

Thrive

Living Gems*

JULY 2023



All you need is friends
Making friends and having fun

Fast friends
Living large and
making mates

On the road
New friends, new
adventures

It takes all types
Cool connections at
Living Gems

livinggems.com.au

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the July issue of *Thrive*! This month's magazine is inspired by friendship, something our friendly communities are specifically designed to support and encourage to ensure our homeowners are living their best lives. From the choice of location to the huge array of facilities on offer, the team at Living Gems understand the extraordinarily important role friends play in a healthy, fulfilled lifestyle.

Did you know that people with close friendship networks are not only happier, but 22 percent live longer? With International Day of Friendship set to take place on 30 July, we share some great stories of residents who've made wonderful new friends since moving into Living Gems (pages 4-7), a travel group at Living Gems Caboolture that lets friends old and new get together for social adventures (pages 8-9), plus we look at how our resorts make it easier to build vibrant social lives (pages 10-13).

Amber by Living Gems continues to be a hive of activity with Stage Two residential construction moving full steam ahead and the commercial construction team making excellent progress on the resort's fabulous two-storey Country Club. We cannot wait for this magnificent facility to come together for our homeowners to enjoy (see page 3).

At Living Gems Toowoomba in the picturesque Darling Downs, it's been great to watch all the settlements taking place and our newest homeowners enjoying the simply lifechanging lifestyle on offer within this close-knit community. With the new off-leash dog run now open, it's been equally satisfying to know our canine residents have a dedicated spot to socialise and stretch their legs (see opposite page). We know from experience that our dog runs are often credited for creating friendships among pet owners too.

There are still some stunning premium homes available in our Final Stage at our established riverside resort, Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront. When only the best will do, these extra luxurious homes are sure to impress the discerning buyer. Contact the team today to find out more (see contact details on page 22).

I hope you enjoy reading the July issue of *Thrive* and I look forward to bringing you more Living Gems news and updates next month.



Adrian Puljich
CEO



Roof works set to begin on Amber's Country Club

Construction is powering ahead on the Amber by Living Gems \$10.5m Country Club, with roof works set to commence this month.

The commercial construction team has been making steady progress on the two-storey building which, when finished, will form a vibrant lifestyle hub for homeowners.

Living Gems CEO Adrian Puljich said structural steel works were well underway and added that service rough-ins on the ground level were nearing completion.

"It's fantastic to see the Country Club take shape. I know residents cannot wait to enjoy all the incredible facilities that will be on offer for their exclusive use," he said.

The classically modern building and the surrounding precinct, which will boast a warm colour palette of earth tones, and hues of brass and chartreuse, have been carefully designed to harmonise with the

semi-rural aesthetic of the Logan Village area.

Facilities will include a main hall with a dance floor and stage, a formal lounge, cafe/dining area, fully equipped gym, hair salon, large games room with balcony, library, private cinema, arts and crafts studio, music and meeting rooms, a two-lane ten-pin bowling alley, and a golf simulator.

The ground floor of the building opens onto a large alfresco area with loggia as well as the pool area and barbecue pavilion, plus a lawn bowls green with a nearby clubhouse, pickleball and bocce courts.

The Country Club is forecast to be completed before the end of the year.



Toowoomba's new dog run now open

Living Gems Toowoomba's new off-leash dog run is now open, giving the community's four-legged residents a dedicated place to play and socialise.

The gated dog run features hardy canine-friendly turf, a sheltered area with skillion roof, a tap/dog bowl area to keep pets hydrated during playtime, plus seating for homeowners.



F • R • I • E • N • D • S

There's no place like home

Friendships bloom in Paradise

Ian and Cheryl Cope couldn't be happier with the friendships they've made at Living Gems Pacific Paradise over-50s lifestyle resort. Just 15 months ago, the couple made the lifechanging decision to take the leap from Tin Can Bay to Pacific Paradise on the Sunshine Coast.

"We moved because it's so central to where our families live," Cheryl says. "We spotted a villa and fell in love, then sold up and made the big move, but the biggest bonus is the friendships we've made."

Cheryl says her fellow residents are full of life and value friendship above all else. And with the majority still working full time, they like to play hard too.

"We love socialising," she says. "We have a bus that takes us on wine tasting adventures to local wineries, golfing days, book clubs, metal workshops, betting groups and there's so many artists here."

This excites newly elected social president Phil Layton.

"My wife Bev and I are the new kids on the block who moved in last November, so we have a fresh outlook of the resort," he says. "What attracted us is the size of the resort and that it being smaller lends itself to an easier way of meeting people."

"I'm an artist and, to my surprise, this resort is full of artistic talent. One of the things I introduced here is an art display program. Half a dozen homeowners' paintings now hang on display at the Country Club that we rotate every month with new paintings from resident artists."

Phil, who ended up with the president position by default, says it's a great place to live.

"I stood up for the presidency to meet new people, never expecting to be the only one standing, getting the role, and instantly making new friends."

Cheryl says the residents love to party so there's never a dull moment.

"We have a huge caravanning group here and we all head out together, it's just fabulous. Everybody intermingles and it doesn't matter if you have different interests, you just get together and have a blast," she says. "If we are walking our dog and see other residents with theirs, we join up and all walk together. Everybody has been so welcoming, and we just love it here. It's like a regular Ramsay Street."

Cheryl's husband Ian loves the friendships he's made too.

"I thought I'd try lawn bowls and several months later, not only do we bowl here at the resort, we take trips up to Mooloolaba to play at the club there. I couldn't have asked for better mates."

