purchase 300 acres just north of Oakey.

"That was in January of 1962," says Jim. "I took Lillian out to show her the property, then brought out her parents and asked their permission to marry her."

In October of that year, the couple married in the beautiful heritage-listed St Luke's Anglican Church in Toowoomba and their farm became home to a growing family. The Staals have three daughters, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Toowoomba is a place they love to call home and Living Gems



Toowoomba puts them near to one daughter. Their other two daughters live on the Sunshine Coast with their families.

“This daughter and her family have acreage which worked out well this past Christmas because we had all the family together in one place,” said Lillian.

Jim joked that the secret to a happy marriage was to ‘say yes to anything your wife says’, but the truth of the matter, he says, is committing to open and honest conversation as well as an easy give and take.

“You can’t be 100 percent right all the time,” Jim laughs then adds more seriously, “You have to realise there are two of you in the marriage – not one, so decisions have to be made together.”

Life is also going to be full of ups and downs, adds Lillian, which makes it all the more important to work together in partnership.

“We’ve had good times and bad times, as we all do in life, but the most important thing is don’t give up because it makes it all worthwhile in the end.”



# Highway of love

## *Shared interests keep the spark alive*

There is an easy familiarity between Laura and David Tester from Amber at Living Gems that demonstrates the friendship their relationship is founded on.

A second marriage for both, the couple married in 1984 and have enjoyed a life of adventure and exploration in the years since.

“We were friends before we got together,” said Laura. “We were part of a badminton club in Victoria and we played regularly both at B-grade and A-grade levels.

“Unfortunately for me, I was in a car accident overseas and injured my shoulder, so I went from playing three times a week to nothing. It was very frustrating sitting on the sidelines watching David play when I couldn’t.”



But a sporting set-back wasn’t going to interrupt the adventure of a lifetime.

“We’ve done quite a bit of travelling, including time back in the UK, where David is from, in Sevenoaks in Kent,” said Laura.

“Over the years we’ve got smarter about how we approached our travel. We always make sure that we break up the trip from Australia to the UK and we’ve got to see quite a few parts of the world as a result.”

Now their focus on adventure is a little closer to home.





“We had wanted to go to Egypt and China before COVID, but I think we’ll be staying local,” said Laura.

Those local travels have taken them to Uluru as well as destinations closer to home, some of them via motorbike. David still gets out on the open road on his Kawasaki.

“I used to ride with him but it’s a bit too uncomfortable for me now,” she laughs.

The Living Gems lifestyle has been part of the adventure too.

Laura and David were the first residents to move into Amber by Living Gems in leafy Logan Village and it is their third home at a Living Gems’ over-50s lifestyle resort.

“We moved into Sapphire at the very beginning,” said Laura. “The community atmosphere was absolutely lovely and when the resort managers moved to the Living Gems Maleny resort, we followed them and enjoyed a great Sunshine Coast hinterland lifestyle.”

But after a while, the call of the southern coast was just too great.

“Our grandchildren live in this part of South East Queensland, so we wanted to be somewhere relatively close,” said Laura.

“We’ve made so many great friends here. In fact David is across the road at Living Gems Opal, playing table tennis with some of the other fellows and that gives me time to spend on my crossword puzzles.”

Laura says a little give and take, friendship, and a willingness to look after one another is the secret to their long and happy marriage.

# Amber's Country Club reaches new heights

The jewel in the crown of Amber by Living Gems is a stunning two-storey Country Club which is currently under construction.

Designed to be the social hub of the resort as well as to complement the relaxed, country atmosphere of historic Logan Village, the Country Club will capture refreshing river breezes and create meeting spots for residents to socialise and relax.

During January, progress was made on the ground level structure with the swimming pool shell in place and the blockwork for the lower level close to completion at month's end.

Formwork for the upper-level suspended slab also started in January with the concrete pour expected to occur in four stages during February and into March.

"There is such a lovely community growing here at Amber by Living Gems," said Sales Manager, Tameeka Manson. "Homeowners have enjoyed seeing the almost daily progress on the Country Club and can't wait to make it their own."

When complete, the Country Club will include a grand ballroom, theatre stage as well as the quality features that make a Living Gems community so special, such as a library, craft room, bar and cafe lounge, exclusive cinema, golf simulator and ten-pin bowling alley.

"Our active and vibrant over-50s community will also enjoy the fully equipped gymnasium, swimming pool, spa and sauna," said Tameeka.





*“It will be the  
jewel in the  
crown.”*

# Love in pictures

## *Living Gems wedding albums reveal enduring love*

“Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage” sang Frank Sinatra, and homeowners at Living Gems resorts across Queensland are proof of that! They graciously opened their wedding albums to take us on a trip down memory lane for Valentine’s Day.



**Bob and Fay Brodhurst-Hill**  
*Amber by Living Gems*

Bob and Fay married at the Uniting Church in Coorparoo on 24 April, 1976.



**Barry and Fran McWaters**  
*Opal by Living Gems*

Fran clearly recalls the day she met her future husband, Barry. It was in May 1951 at Wynnum Central State School when the headmaster announced the arrival of two new students who had come all the way from Victoria.

“Barry and his younger brother were a curiosity because they wore shoes to school,” said Fran. “Very few kids who attended the school wore shoes in those days. It turned out they also lived three doors from our house.”

But it wasn’t always love especially when they were young.

“We had a falling out over a jumper mum knitted for me,” laughed Fran. “I loved it, but Barry didn’t. Later we did find common ground and have been together ever since.”

Fran and Barry celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary last December and say the secret of being together for so long is that they are each other’s best mates and share the same interests.



Larry and Irene Clifford  
*Amber by Living Gems*

When Larry met Irene, she was a single mother of four boys while he had a daughter from a previous relationship. They fell in love, blended their family and married on 15 April, 1984 at Shangri-la Reception in Wynnum, Brisbane. Two more daughters (seven children in total), 17 grandchildren and 38 years later, they continue to enjoy marital bliss.



Nigel and Helen Greenwood  
*Amber by Living Gems*

Helen was living in Victoria and flew to Brisbane to visit family and met Nigel at her brother's barbecue. They married in Hong Kong on 23 December, 1997.





**Garry and Jan Beames**  
*Ruby by Living Gems*

Garry and Jan Beames were married in June 1976 at JC Slaughter Falls, Mt Coot-tha, which was a well-known landmark for holding weddings at that time.

The couple met at Diamond Grill Restaurant and Bar in Margaret Street, Brisbane. They saw each other across the room and knew then and there that it was love at first sight. Six weeks later, they married. Met in April, married in June and today they are still as much in love as they were then.



**John and Mary Skene**  
*Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront*

John and Mary met on a hot summer's day in 1967 on a farm in Gordonvale in North Queensland. John, a farmer, and Mary, a nurse fresh out of Sydney, fell in love and 12 months later they married in Matraville, Sydney on 8 June, 1968. They will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary later this year. Read their full story on page 4.





**Marty and Barb Cocoran**  
*Amber by Living Gems*

Barb and Marty married on 10 June, 1978. She wore a pretty bandeau headband and floor-length veil while Marty looked smart in a classic pin-stripe suit and ruffled tuxedo shirt.



**Les and Beverley Moore**  
*Amber by Living Gems*

Beverley was absolutely at the height of fashion in April 1966, when she wore a charming empire line gown when she married her sweetheart, Les.









