

Thrive

● Living Gems*

FEBRUARY 2024



Love bytes

From colleagues to couple

Love, actually

Coincidences lead to romance

Luxury living at Amber

New two-storey homes nearly complete

Power of love

Expert tips to tune-up your relationship

livinggems.com.au

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the February issue of *Thrive*. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, this month's magazine takes inspiration from all things 'love', including some romantic stories from our very own homeowners.

Married for ten years, Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront homeowners Luke and Karen Plath share the story behind their office romance on pages 6 to 7, and Amber by Living Gems residents David and Andrea McNabb had a double celebration when they moved into their brand-new home last September which was also the date of their 41st anniversary!

Also, in this month's *Thrive*, we share a lovely pictorial spread of wedding photos from Living Gems residents across our resorts (pages 12 to 15). Thank you to all the homeowners who took a walk down memory lane and sent us photos of their special day.

When free of the responsibilities of raising a family, working, or maintaining a large home, many couples discover that their relationship becomes a key focus. In a feature story on pages 10 to 11, sexologist and relationship therapist Naomi Hutchings gives some professional advice about how couples can do a relationship health checkup.

In the spirit of self-love, we also have some great tips for dealing with your love handles and shaping up around the mid-section (see pages 16 to 17).

It's all happening at Amber by Living Gems, with the resort getting close to being fully sold out. In Stage Two, the first of our stunning two-storey homes are nearly completed and Tameeka and Lynda look forward to showing these off to interested buyers in March (see opposite page for more information). The Country Club is taking shape before our eyes and I know Amber homeowners are getting excited about the official opening, which won't be far off now. On pages 8 to 9, we talked to a few residents about what they're most looking forward to after this fantastic facility opens its doors.

There is just one home remaining in the Final Stage at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront. If you're looking for a simply lifechanging move into a beautiful, brand-new premium home, contact Sales Manager Glenys Lowry to view the last available home (see page 22 for contact details).

I'd also like to take the opportunity to remind our community shutterbugs about our residents' photography contest. Back for a second year, we invite interested residents to submit photos for a chance to be featured on the back page of *Thrive* as well as on our Facebook page (see back page for more information).



Adrian Puljich
CEO



First of Amber's exclusive two-storey homes nearly complete

The first of Amber by Living Gems' exclusive two-storey homes are nearing completion and are expected to be ready for viewing in mid March.

There are just five of these luxurious homes available, each boasting three bedrooms and between 230sqm to 233sqm of living space. Located in Stage Two, just a short walk from the Country Club, the double-storey homes – the Bowen, Stanley, and Archer designs – start from \$830,000.

Amber by Living Gems Sales Manager Lynda Ruddell said buyers would be blown away by the quality of the new two-storey homes, as well as the generous array of standard inclusions.

"All day-to-day living needs are met on the main level which features a spacious master bedroom, complete with walk-in wardrobe and double vanity ensuite bathroom, powder room, a designer kitchen, and open-plan living areas opening onto a good-sized alfresco – perfect for embracing indoor-outdoor living," Lynda said.

A contemporary elevator and stairs lead to the upper level of each home where there are two additional bedrooms – one with a second walk-in wardrobe and double vanity ensuite, and a central bathroom, ensuring plenty of space for overnight visits from friends and family.

"Also on this level is another large living area, and one of our designs also has a handy study nook. Our designers have thought of everything," she added.

"We're excited for the first of these beautiful, exclusive homes to be completed early next month. They're perfect for over-50s buyers who are looking for something extra special.

"The homes come with Living Gems' anything-but-standard standard inclusions, including integrated fridges and freezers, stone benchtops, high-quality energy efficient appliances, extra-high ceilings and doors, and even epoxy on the garage floors."

The residential construction team expects the last of the two-storey homes to be completed in April.

To book an appointment to view or for more information, contact our friendly sales team on 1800 317 381.

Perfect timing

Enduring love was meant to be

Moving into their brand-new home at Amber by Living Gems was a day David and Andrea McNabb will remember always, not only because it marked an exciting new chapter in their lives but also because the timing could not have been more perfect.

“We moved in on 4 September, 41 years to the day of our wedding. Not only that but we also signed the contract at 11am, which was the actual time we were married. It was pretty iconic,” said David.

Realising settlement on their new home was imminent, the couple had celebrated their anniversary the week before during a ten-day trip to Caloundra, which is where they had spent their honeymoon all those years ago.

Their love story is one for the romantics of the world and those who believe in fate.

“Fate certainly played a part in us meeting,” said Andrea. “David was on the second last day of his holidays in Australia from Northern Ireland in 1980 when we met. There was an instant attraction, but he had to leave because he had a business back home. However, that wasn’t the end of the story but rather the beginning.

“It was my birthday the day after he left and to my surprise, I received a birthday card from him in the mail. Then we started writing to each other and making the occasional phone call – it was expensive back then to make overseas calls, something like \$2 a minute.”



