

Puppy Love at Settlers

The concept of retirement has changed over the past few years. Today's over 65's are active, vital and ready to enjoy life; most certainly don't want to settle down in a big chair and watch life pass them by. Which makes retiring to Settlers Albany Lifestyle Village an attractive proposition to over 65's here on the North Shore. A beautiful new home with million dollar facilities and a lock-up-and-leave lifestyle - what's not to like? However, we noticed that the newest resident at Settlers Albany is hairier and younger than most. Meet Odette, Settlers first Blind Foundation guide dog puppy.

For many, a home just isn't a home without a small furry friend. But rather than retiring, this particular puppy is just starting out on her working life. Settlers' residents Margaret Clarke and her husband Roy are volunteer 'puppy walkers' for the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind (RNZFB) Guide Dog Puppy Development Programme.

Their lovely young Golden Retriever is six and half months old and half way through the 12 months she will spend with the Clarkes. At one year old Odette will return to the RNZFB Guide Dog Centre for 6 months intensive training, at which stage she will be ready for work.

Guide dogs are taught to guide their owners through hazards, negotiate traffic, locate common destinations such as the local shops, and travel on public transport. They provide blind and low vision users independence, confidence and companionship. Margaret is responsible for socialising Odette and takes her almost everywhere she goes, introducing her to the various situations that she will face as a guide dog.

Margaret and Roy are themselves new to Settlers Albany, following Margaret's sister and brother in law here. Having Odette has proved an excellent icebreaker in their new neighbourhood.

"Odette is quickly becoming well known around the village. We're making lots of new friends, some even becoming Red Puppy Sponsors."

Margaret tells us that Settlers management has also been incredibly supportive in accommodating Odette and the guide dog programme.

"They've gone out of their way to make it work ... for both of us," she laughs. "We're very happy here."

With its mix of tropical, exotic and native planting complementing stunning contemporary architecture, Settlers has the feeling of a luxury resort. The newly completed Lucas Apartments overlook Kell Park's native bush reserve and are a stroll away from the heated pool, gym, library, bowls, bar and café. It's a good life here at Settlers ... just ask Odette!

Visit Settlers Albany, 550 Albany Highway any day between 10 and 4 and see the luxurious new Lucas Apartments for yourself. Or call Sales Manager Rosalie Pearson on 415 2617. ◀



New Settlers residents, Margaret Clarke and puppy-in-training Odette

RAISING THE BAR



TO A NEW LEVEL OF LUXURY

"I've never been one to settle for second best so before I invested in a home at a lifestyle village I looked around. More space, better facilities, great location. No contest. This is what you call retirement living." *Precious McKenzie*

NEW LUCAS APARTMENTS

OPEN EVERY DAY 10 – 4. Call 415 2617

550 Albany Highway | settlersalbany.co.nz



Settlers

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