Phil can't believe how much activity there is to enjoy at Living Gems Pacific Paradise.

"Every Friday we have an event at the Country Club, once a month we organise a catered dinner and every second week we do what we call a shared table where everyone brings a plate and we mingle," he says. "We even have a fabulous choir that's really taken off this year. Bev is a pianist, so she plays for it and the group has gone from about five to 25 now," says Phil.

The resort has several events coming up including a live band night.

"Every couple of months we get a band in and really rock it out and I can't wait for the next one," Phil says.





The meaning of friendship at Living Gems Pacific Paradise

Cheryl Cope: Someone to laugh with, sympathise with, share with, enjoy memories with, a friend will always be there for me and for me to be there for them.

Rhonda Wallace: From the day I arrived and moved into my beautiful home, I was immediately made to feel welcome, and that warm, comfortable feeling has continued. After making the big move interstate with my four-legged friend, I am incredibly grateful to have formed such wonderful friendships in a relatively short time. I believe through mutual acceptance, trust, independence, compassion, and support from so many wonderful caring people in our beautiful community, we have fun and feel supported in a safe, loving environment. A great foundation for any friendship.

Kim Cumiskey: The friendships I have made here mean you can be as involved as much or as little as you want without judgement. They mean I don't have to be lonely, but I can still be alone with no pressure to commit. My friends provide lots of laughter or a shoulder to lean on when down or lost. I couldn't go back to a stand-alone house as it would be too quiet and lonely and I couldn't play tennis, enjoy painting classes and the occasional drink on Friday nights.

Jan Smith: At Living Gems Pacific Paradise, friendship is evident at all our community events. However, it is truly appreciated in times of sadness when community members really rally around. I would not want to live anywhere else thanks to the special friendliness of our beautiful community.

Phil Layton: We have only been in the resort eight months and have had such a lovely welcome. We feel like long-time neighbours and have already made some strong friendships. This is very helpful for us and for anyone deciding to move here, it adds to the feeling of security, as well as bringing joy to all our lives. We are, indeed, very happy people. What more can we ask for at this stage of our lives?

Jill Davies: After the death of my husband of 58 years, I was extremely lonely living in a unit and a friend suggested I enquire about an over-50s lifestyle resort for companionship. I came to Living Gems Pacific Paradise and immediately fell in love with the house which had everything I could have wished for with so many extras included in the price. Friendships here means like-minded, friendly people who greet you with a wave or 'good day'. One never needs to be alone but likewise you can have complete privacy in your lovely home when you want it in a gated community. There is no obligation to get involved in any of the activities organised but it's available and the opportunity to become acquainted and make new friends with people is always there. It means feeling very safe and secure.



Clubbing together

Travel broadens the mind and the friendship circle!

A suggestion made four years ago by Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront resort managers has seen homeowner Norman Pressey spending his retirement as busy as ever.

"I've been in the travel industry for about 45 years now," he said. "When I moved into the resort, Mark and Michelle suggested that I might like to start a travel club.

"I put up a notice in the Country Club for anyone who might be interested in taking part in group travel and between 60 and 70 people showed up!"

Norman's experience as a travel agent has enabled him to put together tailored travel packages for groups of between 20 and 30.

And as a result, lots of friendships have been formed at the resort and



Norman shares his top travel tips

Pack lightly

Taking a large case can make travel difficult especially where you might have to move the case yourself, where steps are involved, or getting the case onto a train.

Dress in layers

"I always pack a shirt, jumper and jacket," said Norman. "When it is cool, I can add a layer, and when it is warm, I can take one off."

Get travel insurance

Even when travelling within Australia. "Not a lot of people know that if you hire a car for more than three days, travel insurance will cover your vehicle hire excess."

shared experiences have created lasting memories.

"One of the great things about group travel is that the single ladies in our resort can enjoy travelling too where they may not have wished to do so on their own," he said.

Going as a group of friends, with a seasoned traveller as a guide, ensures you are never on your own – that means lots of laughter and good times are guaranteed.

"We were in Singapore in February and one couple asked if they could join my wife and I sightseeing because it was their first time and they weren't

sure where to go," said Norman.

"We arranged to meet in the foyer at 9am the next day but when we arrived there were 14 people waiting, then 16 and then 18! Afterwards, everyone said that they would never have discovered these places on their own."

The Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront travel club has visited quite a few must-see places around Australia including three weeks in Tasmania, a river cruise in South Australia, incorporating a visit to Kangaroo Island. Closer to home, Norman has arranged a group trip down to the Brisbane Festival for

Riverfire as well as other local day trips.

"Cruises are also popular," said Norman. "That's no surprise, because everything is included, and the destinations come to you."

He's also open to requests.

"I had one chap come up to me and tell me that he saw an interesting trip to Japan," he said. "Before long we had ten couples who wanted to come along.

"And there are eight or nine couples who are going to Alaska and Canada in September next year."

Norman reveals that his favourite travel destinations put him on top of the world.

"I've been to the Arctic and around Norway and Iceland," he said. "But I think one of my favourite destinations has been Antarctica."



Moveable feasts!

Progressive dinners put friendships on the menu

Recent studies reveal making good friendships are good for your health and a path to a longer life.

A US research study in 2020 by the National Academies of Science revealed a link between loneliness and social isolation to serious health conditions. The study showed that loneliness is a growing public health issue. It indicated that there's a 50 percent increased risk of dementia, a 29 percent increased risk of heart disease and a 32 percent increased risk of stroke for people who experience social isolation.

