

Mari Court Resort:

A shining example



By Trish Riley, *Editor*

Proving, without a shadow of doubt, that a committed approach and hard work is what is required to turn an average property into a sought-after asset is exactly what resident managers Steve Verkerk and Karen Cooper have done with Mari Court Resort.

Ideally located on the sought-after Gold Coast, Mari Court is positioned just a short stroll or tram ride from the glitz of Surfers Paradise or festive Broadbeach, and a mere block away from beautiful golden beaches and surf. It is also neighbour to the almost

complete, iconic tri-tower Jewel development with its boutique dining and shopping outlets.

A perfect resort for families and international guests, Mari Court also offers easy access to The Star Gold Coast, with its 24-hour casino, bars, lounges, restaurants and shows galore, the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre and Pacific Fair, one of Australia's largest retail centres with more than 400 stores, cinemas, and casual dining.

The real value however, is to be found on the property. Lush tropical gardens and story-book, winding pathways create a private oasis where guests can quite literally, 'escape from it all'.

The sprawling low-rise complex

features 58 standard one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments as well as one- and two-bedroom executive (newly renovated) apartments in easily-demarcated sections. All apartments are privately owned and individually furnished and feature balconies with idyllic pool or garden views, as well as split-system aircons or ceiling fans.

Resident facilities include a heated swimming pool and spa, a modern and secure barbecue area, a 9-Hole putt putt course, games room and tour desk. There are even security cameras and overnight patrols.

And while it appears that Steve and Karen were born to a life in hospitality, it's simply not the case. Steve was in the police force

for many years and when asked about how and why they got into management rights, Steve says: "We had a number of friends who went into the industry, and about 15 years ago a close friend who was involved in management rights, moved away and convinced me to take on the chairperson/treasurer role of a large scheme. We lived in Perth at the time so I commuted for a number of years.

"12 Years ago, we moved to the Gold Coast and based on the potential of having ownership of our earnings and the opportunity to set ourselves up financially, we bought into Mari Court Resort via a management rights partnership.

"The property was quite run down when we took it over," says Steve.