# Enduring love

## *Secrets to long, happy relationships revealed*

Communication, forgiveness, laughter and sharing experiences are just some of the secrets to keeping the spark alive in a long and loving marriage, according to Ruby by Living Gems' Neville and Shelagh Clune who have spent the better part of their lives together.

Both agree that keeping a long-term relationship alive and thriving can be difficult but worth it.

There has been much research into how to maintain a loving relationship over the long-term, with the need to keep nourishing the bond couples share identified as key.

Ways to do this can include trying new things together, communicating regularly, making the effort to spend quality time together, and reliving some of the activities shared earlier in the partnership that contributed to a couple falling in love.

Couples that play together stay together, according to Tony Brook University researcher Arthur Aron, Ph.D. His studies showed that participating in new and exciting activities as a couple increases relationship quality, makes it more fulfilling and helps stave off boredom which can contribute to breakups.

Shelagh and Neville, who are still together half a century after first saying 'I do', agree and although they admit to having different interests, they also love to share new experiences such as whale watching, socialising and travel, with a trip to Tasmania planned this year.

The couple married on 21 August, 1971, in Burleigh Heads on the Gold Coast. Although they were born in the same year and both attended the local Miami High School, it was a chance meeting that brought them together.



“Nev, who was an aerospace engineer in the RAAF, was holidaying on the Gold Coast and was standing with some mates near to where I worked. Like brash 17-year-olds of the day, we started to chat and before I knew it Nev had asked me out ... and the rest, as they say, is history,” said Shelagh.

What did they find attractive about each other during their courtship days?

Shelagh said Nev was gorgeous to look at and had a great sense

of humour and her lifelong beau immediately found her attractive and was smitten with her vibrant personality.

After 51 years of marriage, the couple believe their union was meant to be.

“To be honest, we are quite different, which makes you wonder how we survived together for so long, but we put it down to good communication and being there for each other because when we are feeling down or have a problem, we don’t bottle

it up but rather talk to each other about it.”

The couple, who have two sons, four granddaughters and a great granddaughter, say they know each other so well that they are almost as one in mind and spirit which is something they love about their relationship.

Shelagh said she still has the very first heart-shaped Valentine’s Day card Nev sent her in 1969 and that they are still as much in love today, if not more, than the day they were married.



## Six secrets to long-lasting love

1. **Humour:** Having a sense of humour that is compatible with that of your partner can be extremely beneficial. Laughing together can positively influence your relationship, sex life, and conflict resolution abilities.
2. **Communication:** As one of the pillars of a great relationship, when communication between partners flows properly, it encourages growth. Talking to each other daily about your day, feelings and things that have happened should be fundamental in every relationship.
3. **Compromise:** Every great relationship has an essence of compromise and of meeting each other halfway.
4. **Forgiveness:** Accepting that no one is above mistakes and forgiving each other when one is made.
5. **Hug often:** Non-sexual touch is an important part of relationship intimacy. A 20-second hug can get oxytocin, the neurochemical responsible for feelings of love and bonding and higher levels of empathy, flowing which reduces stress and tension while increasing relaxation and connection.
6. **Maintain positive thoughts:** Couples who continually remember their partner's unique, genuine qualities such as kindness, humour and personality, remain content with each other.



# Bright like a diamond

*Close-knit Caboolture crew gets creative*

They say diamonds are a girl's best friend, but at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront, all the creative craft crew need is great company, diamond dots, paper, wool and plenty of crochet hooks and knitting needles.

Gathering within a well-stocked craft room in the resort's Country Club, a group of talented residents have been running classes every week for several years.

But what exactly are diamond dots? Diamond dot co-ordinator, Diane Ramsay, explains.

"Diamond dotting is like painting by numbers but using little beads," she



says with a smile.

From diamond dotting to card-making, knitting, crocheting, and any other craft they're interested in, you can rest assured Caboolture's 'crafters' have a great time creating, and welcome anyone who wants to get a little crafty with them, including men.

Diane started the group in October 2021 after visiting family up north where she found diamond dotting therapeutic, especially through pandemic lockdowns.

"I was visiting my daughter in Rockhampton for Christmas 2019, and she was working on a diamond dot picture and gave me one for



## Caboolture craft classes schedule

**MONDAY 9am to 12pm** – Knit & Crochet with Aileen

**TUESDAY 9am to 12pm** – Diamond Dot with Diane

**WEDNESDAY 9am to 12pm** – Craft with Kay

**THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS** – Card Making with Gloria

Christmas, which made me buy one and get into it myself," Diane recalled.

"Then COVID hit so craft kept me busy, and in October 2021, I decided to run a free class at the resort for interested residents. I bought a pack of Christmas and variety cards, got 20 ladies together and everyone just loved it, so we put information in the resort flyer and the rest is history. We now meet every Tuesday."

Knit and crochet coordinator of four years, Aileen Cause, runs a group every Monday with 15 women on average, creating toys and throw rugs for organisations who distribute them to people in need.

"We can make anything from knee rugs for nursing homes to trauma teddies for organisations like the Red Cross," Aileen said proudly.

"A lot of us even knit at home and bring down knitted pieces so the rest of us can stitch them together and put faces on the teddies. I like to crochet more than knitting because it's a lot quicker and it's always lovely to personally pick the wool for a knee rug that you know will end up

on someone's lap to enjoy. It's such a lovely thing to participate in."

Diane added that Wednesday mornings are an 'anything goes' craft class run by co-ordinator, Kay Lerve.

"Kay can teach you any craft, from cross stitch to long stitch, painting, whatever you want to learn, so you can request what you want, and Kay will put that together for you," said Diane.

Thursdays and Saturdays are run by card co-ordinator, Gloria Dolan, exclusively for card creation. The group has a system where they make cards and then donate them to be used for anyone needing a greeting card.

"The resort uses an honesty box where cards are purchased for \$2.50 for charity, and residents love it. We even had a market day here towards the middle of November last year, and I had 21 diamond dot pictures that were all beautifully framed. I sold about eight of them, with ballerina pictures being most popular," Diane said.

# Love is in the air!

## *Author reveals the passion between the pages*

USA Today bestselling author Elizabeth Ellen Carter uncovers the history of romance fiction and why she loves writing it.

Romance fiction may be one of the most misunderstood genres in literary history. But to dismiss it as simply light-weight, disposable fiction is to ignore its long and fascinating history.

In a literary context, romance comes from 'Romans' and is used in the same context as the 'romance' languages of Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian. It refers to the storytelling style made popular by the Romans that focuses on a main character who is on a quest for some noble good.

Famous examples include Medieval chivalric romances such as the Arthurian legends and *The Knight's Tale* from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* which also included elements of courtly love.

A more modern example of this type of romance can be found in any number of film westerns where our stoic cowboy is on a quest and there is either a romantic interest for the hero or between supporting characters.

The supernatural elements, and otherworldly creatures that characterised the earliest chivalric romances, appeared again in the mid-18th century Gothic romances which influenced the writings of Scottish author Sir Walter Scott.

Ultimately true love wins out and by the beginning of the 19th century, the romance novel as we recognise it today was born, written by famous names, such as Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, Elizabeth Gaskell, Victor Hugo and Thomas Hardy.

As the 20th century dawned there was a further split in the genre which continues to this day - 'the romance' and 'the love story'.