David and Andrea exchanged letters continuously for about eight months before Andrea made the adventurous decision to travel to Northern Ireland to see if their relationship would go anywhere.

“I asked her to marry me about six months later and she said ‘yes,’” said David.

Andrea, who was only 20 at the time, said Ireland was a very romantic place to be courted and the proposal remains vivid in her mind.

“David took me to picturesque Portglenone Forest, which is set on 26 hectares of land that contains extensive colonies of ancient



woodland flower species including bluebells which, in spring, are simply spectacular. It took my breath away.

“He proposed to me as we sat on a seat at the edge of the river, and then took me for a special meal at a beautiful restaurant. Everything was just perfect!”

The couple married in Australia and the wedding party included a best man and bridesmaid from Ireland.

During their years together, David and Andrea raised two daughters and one is now married with four boys of her own.

Their wedding anniversary has always been a special day on their calendar and celebrations often involve enjoying a romantic restaurant dinner with a surprise outing.

“I remember one anniversary when David planned the whole day and took me to places that had meant a lot to me in the past like the home I grew up in at Geebung, our first flat, the church we were married in, my old school, and then Caloundra for a walk down memory lane. It was very special!” said Andrea.

On their 25th anniversary, it was Andrea who surprised David with a radio-controlled plane, which

kicked off a fun hobby that he still enjoys today.

After 41 years, the romance continues.

David says he loves Andrea’s soft heart, gentle personality and spontaneity while she glowingly reveals that her spouse is like a rock, has great integrity, is reliable and someone who gives her security.

“He has a few Irish jokes up his sleeve too and I’ve heard them all, but we share a great sense of humour, enjoy the same music and like doing things together. And, just in case you were wondering, the romance is still very much alive!”



Love song

Office romance blossoms for Luke and Karen

For Karen Plath it was the sound of her future husband's voice that first brought him to her attention.

Luke and Karen, who live at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront, celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary last year.

"I'd not long started a new job in the insurance company that Luke worked in," said Karen. "In fact, he was in the cubicle next to mine and occasionally he would sing. Luke sings really well.

"One day I told him that he had a lovely voice. We started chatting



Riverfront after yard maintenance became too much.

"I've always enjoyed looking after the gardens and doing the mowing, so Luke doesn't have to, but I did have a few health issues and I found the property just too difficult to manage," she said. "We started looking at downsizing and came across Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront and it had everything we were looking for."

At the resort, Luke's musical ability has attracted quite the following.

He takes part in the shows the residents put on in the resort's Country Club. Last Christmas, Luke donned a tuxedo and sang (the Engelbert Humperdinck standard) *Quando, Quando, Quando* and all the ladies swooned.

"In fact, one of the ladies asked him if he would go on a cruise and sing for her on the ships!" said Karen proudly.

The resort's regular karaoke nights have also seen Luke recognised for his musical ability.

"We have people from outside the resort who come in to help us on these nights and they've offered Luke a job to perform at some of their events," said Karen. "I forgot to mention that Luke also plays guitar

and used to be in bands."

Is there any chance of a new duo entertaining at the resort?

"Not me! I don't sing – I don't like the sound of my voice," she said. "I did play keyboards when I was much younger and that's something I'm looking forward to doing a lot more of, and I've asked Luke to teach me how to play guitar."

The couple have called Living Gems home for the past three years and they love it.

"The whole community is just so friendly; we also have regular street parties. It's so nice to be part of a community where everyone is so supportive of one another."

"We started looking at downsizing and came across Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront and it had everything we were looking for."

and then the next thing you know we were on our first date – a cruise on the Brisbane River by riverboat."

And it wasn't too long before Luke, who has one daughter, and Karen who has three sons, had become inseparable.

"He is such a kind and caring man, very chivalrous," said Karen. "He'll always open the car door for me."

Luke proposed following a romantic meal at Birches at Mount Mee, a restaurant famed for its spectacular views across Moreton Bay.

The couple decided to move from acreage to Living Gems Caboolture



Bringing a community together

Plans aplenty as residents eagerly await opening

The opening of the \$10.5 million Amber by Living Gems Country Club is set to be the highlight of 2024 for the over-50s lifestyle resort's homeowners, who are already planning their 'must do' activities' lists ahead of the official opening.

Expected to be completed within the next couple of months, the stunning, contemporary two-storey building already has residents watching its progress daily, although with work now being carried out on the interiors, the extent of the progress is taking place behind closed doors.

"It is going to be a real surprise when we get to see it all on opening day. It's already looking amazing! The Country Club has been of major appeal to us since we first moved in. We knew it was being built and what we could expect but there is nothing like the real thing. Tania and I want to try everything once it is open, and we can't wait," said homeowner Don Mansfield.

Don's wife Tania agreed saying: "I'm already playing mahjong and doing exercise classes twice a week and I'll be doing plenty more once the Country Club is open. It is not only us but also our grandchildren who are very excited at what this beautiful new venue will offer."





