



COTTAGE LIVING

“From the day I moved in, I knew I’d made the right decision.”

– Elizabeth Hazlett – January 2024

When considering retirement living, people often focus on moving into a home similar to the size they’re currently in. But for Summerset Waikanae resident, Elizabeth Hazlett, moving into a two-bedroom cottage has given her the freedom to enjoy what is important.

“I started to feel that maintaining a place of my own was getting a bit much. The garden and the house, just having all that responsibility, I felt it was time for me to move on. I had a three-bedroom home, but it had stairs and concrete steps outside. Although I was still coping, you only have to have one fall, particularly on concrete steps. So, the timing was definitely right.” Said Elizabeth.

Downsizing isn’t as daunting as it sounds. As you go through the process of selecting what to keep and what to give away, it can be an uplifting experience passing on items you treasure to those you love.

“I was quite practical about it, but you’ve got to be a bit ruthless. My daughter took a lot of my stuff. My granddaughter said she’d like the Royal Crown Derby China, but she’s going overseas after finishing her studies. So, my daughter will pass it onto her, and use it as a family heirloom.” Said Elizabeth.

A two-bedroom cottage, which doesn’t have a garage, might conjure up images of a thatched roof, shoe boxed sized house. But Summerset cottages are just the right size for a couple or individual looking to spend more time socialising and engaging in their favourite activities. Complete with a picture-perfect kitchen with an island that has storage. Two generously sized bedrooms, open plan lounge and the benefit of less maintenance.

“Friends that walk in the door say, WOW, and get quite a surprise. It’s big enough for me, there’s not so much to clean. I think initially you automatically think you need to have a garage. But I have a carpark right outside. The only disadvantage, I suppose, is if it’s pouring with rain. But I’ve got an umbrella.” Chuckled Elizabeth.

Downsizing and moving into Summerset hasn’t just freed Elizabeth from excess items around her home, it’s also given her clarity on how she was really feeling before making the move.

“I realise now, that over the last couple of years I was beginning to get a bit depressed in my environment. Since I have been here, even my friends have said, ‘you seem a lot happier’. And I am. It’s having the freedom to be able to enjoy life without all those responsibilities.” Said Elizabeth.

“I feel very much as if I’m meant to be here. I’m comfortable and safe, the cottage is big enough for me, and you don’t buy it for other people do you, you buy it for yourself.” Said Elizabeth “From the day I moved in, I knew I’d made the right decision. Friends that have come to visit me say the same thing. I wouldn’t hesitate to recommend it to anyone thinking about making the move.”

To find out more about cottages at Summerset Waikanae, call Anna Nankivell on 04 293 0002. Or pop into the village at 28 Park Avenue, Waikanae to tour the show homes any day of the week and see for yourself why residents love the Summerset life!



Summerset
RETIREMENT VILLAGES