



# Wedded bliss begins apart



**ABOUT THE HOUSE**  
with Sami Muirhead

SO in seven weeks I get hitched. The thing is, my partner and I plan to live in separate homes after we say "I do".

It is true. Living together in holy matrimony for us will actually be living apart in holy matrimony.

This way we may keep the "mate" in matrimony.

Sure we will, of course, have sleepovers and house keys to each other's homes.

You see, "The Cute Car Guy" is a neat freak.

A minimalist.

To the point it is border line obsessive compulsive.

In his house, there is a spot for everything. And no spare space for all of my stuff.

And I have lots of stuff. I am a girl, after all.

It is my right to collect things ... the same way bower birds stash items.

I am not complaining – a neat and good looking man is about as rare as a picture of Paris Hilton with a skirt below her knees.

It is just that I am a clutter collector.

I love pretty things to completely surround walls, tables, corners, doors and the list continues.

I am a maximalist – a term I only heard coined recently when I was overseas.

Who knew there was a word for a hoarder that makes us sound so funky?

Anyway, this minimalist and maximalist figure we are better off just living in our own homes until we sort out how to combine our lives and find some space the other one can cohabit in peacefully and still feel at home.

I think we need to buy a love nest together down the track and start again with a clean canvas.

The reactions from our friends and family to our living plans have been priceless.

They mostly think we are joking. But I am holding firm it really is a recipe for success.

I can enjoy bubble baths with Michael Buble playing in the background and keep my pink doona covered in rose fabric.

He can be up the road drinking beer and watching the footy.

Hallelujah!



# Future heart is in the making

**SUBURB PROFILE**  
with Michele Sternberg



BEING one of the first families to move into the Coast's newest island community is an exciting prospect for the Leibers.

Kerryn and Olly Leiber, along with their two children Jared and Zoe, were among the first to buy a block on Birtinya Island – a yet-to-be-created residential development on the shores of Lake Kawana.

It will eventually be at the heart of the new Kawana Town Centre precinct, with its major shopping centre, offices, railway station and hospital.

For the moment, though, it's vacant dirt just waiting to be built on.

The couple has sold their home in nearby Wurtulla to secure their block in Blade Court and can't wait to be a member of this new island community.

"We love the area – it's close to the beach and parks for the kids and our dogs, Koda and Monty. It's a short drive to Caloundra or Maroochydore, to shop or go to the movies, and there are good schools close by.

Kerryn and Olly were not at all worried about "buying off the plan".

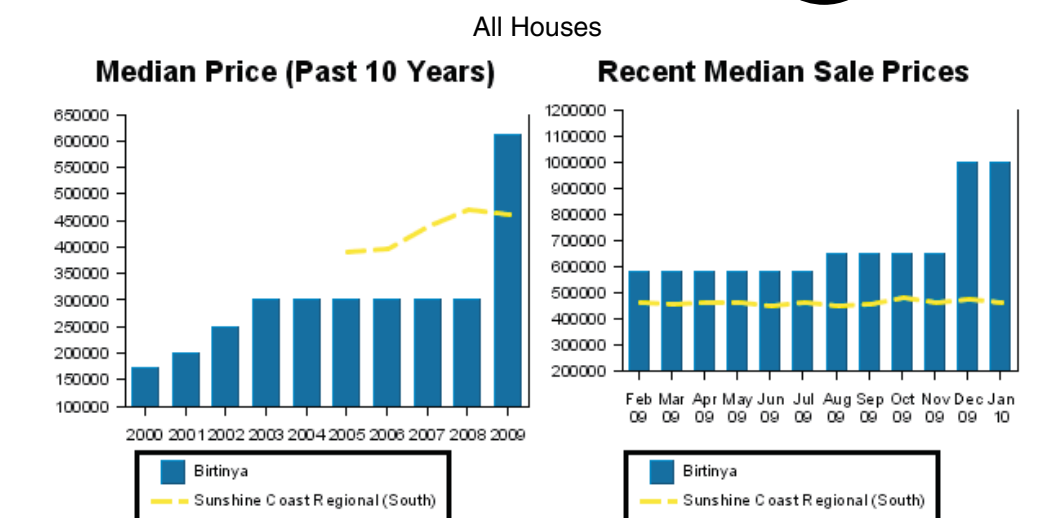
"We are pretty confident the end result of the Island will be a modern, somewhat "exclusive" and sought-after address and have an expectation of good capital growth," Kerryn said.

Already median sale prices in the suburb have surged to \$1 million – up from \$645,000 in August last year.

"We plan to build a home which is stylish, spacious ... with plenty of room for the kids to have their own space and for us to have our own sanctuary," Kerryn said.

"A place where we can entertain friends and relax from the hustle and bustle of our hectic lives."

She said the appeal of Birtinya Island lays in



## HIGH FIVE

- ▶ Lake Kawana
- ▶ Parks, waterfront walkways
- ▶ Residential/commercial mix
- ▶ Houses and medium-rise units
- ▶ Future Town Centre site

its lake, the parks and walking tracks – "especially with the dogs".

"Hopefully there will be some shops and cafes we can walk to. We are looking forward to being in a new suburb and living in a cul-de-sac."

Kerryn's favourite place close by is Wurtulla Beach because, "there are no tourists, and everyone you pass looks you in the eye and says good morning!"

"I also enjoy wandering down to Currimundi Lake for a splash with the kids and an ice cream afterwards, or simply celebrating a birthday or having a barbecue at "our" park (Lake Kawana) at the end of the street."

Birtinya Island sits opposite the Lake Kawana estate, which was released to the market about 18 months ago and now boasts modern homes along the eastern side of the lake.

It's a pleasant, landscaped walk to Kawana

At a glance

**BIRTINYA**  
**Median house price (based on sales)**  
**January 2010:** \$1 million  
**August 2009:** \$645,000  
**February 2009:** \$580,000  
 Percentage increase so far this year 1.6%  
 Source: RP Data

primary and high schools, the Lake Kawana Community Centre, the swimming pool, Stockland Park, and Bokarina and Wurtulla beaches.

"Vibrant waterside living" is how Stockland describes the area, and I would have to agree.

On any given weekend, there are local families gathered in the massive waterfront park at the corner of The Decks and Regatta Boulevard – making the most of the barbecue facilities, playground and sandy beach.

It is the perfect arena for water-based activities such as rowing, kayaking and canoeing and is set to become the epicentre of the coast.



**\$550,000-plus:** Regatta Apartments: Two-bedroom apartment on the lakefront. Mark McGill 0412 767 985.



**\$597,000:** 44 Regatta Boulevard: North views over lake, large four-bedroom home. Anne Steel 0405 430 107.



**\$601,708:** Lot 117 Wake Ct: Four-bed house and land package on 488sqm dry block. Graham Kingsford 0419 700 478.