

[BOUNTIFUL BERWICK]

SITUATED on Melbourne's suburban fringe is Berwick, a leafy urban outlier boasting a bounty of food, fashion, fitness and fun.

It's a food lover's paradise peppered with trendy cafes, including The Main, Primary at Pioneers Park and Ambrosia, as well as the character-filled Berwick Inn Hotel and Shanikas Italian Trattoria; a local institution.

Berwick is home to two hospitals — Casey and St John of God — as well its fair share of top-notch education institutions, including Haileybury, St Margaret's and Berwick Grammar School, and Beaconsfield College.

The local Casey Aquatic and Recreation Centre (Casey ARC) is a haven for fitness fanatics while Wilson Botanic Park is perfect for a picnic or barbecue. Perched on the edge of Basalt Lake, the 39ha of tranquil parkland offers running and walking tracks, and its playgrounds are a popular hangout.

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Victorians have heard the call of Clyde and are flocking to Meridian and Highgrove, the southeast's newest planned communities, to take advantage of Melbourne's city-meets-country charm.

The sprawling enclaves offer residents a relaxed, laid-back lifestyle, replete with all the luxuries and amenities of the city.

Developer Brown Property Group says there has been so much interest in the estates that it has had to organise larger and more regular releases to accommodate the high demand.

"Since launching in May 2014, Highgrove

has been one of the fastest-growing communities in Clyde North and we welcomed our first residents earlier in the year," Brown Property's marketing manager Graham Nolan says.

"The community is currently a hub of activity, with many new homes being built as well as a number of future stages currently under construction."

This excitement has been replicated at Meridian, in Clyde North, which is due to start titling in April/May next year.

"We are preparing for the upgrade of Thompsons Rd and the construction of

the first stages of the community," Mr Nolan says.

"Once completed, the Meridian community will be home to more than 1600 households that will benefit from the 29ha of parks, open spaces and wetlands as well as fitness stations, and cycling and pedestrian paths that connect the community."

Berwick and Beaconsfield are up the road from Highgrove and Meridian; Frankston and Tooradin a short drive away.

The South Gippsland and Princes highways also put them within close proximity of the recently redeveloped Westfield Fountain Gate shopping centre.

"Highgrove is designed with family and community living in mind," Mr Nolan says.

"Elevated home sites and carefully selected vantage points from our parkland set this community apart from other residential communities in the area, offering views to the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding Clyde area.

"Highgrove is also located within easy access of a range of local amenities, ensuring that everything you could need for shopping and schooling is close to hand — without intruding on your personal space."

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