When Maryanne McKaige and Alan Andersen decided to buy Val Durand’s Dornoch Ct unit for $450,000 they already appreciated its tranquil setting. Their family home also backs onto the green perimeter of the golf course.

They also knew that down the track, a smaller, easier to leave property would suit them better as a base from which to visit their sons and other family elsewhere in Australia – or even a place for the long trip to Mandurah, WA.

IN the wee small hours of last Saturday morning, Val Durand boarded the red-eye to Perth, destination Mandurah, WA.

After 46 years in Darwin, the time had come to leave the home at Marrara, which she’d shared for many of those years with her late husband, Bob.

The two-bedroom unit, part of the Northlakes Estate so integral to the development of the Darwin Gold Club and the growth of the suburb of Marrara, was sold for $450,000 (One Agency O’Brien).

That done, Val cleared and packed up the few belongings she needed to leave behind, but not before she’d had a talk with her agent, Maryanne McKaige, with whom she’d left a place of safety.

She’ll be back, of course, to visit family here in the north when she’s recovered from the effort of relocating from Darwin to Mandurah – and from helping daughter Michelle move into a new home.