Thrive invited homeowners to share what they are looking forward to most and just how important the new Country Club will be to the Amber by Living Gems community.

Robert and Jennifer Stunt

Robert and Jennifer Stunt believe the new venue will bring the resort's community closer together.

"Everyone will be able to socialise more in a spacious, beautifully designed building and in doing so, it will be easier for residents to get to know each other better," said Robert, who has already volunteered to help in the bar.

He and Jennifer also love the vast variety of new facilities that will be available.

"There is something for everyone ranging from an indoor pool, spa, gym, games room with pool table, ten-pin bowling, lawn bowls as well as all the different interest groups such as mahjong, fitness, craft and more. The Country Club was one of the reasons we moved here, and we can't wait to see the finished product."

Larry and Irene Clifford

Larry and Irene Clifford are keen to use the new Country Club to get into a regular routine of swimming and exercising and meeting other residents with similar interests such as pickleball, ten-pin bowling and lawn bowls.

"Irene and I have also taken up the ukulele and would love to start up a group that can rehearse in the Country Club, which is going to be a venue for a wide range of special interests, events and occasions. We have also volunteered to work in the bar which we believe will be a great place to meet and make new friends," said Larry.

Steve and Sandy Trevor

Steve and Sandy Trevor see the new Country Club becoming an important social hub of the resort.

"It is the place where we can all meet up, share interests, get fit and socialise together in a really nice environment. Not only that but our own families and grandchildren can also join us from time to time," said Steve.

"Although we haven't seen inside as yet, the Country Club is looking very grand, and the entrance is going to be marvellous. It's shaping up to be everything we anticipated and probably a bit more. We are so looking forward to having all those amazing facilities virtually at our doorstep especially the golf simulator, lawn bowls and swimming pool. There's no way we will miss the opening. Sandy and I can't wait to experience it firsthand."

Stuart and Julia Woods

Stuart and Julia Woods believe the new Country Club will bring all the facilities and social spaces anyone could ever want to the doorstep of all residents within the Amber by Living Gems community.

"With so many fabulous facilities on our doorstep, we won't have to go far for anything. We can walk there! We can see ourselves being regulars at the gym and swimming pool and it will be a great spot to meet up with others for a drink and a little socialising which we love to do," said Stuart.

The relationship check-up

Tips for keeping the spark in your love life

How healthy is your relationship? Is it time for a check-up?
How about a check in?

Many couples discover that being free from the responsibilities of raising a family, going to work and maintaining a large property puts the focus back onto their relationships, says sexologist and relationship therapist, Naomi Hutchings.

In the absence of these time-intensive activities, couples risk putting themselves under pressure to perform – particularly around Valentine’s Day, she said.

“My first piece of advice is, don’t be fazed by big events. If you don’t normally make a big deal out of Valentine’s Day, then you shouldn’t feel obliged to spend money on the day,” she said. “The only people putting pressure on you are the florists and jewellers.

“However, if going all out for Valentine’s Day is something you always do together, and it is a special part of your relationship, then you should continue to do it and cherish it.”

The key is to regularly check in with one another – no matter how many years you’ve been in a relationship together.

“Use this wonderful time in life to rediscover who you are as an individual, and if you’re in a relationship, make sure you check in with your partner,” she said. “I recommend couples do this regularly in all areas of their lives to ensure they’re on the same page.

“For example, if you’re a cuddler and love to receive a lot of physical affection, it can be distressing not to receive that from your partner – especially if they’re not wired in the same way. By the same token, if you check in with your partner, be open to what you need and if they’re responsive to that, you deepen your connection.”

The same holds true for your sex life too.

“As you change and your body changes, what you need in a sexual relationship changes too,” she said.



“It’s important to get away from thinking that sex is only about what I call, ‘the P in the V’. I don’t like the term foreplay either because it is all sexual play. A healthy and active sex life doesn’t have to be all about penetration. Just lying down and touching one another is also very satisfying.

“Let go of all the ‘shoulds’ and do what works for both of you.”



Naomi says don't be afraid to spice things up a bit, not only in the bedroom but in other areas of your life too.

"Our brain loves making new connections," she said. "We get a lot of enjoyment out of a little diversity and novelty, so try something new together. It can be as simple as going to a different restaurant instead of the one you always end up at.

"And when I'm speaking of doing something different, I don't mean that you have to spend a lot of money doing it, because that connection isn't found in buying more, it's about being together in a way which is satisfying for you both."

Naomi has a Masters of Health Science in Sexual Health, a Bachelors majoring in gender studies and politics and is currently completing a post graduate degree in counselling. She is available for online consultations.

You can reach her via her at:
naomihutchings.com.au

Love me do

Enduring romance thrives at Living Gems

'Happily ever after' doesn't just happen in romance novels. A lifetime of love and devotion is on display at Living Gems communities right across Queensland. This Valentine's Day, homeowners share their photos and memories of their special day.



