

Living Gems* Thrive

MAY 2023

All in the family

Family bonds strengthened at Living Gems

A family affair

Intergenerational
resort living

Join the club

Amber Country Club
sneak peek

Living large

Caboolture's premium
homes

livinggems.com.au

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the May issue of *Thrive*! Inspired by Mother's Day and International Day of Families - taking place on Sunday, 14 May and Monday, 15 May respectively - this month's magazine celebrates family spirit and the special place families hold for each of us.

From siblings to mothers and daughters, we share some wonderful stories about different family members who chose to call Living Gems home. We also have a great family-friendly camping guide to fuel your next travel adventure (pages 14-17), Mother's Day gift ideas, as well as some terrific grandkid-friendly recipes courtesy of some of our homeowners.

Construction of the Country Club at Amber by Living Gems in Logan Village is coming along nicely. This month, structural steel works on the first level will be completed, and ground-level internal works will begin. Turn to pages 8 to 9 for a sneak peek to get a better idea of the finished building! Also on site, the residential construction team continues to make steady progress on Stage Two homes.

At our idyllic rural resort, Living Gems Toowoomba, work has begun on the new off-leash dog run - exciting news for our four-legged residents and their humans. The residential construction team continues to make excellent progress on Final Stage homes and will finish up on site in early May. There are just a handful of homes remaining for sale, so if you're considering a simply lifechanging move to the garden city, contact our team soon (page 32).

Finally, we were thrilled to welcome our first Final Stage homeowners at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront in April. This month the residential construction team will complete the last of the Final Stage homes which are all set on premium, oversized sites with lovely green views. Turn to pages 10 to 11 to take a look at the designs on offer.

I hope you enjoy reading May's *Thrive* and I look forward to bringing you more news and updates next month.



Adrian Puljich
CEO



Pets soon to be let off the leash at Toowoomba

Construction is underway on Living Gems Toowoomba's new off-leash dog run.

Excavation, landscaping and irrigation works commenced last month and, with construction progressing quickly, this new dog-friendly facility is expected to open before the end of May.

Living Gems Toowoomba Sales Manager Michelle Perry said the off-leash dog run, located along the South Street boundary of the resort, was set to become a popular meeting place for the community's four-legged residents and their owners.

"The park promises to be a tail-wagging haven for dogs of all shapes and sizes, and residents cannot wait for it to open this month," Michelle said.

"It's not just good for the animals to get out into the fresh country air and stretch their legs, it's equally good for their owners who enjoy the socialising as much as their pets do."

The dog run features hardy canine-friendly turf, a sheltered area with

skillion roof for shade, a tap/dog bowl area to keep pets hydrated during playtime, and seating. The area will be attractively landscaped with a variety of evergreen plants.

Michelle added that residents were closely watching the progress on the dog run.

"One thing is for sure; when the park opens its gates, it's going to be a 'paw-some' day for dogs and their humans!"

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

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No sibling rivalry here!

Resort living brings families together

Jennifer Pierson and her husband John have lived at Living Gems Toowoomba for five years, so when her younger brother John Penney and his wife Maree were looking to move from New Zealand, Queensland's garden city had plenty to recommend it.



"There was a bit of an age gap between me and John, who is eldest of my two brothers.

"But many years later we ended up working together in the Marlborough Museum and found that we got on very well."

John's passion has always been electronics, starting with computers and database administration and later moving into the print industry.

"We pioneered print-on-demand printing in New Zealand," he said.

"We specialised in printing books. I looked after the printing side of things and my wife Maree did all the typesetting."

Jennifer chimes in, "I much prefer print books."

"I don't," replies John. "I've got my iPad."

While brother and sister still have their disagreements, the one thing they both agree on is how much they enjoy life at Living Gems Toowoomba.

"One of the reasons we love this place is because it is so easy to get around," said Jennifer.

"Yes," added John. "That was something which was important to me. We looked around at other places and were so pleased to find

Living Gems Toowoomba was largely on the flat."

John regularly gets together with a few other men at the resort to build electronic gadgets.

"I've created a raffle ticket shuffler and folding machine. Another fellow has created a scoring device for table tennis that puts big digits up on the wall," he said.

"I enjoy the library," said Jennifer. "In truth, I'm not a very outgoing person. But I have made plenty of friends here and enjoy the Friday happy hour in the Country Club as well as the monthly dinners."

John and Jennifer also get together for dinners with their respective spouses and early on it used to be a challenge to know which John was which, but in the end, it was the grandchildren that helped sort the confusion.

"Our father's name was John and there is my brother John and my husband John," said Jennifer.

"Eventually, my husband got the nickname Popeye. Now he only has one eye and the grandkids always called him Pop, so Popeye it became, and the name stuck."

"Our family comes from Blenheim in New Zealand's South Island and there were some years where we had snow for Christmas, so it's been great to come to somewhere which is so much warmer," said John.

With most of the children now living in South East Queensland, Toowoomba is centrally located to make family visits a regular occurrence.

"I have to say that John and I weren't particularly close when we were young," said Jennifer.



Bridging the generation gap

Over-50s lifestyle resort has something for all ages

The multi-generational appeal of Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront over-50s lifestyle resort was a key factor contributing to John Reiter, his wife Carrolyn, and her mother Joy Boyle deciding to move into a brand-new home within the vibrant community.

"We were lucky enough to have friends living at the resort and when we first saw their new home about four years ago, it got us thinking. We researched the area and over-50s communities in Moreton Bay that would suit all of us and kept coming back to Living Gems. It just had everything we needed, including great facilities and accessibility," said Carrolyn.

While very independent, Joy relies on a wheelchair to move around. She found the resort extremely wheelchair friendly, making it easy to access facilities such as the swimming pool, as well as to get around the beautiful gardens and pathways which is something she loves to do with the family's 14-year-old pet toy poodle.

"We were lucky. We experienced all the facilities we could before we moved in. We were even able to try out the pool which was lovely and then went on a tour of the gardens and the rest of the resort. I was able

to access everything without any trouble at all," said Joy.

Each member of the family has their own set of interests with John keen on the gym as well as being an enthusiastic and frequent bridge player.

"That's another big drawcard of this resort because we already know other bridge players here," said John.

Joy, a quilter for many years, is looking forward to joining the craft group, reading in the library and enjoying nature, while Carrolyn loves card games and table tennis.

"I am also keen to give pickleball a go. I've never played before but it's getting so popular now, I just can't wait to join the resident player group and have a hit. Kayaking on the river sounds good too," she said.

Carrolyn admits all three family members are young at heart, and that she and her mum, are fond of socialising.

Married 36 years, John and Carrolyn met while in the Army. They have two children while Joy is a grandmother to nine, and great grandmother to two. All generations are keen to pay the new resort homeowners a visit.

"The great thing about living here is that it has something for all generations because when our kids and their children visit, there are all sorts of facilities they can use such as the pool, ten-pin bowling, and the theatre," said Carrolyn.

"But we are the really lucky ones because our two generations can use the facilities every day if we want. It really is like our own personal resort and ideal for all ages."





Join the club!

First look at the Amber Country Club

Amber by Living Gems' \$10.5M future Country Club will blend refined contemporary elegance with warm, welcoming tones for an exceptional recreational and leisure facility for homeowners' exclusive use.