Relationships Australia National Executive Officer Nick Tebbey said there was a rise in social isolation across the Australian community and that following critical events like retiring from work, moving into a lifestyle resort or retirement village can help.

"Retirement villages could be good enablers for social connection because they often go above and beyond to create opportunities for people to

connect, but it's up to the individual to choose to participate," Nick said.

A study done by the Australian National University also found community relationships make a positive impact on your mental health and help keep depression, anxiety and loneliness at bay.

We take a look at how homeowners at three Living Gems resorts go about making friends and having fun.



David and Laura Tester

Amber by Living Gems

Laura and David Tester found new friendships right on their doorstep. As one of the first residents to move into Amber by Living Gems, they were also to meet other newly arriving residents.

“Wendy and Arthur Williamson started it all when they brought a bottle of wine up one night,” said Laura. “Then we got talking to Marilyn Luscombe after she returned from holidays and Genni Bramwell soon after.

“Then Barry and Ann Beresford-Harber joined the crew, so we decided to have a get together for my 80th birthday and vigorously celebrated.”

The arrival of Joachim and Lynda Stachowicz made it a real party. Together they make an international infusion of Brits, Germans and Aussies.

“We’ve called ourselves The Ten Tenants,” said Laura. “We take it in turns to get together at someone’s house for nibblies and drinks where we can say what we want, and we do say some terrible things to each other, but all in the name of fun.”

The group comprises four couples, while Genni and Marilyn are single, so there’s six homes involved in these fun nights.

“We all bring something on the night and share,” said Linda.

“Genni and Ann are fantastic cooks, so everyone looks forward to their dishes.

“We’ve thought about playing games but by the end of the night we aren’t capable of playing much of anything,” she laughed. “Life’s too short so we live it up as much as we can and toast a lot.

“We love taking the mickey out of each other. Our crew is a great match because no one takes offence and if they do, it’s just bad bloody luck!

“It’s been brilliant. Making friends at the resort is so easy. I call our group ‘our new old friends!’”



Robin and Ruth Widdowson

Living Gems Toowoomba

Making friends has been a matter of course at Living Gems Toowoomba. In fact, five-course meals are regularly on the menu.

For Robin and Ruth Widdowson, these events have been a great way to make new friends.

“We met a small group of friends down on one corner of the resort and it’s been fantastic,” Robin says. “We’ve made far better friendships than we ever did in suburbia where you barely know your neighbours.”

“We came from Gippsland where we had a big house and big garden but our children lived in Queensland and we decided that maybe it was time to move up to be closer to them and our grandkids.”

As soon as the couple moved in, they started making good friends and celebrated that friendship at a recent progressive dinner, says Ruth.

“We started with nibbles at Jennie and Lex Van de Stoep’s house, then we house hopped to Diana Campbell’s who served us an entrée of Bolivian pumpkin soup that she and Carolyn Cronan made,” she said. “The main course was at our place which was a chicken dish, a curried sausage dish and some cake and ice cream.”

“Next, we went to John and Elizabeth Schultz’s place next door for chocolate cake and pudding. After



that, we finished up at Bob and Glenda Retallick's place for port and cigars," says Robin. "Hang on, let me clarify. While the men drank and smoked, the ladies drank Baileys and coffee."

They report that progressive dinners are likely to be a regular event in the future.

Greg and Sharyn Gardner, and John and Noreen Stephens Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront

They say that strangers are simply friends you haven't met yet.

For Greg and Sharyn Gardner and John and Noreen Stephens that was definitely the case. The two couples met seven years ago while their Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront homes were under construction.

"It turned out that we were renting in the same suburb while waiting for our homes to be completed," said Greg. "And we met at functions hosted by Living Gems.

"We bonded over shoes," said Sharyn.

"Yes," Noreen adds. "We had the same pair!"

But it was a love of travel that really cemented the friendship. They are members of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia and regularly head out on the open road.

"We're originally from Sydney and hadn't seen a lot of Queensland," said Greg.

The Stephens hail from Capalaba and it's John who takes the lead in planning the travel itinerary.

"We've been to lots of places that we wouldn't have known were there," said Greg. "In fact, we may have been their twice, but we wouldn't know until we got there because John takes us in by another way!"

Sharyn said she loves the adventure.

"Coming from Sydney, we hadn't realised how different Queensland was and how many beautiful places there are to explore," she said.

The carefree Living Gems lifestyle has meant that spur of the moment trips are also on the agenda.

"We've taken cruises that we didn't know we were going on until two weeks before," said Noreen. "Someone mentions a destination and we go, 'oh that sounds nice' and before you know it, we're on our way!"

While the Gardners and the Stephens are the closest of friends, the spirit of helpfulness and camaraderie runs right throughout the resort as well.

"If anyone needs anything – a ride to a medical appointment or any other type of support, there is always someone here who will help," said Sharyn.

Noreen agrees. "And yet you have your own privacy too," she says. "You can be involved as much or as little as you'd like."

For this couple, 'more is more' when it comes to living life to the full and enjoying every moment.

A study of contrasts

Diverse findings in new report on ageing

A comprehensive national study of more than 2700 over-50s has revealed fascinating insights into the wants, needs, joys, and worries of older Australians.

The study, the third undertaken by the Council on the Ageing (COTA), takes a deep dive into the minds and lives of more than nine million Australians over the age of 50.

From quality of life, travel, employment and finances to housing, health and perceptions about the future, the research uncovers a mixed bag of trends and states of mind with major differences depending on respondents' age, gender and where they live.