Every romance is a love story, but not every love story is a romance. The defining difference between the two is that a romance always ends with a 'happily ever after'. A love story does not guarantee a happy ending - see





the films *Love Story*, *The Fault in Our Stars* and *The Notebook*, as examples.

One of the reasons I write romance - specifically historical romantic suspense - is the ability to put my characters through serious personal journeys and have them become better, stronger and wiser people at the end of the tale. And more in love, of course.

My characters have had to deal with PTSD, family betrayal, political betrayal and murder.

As a historical novelist, I just love deep diving into events of the past and bringing history to life for modern audiences. My stories have been set in some of the most fascinating periods of history including the apogee of the Roman Empire, the Norman Conquest, the French Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars, the era of the Ottoman slave trade.

So, if you've not read a romance novel before, why not give one a try? You might just find a whole world of new fiction to enjoy.

**Elizabeth's latest novel, *A Curio for The Count*, was published on 19 January. She can be followed on her website, [elizabethhellencarter.com](http://elizabethhellencarter.com)**

## Win a set of Elizabeth Ellen Carter's romance books!

In the spirit of love and generosity, author Elizabeth Ellen Carter is giving away three sets of her top-selling books exclusively for Living Gems homeowners or contract holders! If you're a fan of romance fiction, this is a contest you won't want to miss!

**How to win:** Simply email your name, resort name, and contact details with the subject line "I want to win Elizabeth Ellen Carter's book pack!" to [content@livinggems.com.au](mailto:content@livinggems.com.au)

The first three emails received will win!

# Single and ready to mingle?

## *What to do when looking for love in later life*

It's never too late to consider love and romance, according to Elisabeth Shaw, CEO of Relationships Australia.

However, there are things that have changed since the first flush of youth that you may want to consider – especially if you're looking for a new relationship after divorce or being widowed.

"Starting a new relationship in your 50s is a different proposition than when you're younger, especially if you've had long-term relationships in the past," said Elisabeth.

"In the end, you need to be able to answer the question, 'am I ready for this?'"

Elisabeth recommends doing a life 'stocktake' before diving into the dating market. One part of this process is to do an honest evaluation of previous relationships – looking at what worked and what didn't.

"Are there any unresolved issues?" she asks. "Do you need to work on your self-esteem? Have you reached a point where you're comparatively at peace with your past? Have you fully worked through your grief?"

"Think of this time as an opportunity to invest in yourself. If you've spent a lot of your life being a support to your partner, such as working part time or putting your career on hold, you might decide to take the time to upskill and work on that side of your life before you consider another relationship."

Invest in new friendships – especially other singles like yourself, says Elisabeth.

"Depending on how long you've been partnered for, you may not know







*Since 1948, Relationships Australia advocates and promotes the importance of respectful relationships with positive individual mental health outcomes and general community outcomes.*

any other single people so it can be difficult to be considered a 'third wheel' when going out with married couples," she said.

"Some women also report finding themselves excluded from some social circles when they become single in the unfair belief that they can't be trusted around husbands.

"That's why it is important to have some single friends as well who can act as a buffer in your dating experience."

Also, take time to consider how you might approach intimate topics such as sex, says Elisabeth.

"It might be that when you were younger, discussions about sex centred on contraception, but when

that is no longer a concern, it is still important to have the safe sex conversation with a new partner," she said.

In addition to performing a life stocktake, Elisabeth recommends considering the views of other relationship 'stakeholders'.

"These are the other important relationships in your life such as your children and grandchildren," she said. "When you partner anew, there may be concerns about assets and future inheritances, so that is definitely a conversation which needs to be had."

Elisabeth says widowed singles need to be open with their children about the possibility of finding love with another person.

"Some children will be absolutely delighted, whereas others may be upset and concerned that the other parent's memory isn't being honoured."

Most important is doing what is right for you, says Elisabeth.

"Take your time," she advises. "You might find someone on the first date, or you may not – and that's okay too."

"And don't feel that you need to be on dating apps all the time, in fact it's healthy to take several months away. Return only when you are ready to."

"It's about having a full life, so a new relationship is the icing on the cake and not the cake itself."

# Online love

## *Make a date with an app*

Online dating is a \$185 million industry in Australia. With more and more people of all ages finding love and friendship through dating websites, we take a closer look at the subject.

As people become more comfortable turning to the internet for the necessities of life – such as shopping and looking for a home, it should come as no surprise that many are also turning online for love.

About a quarter of all adults between 18 to 44 use a dating website or app to find people to meet and potentially fall in love with. According to IBIS World research, 15.1 per cent of users are over the age of 45 and 4.5 per cent over 65.

If you're ready to look for romance and want to cast your net a little wider than your current social circles, exploring a dating website or app that matches people of similar ages and interests might be worthwhile.

So, what should your approach be?

### *Start with the right attitude*

Just like with anything new, attitude is everything. Begin with an open mind and these three mantras:

- *It's going to be fun*
- *I'll meet interesting people*
- *I'll learn something new*

### *Know what you want*

When you better understand yourself, you have a better idea about who you're looking for in a partner – that's one of the advantages of maturity and experience!

Identify your core values and what your definite dislikes are, but otherwise be open to having a conversation with someone new. Treat online dating like mixing at a cocktail party – have a quick chat and move on until you find someone you have a real spark with.



### *Pace yourself*

There are an increasing number of dating sites available in Australia, with some specialising in matching mature singles. Don't feel obliged to try them all at once – start with one or two.

And don't sit waiting by the phone either. Check the sites for no more than 15 minutes twice a day to respond to any enquiries, then go out and enjoy yourself with friends and family. There is no shortage of things to do at a Living Gems resort.

### *Cyber safety comes first*

Set up a separate email address, such as a Google Gmail account, that you use exclusively to access online dating websites. This should be completely different to your primary email address. This makes it harder to get caught by scammers or being



subjected to endless junk mail should your details be sold to marketers.

Check the terms and conditions of the website before entering personal and identifying information to ensure the information is being used to find potential matches, and no other purpose.

If someone you've only just matched with begins to ask you for money, then be highly suspicious and cautious.

### *Crafting your profile*

Let your pictures do the talking. Pick six to nine nice, up-to-date photos, including:

1. One or two recent head and shoulder portraits showing you with a smile (without sunglasses)
2. One or two full-length portraits taken at more formal occasion (to show your potential date that you scrub up well)

3. Photos of you doing the things you love – travelling, playing golf, at the beach, playing music, playing with the dog, reading books, etc.

Your written profile should reflect your personality in tone. It should also paint a picture which is consistent with the photos you're using. If you're not sure what to write, look for inspiration on other profiles.

### *On making a match*

Ask the person's last name before giving them your phone number and spend some time chatting before agreeing to meet face-to-face.

Keep the first meeting casual – choose a coffee shop for instance. Make sure this meeting is in a public place and tell your family and friends where you'll be.

Your first meeting should be short

and sweet. Let the other person know that you have an appointment to keep afterwards. If time flies by, arrange another meeting at the end of your allotted time. If you've not clicked, then you have a legitimate excuse to leave. Besides, having another engagement demonstrates that you're an active, vital person, which is always appealing!

### *Where to begin*

As always, do your research before you commit to any dating website to make sure you're comfortable and be sure to read the terms and conditions before you begin.