Rod and Janene Griffith

Amber by Living Gems

📅 9 March 1974

📍 Married at the Methodist Church, Graceville

Rod and Janene will celebrate 50 years of marriage on 9 March. They were married just after major flooding devastated Brisbane in 1974. They can still recall how organisers of their reception at the Boulevard Tropical Gardens on the river at Indooroopilly – where three metres of water had flowed through the reception area and gardens – had to scramble to get the venue ready for their special day. "It poured on the day, and after the reception we only just made it through rising waters to get to the airport to fly to New Zealand for our honeymoon. It's a day we will remember forever!"

Bevan and Cathy Beitzel

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront

📅 27 May 1972

📍 Married in St Andrews Anglican Church, Lutwyche

"We met at a dance at Cloudland. Bevan and I were both in the Army Reserve. I was in the catering corps and was serving one night when I looked up and there he was standing in front of me. As there was a difference in rank – I was a corporal then and he was a warrant officer – he had to get official permission to take me out. When we married, I was working in the police service at that time and had lots of police officers attending the wedding and the reception at Lutwyche community hall. What I didn't know until later is that when the men got to community hall, they discovered the key to the piano was missing! So, they went to the arts hall next door and pushed the piano up Lutwyche Road so we could have music and they did return it at the end of the night."



Leo and Kay Lerve

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront

📅 8 February 1958

📍 Married in the Presbyterian Church, Hamilton

"Leo and I met when I went on holidays to South Molle Island. He was working at the resort. After the holiday was over, we started writing to one another. We met again in October when he was on his way down to compete in the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race and we let my parents know that we intended to get married."



Irene and Larry Clifford

Amber by Living Gems

📅 15 April 1984

📍 Shangri La Gardens, Wynnum



Irene and Larry Clifford were married in a garden wedding at Shangri La Gardens, Wynnum, 40 years ago this April. It was a second marriage for both these love birds who first met at a dance in the Jetset Singles Bar in Roma Street, Brisbane. "The moment I first saw Irene I was captivated. We started talking and the rest, as they say, is history." Larry says he didn't make a great impression on their first date because they went to the stage show, The Dresser, and all Irene could hear was his snoring. "I'd been training for an Army relay race and was exhausted!" Larry said.

Ray and Yvonne Hocking

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront

📅 15 February 1964

📍 Married in East Bentley Methodist Church

"This year we celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. And late last year, Ray and I celebrated our 80th birthdays together because we're only one day apart. We met at a dance, and I liked him immediately because he was very genuine and very thoughtful."





Ken and Sue Brown

Amber by Living Gems

📅 29 April 1978

📍 Married at the Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill

It took former rugby league player Ken six months to eventually work up the courage to ask bank teller Sue on a date, but they have been together ever since. Their first date was to the restaurant at the Acacia Ridge Hotel, the same place where they would eventually hold their wedding reception. One night in a Gold Coast honeymoon suite followed. "We have been married 45 years now and are still just as much in love as we were on our wedding day."

Paul and Debbie Nilsson

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront

📅 18 April 1976

📍 Married in Mackay

The couple first met through the Mackay Rotaract Club in 1974 and love blossomed from there. Rotaract is the youth arm of the Rotary Club established in 1968 and which quickly spread across the world. Debbie's gown featured a beautiful, tiered veil, ruffled bodice, and charming frill sleeves.



Robert and Jennifer Stunt

Amber by Living Gems

📅 15 November 1975

📍 Married at All Saints Church, Parramatta

Robert and Jennifer Stunt have been married 49 years in November 2024. Jennifer was a friend of Robert's sister. "I first met her when they rang me at 2am to pick them up one New Year's Eve. I only had a motorcycle so had to ferry them home one at a time. It was love at first sight for me," said Robert. Their first date was to the twin drive-in at Chullora in Sydney. They have since celebrated their wedding anniversary every year and are planning an extra special occasion for their 50th in 2025.



Frank and Betty Norman

Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront

📅 13 February 1965

📍 Married in St Paschal's Church, Wavell Heights

"We first met on a blind date that was set up by a chap I was sharing a boarding house with. I'd transferred to Brisbane from Townsville, and I'd also just broken up with a girl. As it happened Merv's girlfriend Judy had a friend staying with her who happened to be Betty. Judy asked Merv if he knew someone who could accompany Betty. Our first date was to a restaurant above the Centenary Pool in Brisbane."



Steve and Sandy Trevor

Amber by Living Gems

📅 6 December 1980

📍 Uniting Church, Mount Isa

Steve and Sandy Trevor will celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary this year. They first met when Sandy was 14 and Steve, who was an apprentice fitter and turner at the time, was 16. The couple honeymooned on the Gold Coast.

Stuart and Julia Woods

Amber by Living Gems

📅 4 September 1982

📍 Married at Tatra Hut, Dandenong Ranges

An office romance blossomed for Stuart and Julia Woods who first met while working at the State Insurance Office in Melbourne. Set to celebrate 42 years of marriage this year, the couple say they are even more in love today than when they were first married. "Our love has just grown stronger over the years," said Stuart.