Conducted at the end of 2022, after another year of living with

COVID-19, together with increased cost-of-living pressures, the research reflected a cohort whose feelings about the future were less buoyant than in the first two studies.

Living Gems Director of Sales and Marketing Andrew Coulter said the data showed increasing concern about the future, living costs, healthcare access and, for those in the workforce, feelings of being undervalued due to age discrimination.

“But on the positive side, the research revealed the majority of those surveyed felt younger than their biological age – up to or more than 10 years younger. And 70 percent of people rated their quality of life as high,” Andrew said.

“Interestingly, those aged over 70 were far more likely to report their health as being very good compared

to those in their 50s. And men were more likely than women to fit in two hours of exercise a week.”

Plans to travel were a particular focus of the 2023 study, with two thirds of those surveyed wanting to take a holiday within the next year.

“Sixty percent intend to take an interstate holiday while 35 percent have their eye on international travel.”

The first research report was launched in 2018 with the aim of monitoring trends among the over-50s' demographic over time.

To read the full report visit
cota.org.au/policy/state-of-the-older-nation

Report at a glance

Quality of life



67%

feel younger than their age. On average, they felt 7.7 years younger than their actual age.



72%

rate their quality of life highly (7 or more out of 10) but **10%** say their quality of life is poor (rating 0 to 4).

Financial security

52%

feel fairly secure about their finances being able to meet their needs throughout the rest of their lives (rating 7 or more out of 10). This is lower than 2021 (55% felt secure).



Intentions to travel



67% intend to go on a holiday in the next 12 months, and **88%** of those with an annual personal income of more than \$100k fall into this category.



54% of those who are not intending to take a holiday overseas or interstate feel it is too expensive to do so.

Employment



78%

of those who are fully retired did so before the age of 66, while **52%** of working older Australians expect to retire after the age of 66.



24%

have experienced employment related discrimination since turning 50. The proportion of those experiencing it while seeking work decreased to **18%** (down from 21% in 2021).

Housing

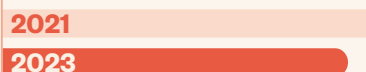
87% rate their access to needed shops at a 7 or more out of 10, **85%** their access to public places, and **81%** their access to needed medical services.



Thoughts about the future

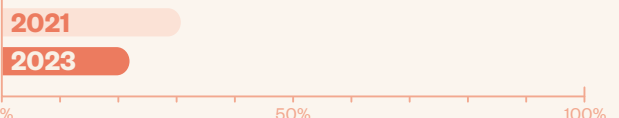
60%

feel positive about what the future holds for them personally in the next year or two, but this is significantly lower than 2021 (65%).



20%

feel things are getting better (lower than 29% in 2021).



Fascinating folk

The people you meet

So many fascinating people call Living Gems communities home, says Glenys Lowry, Sales Manager at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront.

"I get to meet so many people from lots of different walks of life who want to upgrade their lifestyle at our resorts," she said.

"We have a lot of ex-service personnel and plenty of retired teachers in our ranks - not to mention carpenters, engineers... In fact, name a profession and there will be someone at Living Gems who could put their hand up."

One of the things people want to know is whether they're going to fit

into an over-50s lifestyle community.

"That's the great thing about Living Gems - you can be as active or as laid back as you wish," said Glenys.

"There is never any shortage of things to do - either enjoying the wonderful resort facilities or taking part in one of the many resident-organised events.

"I think the reason why so many people tell me that they've discovered a really friendly community is because no matter the

professional career or occupation, everyone has something in common.

"I always tell prospective buyers it is like when we all grew up and the neighbours were like an extended family. Residents really do care for one another and make sure everyone is okay."

In this month's edition of *Thrive*, we chat to some of the fascinating people you'll meet at Living Gems.



Peter Nicols

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront

"I've led a very boring life," says Peter Nicols but it's best not to take that at face value.

The army veteran began his military career with the Royal Australian Engineers 32nd Small Ship Squadron.

"Yes, I got to play with boats in the army," he said. "Over the years some people have thought that it was silly for the army to have boats, but I'd say to them, 'what do you think the marines are? They're infantry attached to the navy!'"

After six years of service, Peter went into civilian life and put his engineering background to good use as a consultant in water and sewerage infrastructures on projects which included town water supply in PNG and even to China.

"I designed the water supply and sewerage services for eight hotels in communist China under an Australian Government Aid program in 1979 to help ready the country to accept foreign travelers."

But he is most proud of the work he has done through The Corps of Commissionaires, of which he is still a serving member. The corps was established in the UK in 1859 to utilise the expertise of ex-servicemen in areas of security and

operates in UK, Canada and Australia.

This position saw him serve as Bailiff of the CMC. He also served in a part time position as Post Governor ADC to Sir Walter Campbell who was a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Chancellor of the University of Queensland and the 21st Governor of Queensland from 1985 to 1992.

For the past thirty years, Peter has sat on the Board of Governors of Society of St Andrews of Scotland (Qld) and is a Fellow of the National Museum of Scotland. He has also conducted anthropology research, specialising in Comparative Linguists.

His last position with the Corps of Commissionaires was a 12-year stint as a consultant in Honours & Awards working with ADF and QPS.

Peter and his wife Judy have called Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront home for almost six years.

"I keep very busy with my military and academic interests and my wife leads a very active social life at Living Gems," he said. "And that's the great part about it, you can be as involved as you wish."



Bob and Glenda Retallick

Living Gems Toowoomba

Food judge and activities connoisseur

“Bob and I moved in about six months ago and haven’t looked back,” says Glenda.