Dating websites to look at include:

- **SilverSingles.com.au**
- **eHarmony.com.au**
- **EliteSingles.com.au**

# Surprise your sweetheart

## Romantic and affordable ideas for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and with a little bit of imagination and a heart full of love, you can surprise your sweet Valentine without breaking the bank.

As Douglas Booth once said, "The most romantic things are very small, kind gestures from people you love." So, on Tuesday, 14 February, make your beau swoon with these budget-friendly romantic gestures.

### *Handwritten love letter*

There's nothing more romantic than receiving a handwritten love letter from your partner. Go old-school and pour your heart into words on paper. It's a thoughtful way to express your feelings for your beloved and let them know how much you love and appreciate them.

### *A relaxing massage*

Settle in for the night with your valentine and pamper them with a massage. You can set the spa vibe with a scented candle, massage oil and some calming background music.

### *Breakfast in bed*

Who doesn't love waking up to breakfast in bed? Dish up a little love by preparing a delicious breakfast for your beloved. You can make some waffles or pancakes and jazz them up with whipped cream and add their favourite toppings! Place the food and coffee/tea on the bed tray with some roses and a cute little love note.

### *Watch old home movies*

If you have been with your partner for many years, look back at some old videos or photos of when you first met. Relive the butterflies you felt back when you fell for each other and revisit all the beautiful memories you share as a couple.

### *Candlelit dinner at home*

Whip up your valentine's favourite meal and set your dining table with your best dinner set and a candle in the middle. Decorate your home entryway with flower petals leading up to the dining table and put on romantic music to set the ambience.

### *Secret notes*

Hide notes where you know your beloved will find them throughout their day. For instance, you could stick a post-it written 'I love you' on the coffee maker, slip one saying 'You're my favourite person' in their wallet, place another love note on their car's steering wheel, and so on. It'll bring a smile to your partner's face every time they find another cutesy post-it!



## Splurge-worthy Valentine's Day gifts

If you want to spoil your sweetheart a little extra this year, here are some luxe gift options that will impress.

### *Romantic getaway*

Treat your partner to a romantic getaway. If you're looking for local destinations, check last month's issue of *Thrive* for some exciting and adventurous road trip suggestions.

### *Spa day*

Book a couple's package at a luxurious day spa which will give you both a chance to spend time together as you get pampered by professionals.

### *Make a statement*

'Tis the season of flowers, chocolates and jewellery – you can never go wrong with these classic Valentine's Day gifts!



# Love on the silver screen

## Top ten romantic movies for Valentine's Day



Relive a romantic night where you held hands with your beloved and stole a kiss in the darkened cinema.

With more than a century of great films to choose from, we've selected a top ten list of romantic films from each decade.

So, if you're looking for a nostalgic date night, why not grab a box of popcorn and bring a pack of Jaffas to your Living Gems cinema or check out the resort's DVD library to organise your Valentine's Day night at home.

### *It Happened One Night (1934)*

Starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert, this screwball comedy is about a down-at-heel reporter who gets the scoop of his career when he stumbles across an heiress on the run. Smartly written with delightful performances, it's no surprise that it won every major Oscars category including Best Picture.

### *The Shop Around the Corner (1940)*

Margaret Sullivan and Jimmy Stewart are just a delight as two sparring employees who don't realise they are falling in love with one another while anonymously corresponding. Considered one of the best films of all time, the story was remade in 1998 as *You've Got Mail* with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.



### *To Catch a Thief* (1955)

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock, the master of suspense, Cary Grant and Grace Kelly are perfectly cast. Grant is a retired cat burglar on the French Riviera forced to go back to his old ways to catch a copycat at work. The costumes by Edith Head are superb as is the lush cinematography which won an Oscar for photographer Robert Burks.



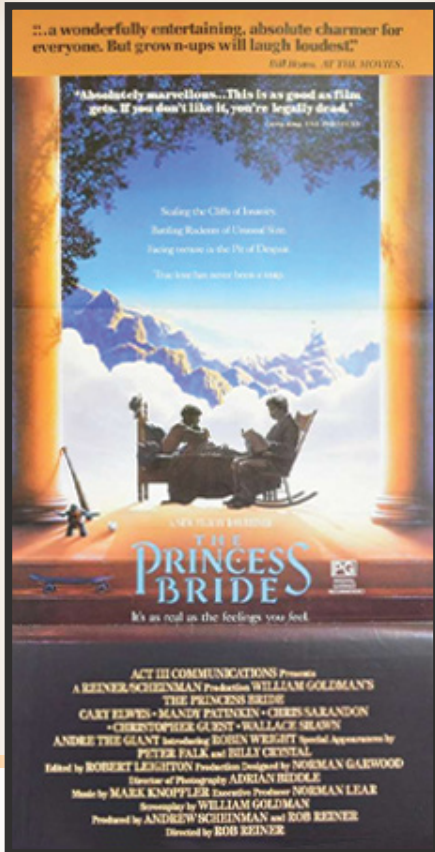
### *My Fair Lady* (1964)

The Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe musical based on George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* is a fabulous star vehicle for Audrey Hepburn as the feisty flower-seller Eliza Doolittle and the priggish English professor Henry Higgins played by Rex Harrison. The mis-matched couple go through their trials and tribulations before finding their happily-ever-after. No surprise that *My Fair Lady* won eight Oscars including Best Film, Best Actor and Best Director.



### *Robin and Marian* (1976)

Love isn't just for the young, *Robin and Marian*, starring Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn, revisits the story of Robin Hood in his middle and later years. Featuring an all-star British cast, this film has heart-felt performances from the leads.



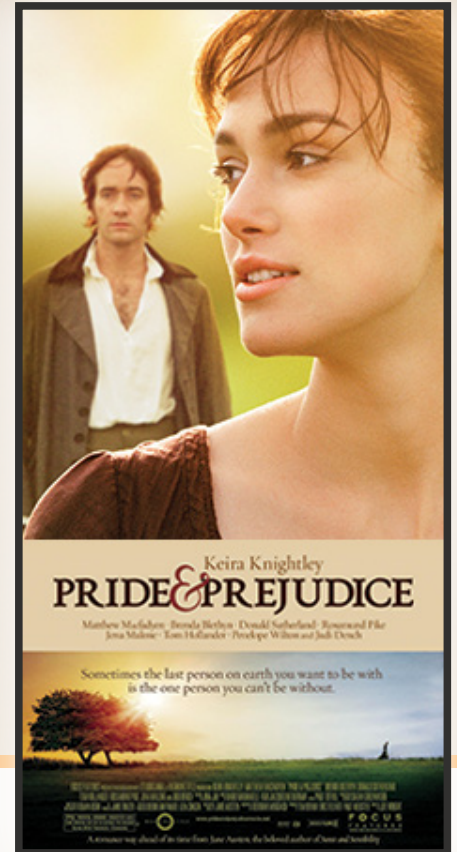
### *The Princess Bride* (1987)

Just as popular today as it was on its release, *The Princess Bride* is a rare combination of romance, humour, fantasy and adventure that holds up on repeated viewings and is a genuine cult classic. Directed by Rob Reiner and starring Cary Elwes, Robin Wright and a great supporting cast, you'll be looking in the eyes of your beloved and saying, 'as you wish'.