Losing the ‘love handles’

Tips for shaping up your mid-section

While there may be a little more of you to love, many of us are keen to lose those ‘love handles’ – the visceral skin and fat that sits over our hips. And there’s good reason as fat in that area may increase the risk factors for a variety of diseases.

Health and fitness professional, Josh Kristenson, has some great tips for shaping up around the mid-section. And why not try these tips with your significant other? Exercising together is a great way to bond and reach your fitness goals in good company.



1. Calorie-conscious choices

When it comes to managing love handles, being mindful of the calorie density of fats is crucial. Choose leaner cuts of meat, use less or no cooking oils, and opt for low-fat milks and other products. This way you can naturally reduce calorie intake without impacting on nutrition which is the first step in supporting your efforts to address love handles. Understanding how certain dietary choices impact calorie intake is key to making informed decisions that aid in managing and reducing excess fat around the midsection.

2. Cardio and strength

Take advantage of the equipment in Living Gems resorts’ state-of-the-art gyms.

Cardio activities like cycling, treadmill workouts, and rowing help burn calories and reduce overall body fat, including love handles. These exercises work by elevating the heart rate, thereby improving cardiovascular fitness.

Strength training, using resistance machines or free weights available in the gym, not only helps to tone muscles but also aids in increasing overall metabolism. By incorporating these exercises into your routine, you can build muscle mass, which in turn helps in burning more calories even at rest. Strength training, while toning muscles and reducing fat, also contributes to better functional movement and increased bone density.

3. Hydration

Hydration is a potent ally in the quest to lose body fat. Adequate water intake plays a crucial role in supporting metabolism by aiding fat oxidation and regulating appetite. Staying properly hydrated enhances exercise performance, including the body’s ability to burn fat efficiently during workouts.

Simply staying well-hydrated throughout the day can make a big difference. Ironically, drinking water regularly will help prevent water retention, which can make love handles look worse.

4. Consistency and patience

Sustainable changes take time to yield results, which is why it is essential to make those healthy habits consistent. Patience is key as gradual progress is more lasting and sustainable. By maintaining consistency in hydration, diet, and exercise, you can achieve fat loss goals over time and reap the rewards of your commitment to a healthier lifestyle.

Adventure ahoy!

Seeing the world in ship shape fashion

Book a holiday you'll love and savour the experience of discovering the world at a more relaxed pace on a cruise. Whether you're an adventurous solo traveller, sightseeing with friends or indulging in a second (or third) honeymoon, you are bound to create life-long memories.

Ahoy travellers!

These holiday packages are open to all Living Gems homeowners. To book these cruises or to receive more information, visit Norman's website: integritytravel.com.au





Around Australia

Make 2024 the year you really get to discover Australia.

Last month's *Thrive* magazine featured three fabulous roadtrips that explore our nation's interior. But if a long roadtrip is not for you, how about a cruise around Australia, where you unpack just once and have all the destinations come to you?

Join retired travel agent Norman Pressey and his wife Carol from Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront on a 28-day cruise, departing on 4 June from Brisbane and get ready to explore the big capital cities as well as some extra-special destinations.

Your holiday begins once you board the luxurious P&O Pacific Explorer where you'll cruise to Sydney, then to Melbourne and enjoy other ports of call, including Adelaide, Albany, Fremantle, Exmouth, and Broome.

Discover a world of beauty in Australia's north by cruising Yampi Sound, Raft Point and Kuri Bay before heading to the Top End and the vibrant city of Darwin. The next stop is the majestic Indonesian Island of Ambon, which is rich in history and cultural interests.

Sail between the tip of Cape York and Papua New Guinea to discover the tropical wonders of Cairns and then Airlie Beach before returning to Brisbane.

Inside cabins are from \$4995 per person and ocean-view cabins start from \$6595.



Across Europe

If an overseas adventure is on your wish list, then there's no better way to see the heart of Europe than by river cruising.

Departing Australia on 1 May, you'll love this 18-day cruise adventure that takes you from the flower markets of Amsterdam to Budapest, the pearl of the Danube.

This trip is ideal for the active traveller with plenty of opportunities for hiking and biking to see some of the historical treasures at each destination.

Stops include Cologne, the Rhine Gorge, Miltenberg, Wurzburg, Volkach, Bamberg, Roth with an excursion to Nuremberg, the medieval town of Regensburg, then onto Passau where the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers meet with an opportunity to join a day excursion to Salzburg.

Then enjoy taking in the artwork of Melk's Benedictine Abbey before arriving in Vienna where you have your choice of many inspiring tours that are sure to delight art lovers and history buffs alike. The final stop is Budapest where you can enjoy one of several guided tours or explore the city on your own.

The price is \$9875 per person and includes economy airfare, transfers, cruise, accommodation and some meals.

Amber

Sales Managers' Message

The second and final stage of Amber by Living Gems is nearing completion which means this is your last chance to make a simply lifechanging move to our beautiful community in leafy Logan Village.