Bob, a food judge of 15 years, still travels a lot for work but Glenda, an avid speed reader and retired medical administrator, has now become the busier of the two.

“I travel a lot for my food judging work and Glenda was always bored so she used to speed read books all the time,” Bob says. “Since we moved to Living Gems Toowoomba, it’s Glenda who I now must book time in with, as she is so involved in activities here at the resort with all our wonderful neighbours.

“I make an appointment on a Sunday afternoon to see her the next week, so she’s become the active woman she was at 35 thanks to Living Gems,” Bob says.

“Bob now has to check my diary to find out when I’m home - we have to compare diaries to book our dates together,” Glenda smiles.

Glenda participates in games of tennis, table tennis, water aerobics, ten-pin bowling, a walking group and continues to line up new activities each week. Bob isn’t the only busy one now.

“I was the head food judge for the World Butchers Challenge where 16 countries around the world compete. I judged cooked and raw meat, sausages, food in general, pies, even gluten-free products in Ireland, Sacramento, Dubai, Iceland, Italy and South Africa,” he says. “I also judge for the Baking Association of Australia whenever they need me.

“It’s a great job but you have to try a lot of food, so unless it’s really amazing, you have to spit a lot out because you just couldn’t fit it all in.”

Bob says being a food judge is not as glamorous as it sounds, especially when you finish judging and later wish you had another chance to eat the food for enjoyment.

“In Hong Kong, the food is so beautiful, but they give you so much that I just chew three times to get the flavour and texture and spit it out as I just couldn’t fit it all in,” he says.





Amber

Sales Managers' Message

We're thrilled that settlements for the second and final stage of Amber by Living Gems have already started.

With construction proceeding at a rapid pace, we are thrilled to be welcoming new home owners into their beautiful properties already, within Stage Two at Amber. Stage Two is now over 70 percent sold out.

Amber by Living Gems has welcomed 11 new homeowners throughout the month of June and expect another 13 new residents to make the move into their stunning new homes in July.

This month will see further progress in construction of the impressive Country Club at Amber. Works being conducted are the finalisation of waterproofing, internal rough-ins and framing as well as the external render and painting.

We're located in the heart of Logan Village – halfway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Many of our residents enjoy taking a day trip

to Mount Tamborine which is only a short drive from our resort and boasts beautiful waterfall walks and cafes to stop in and grab a cuppa or a bite to eat on a fine day out.

Are you considering a simply lifechanging move to Living Gems? We have two move-in-ready homes available now, starting from only \$510,000!

With a limited number of homes remaining in Stage Two, we welcome you to phone us on 1800 317 381 to arrange a time to view our stunning display homes.

Come and see our impressive designs and finishes, featuring inclusions that others call 'upgrades'. That's just one of the many reasons why our valued residents have chosen to call Amber by Living Gems their home.



For illustrative purposes only



Amber by Living Gems Sales Team

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Fabulous fun with friends

Amber by Living Gems homeowners are spoiled for choice when it comes to great local places to experience with friends to mark this year's International Friendship Day on 30 July. *Thrive* has put together a few options that can be enjoyed by all.

Beenleigh Artisan Distillers

Home to Australia's original rum, Beenleigh Artisan Distillers was founded in 1884, on the banks of the Albert River, Beenleigh, and is the oldest registered and continuously working rum distillery in Australia.

The boutique distillery still operates from the original stone building and uses the same copper pot still, housed in the big red building. A new visitor centre is a recent addition.

Visitors have an opportunity to learn its history, take a tour of the distillery and sample some of Beenleigh's award-winning rum such as copper pot distilled rum, honey liqueur and double barrel rum, aged in ex-bourbon and brandy barrels.

Visit: beenleighrum.com.au

Spirits of the Red Sand

An extraordinary experience unlike anything you've ever seen awaits with *Spirits of the Red Sand*, an interactive Aboriginal live theatre show and dinner that is absolutely world class.

The only one of its kind in Australia, the two-and-a-half-hour experience in Beenleigh Historical Village, invites guests to be transported to the Australia of the 1800s to witness history come alive. Engaging all the senses, you'll see a cast of direct descendants of a man called Jarrah and his brothers.

Visit: spiritsredsand.com

Daisy Hill Koala Centre

Daisy Hill Koala Centre is a dedicated koala education centre located in Daisy Hill Conservation Park, 25km south of Brisbane. It is open from 10am to 4pm and provides visitors with a chance to view the centre's resident koalas from two different viewing levels in the large outdoor enclosure.

Inside the centre, visitors can learn everything they wanted to know about koalas with fun and interactive displays before climbing the observation tower to spot a koala in the 435 hectares of open eucalypt forest that makes up the conservation park.

Visit: bit.ly/daisykoalas



Villa 5 | Facade Classic

Torrens

\$656,000



The three-bedroom Torrens offers not one, but two ensuite bedrooms with walk-in robes for your convenience and that of your overnight guests. Located on a perimeter site, this home's smart design gives you plenty of space to live and entertain with a light-filled kitchen and high-quality appliances, as well as dining and living areas opening out to a generous alfresco entertaining space.



Caboolture Riverfront

Sales Manager's Message

Construction of the last release of brand-new homes at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront is complete and these homes are ready to move into today!

These outstanding three-bedroom homes are truly amazing with luxury finishes and inclusions that are sure to impress and that's before we talk about the green vistas from the backyard.

I'm scheduling private viewings of all the completed homes which are available to purchase now. Bring a friend or your family and see for yourself why a beautiful home in an exclusive street at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront is simply lifechanging.

