

# Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Media Release

## MERNDA RETIREMENT VILLAGE CELEBRATES CLUBHOUSE OPENING

Mernda Retirement Village is proving to be a great place to live, with Stockland today unveiling a new clubhouse, complete with a café and bar area, billiards room, indoor heated pool, gym and many more modern facilities for residents to enjoy.

Special guests, Member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green MP, and Whittlesea Mayor, Cr Ricky Kirkham presided over the opening ceremony for the new clubhouse today, enjoying the occasion with residents.

Stockland Regional Manager, Retirement Living Development Victoria Daniel Milentijevic, said: "The new Clubhouse is an exciting, new addition to the village. It provides residents with a place they can meet or enjoy a range of activities at any time, from an afternoon coffee or a happy hour beer, to a game of snooker or a swim in the pool. The modern, state-of-the-art facility will soon become the beating heart of the Mernda Village Community."

The new 896 square metre clubhouse, located at one of the highest points of the village affording residents with a beautiful outlook, has been designed with sustainability in mind, with the installation of energy efficient appliances and extensive windows and skylights to maximise ventilation and natural daylight. Mernda Retirement Village incorporates the highest environmental standards and is committed to gaining a 4-Star Green Star certificate from the Green Building Council of Australia.

The Mernda Village Clubhouse is available for use by residents and their guests and includes:

- An open plan café and bar area
- An alfresco BBQ area that overlooks the bowling green
- Indoor heated pool and gym
- Hair Salon
- Library
- Billiards Room
- Craft Room
- Theatre Room
- Residents' work shed

Stockland's Daniel Milentijevic added that the response to the overall Mernda Retirement Village development had been very positive since opening in May 2014 with 60 residents already calling Mernda home.

"Stage three of the development is underway now to provide an additional 69 new homes to the village. The first homes from this release will be complete by June 2015, with final completion mid-2016. The team looks forward to offering more new homes to new residents very soon."

"We are excited to continue to invest and deliver more for the Mernda Retirement Village community offering future residents a modern, low maintenance home to suit their budget and lifestyle and a community that they can call home", explained Mr Milentijevic.

"Mernda is one of Stockland's newest and most acclaimed retirement villages, conveniently located within the award-winning Mernda residential community. The Mernda Village Shopping Centre is conveniently located across the road, with Woolworths, medical facilities and a range of specialty stores, cafes and services. The village is surrounded by parkland and native landscaping, including 300-year-old River Red Gums with plenty of walking tracks, paths and playgrounds for visiting grandchildren," Mr Milentijevic added.

Member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green MP and Whittlesea Mayor, Cr Ricky Kirkham, today both joined residents and guests at Stockland's Mernda Retirement Village to officially open the new Clubhouse.

Ms Green said, "Mernda is a great place to live for people of all ages and it's thanks to Stockland that our seniors have the choice to live in a quality retirement setting."

"The strongest growing communities are those who have the benefit of active and engaged seniors living in them who provide the wisdom and support to families and community groups."

Mr Kirkham said: "Through its investment in the Mernda community, Stockland is making a fantastic contribution to the strong sense of community that is developing in the Whittlesea region. The opening of the new Clubhouse at Mernda is a great asset to residents, ensuring they can enjoy an active, social and happy retirement within a safe and secure environment."

The Mernda clubhouse will be launched to the public this Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 1pm, providing a chance for people to see and experience the new facilities first hand. A barbeque, jumping castle, face painting and balloon artist for the grandkids will all be on offer as well as an opportunity to meet radio host Denis Walter and the 3AW team.

#### -ENDS-

## Notes to editor:

- Stockland is Australia's largest diversified property company and has been operating for more than 62 years.
- Stockland owns and operates 62 retirement villages across Australia, with more than 10,000 Australian retirees calling a Stockland retirement village home.
- Mernda Retirement Village is located at 89 Galloway Drive, Mernda, VIC

#### Stockland

Stockland (ASX: SGP) was founded in 1952 and has grown to become Australia's largest diversified property group – owning, developing and managing a large portfolio of shopping centres, residential communities, logistic centres, business parks, office assets and retirement living villages. Stockland is rated as one of the most sustainable real estate companies in the world by the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (DJSI). Stockland is also an Employer of Choice for Gender Equality, as recognised by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency.

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