Make an appointment today to view our charmingly appointed display homes and select your new low-maintenance home starting from \$614,000 and check the progress on our first two-storey home.

The Archer is one of only five two-storey homes under construction at Amber and presents a rare opportunity to secure a spacious three-bedroom property featuring a lift for ease of access, conveniently located within a two-minute walk to all the amenities you need.

Register now to be one of the first to view this stunning property by phoning myself and Lynda today on 1800 317 381 and prepare to be impressed by the quality of workmanship, design and inclusions that are truly second

to none, particularly in relation to value for money.

If you are considering a move in 2024, Amber is the place to be with like-minded neighbours enjoying a peaceful yet engaging neighbourhood. Recently our residents enjoyed a Hawaiian-themed street party! Turn to the Resort Round-up to view pictures.

In other exciting news, the Amber motorhome has arrived! Residents will be able to enjoy exclusive use of the RV.

As we near completion of the Amber Country Club, the commercial construction team is focusing on final fitouts. The excitement is building as we move closer to the grand opening!



For illustrative purposes only



Amber by Living Gems Sales Team

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The food of love

They say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, so if you're looking to curry some favour, or something to make him a little more sweet, then we have great lunch and dinner recommendations from some of the best restaurants in the Logan area.

Kastury's Indian Restaurant & Cafe

2/1 James Street, Beenleigh

Discover a whole world of flavoursome cuisine from India. Kastury's Indian Restaurant and Cafe is a fully licensed a la carte restaurant, specialising in cuisine from the provinces of India.

What could be more romantic than sharing freshly made dishes starting with samosas and curry puffs? In addition to all your favourite Indian dishes, why not make Valentine's Day extra special by trying a new dish accompanied by tasty naan breads, chutneys and delicious side dishes.

Devon Pixies

270 Jacaranda Avenue, Kingston Butter Factory Cultural Precinct, Logan City

Tea for two? Yes please! Logan's first dedicated tea house brings a slice of a traditional English morning or afternoon tea to the region. Devon Pixies specialty is homemade cakes, slices, scones and sandwiches served with a great selection of teas, coffees, chai and hot chocolate. So why not create your own high tea from the freshly made goods available? Devon Pixies also caters for private parties.

Jimboomba House Bar & Restaurant

1 Johanna Street, Jimboomba


Described as one of Logan's best kept secrets, this restaurant is the perfect location for a romantic rendezvous. Praised for their attentive staff, as well as sumptuous cuisine, Jimboomba House Bar and Restaurant features cosy indoor dining as well as dining out on the generous verandas. Highly rated by diners is the linguini and the cheesecake.



Villa 227 | Kookaburra

Archer

\$842,000

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1

Archer hits the mark with practicality and style. This two-storey, three-bedroom home features your choice of ground-floor or first-floor master bedrooms. The first floor, conveniently accessed by stairs or a lift, also features an additional bedroom, private lounge and study nook. The ground floor offers spacious open plan living with streamlined kitchen with walk-in pantry, roomy lounge and alfresco area.



Caboolture Riverfront

Sales Manager's Message

Fall in love with a brand-new home at Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront. There is only one final home available in Stage Six and it's an absolute gem.

Villa 311 is the popular Snowy design and features views out towards the Caboolture River and, with no rear neighbours, the serenity is yours to enjoy. What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than to make a simple lifechanging move to our friendly over-50s resort.

Speaking of love, we have an outstanding pre-loved home which rarely comes back on the market. This charming home features two spacious bedrooms with the master including an ensuite and a walk-in robe. The fabulous kitchen boasts a walk-in pantry, while a separate laundry and double garage offers practicality and convenience.

The list price is \$680,000.

Caboolture is such a lovely area to live and is conveniently found half-way between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. Living Gems Caboolture Riverfront has easy access to local shops as well as being part of a friendly and busy community.

If you have friends or family looking for a place to call home, I have resales which become available from time to time or, if you're looking to sell your home, do give me a call on 1800 718 417.

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



Promise her the moon

Valentine's Day is not the only significant event to happen in February. For millions around the world, the month also marks the Lunar New Year.

The day is celebrated all around the world – particularly in China, South Korea and Vietnam.

This year Caboolture is marking the year of the dragon on Saturday, 17 February. Make a note in your diary and plan a date night with a difference.

Taking place between 3pm and 8pm at the Caboolture Town Square on Hasking Street, the Moreton Bay Lunar New Year will feature plenty of Asian street food as well as lots of entertainment, including the Red Dragon Traditional Lion Dance, soulful Chinese orchestra performances, a magic show, a drumming spectacular and more.

The evening will be capped off with an impressive pyrotechnic firecracker display.



Are you a dragon?

Unlike the zodiac calendar, which assigns birth signs based on month, the Chinese horoscope divides its signs by year. 2024 is the year of the dragon, so if you were born in 1940, 1952, or 1964 – you are born under the sign of the dragon.