Discover exclusive facilities at the end of the street including community gardens, bocce, barbecue area, and a walking path to the river. Wheel your kayak down and enjoy the Caboolture River or just find a seat and relax in the peace and quiet and read a book. Help

yourself to some lemons and limes on your way home.

My office is open Monday to Friday, so give me a call to book a personal tour of this amazing resort and our Stage Six homes. Current residents who refer buyers to purchase one of our brand-new homes will receive \$1000 as a thank you. You are our gems and have made this resort such a wonderful place to call home.

Currently, a set of traffic lights are being installed on the corner of Torrens Road, which is going to make access a lot easier for both motorists and pedestrians. Residents will be able to safely walk or cycle to a new Woolworths Shopping Centre at Bellmere, which is well underway.

Glenys Lowry
Sales Manager



Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront Sales
Glenys Lowry, Sales Manager
M 0438 660 436 | E info@livinggems.com.au



For illustrative purposes only



Close up and personal with macro photography

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront is home to a man with a fine eye for detail and a camera at the ready to capture the magic of macro photography.

David McCormack has been snapping shots since the 80s and although he insists that he's not a professional, the quality of his photographs tells a different story.

these days I work with two digital cameras – a 70D and an 80D.”

Besides his stunning macro shots, David enjoys getting snaps at resort events in addition to another special hobby.



“I’ve done a lot of wedding photography and I always wanted to become a photographer but never took that final step,” he says. “Macro is something you can see with your eyes, but you can miss the beauty of it without the lens. Only when you get closer, it becomes a whole new world of fascination.”

“I like to take pictures of animals and make clocks for people as a keepsake,” he says.

David takes his remarkable photos with two prized possessions.

“But it’s not easy work and not a cheap project. By the time you work with the resin, the digits and the rest, you end up with something beautiful. And thank goodness for that as it’s a lot of hours of work.”

“I’ve always been a Canon fan ever since I started with a film camera, but



Villa 318 | Facade Two

Goulburn

\$820,000

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3
- 
2
- 
2
- 
1
- 
WIP

Ready to move into now, the Goulburn is a bright and airy three-bedroom home with high ceiling living and dining areas that seamlessly flow out onto a relaxing alfresco area with plenty of room to entertain and create your own private oasis. The kitchen boasts a walk-in pantry and integrated appliances ideal for entertaining. When you're ready for 'you time', enjoy the retreat of a spacious master bedroom with large walk-in robe and double vanity ensuite.



Toowoomba

Sales Manager's Message

June has been such a busy month here at Living Gems Toowoomba and we've had the great pleasure of welcoming so many new homeowners to this beautiful resort.

This community is wonderfully friendly, and it doesn't take long for new residents to feel welcome and make new friends.

It's also enjoyable to see all the activity centred around the Country Club as the weather cools down with plenty of games, crafts and socialising taking place.

All new homes at Living Gems Toowoomba are currently sold out, but to avoid disappointment, contact me today to lodge an expression of interest in the last two new three-bedroom homes that we expect to begin building later this year.

However, if you're ready to enjoy a simply lifechanging move, we have two established homes for sale that are available to move into straight away. These homes won't last long, so give me a call today to inspect these residences for yourself.

Michelle Perry
Sales Manager



Living Gems Toowoomba Sales
Michelle Perry, Sales Manager
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Celebrate with friends

The Toowoomba area has many places of interest and with International Friendship Day coming up on 30 July, we highlight a few great places that can be enjoyed with friends.

Picnic in the park

Queens Park, which represents 26.3 hectares of greenspace in the centre of town, is the ideal place for a picnic with friends and family.

The park is renowned for hosting the city's award-winning Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers which attracts close to 300,000 people each year. The lawns also play host to the local Food and Wine Festival.

Queens Park was originally planned and developed by Walter Hill, a government botanist in the 1800s and features trees imported from Europe, Asia and other parts of the world.

Visit Cobb & Co Museum

Toowoomba's pioneering history is captured with a visit to the Cobb & Co Museum.

Guided tours are held twice-daily and provide an insider's knowledge about life during the Cobb and Co era whilst also presenting a National Carriage Collection of horse-drawn vehicles.

Visit: cobb.qm.qld.gov.au

Enjoy a show at Empire Theatre

Toowoomba is home to Australia's largest regional performing arts complex, the Empire Theatre, where visitors can catch a cabaret, theatre production or comedy performance.

The lavish art-deco styling of the venue, combined with its state-of-the-art technology, makes for a magical and memorable experience. The Empire Theatre also offers historical tours and attracts many visitors each year.

Visit: empiretheatre.com.au



Congratulations to our hero!

Congratulations to Sandy Llewellyn from Living Gems Toowoomba who has won herself a Go For Zero zero-waste cleaning pack that includes:

- Bottle brush
- Scrubbing dish brush suitable for kitchens and bathrooms
- Long-handle dish brush
- Replacement dish-brush head
- Reclaimed wooden soap holder to help make soap last longer
- Four-in-one dish and laundry block (300g) with anti-bacterial and anti-fungal benefits that cleans dishes, clothes, surfaces and hands

All products are made from plant materials and can be used on multiple surfaces.

Good on you for helping the environment, Sandy!

Resort Round-up

What a month for our Living Gems homeowners! While some resorts attended fabulous big-name performances, others welcomed new neighbours, expanded their vocal range, shared fine dining with friends, and even sailed across some of the seven seas.