### *Titanic* (1997)

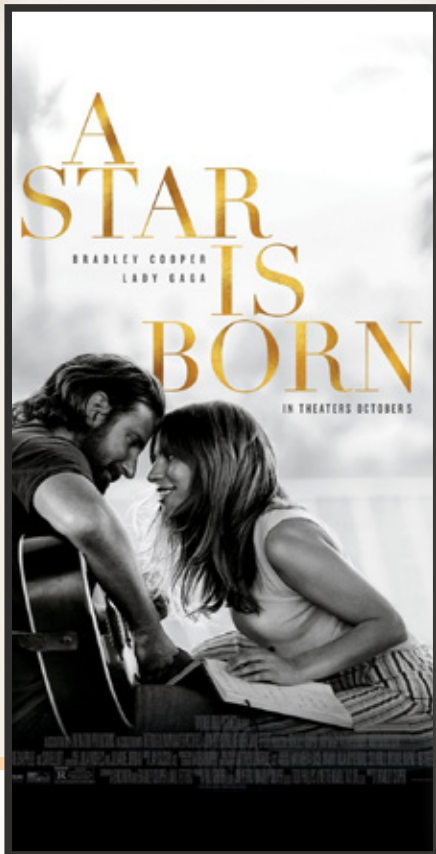
James Cameron's epic disaster film is just as famous for the ill-fated romance between working class Jack and upper-crust Rose, as it is for the scale of the production. Your heart will go on as you follow the star-crossed lovers, played by Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, knowing that the big iceberg is on its way.



### *Pride & Prejudice* (2005)

This adaptation of Jane Austen's classic tale of personal pride and class prejudice is less stogy and more naturalistic than other film adaptations thanks to the direction of Joe Wright (*Atonement*, *Anna Karenina*, *Darkest Hour*) making his debut as a feature film director, and the charming performances of Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen.





### *A Star is Born (2018)*

This oft-filmed tale (1937, 1954 and 1976) is brought to the screen for a new generation by Bradley Cooper who both stars and directs. His co-star, Lady Gaga, delivers an outstanding performance as the aspiring singer-songwriter. Her song, *Shallow*, won the Oscar that year for Best Original Song. Bring tissues ... you have been warned.



### *Emma (2020)*

We end our list with another Jane Austen adaptation, this one is a comedy of manners. Beautifully photographed with marvellous costumes, *Emma* stars Anya Taylor-Joy who is perfect in the title role as the self-assured and spoiled rich girl who loves to meddle in the lives of others. Johnny Flynn is terrific as Mr Knightly while Bill Nighy just about steals the show as Emma's hypochondriac father.



## Movie ticket giveaway!

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Oscar winning box office phenomenon *Titanic*, we have two double passes to give away - exclusively for Living Gems contract holders and homeowners! A remastered, high-definition version of the iconic movie will be released just in time for Valentine's Day in Dendy Cinemas nationally.

Watch the official movie trailer:

[youtube.com/watch?v=l7c1etV7D7g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7c1etV7D7g)

**How to win:** Simply email your name, resort name, and contact details with the subject line "I want free Dendy Cinema movie tickets" to [content@livinggems.com.au](mailto:content@livinggems.com.au)

The first two emails received will win!



# Amber

## Sales Manager's Message

It is sure to be an exciting year ahead for Amber by Living Gems residents and contract holders!

There is so much to look forward to at Amber by Living Gems with the temporary Country Club officially open and resident gatherings already being enjoyed as we rang in the New Year.

The residents' workshop is due to be completed this month to great excitement with many keen homeowners ready to commence their projects in the shed and others looking forward to simply enjoying a cuppa and catching up for a chat!

Works on the permanent Country Club are going strong with all lower-level blockwork completed and the current timeline for the roof placement and commencement of internal works is likely to be mid-2023. Our residents cannot wait to enjoy their choice of endless activities be it a game of ten-pin bowling with the grandkids, a quiet

movie in the cinema or a dip in the pool and spa to cool off!

Set on ten hectares in semi-rural Logan Village, Amber by Living Gems is located just a short drive from the picturesque Tamborine Mountain and conveniently situated halfway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Residents walk and cycle to local shops including Woolworths, a chemist, bakery, medical clinic, newsagency and more.

Why not make 2023 your year? With Stage One almost sold out and our Final Stage already receiving lots of interest, contact me or Lynda today and find out how you can make the move to our newest Living Gems resort, Amber, which we guarantee to be simply lifechanging!

Tameeka Manson & Lynda Ruddle  
Sales Manager



### Amber by Living Gems Sales Team

Tameeka Manson, Sales Manager  
M 0407 766 414 | E [tameeka@livinggems.com.au](mailto:tameeka@livinggems.com.au)

Lynda Ruddle, Sales Manager  
M 0456 383 269 | E [lynda@livinggems.com.au](mailto:lynda@livinggems.com.au)





# Stage Two Launch Event

*You're invited*

Don't miss our exclusive Stage Two Launch Event at Amber by Living Gems, our fast-selling over-50s lifestyle resort in leafy Logan Village!

Interest in our second and final stage is growing fast, so don't miss out on the opportunity to view the resort for yourself and register your interest before we completely sell out.

Starting at only \$569,000, Stage Two offers so much value for money, with a choice of six modern three-bedroom home designs, including a limited number of special RV-friendly designs, plus exclusive lifestyle facilities right on your doorstep.

If you're ready to take the leap for simply lifechanging over-50s living, be sure to secure your brand-new home at Amber by Living Gems.

<i>Date</i>	Saturday, 25 February 2023
<i>Time</i>	10am to 1pm
<i>Where</i>	Amber by Living Gems Manuka Road, Logan Village
<i>RSVP</i>	Register online at <a href="http://livinggems.com.au/amberstage2">livinggems.com.au/amberstage2</a> by Wednesday, 22 February

**Registration essential**



Classic | Emu

## Logan

\$574,000

				
3	2	2	1	-

Pack your bags and get ready to move in! Amber by Living Gems' Logan design home is ready and waiting for you. Elegantly designed with a classic facade and featuring the stylish tones of the Emu interior colourway, this home features light-filled living, plus dining and kitchen areas that extend naturally out to the alfresco area. The two-bedroom plus multipurpose room, Logan is situated on a premium corner block and provides plenty of space for entertaining and ample room for overnight guests. This home has lots of storage as well as a double-car garage.



# Caboolture Riverfront

## Sales Managers Message

I am honoured to be back to sell the Final Stage of this wonderful over-50s resort. After working here six years ago in the early days of the development, it feels like coming home!

The friendship and kindness homeowners show each other are what make living in this type of resort so good. Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront is such a vibrant and welcoming community, and the activities and social events residents organise to make the most of the amazing facilities here is what sets this resort apart from others.