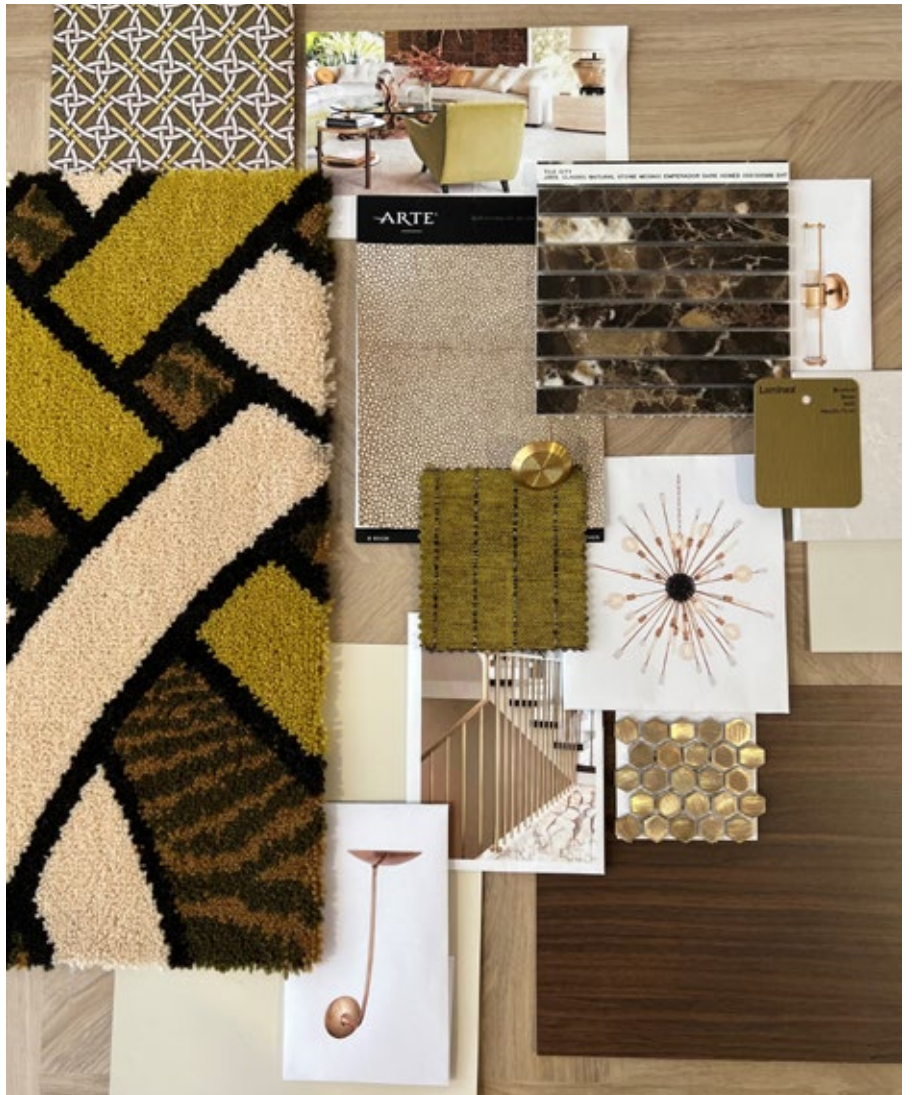
Currently under construction, the two-storey Country Club will form the heart of the over-50s resort, providing a lifestyle hub for residents with everything from a swimming pool, ten-pin bowling alley, luxury cinema, bar and cafe to a golf simulator, games room and library.

From its elegant modern entry, which flows onto an expansive ballroom, the Amber by Living Gems Country Club will balance its generous proportions with a sense of intimacy and warmth thanks to its carefully considered interior design.

Living Gems Manager of Interior Design Jennifer Kyle said the look and feel of spaces were inspired by an updated interpretation of mid-century modern design with lots of clean lines, muted tones, and a combination of natural



Artist's impression. Facilities subject to change.



and manmade materials plus sophisticated furnishings.

“In addition to looking beautiful, the team has set out to create spaces that feel inviting through the use of a warm colour palette featuring walnut browns, earth tones, brass, and yellow-green chartreuse hues,” she said.

“The overall effect will be calming and graceful – a stylish environment that makes people want to relax and engage whether that be for fitness, socialising or finding a peaceful spot to settle down for some quiet time with a book.”

The classically modern building and its surrounding precinct has been designed in harmony with the idyllic semi-rural charm of the Logan Village setting.

“We have taken our interior design cues from the surrounding location. Although the Country Club will undoubtedly be a wonderful oasis for residents to enjoy, the design takes into consideration the area’s heritage and ambience,” Jennifer said.

From the ground floor lobby area, the building flows through to the main hall complete with dance floor and stage. Also on this level, will be a formal lounge space, cafe/dining area, a fully equipped gym, and hair salon.

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

On the first floor, residents will be

able to enjoy a large games room with billiards – complete with a balcony for taking in some fresh air, a sizable library, private cinema, an arts and crafts studio, music and meeting rooms, a two-lane ten-pin bowling alley with the golf simulator located nearby.

Jennifer added that the quality of the facilities and the furnishings will be first-rate.

“At Living Gems, we use custom joinery, top-quality fittings and furnishings that are made to stand the test of time, so the Country Club continues to look beautiful for many years to come,” she said.

The Country Club is due to be completed by the end of the year. Stay tuned for details in future issues of *Thrive*.

Deluxe delights

Come home to Caboolture

Just picture a place which is a delight to come home to - a contemporary-styled home with all the mod cons and luxury inclusions. Then imagine it set upon an exclusive position overlooking greenspace leading down to the idyllic Caboolture River.

Fortunately, you don't have to dream.

The final release three-bedroom homes are available now at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront - with only a few remaining.

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront Sales Manager Glenys Lowry said these generously sized homes on larger blocks were ideal for entertaining family and friends.

"These homes have an impressive open plan living-dining space that seamlessly flow onto a bright and breezy alfresco area with no rear neighbours and uninterrupted views," she said.

The kitchen is a chef's delight with a large island bench that makes meal preparation easy. Thoughtfully designed drawers help maximise storage space and integrate quality appliances. A walk-in pantry adds a touch of designer luxe.

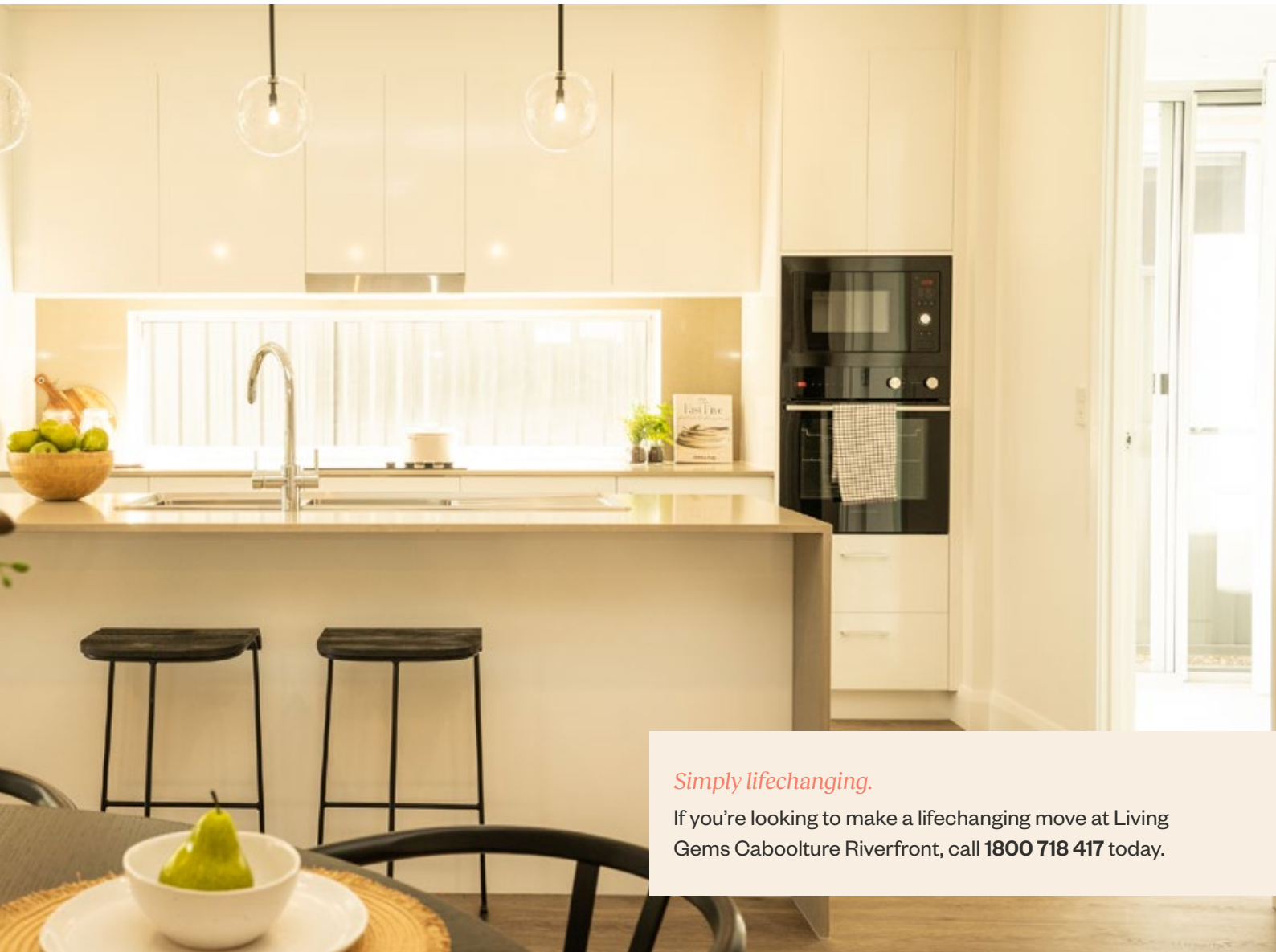
"Each home comes with high ceilings and some designs feature skylights to let natural light flood in," said Glenys. "Homeowners can take control of the climate inside because there are ceiling fans throughout as well as ducted zone air conditioning."

