

## **FLAGSTONE RESIDENT | DONNA-MARIE JARDEN**

"People move to Flagstone to start new chapters in their lives and find that sense of new beginnings and excitement that reverberates throughout our community," shared Donna-Marie Jarden, Flagstonian resident and Flagstone Community Association (FCA) President.

Moving to Australia from New Zealand in 2016, Donna-Marie was looking for a new adventure. A real estate agent by trade, she made it her mission to do her background research before choosing a new community to call home.

"I hadn't even inspected the property before we purchased at Flagstone, but I was confident in my research. The online reviews of Flagstone and the glowing experience my sister recounts since moving to the community in 2016 were too good to resist.

"Fast forward five years later and I am one of four generations of my family living in Flagstone. My mother lives just up the road, my son, his wife and children and my sister and her family are all close by."

In recent years, Donna-Marie has watched Flagstone come into its own, having witnessed some unbelievable changes along the way, from new facilities and infrastructure, to thriving local businesses and the arrival of thousands of new residents.

"Flagstone is growing at an exponential rate. From the opening of Woolworths and McDonald's to the Flagstone oval and club house, to the water play park, a great range of amenities are popping up all over Flagstone.

Living and breathing the Flagstone community, Donna-Marie became President of the FCA in 2017 as she believes every Flagstonian should feel engaged, connected and that they have a place.

"We are now building upon our strong foundation to create a vibrant grassroots community and connected support systems. At the FCA, we help bring a range of dynamic events to the community, from Christmas carols and light extravaganzas to giant Easter egg hunts and fundraisers.

"Wider to this, Flagstone offers sporting clubs, mothers' groups, small business networks, the Adopt a Grandad Initiative and the Men's Shed in support of men's mental health. Our community leaders are continuing to create space and value for every Flagstonian.



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"To me, community spirit is everything. If you don't have that, you're just living in a house, in a place, disconnected from the people living around you. I think we've all had that, and many people are experiencing that lack of connection across Australia - Flagstone is different."

"It's so rare for a community to strike a balance where there is plenty happening all the time with close proximity to Brisbane and the Gold Coast, but you never feel lost or overwhelmed like you can in a city."

"At Flagstone, we are remarkably responsive with a big heart," concluded Donna-Marie.