

# It's all plain sailing

**M**ARGARET Azzopardi has always wanted to go on a cruise and now she is finally packing for one. With three new friends, she will be sailing the blue waters of the South Pacific to Noumea.

The chance to realise her dream came when she moved to the lifestyle community Brookfield Village about 12 months ago.

To go on a cruise, Margaret needed money and friends to travel with. Brookfield made both possible. Since moving in, she has made many new friends and, when one suggested a cruise, she jumped at the opportunity.

"I'm really happy I came to Brookfield, otherwise I wouldn't have these friends," she says.

The affordability of Brookfield Village meant Margaret could buy her new home and still save for a holiday.

"I feel lucky to be at Brookfield. I'm on a widow's allowance, but I could afford to buy a new house at Brookfield Village and still have something tucked away," she says.

Rental aid helps Margaret to pay the weekly fees and allows her to save for this type of holiday.

The women in the cruise group are all excited about their forthcoming adventure. For Margaret, the trip has an added dimension.

She came to Australia as a baby, but never took up citizenship. Needing a passport for the first time in her life, she decided to become a naturalised Australian.

Finding the right travel partner is often the key to an enjoyable trip, and another group of Brookfield Village residents have teamed up for a travel adventure.

Mavis and Kevin Stevens (resident managers at Brookfield) are heading for their homeland of New Zealand with two other couples from the village.

"I will be like a tour guide and I'm looking forward to showing the South Island to the others," Mavis says.

Julie Burke, one of those heading to New Zealand, says half the fun has been the planning.

"We've been going to each other's homes for dinner and a few drinks. We have got to know the other couples so well," she says.



**Planning their holiday:** (from left) Danny Burke, Julie Burke, Ron Fitzgerald, Judy Fitzgerald, Kevin Stevens, Sylvia Whitehead and Margaret Azzopardi at Brookfield Village.

Julie and her husband Danny moved into Brookfield Village about 18 months ago.

"It's just so friendly here," Julie says.

"They also found Brookfield to be affordable. It was about half the price of another place we looked at. We now have something left over and we're set for life," Julie says.

She is delighted they have their own home and privacy, but they can also join social activities when they wish. She also knows that when they travel their mail will be collected and their house will be secure.

"If you had told me 18 months ago that I'd be living here and going to New Zealand, never in my wildest dreams would I have thought it," she says.

You don't need to leave Brookfield to have a good time, though, she adds.

"My daughter visited from Brisbane last year and said, 'I don't know why you're booking these travel options, Mum. It's like a resort here.'"

Ph: 1300 505 560 or visit the website [www.brookfieldvillage.com.au](http://www.brookfieldvillage.com.au)

## Get a top lifestyle

**L**IFESTYLE Communities have five villages under development and plan to have 10 under development by 2012.

Apart from the Brookfield village are villages in Warragul, Tarnet, Lynbrook and Shepparton.

When you buy into a Lifestyle Community you buy a new house and take a long-term, 90-year lease over the land the house is built on.

Under this agreement you pay a weekly site fee. In many cases people are eligible for government rental aid to help with the payment of the site fee, which covers many time-consuming chores.

The land-lease model means no stamp duty on the purchase of the home, no council rates or taxes, no water rates and a discount on electricity use.

At the heart of each village is a clubhouse with the latest entertainment and leisure facilities, including a private cinema, a computer centre, a dance floor and a billiard room.

Depending on the village, you can also enjoy an indoor pool, a spa, a gym, a bowling green, a tennis court and barbecue areas.