Choose from one of two roomy extra bedrooms to turn into a guest bedroom or use the additional space for a study, library or craft room. The master bedroom in each of these premium homes comes with a large walk-in-wardrobe.

"They have to be seen to be believed," said Glenys. "Not only are they beautiful homes overlooking the Caboolture River, but they're also part of the vibrant Living Gems community."

"Our resort has a beautiful Country Club with bar and lounge, a theatre which regularly hosts entertainment, an indoor heated pool and spa, gym, private cinema, and ten-pin bowling. Outdoors there are extensive walking trails, a community vegetable garden, residents' workshop, and more!"





Simply lifechanging.

If you're looking to make a lifechanging move at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront, call **1800 718 417** today.



Secret is in the shot

Linda's Baileys Malteser cheesecake

With Mother's Day just around the corner on 14 May and World Baking Day on 17 May, Caboolture Living Gems Riverfront resident and baking enthusiast Linda Cross shares one of her special secret cheesecake recipes which she says is a cinch to make for the grandkids.

"Our granddaughter, Bella, just turned 11 on 30 March, and Sammy, our grandson, is six. Bella's the wild child of the family, even going bungy jumping for her birthday. She gets her courage from me," Linda laughs. "I recently ziplined in Perth off the Matagarup Bridge, which is the same height as the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and it was fantastic."

Linda decided to make one of her special cheesecakes with the help of her grandkids, who live close by and visit regularly, as a special Mother's Day treat for their mum.

"I started baking cheesecakes long before my children were born, let alone my grandchildren, so I've been baking them for over 45 years," Linda says. "I only make them occasionally, although since we moved to Caboolture, I've been making them a lot more."

Bella and Sammy aced their cooking assignment, even creating their own special decorative design on top.



“They love being involved in things like this, because we always have a lot of fun together and we never know what the finished result will look like.”

Linda has used a range of recipes to create her signature dessert, refining her recipe over many years.

“I have tweaked my recipe and have pinched bits from other recipes to make it perfect,” she says. “My cheesecakes have three stages. First you make the base and set it in the fridge, then the filling which must set, and then the fun part — decorating it with whatever you want.”

So, what’s the secret to her cheesecakes?

“I add a bit of booze! I don’t drink at all, but my cheesecakes must have a bit of booze, and the kids don’t know the difference, they just sleep better,” she laughs. “I’m kidding, it’s not much, it just gives it a better taste.”

“I do a lot of Baileys cheesecakes or use brandy or Pimm’s, which I used for the Queen’s Jubilee which went over well. It’s about being adventurous and trying different things. You can’t just make the same one all the time because it gets boring.”

Linda’s Baileys Malteser Cheesecake

Ingredients

- 250g chocolate ripple biscuits
- 80g melted butter
- 300ml lightly whipped cream
- 2 x 250g pkg softened Philadelphia cream cheese
- 1/2 cup caster sugar
- 150ml Baileys
- 3 tsp gelatine dissolved in 1/3 cup boiling water
- 200g white chocolate melted and cooled to room temperature
- 150g Maltesers
- 280g extra Maltesers for decorating

Method

1. Before starting, make sure all ingredients are at room temperature.
2. Grease and line the base and sides of a 20cm loose-bottomed cake pan with grease-proof paper then set aside.
3. Crush the chocolate biscuits in a food processor or with a rolling pin and place in a bowl.
4. Add the melted butter and mix till well combined. Press the mixture into the base of the cake pan then refrigerate.
5. Whip the cream and set aside.
6. Whisk the gelatine in the boiling water until dissolved, then set aside.
7. Beat the Philly cheese, caster sugar and Baileys until smooth and creamy. Add the dissolved gelatine and beat till combined.
8. Add the cooled, melted chocolate and whipped cream and stir until combined. Fold in the Maltesers.
9. Spoon the mixture into the cake tin and smooth top.
10. Place in the refrigerator for about 15 minutes.
11. Lightly press the remaining Maltesers onto the top of the cheesecake to decorate.
12. Refrigerate the cheesecake for a good 6 hours or overnight before cutting.

Quintessentially Queensland

Quality camping for the whole family

Make precious memories with your loved ones by adding camping to your family traditions.

Camping is a wonderful opportunity to get the whole family together to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine as well as some good old-fashioned games and activities that don't involve mobile phones or computer screens.

We've picked some popular camping spots for you and your family to try. Many of these locations are accessible for caravans and RVs.

Camping not really your thing? We've got you covered. Some of these properties also have luxury 'glamping', caravans, cabins and houses to stay in.







Image sourced from *Murphy's Creek Escape*

Murphy's Creek Escape

Murphy's Creek Escape is in the Upper Lockyer at the foot of the Toowoomba Range, less than half an hour from the centre of Toowoomba and is ideal for a family camping adventure.

The campgrounds have recently opened an 'eco billabong' swimming area that uses a natural wetlands filtration system instead of building a traditional chlorinated swimming pool.

Don't have a tent or a camper trailer handy? No worries! Murphy's Creek Escape has a hire service including tents, campers, glamping facilities as well as a charming Gypsy wagon to stay in.

And if you want to venture beyond the campgrounds, the website has lots of information about hikes and daytrips in the area.

For more information: murphyscreekescape.com.au



Image sourced from *Goomburra Valley Campground*

Goomburra Valley Campground

Located just over an hour south from Toowoomba and about 35 minutes north of Warwick, is the Goomburra Valley Campground.

This location also welcomes four-legged guests with an off-leash area just across Dalrymple Creek which is ideal for fishing, kayaking and swimming.

The campground is a must-see for bushwalkers as it is just five kilometres from the World Heritage listed Main Range National Park and has stunning lookouts and waterfalls.

Goomburra Valley Campground is a family-owned facility that offers powered and unpowered camp sites as well as a 13-bed bunkhouse for large family groups.

For more information: goomburravalleycampground.com.au



Image sourced from *Dicky Beach Family Holiday Park*

Dicky Beach Family Holiday Park

If you're looking for seaside camping right on the beachfront, but with all amenities close at hand, then Dicky Beach Family Holiday Park should be on your list.

Located less than ten minutes north of Caloundra, the resort includes barbecues, a camp kitchen, playground, games room, swimming pool and a tennis court.

They welcome tents, caravans and RVs, but if there are a few members of the family who are reluctant campers, there are cabins to stay in as well.

With plenty of things to do nearby, the location is bound to become a favourite.

For more information: familyparks.com.au/caravan-parks/australia/queensland/dicky-beach-family-holiday-park/



Image sourced from *Bluff Creek Campgrounds*

Bluff Creek Campground

Located less than 45 minutes from Nambour, Bluff Creek Campground is a nature lover's retreat, offering a genuine camping adventure.