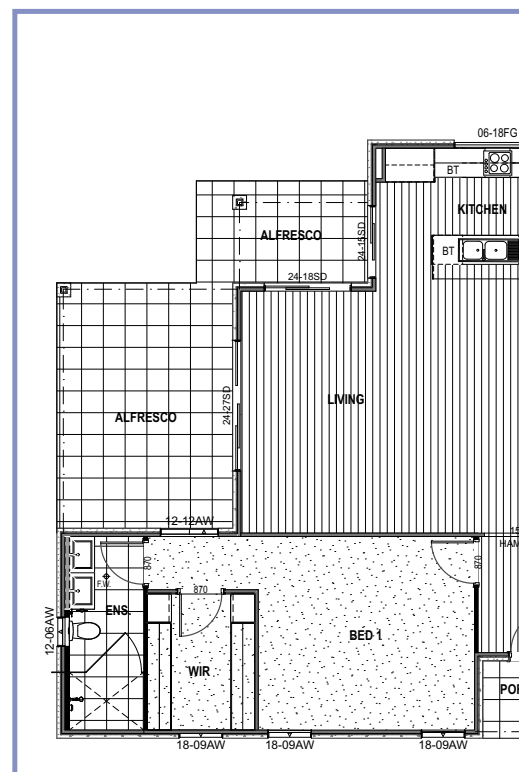
Building in Stage Six, which has just 12 homes, is well underway. Located on premium sites, the large three-bedroom home designs all feature open plan living and dining spaces that seamlessly flow onto the outdoor areas. Some sites have no neighbours behind, just the trees and breezes from the river to enjoy! They all have an ensuite and walk-in robes off the master bedroom and walk-in pantry in the kitchen with an integrated fridge and dishwasher

as part of the standard inclusions. Our first homes are estimated to be finished around the middle of March. This is the Final Stage, so don't miss out on the opportunity to secure your future home at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront.

With a brand-new Woolworths and convenient shops just around the corner at Bellmere, and all the major shops at the end of the road, what more do you need? We have both a public and private hospital and two train stations nearby if you want to travel to the city or to the Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast.

If you're ready for a simply lifechanging move, call me today to enquire about the available homes.

Glenys Lowry  
Sales Manager



Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront Sales  
Glenys Lowry, Sales Manager  
M 0438 660 436 | E [glenys@livinggems.com.au](mailto:glenys@livinggems.com.au)

# Take me to the river

*Final Stage's first home to be completed next month*

Construction of Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront's Final Stage homes is moving full steam ahead, with building underway for all twelve of the premium-site homes.

The first home, a stunning three-bedroom design with river and parkland views, will be completed next month (see details at bottom of page).

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront Sales Manager, Glenys Lowry, said contract holders and prospective buyers had been wowed by the home designs on offer in the Final

Stage and the wide range of quality standard inclusions.

"The feedback we've received about the homes' spaciousness and the lovely outlook along the riverbank has been wonderful," she said.

"In addition, we've had a lot of enthusiastic comments about the facilities, plus the friendliness of the residents in the community."

Glenys added that the resort had the advantage of being nestled in nature yet was conveniently close to shops and restaurants.

"It's such a special spot. The resort is located nearby the banks of the Caboolture River and surrounded by parklands, exclusively for use by residents, with top-notch facilities right at homeowners' doorsteps," she said.

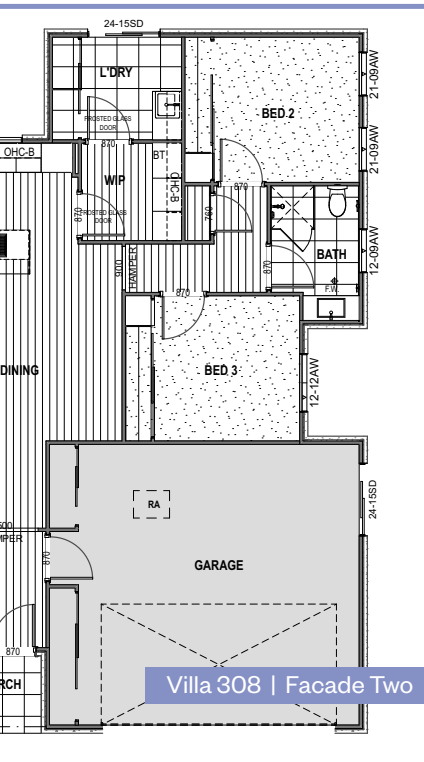
"Outside the resort, there are more beautiful local parks to enjoy plus

the many attractions of Moreton Bay, including Bribie Island. The opportunity to practise your swing is seven minutes away at the Caboolture Golf Club. A round of golf at Village Links is also just seven minutes away.

"The resort is close to shop, transport, and medical services. Morayfields Shopping Centre is just an eight-minute drive away and a brand-new Woolworths shopping centre – under construction – will be in walking distance."

As an established resort, Final Stage buyers have the advantage of being able to enjoy the community's first-rate amenities right away.

For more information or to book a private tour of Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront, please call Glenys Lowry on 0438 660 436 or email her at [glenys@livinggems.com.au](mailto:glenys@livinggems.com.au)



## Albert

\$970,000



With idyllic river views, riverside living at its finest can be yours in this stunning Albert design home. The exclusive three-bedroom villa overlooks the resort's private parkland by the Caboolture River. With high ceilings, the open plan living and dining rooms provide a feeling of space and seamlessly flow out upon two peaceful alfresco areas ideal for summer nights and taking in the river breezes and birdsong. The kitchen features high-quality integrated appliances, stone benchtops and a walk-in pantry which will make entertaining a pleasure.

If you are looking for something special, this home has no neighbours at the rear and along one side, and will be move-in ready in March.

# Glass House Mountains

## Sales Managers Message

I am excited to be heading up the sales team for our newest resort, Living Gems Glass House Mountains in the beautiful Sunshine Coast hinterland.

We're delighted to see so much work already underway at the resort. As you've no doubt read in our CEO's report, earthworks are almost complete, and the civil construction team is expected to move in this month to start laying pipework.

These are exciting times indeed!

The stunning Glass House Mountains makes a majestic backdrop to our resort and the location of the future Country Club will give homeowners the very best views of Mount Beerwah, Mount Coochin and Mount Coonowrin.

The charming historic town of Beerwah is only a few minutes away offering shopping, restaurants and cafes.

We're thrilled with the interest we're beginning to see with some early birds already putting holds on blocks in Stage One for three-bedroom homes that will feature exceptional inclusions such as high ceilings, walk-in pantries, generous-sized ensuites with double vanities, alfresco living areas and double car garages.

The prices for these quality new homes, which are part of an amazing premium resort, start in the low \$700,000s. So, if you're looking to make the move to somewhere lifechanging, I look forward to talking with you to discuss your future home in this amazing part of the Sunshine Coast.

Victoria Dent  
Sales Manager



Living Gems Glass House Mountains Sales  
Victoria Dent, Sales Manager  
M 0412 131 832 | E [victoria@livinggems.com.au](mailto:victoria@livinggems.com.au)

# High on a mountain top

## Explore the beautiful Glass House Mountains

Pack a picnic and hit the road. The Glass House Mountains on the Sunshine Coast has beautiful places to explore.

Start your day trip at the Visitors Centre in Rotary Park on the corner of Reed and Bruce Streets in Glass House Mountains township to get your bearings. While you're there, why not pop across to CJ's Bakery to grab a treat for the road.

Just four minutes' drive out of town is Bankfoot House. If you make a stop between Friday and Sunday, you can go on a free guided tour of the state heritage listed home.

Built in 1868 as a Cobb & Co stagecoach stop between Brisbane and the goldfields of Gympie, Bankfoot House was also a lunch destination, post office and accommodation for weary travellers. Linger a little while and explore the interactive displays.

Just another 4 kilometres down the road is the car park for the Mount Tibrogargan Circuit that

offers great views of Mount Tibrogargan and Mount Cooee.

