



Life After a Sea Change

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Life has a curious way of drawing us full circle – just ask Mary and Terry Smart who are moving back to Richmond after their stint at an idyllic sea change in Blairgowrie. The couple are excited to swap the sand for a city pad in our new community and cite being closer to family, friends and the cultural highlights of the city as the major drawcards.

Mary and Terry’s home in Blairgowrie, on the southern end of the Mornington Peninsula exudes comfort, quality and family first living. Artfully transformed with paintings produced by the couple’s daughter - of which one includes a rather striking whale affectionately known as Winona, the home was designed and built by Terry, an architectural builder.

There are nods to their growing family throughout, hand selected furniture favourites and a beautiful open plan living area, where in the cooler months the fireplace draws the family together. There’s a lot to love in this elegant yet relaxed coastal home without even mentioning it’s minutes from the beach location.

However, relocating from the Mornington Peninsula to Richmond is now a lifestyle change the couple are more than willing to make. With four children, and a fourth grandchild on the way, they decided it was time to swap the seaside for the city, and have placed an Expression of Interest on a two bedroom, ground floor apartment that has direct outlooks onto the community gardens. “The dream was to have a big home so there was plenty of room for the kids and grandkids to stay when they visited, but we realised we’d actually see them more regularly if we lived in Melbourne. Securing a ground floor home was also a must have for us, and getting in early in the Expression of Interest process meant we could choose exactly what apartment we wanted”.

Mary and Terry are advocates for the many, and surprisingly subconscious ways architecture and design can benefit our social interactions, and our quality of life. “As an architectural builder, Terry is very familiar with the work of Bates Smart, so we had a clear understanding of the exceptional quality, finishes and attention to detail that comes from living in Bates Smart building”. The central garden is an example of one of the many spaces that have been designed for the community to stay social. And with their new home, that means plenty of green space just beyond their outdoor



terrace that will make for an entertainer's delight. "We're really looking forward to having guests drop in for a cup of coffee again. You don't get that down in Blairgowrie. When our family and friends visit us down the coast it's always a planned visit, and generally they stay as well, so there's more to organise. I love it, but I've missed the casual drop in."

The couple have lived in lots of places, a fact that Mary says goes hand in hand with being married to a builder. Yet none have they loved more than Richmond. The couple are indeed coming back to the suburb, a move they're incredibly excited about. "We sold our large family home in Hawthorn some years ago and downsized into an apartment in East Hawthorn. However, we didn't like it. We quickly realised the apartment was too small, the area wasn't right for us, and there was no sense of community in the building at all. It turned us off apartment living". They sold the apartment, but before making the move to their Blairgowrie holiday house permanent, they rented a ground floor apartment in the GTV9 precinct. "We absolutely fell in love with the area. We could walk out of our door and straight

into the communal area. We loved the mix of ages in the community and we felt so connected. In Richmond, you really feel like you're part of a pack. It really changed our view of apartment living".

Leaving GTV9 and moving down to Blairgowrie in 2017, they soon missed the ease of urban living. "We regularly come back to Richmond, and often drop into Patch café which is where we saw the signs for the new over 55s community. We'd always wondered what was going to happen to this part of the precinct, and having made the decision that we didn't want to stay in Blairgowrie, it literally took us only days to put down an Expression of Interest - and now we're so excited about our prospective move into this gorgeous new precinct. We can only see incredible benefits. We got a taste for apartment living designed around a garden from living in GTV9, and we just loved it. We're both still working, and I don't see myself as being 'retired' for at least another seven years. We travel a lot and go overseas every second year, so living in a community like Richmond is ideal. It will let us just lock up and leave and have peace of mind around our home's security".



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