Firstly, *Thrive* wants to congratulate all new residents on their settlements over the past month. Welcome to Toowoomba Debra Buckley and Wayne and Ruth Dixon, and to Amber, we welcome Diana and Glen Maynard who have joined the Living Gems family. Although we would love to add photos of every settlement here, we can only include a small handful each month.

Speaking of Toowoomba, several resident homes were involved in a progressive dinner. Pre-dinner drinks were served in one home, the entrée in the next home and so on. Bob and Glenda, nice work on the final drop-in at your place for cigars for the gents and Baileys for the ladies. See page 12 for more information.

Caboolture is in the news again too, with some incredible show-stopping performances attended by residents. The list included big names like Normie Rowe, The Ten Tenors, Issi Dye and Killer Queen, who rocked the roof off the Club House and entertained 240 residents. The Royal Australian Navy Band also put on a performance for 256 of the resort's residents. Thank you to the Ex-Service Support Group for organising the performance, Gayle Harris for her valued contributions, and Leanne Lowrie for always snapping great pics.

While some stayed local, other Caboolture residents jumped aboard a P&O cruise to Papua New Guinea including a visit to the Kiriwina Islands where everyone had a blast with the locals.

New *Thrive* Resort Round-up participants, Living Gems Pacific Paradise, have made the roll call in this month's friendship edition. Be sure to check out the front cover and pages 4 to 7 for their story. Congratulations to newly elected social president Phil Layton. And thanks for sending us Rhonda Wallace's picture of Pacific Paradise's ever-growing choir. With Beverley Layton at the piano, *Thrive* looks forward to hearing about perfectly pitched future performances.

And finally, Amber residents celebrated friendship with some fun get togethers at the resort full of good food, great company and a fine wine or two. See page 13.

Did we mention the State of Origin battle continues at this resort? There are some sore Blues supporters nursing their wounded pride before the final game. It's a bit of a touchy subject so *Thrive* will refrain from further comment.







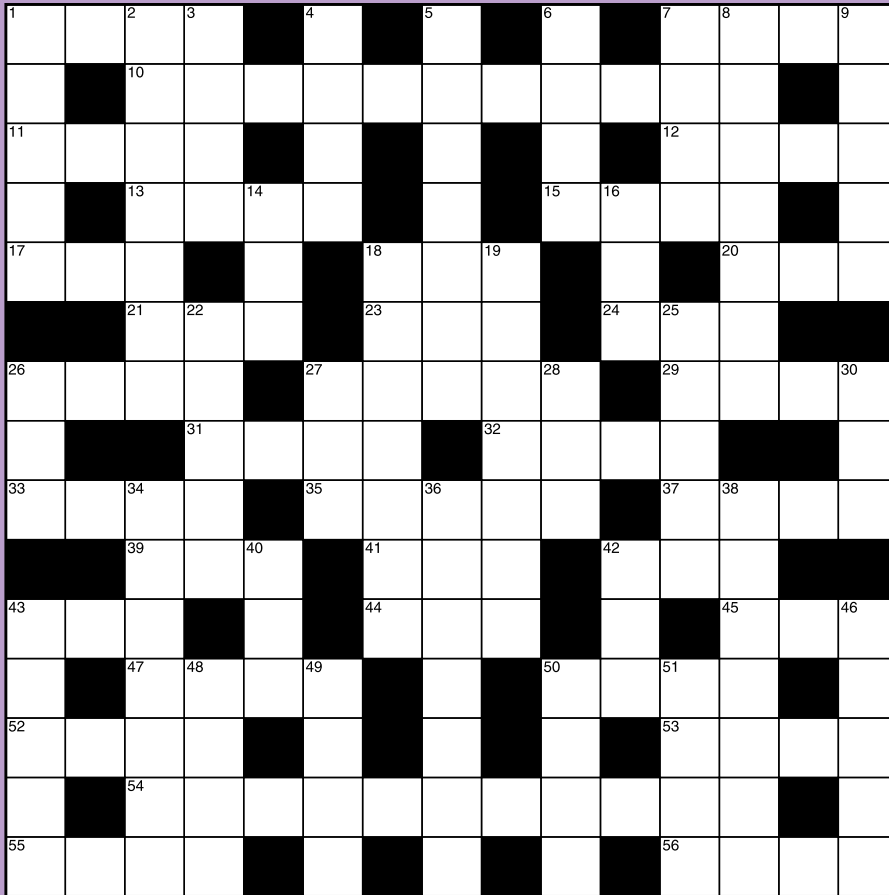


Share your photos and news with us!

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 before the 15th of each month to ensure your shots can be included in the next edition. Email us at content@livinggems.com.au



Crossword



Solution

G	A	S	O	L	I	N	E	A	N	K	A	R	A
O	P	I	U	U	C	D							
B	R	I	D	G	I	N	G	O	T	T	A	W	A
A	R	H	N	S	R	D	P						
C	R	A	F	T	I	E	S	T	I	N	E	R	T
K	L	R	A	T	M	O							
		R	U	B	Y	G	R	I	M	I	E	R	
E	P	M				O	C	S					
G	E	A	R	B	O	X	W	I	N	D			
O	N	I	R	H	A	P							
T	R	O	L	L	A	V	A	L	A	N	C	H	E
I	R	I	Y	C	N	C	E						
S	E	A	R	C	H	S	K	I	N	D	E	E	P
T	M	A				E	U	N	E				
S	H	A	W	L	S	A	D	U	L	A	T	E	D