Stop for a cup of tea then take the 3.2 kilometres circuit around the mountain through casuarina groves, eucalypt and melaleuca forests.

Make your lunch destination the Glass House Mountains Lookout Café, then drive up to the Glass House Mountains Lookout. Just 400 metres from the road are majestic views of the mountains as well as down to Caloundra and Maroochydore.

Keep those walking shoes on and drive another 10 minutes down Old Gympie Road into Beerburrum and to the Mt Beerburrum Walking Track. It is only a one-kilometre trek, but it does require a degree of fitness to climb up the fire tower. But once there, you won't be disappointed by the views.

And there is no better way to end the day than by rewarding yourself with a hot meal and cold drink at the Beerwah Hotel, which is so close to your new home at Living Gems Glass House Mountains.



## Westbrook

Pricing  
Coming Soon



2  
+MPR



2



2



1



WIP

The Westbrook masters the art of living well. A gourmet kitchen, fitted with quality appliances and a walk-in pantry, forms the heart of the home. Fluid, functional dining and living spaces open onto the courtyard and alfresco areas, making the Westbrook an excellent choice for entertainers. The master bedroom, with a walk-in wardrobe and double vanity ensuite bathroom, is located at the rear of the home. A spare bedroom and a multipurpose room give you the freedom to create a home that reflects your new way of life.



# Toowoomba

## Sales Manager's Message

The year is only a month old, and it's already been a busy start to 2023.

The construction team has been hard at work with fewer than 15 homes left to complete in Stage Five and three beautiful display homes open and ready for inspection.

Speaking of excitement, have you booked for our Open Day, which will take place on Saturday, March 4? This is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to view a lifestyle that is simply lifechanging. We'll have furnished display homes to inspect with villas to move into straight away or select your site from the homes under construction in Stage Five.

Our completed homes are already generating keen interest, so don't delay.

See the story on page 42 for more information and how to register for the Living Gems Toowoomba Open Day.

There is also plenty to do in the Toowoomba region in February.

If you've ever wondered how the blacksmiths of yore plied their trade or wanted to make your own silver jewellery, then book a course at the Cobb & Co Museum. Create something for Valentine's Day in silver between 12 and 13 February or forge new blacksmith skills between 25 and 26 February.

For more information visit the Cobb & Co Museum website: [cobb.qm.qld.gov.au/Events+and+Exhibitions](http://cobb.qm.qld.gov.au/Events+and+Exhibitions)

Michelle Perry  
Sales Manager



Living Gems Toowoomba Sales

Michelle Perry, Sales Manager

M 0417 973 819 | E [michelle.perry@livinggems.com.au](mailto:michelle.perry@livinggems.com.au)





# Meet Living Gems Toowoomba's new Resort Managers

Julie and Mark Lister started their new roles as Living Gems Toowoomba's Resort Managers just before Christmas last year and have already fallen in love with the lifechanging lifestyle.

The power couple may be new to Living Gems but they are experienced in the ins and outs of over-50s living.

"We moved from Gold Coast to Eagleby two years ago where we worked at another over-50s lifestyle resort company before coming here," said Julie.

"But Living Gems resorts are so much nicer!"

Set near the magnificent Darling Downs, Living Gems Toowoomba is close to the

city which has retained its quaint country charm, natural beauty and cultural atmosphere.

The duo is ecstatic with their decision to move to Toowoomba and have already settled down into their new home.

"The location is beautiful and all the residents we have met are lovely and welcoming," said Julie.

"Mark and I are really enjoying ourselves – it's been great!"



## Alice

\$590,000



3



2



2



1



WIP

Luxurious and modern, the Alice has it all. This stylish three-bedroom home, which comprises a spacious master bedroom with walk-in robe and an ensuite bathroom, a second bedroom and multiple living zones. You can opt for some me-time in the separate living room or choose to enjoy a cuppa with guests in the large kitchen – with walk-in pantry and overhead skylights - and open plan dining area, or head outdoors to the lovely alfresco area for some fresh air. A porch and double-car garage with ample inbuilt storage completes this beautiful home.



# Last chance to secure the lifestyle of your dreams at Living Gems Toowoomba

Mark the date in your calendar - Saturday, 4 March. Living Gems Toowoomba is hosting an Open Day!

Set in the beautiful garden city of Toowoomba and complementing its quaint country charm, Living Gems Toowoomba offers the best of rural living and an active lifestyle in a secure, relaxed environment.

The resort boasts award-winning recreational facilities including a Country Club with a grand ballroom, indoor heated swimming pool, spa, sauna, and so much more.

Best of all, you are only minutes away from everything Toowoomba has to offer in terms of shopping, entertainment and services.

If you know of anyone who is interested in making a move to a simply lifechanging, active over-50s lifestyle resort, then let them know of this great opportunity to check out the quality homes and outstanding facilities.

Move-in-ready homes are available now, plus more under construction, **starting from only \$544,000!** Come along to view our beautiful display homes and take in the idyllic natural surroundings for a taste of a lifestyle that is out of the ordinary.

Register your interest here: [livinggems.com.au/openday](http://livinggems.com.au/openday)





# Resort Round-up

With *Thrive* magazine's debut edition introduced last month, it is time for a sneak peek into what's been happening at our Living Gems resorts in our first resort round-up!

Homeowners at Sapphire by Living Gems kicked their heels up and celebrated New Year's Eve in style. While many of the residents hit the dance floor for a group routine, others enjoyed some up close and personal couples dancing. What a great night enjoyed by all.

Amber at Living Gems has also been keeping up with the Jones', beginning with morning craft classes taking off thanks to the skills of some talented women. But that's not all, a little birdie told us that the recent return of Bob and Fay Brodhurst-Hill from their caravanning expedition drew a nice crowd, and a block party celebration took place.

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront saw some of their men enjoying birthday celebrations recently, but if you think their human residents are the only ones having fun, think again.

The recent filming of our Living Gems commercials on site has produced some canine superstars of late. Keep an eye out for some of Caboolture's furry residents on the small screen.

It's going to be a big year at our Living Gems resorts, and we cannot wait to see what events and milestones come to pass.

