

## Lifestyle decision

**L**IFESTYLE Communities have five villages under development and plan to have 1480 homes underway by 2013.

Along with the Brookfield village are villages in Warragul, Tarnet, Lynbrook and Shepparton.

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

Under this agreement you pay a weekly site fee. In many cases people are eligible for government rental assistance 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 usage.

At the heart of each village is a clubhouse with the latest entertainment and leisure facilities, including a private cinema, computer centre, dance floor and billiard room. Depending on the village, you can also enjoy an indoor pool, spa, gym, bowling green, tennis court and barbecue areas.

# Variety of village life



**Peace of mind:** Bernadette Gill lives independently, but she is happy knowing the village is secure and that her friends are there for her.

**W**E BECOME happier and more satisfied as we age and older people are more content than their children, university research has found.

These findings wouldn't surprise the residents of Brookfield, a lifestyle village in Melton, who seem to be a very happy and satisfied group.

Bernadette Gill moved from Brisbane to Brookfield two years ago. She became a widow at the age of 29, only weeks after the birth of her third son.

Having worked ever since, her 66th birthday two years ago prompted her to look at the next phase of her life.

She wanted to own her home, wanted a small garden and wanted company, security and plenty to occupy her. Brookfield provided the answer.

"It's a very nice way to live," she says. "Once you're inside the village, you're in another world, I enjoy it very much."

Brookfield's charming Federation-style cottages and the friendly community feel of the village is a big drawcard.

Gill says she has made many new friends, but says the other residents are not intrusive. "Everyone's life is their own, but we do share something — our community," she says.

Last year, she was unexpectedly hospitalised for four months.

"It was great to come home to Brookfield, the people here were absolutely wonderful," she says.

Though she lives independently, she says she has peace of mind knowing the village is secure and

that her friends are there for her. Now that she has recovered, she is back enjoying an active village lifestyle. She is playing bowls and billiards for the first time in her life and makes good use of the private gym and pool available to all residents of Brookfield Village.

She also enjoys the Wednesday and Friday evening barbecues and happy hours.

Elizabeth Smith is another satisfied Brookfield resident. After losing her husband Tom three years ago, her Mount Evelyn home felt empty. Encouraged by her daughter-in-law, she visited Brookfield and loved it.

"I walked into this house and it wrapped its arms around me," she says.

**E**LIZABETH is making many new friends at Brookfield. "One thing I had trouble with was walking into a room without someone beside me, but everyone here makes you feel welcome instantly," she says.

At Brookfield, there's a great balance — 65 per cent of the people living there are couples and 35 per cent are singles.

Elizabeth's schedule is busy. She is learning to paint at the Thursday evening art class, plays in the weekly bingo competition, runs her own meditation class and has recently joined the new pantomime group.

Homes at Brookfield are affordable, ranging from \$179,900 to \$249,000.

Brookfield is a Lifestyle Communities village. For more information ph: 1300 365 368 or visit [www.lifestylecommunities.com.au](http://www.lifestylecommunities.com.au)