This pet-friendly camping ground just outside of Kenilworth is set on 40.46ha on the banks of the Mary River which offers kayaking, fishing and swimming as well as walking and biking trails.

While there are full toilet facilities and coin-operated hot showers, Bluff Creek doesn't have powered camp sites, but it does have a campfire place. So, grab the family together and round up the caravans, tents, and camper trailers and get ready to make some memories.

For more information: kenilworthcampgrounds.com



Image sourced from *Mount Barney Lodge*

Mount Barney Lodge

Mount Barney Lodge, set at the base of the pyramid-shaped Mount Barney, is an eco-certified campsite which is popular with hikers, campers and school groups.

This location offers unpowered sites with campfire rings perfect for toasting marshmallows.

Mount Barney Lodge offers full amenities including free hot showers. Other features include a short walk to swimming holes along with plenty of day walks and more demanding hikes.

At various times of year, the lodge hosts escorted walks with experienced guides as well as children's activities including bushtucker walks, hands-on fire making, and lantern making classes.

For those who like a little luxury with their camping, you can also choose from glamping sites, or elect to stay in a cabin or a homestead.

For further information: mtbarneylodge.com.au



Image sourced from *Bigriggen Camping and Caravan Park*

Bigriggen Camping and Caravan Park

Located just a few kilometres from Mount Barney Lodge, is Bigriggen Camping and Caravan Park which is a family favourite.

With plenty of powered and unpowered sites available in the 24ha of camping area, the park welcomes big family groups - and even the pet pooch!

Take the family wildlife spotting, swim in the local river, get out the BMX bikes or wet a line.

On long weekends and public holidays, Bigriggen hosts activities and entertainment for all the family. But, no matter what time of year you go, the grandkids are likely to make new friends and have a great time.

For more information: bigriggen.com.au



Lucky strike

Ruby Gems bowling team celebrates 12 years

A large group of Ruby by Living Gems residents are in a league of their own and make a striking statement in yellow each week when they get together at Mount Warren Lanes for their weekly ten-pin bowling competition.



The group of about 20 recently celebrated their 12-year anniversary and are a force to be reckoned with, showing no signs of giving up their weekly game.

Joan Manion, who describes herself as 'over the hill but feeling 50', says they have been bowling all these years to honour the original founders of the group, who have sadly passed.

"My neighbours at the time, Val and Max Brown, were bowlers and began the group," Joan said. "Val conned me into joining and I'd never bowled a day in my life, but thought I'd better give it a go to stop her nagging."

Joan took over the reins from Val and Max (who originally chose the team's eye-catching signature yellow colour) about ten years ago, and has been the convenor until recently.

"I did the rosters for ten years, but decided I'd had enough of it, so I passed it over to Allan Hill and Harold Peterson, allowing me to just enjoy the game. But I think the boys prefer camping, so I still do rosters from time to time," she laughs.

Allan and Harold now continue the tradition, even working with the owner of the bowling alley who has hosted the games since the beginning.



“We have ladies in the mid-80s, who are the true bowling sharks, striking all the time and scoring in the mid-100s.”

“We play every Thursday and organise the teams, and the owner of the bowling alley keeps our score history and arranges our end-of-year parties and get-togethers,” Allan said. “He also hands out prizes and trophies to the winners of our competitions.”

Residents and mother and daughter team, Maree and Betty Lloyd, who both have their own villas at the resort, have been playing for over six years and try to beat each other’s

scores, although Maree says that’s almost impossible with her mum.

“Mum is 86 now and I tell you what, she can roll a mean bowl. Just a few weeks ago she got five strikes and two spares in one game, so how do I beat that?” Maree laughs.

Joan is no stranger to a great score either, as she’s perfected her game over the years.

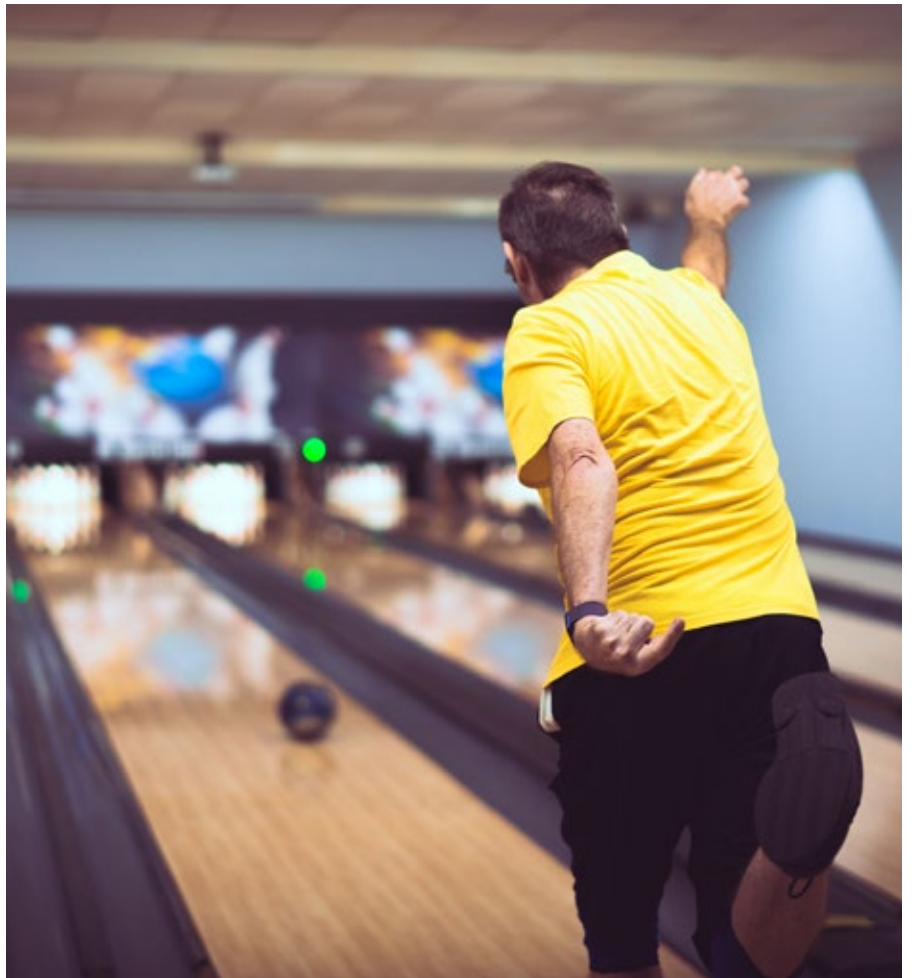
“I didn’t do very well for a while with the exception of one good game



every year, but I persisted and last April I won a trophy for the highest score in a female game," Joan proudly tells us.

"I was sick but played anyway and got 192, can you believe it?"

"And in January my granddaughter visited with her three kids and stayed with me for a few days, and I was bloody bugged but went to play anyway and scored 194. I think this game is trying to tell me something."



Although he's one of the youngest players, Allan says that age means nothing in this game.

"We have ladies in the mid-80s who are the true bowling sharks, striking all the time and scoring in the mid-100s," Allan says. "Jiminy Crickets, I only started two years ago, and my top score was 46 and now I'm pushing 120s, so everyone just keeps improving.

"At one stage I got three strikes in a row which was amazing, and with 20 people cheering you on, there's nothing better than getting that sort of moral support."

Maree says the best part of these weekly get togethers is the camaraderie.

"We have a lot of fun together bowling in our yellow shirts, and it's such a wonderful way to spend time with the friends we have made over the years. There is so much support for you."

We asked Joan whether she has plans to stop any time soon.

"Well, I can't plan too far ahead now can I?" Joan laughs. "Heck, I'm over the hill! A friend recently told me to buy a good kettle and I said no way, because the bloody thing will outlast me. I'm not buying a new kettle but I'm certainly not going to stop bowling until it stops me."

Get rolling!

