



Lock up, leave and love it.

Some people think that moving into a retirement village signals the beginning of the end. For Les and Judy Remnant, nothing could have been further from the truth.

The Kerikeri couple had lived in the local area for 22 years. While they certainly didn't want to move away, they did want to live in a home that was easier to manage than the 3 level, 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom house which they also ran as a bed and breakfast.

It was a big house to take care of and after Les had a knee operation, he wasn't that keen on 'walking up and down the stairs all day'. After looking at various options, Oakridge Villas was the standout choice.

One of the biggest benefits of living at Oakridge Villas is the freedom the lifestyle allows. In particular the ability to lock up and leave your home, and have the peace of mind that everything will be safe and secure while you are away.

Which is absolutely perfect for Les and Judy who head away in their 25ft caravan for many weeks at a time. "Last Christmas we went on tour for six weeks and last month we did another three weeks staying in places like Taupo and Wellington. We can go away and completely forget about the house. When we come back, the lawns are mowed and everything else is just as we left it," he says.

From time to time Oakridge Villas hosts retirement seminars, to give prospective residents the chance to find out more about village lifestyle. Les often speaks at these talks to give a residents' perspective of life there.

"The biggest point I make is that it's best to move into the village before you have to, not when you have to. The other thing I always mention is forgetting any preconceptions you have about living in a retirement village. There are certainly people that have come into the village feeling a bit pessimistic, but in a very short space of time they fall in love with the fantastic lifestyle," says Les.



Les and Judy make the most of the 'lock up and leave' lifestyle