According to Chinese astrology, dragons are most compatible with rats (those born in 1936, 1948, 1960, etc), monkeys (born in the years 1932, 1944, 1956, etc), and roosters (whose birth years are 1933, 1945, 1957, etc).



Villa 311 | Facade Two

Snowy

\$850,000



Ready to move into and as impressive as its river namesake, the Snowy is the ideal entertainer. It hosts dining and living spaces that open out onto the charming alfresco area while the home chef will be delighted with the amazing gourmet kitchen that includes a large island bench and walk-in pantry as well as a skylight over the dining area. A beautifully proportioned master bedroom features a double vanity ensuite bathroom and walk-in wardrobe. Two more bedrooms are separated by a central bathroom.



Resort Round-up

Welcome to another edition of our Resort Round-up. There is never a dull moment at our Living Gems communities with so many activities and fun things happening all the time.

The festive season was a time for get-togethers for family and friends with many special moments and memories shared throughout our Living Gems communities.

Homeowners from across our Living Gems resorts ensured everyone had a good time with celebrations ranging from small gatherings to major get-togethers at restaurants, in resort Country Clubs and other dining and entertainment venues.

There was plenty of laughter and dancing when an estimated 85 **Gold Coast Living Gems** residents came together for a fabulous dinner dance in the Recreation Hall to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. They certainly had a spring in their step as they danced the night away as well as enjoying some delicious traditional Christmas cuisine.

At **Sapphire by Living Gems**, residents were quick to get into the swing of a brand-new year at a special function that inspired everyone to join in. Music was provided by a local doctor who is known as Rock Doc. He was assisted by some of their own residents including Roy, Stuart and Graham. The joint, as they say, was rockin' and a great night was had by all.

There were several great events enjoyed by **Amber by Living Gems**

residents ranging from homeowners, including Bob Johnson and Robbie Smith, sharing a drink or two in the temporary clubhouse during Happy Hour and fabulous New Year's Eve functions enjoyed by scores of fun-loving residents, to the Sailability Bayside event which carried a 'Woodstock' theme. Residents John and Carol-Lyn McClure went all out disguising themselves as hippies and won the prize for the best dressed couple. Peace man!

Amber residents also spied resident Darren riding around the resort with a friendly hitchhiker of the canine variety, Lola, the King Charles Cavalier. It was smooth sailing for both!

There were grass skirts, blow-up palm trees and lots of hula dancing at the Amber by Living Gems Hawaiian Summer Party, organised by resident David Skinner, assisted by Larry Clifford. The street party proved a popular event with over 100 residents attending. A hamper valued at \$70 was awarded to the best dressed couple while the Yumpling Dumplings Food Truck also paid a visit to ensure everyone's palates were well catered for. DJ Dave provided plenty of Hawaiian and Beachboys music on the night. Aloha!

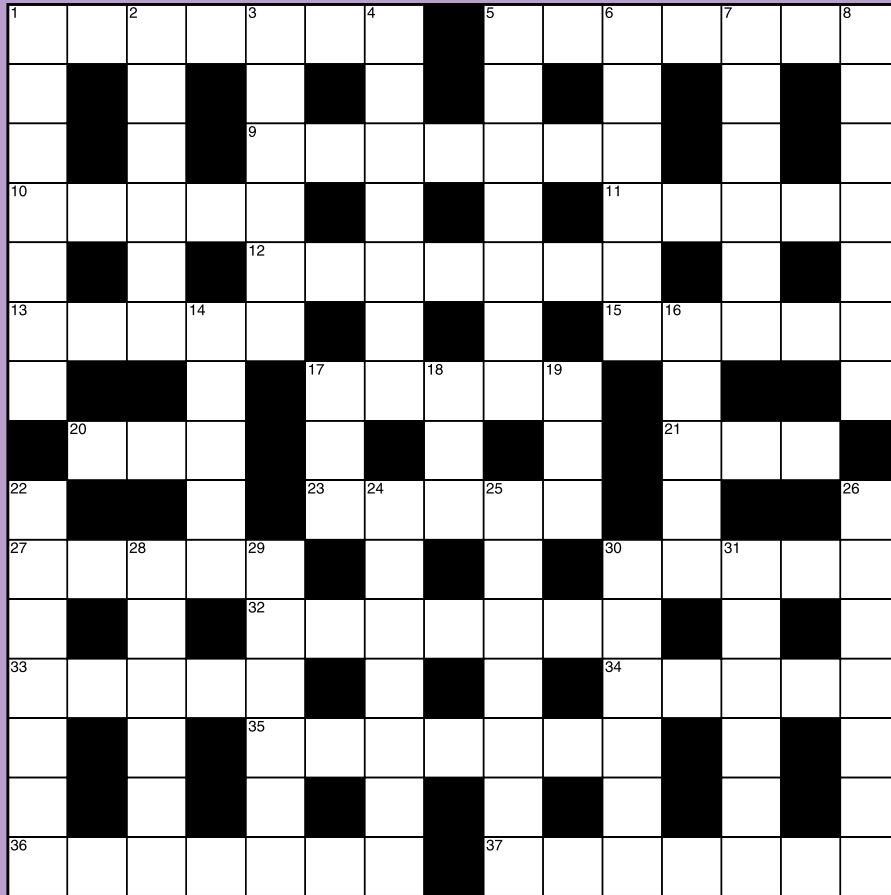


Share your photos and news with us!