For anyone who wants to join in the fun, the group meets at 10am every Thursday for a 10:30am start at Mount Warren Lanes, 148 Mount Warren Boulevard.



Stars in their eyes

Close encounters of the famous kind

Many of us have had close encounters with a celebrity. It might be bumping into a famous footballer at Bunnings, spotting a singer in Spotlight or seeing a movie star on the street. However, two Living Gems homeowners had more than just a brush with fame.

Celebrity sightings by accident

Teresa Gent from Ruby by Living Gems has had more than her fair share of celebrity sightings and she has proof in an extensive autograph book.

One of her favourite celebrity encounters was with the legendary Bee Gees.

"It was the summer of 1972, and the Bee Gees announced a concert," she said. "My husband and I were lucky enough to grab ourselves two tickets for the Sydney show which was an hour and half from where we lived.

"I heard an interview with them on



the radio and it was mentioned they would be doing rehearsals in the days prior to performing."

That's when the young mum of two embarked on a scheme to meet her idols in person. As her husband Alan was working away, Teresa decided to make an adventure of it with her two young children.

"I meticulously planned my trip," she said. "I only got lost once and later ended up going the wrong way down a one-way street and got stopped by a policeman who simply smiled and waved a hand at me."

Having safely arrived at the Horden Pavilion, Teresa didn't have to wait

long for the Gibb brothers to arrive.

"I asked for their autographs, and they willingly gave them," she said.

"I was about to leave when Barry asked me if I'd like to sit in on their rehearsals. I didn't need to be asked twice!"

But that's not the end of Teresa's stellar constellation of celebrity sightings. For a period, Alan worked for Channel 7 and international celebrities were a regular fixture. Teresa was there with her autograph book at the ready.

"Comedian Spike Milligan was being interviewed by Mike Walsh and the public were invited to sit in the audience," said Teresa. "I was such a big fan, so of course I was definitely going – and I ended up being the only member of the public to turn up!"

"The station rounded up every off-duty staff member they could to sit in the front rows for the filming."

At the end of the interview Teresa went up on stage to ask for an autograph.

"But I didn't realise that they were still filming. I went up to Spike and put a hand on his arm. And he said, 'Get your hands off me woman!'" Teresa laughed. "That was so

typically Spike."

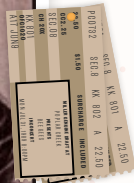
Teresa still got her autograph.

Her conversation is peppered with a rapid-fire list of famous names – Neil Sedaka, Gene Pitney, Kenneth Moore, Gerry Marsden (Gerry and the Pacemakers), dancer Robert Helpmann, and three members of the band Queen.

One famous encounter Teresa recalls with fondness was the time she had a lovely conversation with American actor Vincent Price who is best known for his roles in horror films.

"I'd been on my way down to see him at Channel 7 when I was involved in a minor car accident," she said. "I was so disappointed by the idea that I was going to miss out on seeing him, so I phoned the station. And because I knew the girls there, I asked if I could speak to Vincent, and they put me through!"

"I had a wonderful chat with him – he was so lovely – but what I didn't realise was that there was a line-up of people who wanted an autograph with Vincent, including Alan who was getting the autograph for me, who had to wait and wait because I was speaking to him!"



Roy's star-studded line-up

Now enjoying a more relaxing lifestyle at Living Gems Gold Coast, Roy McKeen's professional career and personal interests has had him rubbing shoulders with some of the most notable figures of the 20th century.

The former radio presenter and jazz aficionado also had a career as a police officer in Ireland, which resulted in getting up close and personal with the Rolling Stones' Mick Jagger!

"In 1963 I was a police sergeant stationed in Belfast City Centre. One evening I was on duty and saw a crowd of teenagers milling around a theatre where the Rolling Stones had been appearing," he said.

"There was a lot of noise. I went into the crowd and suddenly I found Mick Jagger standing beside me looking

quite scared. I grabbed him face-on (those lips!) and carried him to an adjacent police car, told him to get into the back seat, and, as he was bending to get in, I pushed him on the backside to get him in quickly," Roy laughed.

"I told the driver to take Mick to the Grand Central Hotel where the Stones were staying, and away they went."

"I have no claim to fame except that I once had my hand on Mick Jagger's arse!"

But that's not entirely true. Roy recounts that he and his wife Olivia also bumped into Sir Edmund Hillary – the first man, along with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay – to successfully scale Mount Everest.

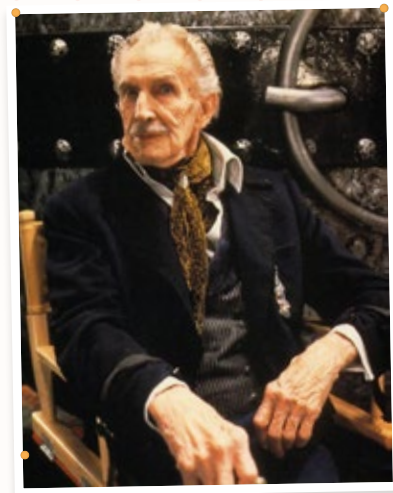
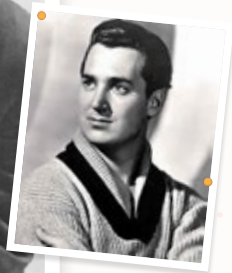
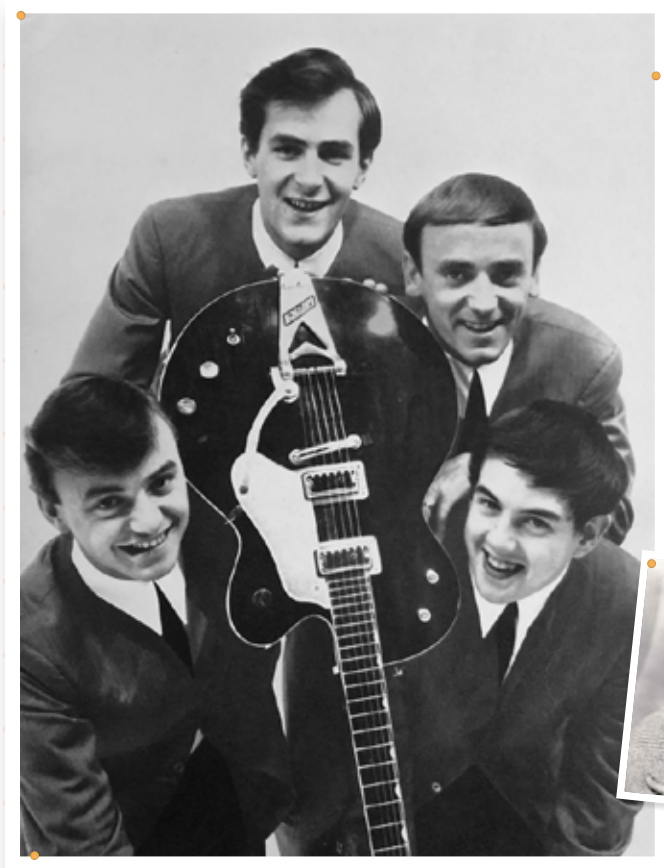
"It was in 1985. We were in San Francisco en route to London for

a couple of nights. The hotel room opposite ours had a plaque on the door stating, 'The Sir Edmund Hillary Room!'"

"One afternoon Olivia and I came back to our room and saw Sir Edmund trying to open the door of his room with a key. The key wouldn't work, so we introduced ourselves as being from Auckland (where we were living at that time) and offered to help. He declined our offer but shook our hands and went down to reception for help," he said.

But number one on Roy's list was renowned Olympian Jesse Owens. The American athlete won four gold medals – the 100-metre sprint, long jump, the 200 metres and the 4 x 100 metre relay – at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

"In 1971, I was a representative in



Auckland for WD & HO Wills - aka Benson & Hedges. Jesse Owens was in Auckland during a promotional tour for the company and I met him briefly at company HQ," he said.

Names Roy can rattle off include well-known figures in Australian politics including former Prime Ministers Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Turnbull, Federal MP Doug Anthony and former Brisbane Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson.

But when it comes to the entertainment world, there was one name from the industry that he will always remember.