*Share your photos and news with us!*

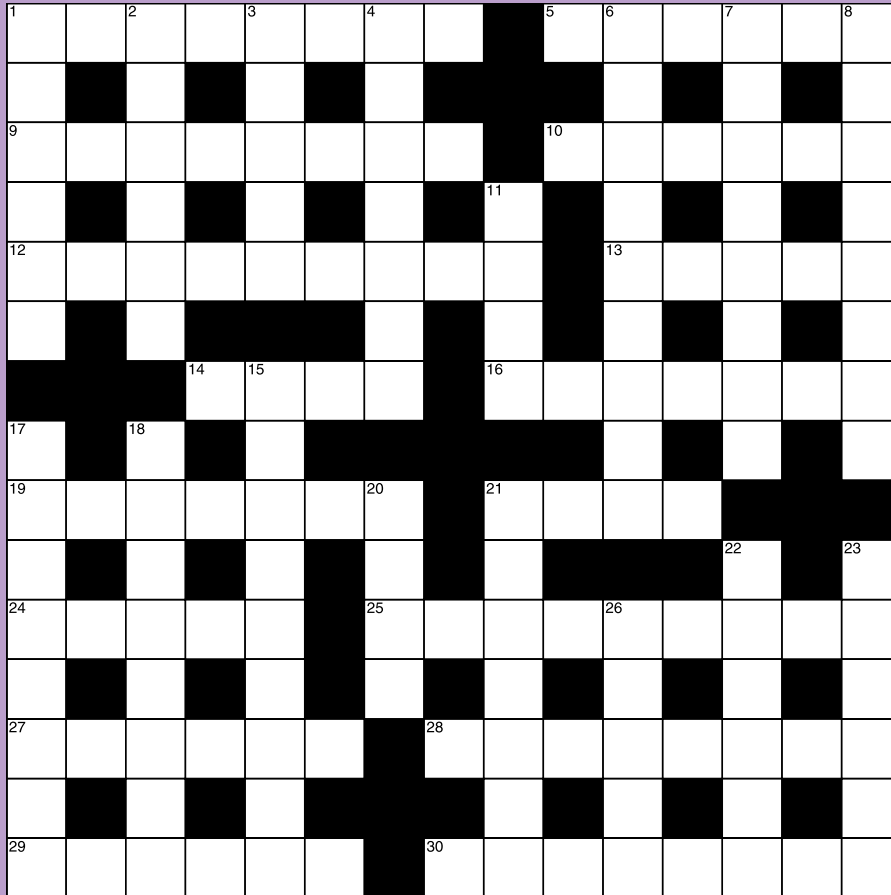
If you would like to have your photos featured in the *Thrive Resort Round-up* next month, or have a story idea to share, we'd love to hear from you.

Send your photos to us a couple of weeks before the beginning of the month to ensure your shots can be included. Email us at [content@livinggems.com.au](mailto:content@livinggems.com.au)





# Crossword



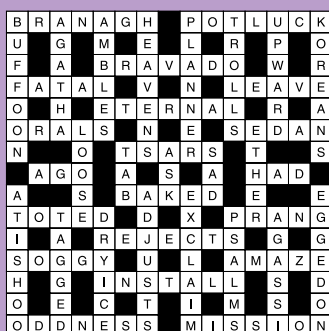
## Across

1. Instructed
5. Feathered
9. Much-travelled (4-4)
10. Recovery (in economy)
12. Shirt shoulder strap
13. Nervous
14. Cat communication
16. Real
19. Great joy
21. Circuit-breaker
24. UAE state, Abu ...
25. Kitbags
27. Golfer's assistant
28. Abandoned
29. Brutality
30. End results

## Down

1. Actor, Robert ... Jr
2. Insert more bullets
3. Savage
4. Polling booth occupant
6. Cosmetics
7. Sad
8. Writer, ... Steel
11. First person
15. Public services
17. Legal determinations
18. Ventured (guess)
20. Brand of sneakers
21. Butter up
22. Sharp-tasting
23. Throwaway lines
26. Get to feet

## Solution



# Lover's lamb loins

## Lamb rack



Food is the way to a person's heart. This Valentine's Day, turn up the romance and treat your sweetheart to an exquisite homemade meal.

Talented Chef, Matt Conquest, shares a step-by-step process of how he cooks a succulent oven-roasted lamb rack. The recipe is simple enough to replicate but your date will no doubt be dazzled by your expert culinary skills!

### Ingredients

Serves 2

- 1 x 8-point lamb rack
- 300g green beans, *lightly blanched*
- 4 slices of prosciutto
- 400g truss cherry tomatoes
- 1tsp garlic, *crushed*
- 1 lemon, *zested and juiced*
- Olive oil
- 2 tbsp of your favourite herbs – rosemary, thyme or oregano, *chopped*
- Seasoning – salt and pepper
- Rocket leaves

### Method

1. Trim the bones of the lamb rack and leave the cap on, making criss-cross cuts into the cap.
2. Mix the olive oil, lemon juice and zest, mixed herbs and seasoning to make the marinade.
3. Lay your rack of lamb in a tray and rub the marinade into the lamb and into the cap. You can choose to wrap the bones with foil to prevent them drying out. Allow the rack to infuse the flavour at room temperature for half an hour.
4. Preheat your oven to 170°C. While the loins are marinating, dry the blanched beans with paper towel, lay them on a plate and season lightly.
5. Lay your 4 slices of prosciutto on a plate or board. Divide the beans into 4 lots and wrap the beans with the prosciutto slices to make 4 bean bundles. Keep them aside.
6. Add oil and seasoning to the tomatoes and set them aside.
7. Pre-heat a pan on the stove. Once the pan is hot, add a little oil and seal off the rack on the cap side and then the bottom side. Re-rub the rack with marinade, lay it on the tray and put it in the oven.
8. After 10 minutes, place the bean bundles and truss tomatoes onto the oven tray to cook.
9. Cooking times vary depending on how you like your meat cooked. For medium-rare, cook for 20 mins at 60-65°C. Cook for 25 minutes at 70-75°C for the lamb to be medium well to well done – use a thermometer to check internal temperature.
10. Once it's cooked, rest the lamb rack under foil (to keep warm) for 5-10 minutes to allow it to become nice and juicy.
11. Serve the lamb on a platter along with the cooked tomatoes and beans then decorate it with some rocket leaves. Slice through the rack to cut serving portions.
12. You can accompany the dish with gravy, mint sauce/jelly, salsa verde or zesty gremolata.

**Pop open your beau's favourite glass of wine and enjoy!**



# Living Gems photo competition

*Frame that shot ...*

Living Gems is launching a 2023 photo competition to highlight some fabulous destinations, favourite local spots, macro shots, action photos, best pet shots and lots more from our homeowners, so get your cameras and phones ready this year (or dig through your archives)!

This means that as a Living Gems resident, you will be able to submit as many photos of your choice each month and be in the running to be

selected as the month's overall winner.

Each month, one winning photo will be chosen from across all Living Gems resorts and featured on the back page of *Thrive* magazine and shared on the Living Gems Facebook page, so get your exclusive bragging rights ready and share your masterpieces with us.

Send your submissions, with your

full name, resort name and where the photo was taken to [content@livinggems.com.au](mailto:content@livinggems.com.au)

## Submission Guidelines

Photos must be:

- Taken horizontally
- Submitted at least 2MB in size
- Taken by you

## Amber

1 Manuka Road  
Logan Village QLD 4207

**1800 317 381**

## Caboolture Riverfront

176 Torrens Road  
Caboolture South QLD 4510

**1800 288 918**

## Toowoomba

500 South Street  
Glenvale QLD 4350

**1800 348 977**

## Glass House Mountains

1221 Steve Irwin Way  
Beerwah QLD 4519

**1800 718 419**

## Pacific Paradise

596 David Low Way  
Pacific Paradise QLD

**1800 978 388**

## Opal

42 Quinze Creek Road  
Logan Village QLD 4207

**07 5547 2333**

## Ruby

225 Logan Street  
Eagleby QLD 4207

**07 3386 1771**

## Gold Coast

70 Hansford Road  
Coomabah QLD 4216

**07 5577 5899**

## Maleny

23 Macadamia Drive  
Maleny QLD 4552

**07 5429 6108**

## Sapphire

196 Logan Street  
Eagleby QLD 4207

**07 3804 7655**

Living Gems

[livinggems.com.au](http://livinggems.com.au)