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



Last months solution



Down

1. Is amazed
2. Alter (text)
3. Trace
4. Conceded
5. Uproar
6. Cinema gangways
7. Reach
8. Engine emission
14. Magic lamp spirit
16. Luxury car, ... Martin
17. Abdominal muscles
18. Egg cells
19. Playful bite
22. Long letter
24. Drawbacks
25. Quantity
26. Chaperones
28. Alpine home
29. Infer
30. Resources
31. Distributing, ... out

Across

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ethically | 21. Male cat |
| 5. False pretence | 23. Scallywag |
| 9. Roman emperors | 27. Strode |
| 10. Large violin | 30. Peruvian mountains |
| 11. Camel-like animal | 32. Tricks into crime |
| 12. Young frog | 33. Burn with steam |
| 13. Hand in (tax return) | 34. Broadside |
| 15. Smooths (wood) | 35. Evict |
| 17. Beautify | 36. Regards highly |
| 20. Heavy weight | 37. US Navy officers |



Charm your Valentine



Serving up cocktails and canapes is an enchanting way to make Valentine's Day a memorable occasion and Chef Matt Conquest has just the recipe for success.

He recommends preparing Atlantic salmon or ocean trout as part of a tasting board by using cured salmon or salmon Gravlox, making it ideal for serving as an entree or as a canape. Beetroot adds a lovely rose colour to the salmon when cured and it can also be partnered with gin instead of vodka to make a Miss Peacock Gin cocktail.

Beetroot and gin-cured salmon can also be paired with dill creme or cream fraiche, capers and caperberries, cucumber and red onion (either fresh or pickled), fresh herbs, bagels, fresh baguettes or crisp breads, toasted French sticks or savoury mini pancakes.

When curing the salmon, keep in mind that the longer it is cured for – between 24 and 72 hours – the more moisture is drawn from the fish and the richer the colour.

Ingredients

Salmon Gravlox cure

500g fresh Atlantic salmon, *choice of skin on or off*
80ml gin
¼ cup (packed) sea salt
¼ cup sugar
1 tbsp cracked black pepper
1 tbsp fennel seeds
1 tbsp coriander seeds
2 tbsp fresh dill, *chopped*
1 medium beetroot, peeled and *grated (gloves recommended)*

Miss Peacock Cocktail

30ml St Germaine liqueur
30ml Hendricks gin (or your preferred brand)
30ml peach puree
30ml peach juice
30ml lime or lemon juice
Serve over ice and top up with soda water

Method

1. Get a tray that the salmon will fit into comfortably. Lay or overlap 3 or 4 layers of plastic wrap over the tray (the salmon must be tightly wrapped and sealed so the cure doesn't leach out, so make sure you have plenty of plastic wrap to go around the salmon).
2. Lay the salmon on the tray and pat dry with paper towel.
3. Mix all ingredients together in a bowl.
4. Spread the mix evenly over the piece of salmon.
5. Tightly wrap the salmon with the plastic wrap, ensuring it is well covered and sealed.
6. Cure the salmon for however long you choose (24 hours - soft, 48 hours - medium, or 72 hours - hard).
7. After your curing period is done, unwrap the salmon. Wipe it down with a paper towel to get rid of the spice seeds and excess cure.
8. Now simply slice through the salmon and serve it how you like – on a grazing platter with crisp breads and spreads, served as a salmon carpaccio, or served on a platter as canapes for your loved ones.

Frame that shot

Pretty as a picture! Living Gems' popular photo competition returns for 2024.

We're looking for creative photographs that showcase why the Living Gems lifestyle is simply lifechanging.

They can be terrific travel destinations, wonderful wildlife photography or fabulous times with

friends. Entries open to all Living Gems homeowners.

The best photograph each month will be featured on the back page of *Thrive* magazine as well as on Living Gems' Facebook page.

Get snapping! The competition will run until 1 November 2024. Submissions should be sent to content@livinggems.com.au

Guidelines for submitting your photos

Photos must:

- Be taken by you
- Be at least 2MB in size
- Include the location of the photograph, along with any interesting information about the destination.



February Photo Winner

Sandy Gillis from Living Gems Maleny was up early to capture a majestic sunrise over the tranquil waters of the Mary River in Maryborough. She said she was taken by the beautiful reflections on the water.

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

Gold Coast

70 Hansford Road
Coombabah QLD 4216

07 5577 5899

Ruby

225 Logan Street
Eagleby QLD 4207

07 3386 1771

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