Down

1. Moment
2. Decorated
3. Nominate
4. Walk with heavy steps
5. Outdoors (4-3)
6. Goad, ... on
7. Ill-mannered youngster
8. Muslim
9. In the vicinity
14. Cute ... button (2,1)
16. Alphabet (1,1,1)
18. Layering
19. Promised
22. Pauses
25. Ceases
26. Mr & ...
27. Tell untruth
28. Brazil's ... Paulo
30. Souffle ingredient
34. Type of exercise
36. Closest
38. Stuck (to)
40. World news (1,1,1)
42. Flower necklace
43. Pries (into)
46. Assailed
48. Is not (3'1)
49. Persevere, ... at it
50. After due time
51. Leave the district

Across

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. St ... of Arc | 32. Writer, Roald ... |
| 7. Restaurant tab | 33. Bicycle saddle |
| 10. Tabloids (5,6) | 35. Numbers game |
| 11. ... start to finish | 37. Strong taste |
| 12. Actor, ... Baldwin | 39. Keyboard key |
| 13. Perused | 41. Formerly known as |
| 15. In proportion, pro ... | 42. 60s drug (1,1,1) |
| 17. Japanese currency | 43. Neither here ... there |
| 18. Hat | 44. Gallivant |
| 20. Actor, ... Gibson | 45. Nerve centre |
| 21. Age | 47. Hog's grunt |
| 23. Fossil fuel | 50. Lemon relative |
| 24. Ho ... Minh City | 52. Torpedo-armed vessels |
| 26. Constructed | 53. Globes |
| 27. Travel prices | 54. Unfeeling |
| 29. Area measurement | 55. Religious group |
| 31. Narrow aperture | 56. Rewrite |



Braised Chicken and Chorizo Bake

Batch cooking for friends

Batch cooking is all about creating easy, ready-to-eat meals, in volume. It is a time-saving and convenient approach perfect to serve for last-minute gatherings with friends.

Batch cooking is as easy as doubling up the recipe and adjusting cook times. Place them in stackable storage containers, and label meals with details of dishes and dates cooked. Try Chef Matt Conquest's simple, flavoursome braised chicken and chorizo bake.

Ingredients

Serves 6

- 6 whole chicken Maryland or 10 bone-in-skin-on chicken thighs
- 4 mild chorizo, *cut in half lengthwise and cut into 1cm pieces*
- 3 brown onions, *cut into large pieces*
- 1 tbsp garlic, *chopped or crushed*
- 2 red capsicum, *cut into large wedges*
- 1 large sweet potato, *cut into 2-3cm cubes*
- 2 x 400g jars tomato pasta sauce (*garden veg or whatever flavours you like*)
- 4 field mushrooms, *cut into chunks*
- 6 bay leaves
- 1 tbsp smoked paprika or sweet paprika
- 1 tbsp dried oregano or mixed herbs
- Oil and salt and pepper for seasoning

Method

1. Get yourself a good size deep baking tray to fit in all the ingredients and set aside. Preheat your oven to 170 degrees fan assisted.
2. Use a good-sized pot, heat it up and add a splash of oil. Once hot, add your chorizo pieces to it and cook them for a minute or two. Turn down the heat and remove the chorizo with tongs to keep the chorizo oil in the pot. Oil the chicken and season. Heat the pot back up and brown off the chicken pieces. Once the chicken is browned on both sides take them out and rest on a plate.
3. Warm the pot to a medium high heat. Add the onion, fry it down for a minute, add in the garlic and give it a stir. Put in the capsicum, sweet potato and mushrooms and cook for another minute, giving it a stir. Then add in the jars of tomato puree. Rinse out the jars and add the water to the pot too. Mix in the paprika, dried herbs and bay leaves and season up the sauce. Put in the chorizo and turn off the heat.
4. Get your big roasting dish ready. Put the tomato sauce mix in the tray. Then push in on top the chicken pieces with the skin up and get them amply surrounded with the sauce.
5. Pop the uncovered tray into the oven on shelf 2 or 3 and bake the dish for 50 to 60 minutes. Have a look and see how things are coming along. It should be smelling great and ready to go. Remove from oven.
6. Steam off any additional vegetables you want to have for the meal if you are having the dish as dinner. Remember to cook some extra vegetables to add to the meal packs.
7. To pack the meals, allow the tray bake to cool on the bench for an hour. Once cooled down, portion the meat, vegetables and sauce into stackable containers. Label the container, including the date you made the meal. Freeze the meals down so you can start to create a good supply of tasty dishes in your freezer.

Frame that shot

Living Gems has launched 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)!

As a Living Gems resident, you can submit as many photos of

your choice each month and be in the running to be selected as the month's overall photo winner for the Living Gems community.

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



July Photo Winner

Congratulations to this month's winner, Diane Ramsey from Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront for her stunning photo entry of the Kookaburra.

Submission Guidelines

Photos must be:

- Taken horizontally
- At least 2MB in size
- Taken by you

Amber

1 Manuka Road
Logan Village QLD 4207

1800 317 381

Pacific Paradise

596 David Low Way
Pacific Paradise QLD

1800 978 388

Maleny

23 Macadamia Drive
Maleny QLD 4552

07 5429 6108

Caboolture Riverfront

176 Torrens Road
Caboolture South QLD 4510

1800 718 417

Opal

42 Quinze Creek Road
Logan Village QLD 4207

07 5547 2333

Sapphire

196 Logan Street
Eagleby QLD 4207

07 3804 7655

Toowoomba

500 South Street
Glenvale QLD 4350

1800 348 977

Ruby

225 Logan Street
Eagleby QLD 4207

07 3386 1771

Gold Coast

70 Hansford Road
Coombah QLD 4216

07 5577 5899

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