"Guy Mitchell was my pop music favourite singer when I was a teenager in the 1950s," said Roy. "He was an American from Detroit who had hit after hit including *My Truly Truly Fair*, *She Wears Red Feathers*,

Heartaches by the Number, *Christopher Columbus*, and *Belle Belle My Liberty Belle*.

"His biggest hit was in 1956 when his record of *Singing the Blues* was top of the USA Top Twenty for ten consecutive weeks, beaten only by Elvis Presley's *All Shook Up*."

Roy had the opportunity to meet his pop idol in 1991.

"I saw him in concert at Twin Towns Services Club at Coolangatta on the Gold Coast. Being a member of his fan club, I appeared with him on Channel Nine TV in Brisbane," he said.

"Before we went on TV, we were sitting in the green room having our faces powdered to prevent shining from the studio lights. Guy said to me that I didn't have an Aussie accent and when I said that I was born in

Ireland he started to sing *When You Were Sweet Sixteen*.

"I joined in, and we sang a couple of verses to the amusement of the studio staff.

"When I was 15 and Guy Mitchell was the hottest singer on the planet, and you had told me that one day I would sing with him I would not have believed you!"

"I have no claim to fame except that I once had my hand on Mick Jagger's arse!"

Mum's the word

Mother's Day gift guide

Mother's Day is one special day of the year where we get to honour and celebrate all mothers, not just for bringing life into the world, but for their maternal bonds, their influence on society, and their loving and caring natures.

With Mother's Day just around the corner, *Thrive* has put together a handy 2023 gift guide to help inspire you on how to spoil and celebrate mum on Sunday, 14 May.



Personalised Mother's Day canvas from Gossby

For something a little bit simpler, yet still unique, Gossby offers personalised canvas work for a special gift. You can order a canvas online with a quick turnaround, delivering within ten days from purchase. You can also customise avatars to match your family and view the completed design before ordering. The site is in US dollars but automatically converts to AUD through PayPal, and at around RRP \$75 with free shipping, it's something a little different for mum.

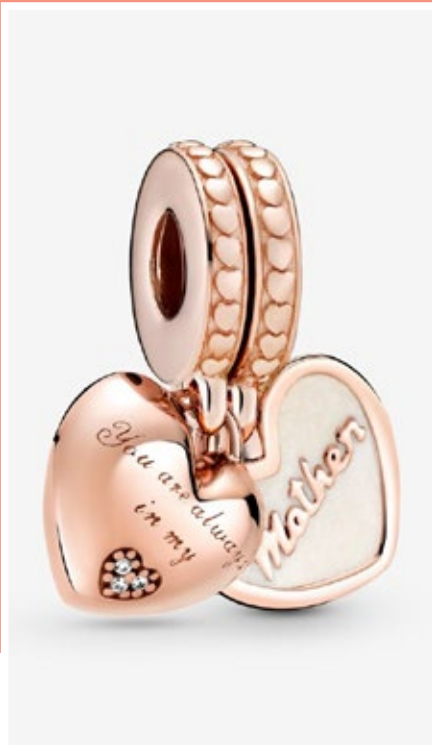
Visit: bit.ly/3ojUXzj



Lavazza A Modo Mio Smeg coffee machine

Voted as one of the best gifts for 2023 by Marie Claire is the Lavazza A Modo Mio Smeg coffee machine. At RRP \$349, it's one for a truly special mum who appreciates a fine coffee. Smell the coffee beans each morning and let mum start her day with a smile and a true coffee in hand.

Visit: bit.ly/3LaPfbR



Pandora mother and daughter hearts dangle charm

For mothers who love Pandora charms, this sweet charm is the perfect way for a daughter to say, 'I love you, mum', and at RRP \$129 for the rose gold charm, no mother will be disappointed with this special gift. Pandora has so many beautiful charms available for Mother's Day, so be sure to check out their online catalogue.

Visit: bit.ly/3Atm1ON



Country Road Calo Australian cotton bath robe in rose

Made from 100 percent cotton in a rice-grain weave, this beautiful pink bath robe from Country Road is a real treat for any mum this Mother's Day. Visit a Country Road store, or order online and get a ten percent discount if you join their mailing list. You can get this gorgeous bath robe for RRP \$129. Style code 60245228-666 for anyone wishing to buy in-store.

Visit: bit.ly/3L9eGe4



Jett mini crossbody bag by Mimco

It's the latest craze to own one of these gorgeous bags, and mum will not complain if she gets one of these little beauties this Mother's Day. Choose from black, cream, yellow, green, white, beige, peach or hot pink, or buy a few for her to mix and match with her outfits. At RRP \$249, with some currently on sale for less, it's a gift worth considering.

Visit: bit.ly/3opmPIG

Retreatment Botanics gift hamper

If you're looking to get something extra special, Byron Bay Gifts has the ultimate hampers.

This hamper has a little bit of everything from skin care to candles and bath bombs - even a chocolate treat. Visit their store in Byron Bay or order the gift pack online for \$299. Orders over \$100 include free delivery.

Visit: bit.ly/3Lf2ZCA



Amber

Sales Managers' Message

Stage Two contract holders are over the moon by news that slab pours have commenced and we're expecting outstanding progress to be made on construction of these lovely new homes in the coming months.

Residents at Amber by Living Gems have been busy over the last few weeks with many social events to enjoy, including a visit to the Cedar Creek Winery, the Glow Worm Caves, and a country luncheon at the Beaudesert Races.

And that's quite in addition to the usual Friday night nibbles and drinks, craft group and aerobics classes held at the temporary Country Club. Our active residents know how to have a good time and enjoy Friday night nibbles and drinks, craft group meets and aerobics classes, currently being held at the temporary Country Club. Our homeowners always extend a warm welcome to our new residents and love to invite them along to join the fun.

We're all excited to see the installation of the ground floor services at our under-construction Country Club with added news that the team will be installing the roof by the end of May (turn to pages 8-9 for a preview)!

Our commercial site manager has also advised that ceiling and wall frames are now underway.

With Stage Two at Amber already more than a quarter sold, now is the right time to contact us to arrange an appointment to discuss the exciting options available and view our beautiful display homes before it is too late.



Amber by Living Gems Sales Team

Tameeka Manson, *Sales Manager*
M 0407 766 414 | E tameeka@livinggems.com.au

Lynda Ruddell, *Sales Manager*
M 0456 383 269 | E lynda@livinggems.com.au



Image sourced from Crunchy's



Image sourced from Bearded Dragon



For illustrative purposes only



Country hospitality

You don't have to travel very far from Amber by Living Gems to find some great options for Mother's Day dining.

Crunchy's Dessert Cafe

Who said you had to have dinner before you get dessert? Not at Crunchy's All-Day Dessert Cafe in Brisbane Street, Jimboomba. Run by a Dutch family, enjoy their traditional continental fare of Belgian waffles, poffertjes, crepes, sourdough baguettes and French croissants. Not a sweet tooth? Crunchy's has you covered with an extensive savoury menu.

crunchys.com.au

Bearded Dragon

Enjoy the heritage-inspired Bearded Dragon in Tamborine Village. This family-owned hotel has eschewed the pokies to revive the traditional friendly community pub atmosphere. Enjoy a modern twist on traditional pub fare and comfort food along with live music.

beardeddragon.com.au

Pikoon Thai

Say hi to Thai! Pikoon Thai Restaurant in Yarrabilba has a great range of Asian cuisine. Enjoy pad se-ew, a stir-fried rice noodle dish with dark sweet soy sauce, try barbecue roasted duck with vegetables or the tasty prik khing stir fry. Pikoon also offers takeaway if you'd like a catered Mother's Day lunch at home.

pikoonthairestaurant.com.au



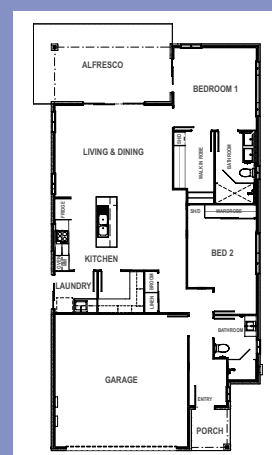
Villa 210 | Emu

Darling

\$510,000



Move-in-ready, this stylish two-bedroom home has everything you could want for a relaxed lifestyle in leafy Logan Village. The Darling boasts a harmonious open plan design with seamless indoor-outdoor spaces. Entertainers will love the modern kitchen with large island bench and a walk-in pantry. The generously sized master bedroom, with walk-in wardrobe and double vanity ensuite bathroom, is tucked away at the rear of the home for a peaceful retreat. This lovely home has a two-car garage plus plenty of built-in storage.



