

Retiring in luxury Advertising Feature

A boutique community with a sense of style

A beautifully designed retirement community in Melbourne's east is exclusive and refined yet welcoming.

For many years, John Fitzgerald had lived on the outskirts of Melbourne. "Out the other side of Warrandyte, and I spent a lot of time in the bush. The idea of moving in closer to the city terrified me," he admits.

While moving wasn't something he ever planned, what he did want to do was spend the rest of his life with his partner, Christine Harper. "If she wanted to move, then I would come with her," he says.

The couple, who were in their 70s at the time, were among the first residents to move into Hester Canterbury when it opened in 2015.

Life in a boutique retirement community was a revelation for Fitzgerald. "I've never been happier in my life. In the time that I've spent here, I've made more, and better, friends than I have anywhere else in my life and I've really enjoyed it," he says.

Located on Chatham Road in leafy Canterbury, Hester Canterbury offers independent retirement living in premium surroundings. For Harper, she had been "just absolutely convinced it was the right place".

Her mother had been in BASScare's residential aged-care facility, Favervam House. "I had a lot of trust and satisfaction with them. They looked after my mother without us ever having a complaint to make," she says.

When she saw an ad in *Domain* one Sat-



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John Fitzgerald

Retirement community Hester Canterbury offers independent living in premium surroundings.

urday, announcing BASScare was constructing a new development "on the spare ground that we were always able to see when we looked out Mum's window, I trotted off on the Monday following to the sales office to find out more details and it ticked all the boxes."

Those boxes were the fact "there's only 34 apartments situated in this beautiful green, quiet pocket of Melbourne, close to shops and rail stations," she says. The apartments, all designed by Marchese Partners to satisfy the needs of residents now and into the future, also appealed.

The couple's two-bedroom apartment has two bathrooms, and timber flooring in the large living area and kitchen, which features integrated Miele appliances, separate laun-

dry and a balcony that looks across to the Canterbury Sports Ground opposite. There's also direct lift access from the secure underground car park.

The development's shared spaces include a residents' lounge and marble bar that look out onto a beautifully landscaped outdoor dining area and central gardens, which Fitzgerald and his gardening group have planted with Australian natives.

There's a gym, gold-class style cinema and library. A private dining room and warming kitchen are available for larger gatherings, while each apartment is also allocated a climate-controlled lockable wine cellar.

Given the exclusive nature of the development, the community has been tightly

held, with long waiting lists to join. However, for the first time, a limited number of apartments have become available on the ground floor and level one.

"One of the things that exemplifies this place is the lovely ambience and the way in which we all get on," says Fitzgerald of the community, where both he and Harper have been able to pursue their respective interests through social groups.

"I would have to say that the years I have spent here at Hester with Chris have undoubtedly been the happiest years of my life," he says.

People considering retirement community living should seek professional, independent financial and legal advice.



Only 3 available. Enquire today!



A rare chance to join the fortunate few

Hester Canterbury offers you an exceptional retirement lifestyle, an elegant life full of luxurious charm. And, right now, three exquisitely appointed apartments are available offering you an exclusive independent life surrounded by impressive shared spaces and like-minded new friends. Of course, as a BASScare community, you also have all the reassurance of lifelong support. With only 34 architect-designed premium residences, opportunities to join this thriving boutique community don't come often.

So be quick – these apartments won't last long. Call now to arrange a viewing.



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