Caboolture Riverfront

Sales Manager's Message

Our 12 brand-new final release homes are proving extremely popular with four already sold.

Our first Final Stage residents are settling into their new lifestyle here at Caboolture Riverfront and having a terrific time with their families in our beautiful Country Club, where grandchildren are enjoying many activities including ten-pin bowling with their grandparents.

It's always great to watch residents take advantage of everything on offer to them thanks to the lifestyle available here at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront.

For those who would like to find out more about what is on offer, we have two brand-new display homes which are available to view by appointment Monday to Friday.

Call me now to book a suitable time and find out more about our beautiful resort on the Caboolture River and what homes are available to purchase.

We have both brand-new homes and several preloved homes in excellent condition available to purchase through our sales office.

Glenys Lowry
Sales Manager



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



Spoil mum on Mother's Day

Mothers nurture us, guide us and love us unconditionally, so when it comes to Mother's Day, it is the perfect chance to spoil mum and show her just how much we appreciate everything she does.

If you're looking for a gift or things to do on her special day, which falls on 14 May, we have put together a few ideas that may appeal, especially for Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront homeowners. All are within the beautiful Moreton Bay area.

Caboolture Sports Club

Celebrate Mother's Day and enjoy an all-you-can-eat hot and continental plated breakfast buffet including eggs, bacon, pastries, fresh fruits and more. Freshly brewed coffee, tea and juice are included. Plus, for every ticket purchased, diners will receive \$5 in free raffle tickets in the Mother's Day Mega Raffle. Tickets are \$33 for adults, \$16.50 for children 3-12 years (under 3s are free).

Visit: cabsports.com.au

Beachmere Hotel

Spoil mum this Mother's Day at your beachside coastal local with a buffet breakfast, a la carte lunch or dinner while taking in this beautiful part of the Moreton Bay

Region. Just a short walk to the beach, the Beachmere Hotel specialises in exceptional dining, showcasing a seasonal menu which complements its beachside backdrop. Bookings are essential via 5429 0122.

Caboolture Historical Village

For the mum who loves history and adventure, a visit to the Caboolture Historical Village could be ideal. With interactive displays, daily steam train rides, beautiful gardens, 70-plus buildings to explore and 110,000 objects to view plus a delightful cafe. It's a day trip the whole family will enjoy.

Contact: historicalvillage.com.au

Centenary Lakes

What could be better than a relaxed picnic in the park with your mum and family surrounded by nature? Caboolture's Centenary Lakes offer the ideal setting with beautifully landscaped gardens, grassed areas and lakes. The parklands are a haven for local water birds and aquatic plants and include a network of pathways and bridges for a leisurely stroll after lunch.



Villa 313 | Facade Two

Pine

\$850,000



Alfresco entertaining is so easy in this move-in-ready Pine home. This three-bedroom home features a light-filled kitchen, living and dining areas. The spacious gourmet kitchen has a skylight overhead and a large walk-in pantry. Living and dining areas seamlessly flow onto the outdoor alfresco area via double-stacked doors to maximise your entertainment space. The master bedroom is located at the front of the home and features a window seat with storage, a walk-in-robe and an ensuite bathroom.



Toowoomba

Sales Manager's Message

It's the final countdown here at Living Gems Toowoomba with only four new houses available and one corner site expected to be completed early this month.

This caps off an incredible April where nine new homeowners moved in last month to join our friendly mountain community.

Also, we're delighted to announce that work has started on a new off-leash dog park which is sure to be a popular meeting place for four-legged residents and their owners. The new off-leash area will include a fully shaded spot for dog owners to sit and relax under, while their fur-babies enjoy the beautifully landscaped dog park created just for them.

The cooler autumn weather finds homeowners out and about in their gardens, preparing the soil and planting bulbs in expectation of an incredible springtime display in time for Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers.

Speaking of blooms, the new Living Gems branding, with its lovely, stylised flower motif, has just been installed and has attracted plenty of favourable comments.

Michelle Perry
Sales Manager



Living Gems Toowoomba Sales
Michelle Perry, Sales Manager
M 0417 973 819 | E michelle.perry@livinggems.com.au



For illustrative purposes only



Spoil mum on Mother's Day

Mother's Day is the perfect chance to spoil mum and show her just how much we appreciate everything she does.

If you're looking for a gift or things to do on this special day, which falls on Sunday, 14 May, we have put together a few ideas that may appeal, especially for Living Gems Toowoomba homeowners. All are within the beautiful Toowoomba area.

Encores, Empire Theatre Toowoomba

Enjoy Mother's Day high tea, a delicious morning or afternoon tea of tasty petite treats, sweet and savoury, served on silver stands and just a little bit fancy at Encores at the Empire Theatre, Toowoomba.

Mouths will water at the extensive selection of treats on offer ranging from freshly baked scones with local preserves and cream to lemon curd tarts, mini dark chocolate mousse eclairs and petite sausage rolls, plus so much more.

With two sittings at 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm, this superb offering includes a selection of freshly brewed premium teas, and a glass of sparkling, or fruit punch.

Visit: encores.com.au/dinner-a-la-carte/pre-theatre

Federal Hotel/Motel

A friend, a confidante, a hard worker, a total legend. And at the end of the day, she's your Mum. Gather around the table to celebrate the many hats Mum wears over a meal at the Federal Hotel/Motel, 111 James Street, East Toowoomba on Mother's Day.

Visit: federalhotelmotel.com.au/dining

The Southern Hotel

The Southern Hotel will be open from 6:30am on Mother's Day – serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. With a children's playroom to entertain the little ones and a delicious dining menu that has a dish for every taste and appetite, The Southern Hotel is the venue of every mother's dream!

As an added bonus, The Southern Hotel has two \$100 vouchers up for grabs to anyone that spoils their Mum and makes a reservation at the venue this Mother's Day! Book a table by calling (07) 4635 3311.

Visit: southernhotel.net



Villa 205 | Facade 1

Yarra

\$580,000



This stylish three-bedroom home is perfectly designed to enjoy an idyllic rural lifestyle on an elevated corner block. Seamlessly bringing the outdoors in, the Yarra offers a large alfresco area with access from the adjoining kitchen and living areas. A modern kitchen with large island bench and walk-in pantry is sure to impress keen home chefs. A spacious master bedroom with a double vanity ensuite bathroom and a large walk-in robe is set away from the second and third bedrooms for a peaceful retreat.



Resort Round-up

It was another fabulous month among the Living Gems communities, with lots of settlements achieved, fun adventures experienced, physical activities accomplished, and some new resort managers coming on board one of the resorts.

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront welcomed Maureen and Kevin Johnson as their new managers last month. The couple was excited to take up their new post and look forward to meeting all the residents over time. Their move was timed perfectly with the resort now hitting its final settlement stage. They will be able to personally welcome the last residents moving into the resort.

That's not all this vibrant over-50s lifestyle resort has been up to. Residents have been busy with more fun times, dancing and singing up a storm. Cathy Beitzel organised another wonderful night of entertainment, and we hear that Lucas Plath and Darren Rosetta were among some of the residents who shared their stunning karaoke voices. Keep the jiving up Team Caboolture!

Toowoomba also celebrated several settlements in April. New residents are settling in nicely and enjoying this stunning resort. And soon, the furry residents will also be able to enjoy a new off-leash area. We look forward to seeing that in the not-too-distant future.

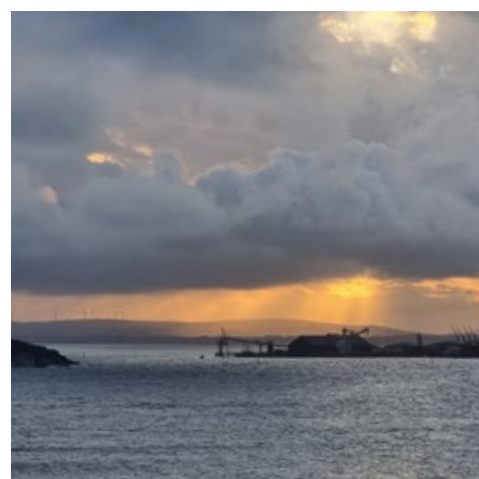
Opal was also pleasantly surprised last month, with a hopping visit from

the Easter Bunny. He spread his cheer throughout the resort, even getting in on some aqua aerobics with residents and putting big smiles on the grandchildren.

Ruby by Living Gems have also been busy, recently partying at their own Mad Hatter's Party. And what stunning outfits and decorations they came up with too. This resort certainly knows how to put on the get-togethers. Their long-standing bowling group of around 20 meets up every Thursday at the local bowling alley and recently celebrated their 12-year anniversary. Read more about that on page 18-21.

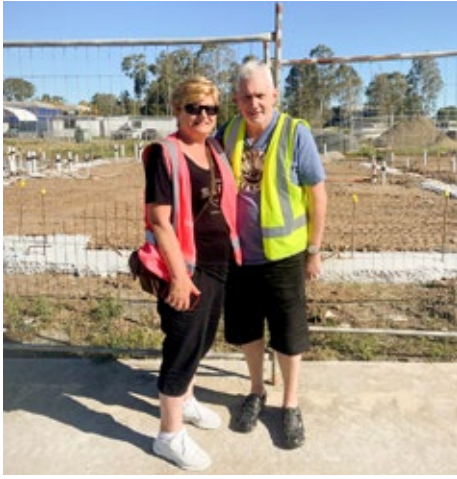
Finally, Amber residents had an exciting adventure to report. A large group of 16 residents went on a great excursion and had a blast on a day trip to the Scenic Rim area on one of their seasonal Farm Gate Trail open days. The group visited five different properties where fresh local produce and other goodies were purchased and enjoyed. A special thanks to Damien McCormack who drove the village bus on the day.

We look forward to seeing what adventures the resorts will get up to next month.







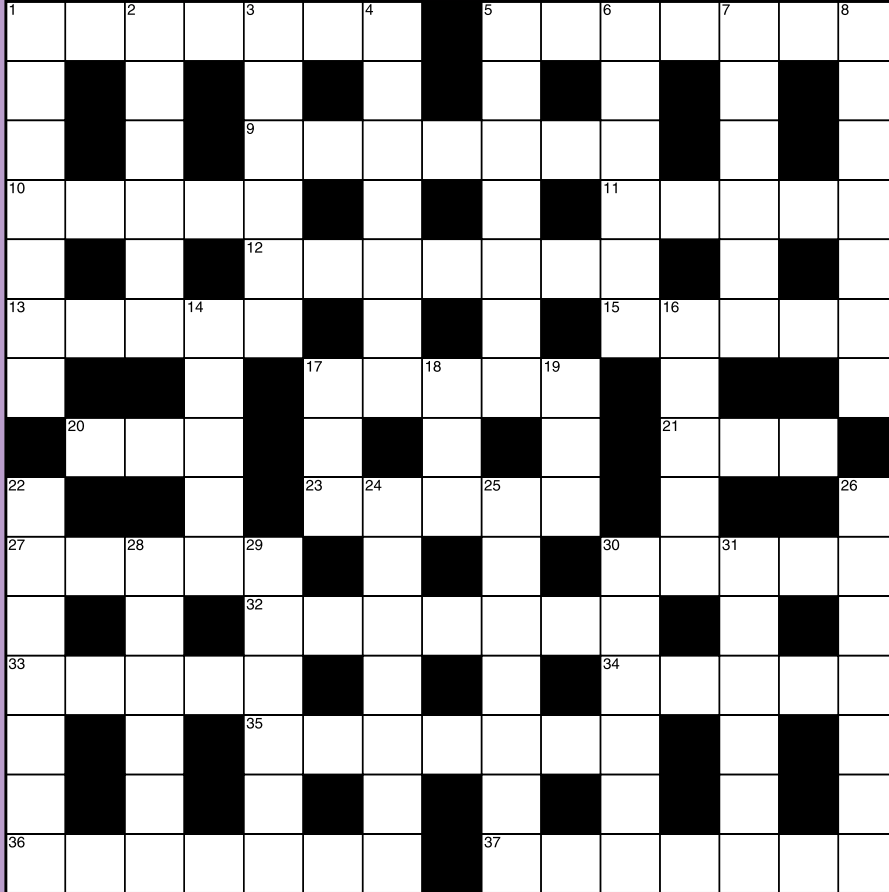


Share your photos and news with us!

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

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

Down

1. Shredding
2. Lower leg bracelet
3. Office
4. Squealing
5. Pained expression
6. Reply
7. Scaredy-cat
8. Black mark
14. Bloodsuckers
16. Entertain
17. Naval exercises
18. Bottled gas (1,1,1)
19. Actress, Doris ...
22. Very chilly (3-4)
24. Subtly referred
25. Devouring
26. Small red Asian fruits
28. Seventh planet
29. Repeats
30. Estimate
31. Counting device

Across

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Grain storehouse | 21. ... & downs |
| 5. Looked | 23. Drooping in the middle |
| 9. Finger-shaped pastries | 27. Bring about |
| 10. Hawk's claw | 30. Prepared |
| 11. Large sea mammal | 32. Food energy unit |
| 12. Prevailing weather | 33. Lock horns |
| 13. Crazy | 34. Fail (of computer) |
| 15. Diameter halves | 35. The devil (3,4) |
| 17. Stared lasciviously at | 36. Abandoned |
| 20. Microphone | 37. First Bible book |

Spoil Mum with Gin and Tonic Truffles

Mother's Day is just around the corner, and we all need to take the time to celebrate our mums and the mother figures in our lives.

What better way to show mum some appreciation than by making a special gift box filled with Chef Matt Conquest's delicious, tastebud-tempting gin and tonic-infused chocolate truffles?

Chef Matt's recipe is as easy as it is delicious, and you can make this gift even more special by boxing it with a handwritten card or buy a gift basket and add a bottle of gin and some dried citrus to use later in a cocktail. Be creative with your own personal touches and flourishes!

Ingredients

Makes 12

60ml good tonic water

30ml quality gin

140ml double cream

150g dark chocolate

25g unsalted butter

White chocolate glaze

200g white melting chocolate

1 lemon, finely zested

1 lime, finely zested

Method

1. Line a plate with baking paper.
2. In a small pot, bring the gin and tonic to the boil and reduce by half.
3. In another pot, on gentle heat, heat up the cream and butter to just under boil.
4. Put the chocolate in a heat proof bowl and pour over the cream. Stir the mix until the chocolate is melted.
5. Stir through the reduced gin and tonic into the chocolate mix. If you have a chocolate mould, you can use a mould tray to set your shape, pour the mixture in when its warmer or set the mix hard in the fridge and you can hand roll them for a rustic looking handmade truffle. You should get 12 truffles out of the mix.
6. Put the tray in the freezer until the truffles harden.
7. Melt the white chocolate in a microwave-safe container and heat on medium power for 30-second bursts until melted.
8. Dip the frozen truffle in the chocolate mix, rolling it around with a couple of toothpicks to coat it, and place back on the tray one at a time.
9. Sprinkle the truffles while still soft with the zest mix. Put the truffles in the fridge and, once set, place them into a gift box of your choosing.



You can make this gift box part of a bigger hamper, or just add a lovely bunch of her favourite flowers.

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



April Photo Winner

Congratulations to this month's winner, Robin Widdowson from Living Gems Toowoomba, for her stunning flower on the lake shot.

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

livinggems.com.au

Living Gems