

Escape

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

FREE GUIDE
AUTUMN 2017



STAY, PLAY, EAT, DRINK & EXPLORE - AUTUMN 2017

HOTEL, DINING,
SPA & CELLAR DOOR
REVIEWS

ART, DRIVES,
GOLF *plus*
WHAT'S ON

MELISSA PENFOLD'S
SHOPPING
GUIDE

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Autumn 2017

CONTENTS

9	Welcome
10	Southern Highlands Map
12	Towns at a Glance
14	News
20	What's On
26	Accommodation
32	Shopping
38	Food & Wine
57	Great Outdoors
65	Business Events
75	Weddings

84	Features:
	- <i>Go Luxe in the Great Outdoors</i>
	- <i>Burrawang Easter Market</i>
95	Markets Guide
100	Arts & Culture
103	Instagram Star
104	24 Hours in... Mittagong
109	Kids What's On
110	Highlands Essentials
130	Dream Highlands Home

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Escape

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We recommend contacting venues or event organisers to confirm details before planning your visit. We accept no liability arising from any reliance upon the information contained herein.

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IMAGE: ELISE HASSEY



Editor's welcome

Ask any local or visitor what they love most about the Southern Highlands and a common refrain is 'watching the seasons change'.

And they're right of course. Here in the Highlands we have four very distinct times of year, heralded not only by marked variations in our temperatures but also by cyclical changes in local flora and fauna. Certainly, the weather here can be like four seasons in one day, and play havoc with any attempt to get a summer/winter capsule wardrobe down-pat.

But variety is the spice of life, and there is certainly something for everyone in the unique Highlands no matter where your interests, lifestyle choices or passions lie. Personally, I love this time of year. It's as if there is a spritely magic about as the trees change colour and drop their leaves. It makes me want to hunt out thicker

doonas, start knitting woolly jumpers and light the fire before the first cold winds of winter arrive. Working on *Escape Southern Highlands* autumn issue has definitely brought out the 'nester' in me. Perhaps it was reviewing some of the area's cosiest overnight properties to stay in, or learning of the many people here doing creative, innovative, community-minded things. Whatever the rationale, like the seasons the Southern Highlands is constantly transforming; attracting new residents and visitors drawn by the abundance of good fortune, stunning natural beauty, old world charm, and country meets city chic. As the first colours of autumn light up the countryside, I hope you find somewhere comfortable to curl up, and discover something fresh in these pages to explore and experience.

Enjoy your *Escape Southern Highlands*. ■

Alex

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS map





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At a glance TOWNS & VILLAGES

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS IS MADE UP OF MANY TOWNS AND VILLAGES, EACH WITH ITS OWN UNIQUE CHARACTER, CHARMS AND ATTRACTIONS. HERE'S YOUR 'CHEAT SHEET' TO GET ACQUAINTED – FOR MORE DETAILS, PLUS MAPS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL INFORMATION, VISIT DESTINATION SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS AT SOUTHERN-HIGHLANDS.COM.AU

MOSS VALE

Centred around the impressive Victorian-era railway station, Moss Vale is known for its gardens, walks and shopping. The annual Agricultural Show, one of the biggest in NSW, is a wonderful old-style country fair. The main drag, Argyle Street, is undergoing a revival, with amazing homewares stores to tempt every taste, and fantastic cafes, as well as the retro-cool Bernie's Diner. Not far away is cosy Mount Ashby Estate cellar door and restaurant. The town's indoor aquatic centre is open year-round.

MITTAGONG

Historic Mittagong has plenty to offer, from parks (try Lake Alexandra) to walks (such as the Box Vale Mine walking track with its incredible views of the Nattai Gorge), wineries including Marist Wines and Howards Lane Vineyard, and the treasure trove that is the Mittagong Antiques Centre. A highlight for art-lovers is contemporary craft and design gallery Sturt. It's well worth a stroll along Main and Victoria Streets to see charming country homes, impressive gardens and to drop in on the cafes and speciality and vintage shops.

BOWRAL

Looked over by Mount Gibraltar, Bowral is the largest town in the Highlands. Full of historic public and private buildings, stunning country gardens and grand estates, this beautiful township is known for its antiques and homewares stores, as well as markets, galleries, bookshops and unique boutiques. Bowral's drinking and dining scene is heating up, with new openings like The Mill Cafe, Grand Bistro and Bistro Officina complementing stalwarts like Biota, Onesta Cucina and a raft of loyal local favourite cafes and pubs. Visitors and locals are drawn to landmarks such as the Bradman Museum & International Cricket Hall of Fame, and the many festivals, including spring's Tulip Time, the Bong Bong Picnic Races and the Bowral Autumn Music Festival.

BERRIMA

This picturesque 1830s village has history (think the heritage Berrima Gaol, the iconic Berrima Court House, and National Trust-listed Harper's Mansion); nature (the Wingecarribee River runs through it); fantastic food (there's Richard Kemp's Eschalot, as well as excellent cafes and patisseries), and Australia's oldest continuously licensed inn, the Surveyor General. The Schoolyard Markets are held on the fourth Sunday of every month (Feb-Nov).

Mount Ashby Estate



ROBERTSON

The small, character-filled town of Robertson combines a rolling pastoral setting (did you know the movie *Babe* was filmed here?) with fabulous fresh produce such as potatoes, truffles and pears; a famed cheese shop selling local dairy delights; and institutions like the grand old Robertson Hotel and the cosy Robertson Inn. The pie shop has long been an essential pit stop for those passing through.

BUNDANOON

Packed with old-world charm, Bundanoon is a vibrant town with cafes, tea rooms, restaurants, guesthouses, antique dealers and a renowned health retreat, Solar Springs. Market days, held on the first and third Sunday of each month (except Jan), feature fresh produce, handicrafts and plants. Bushwalking in nearby Morton National Park is popular, as is bike riding (bikes can be hired in town). The annual Scottish Highland gathering, Brigadoon, is held every April featuring all things tartan.

CANYONLEIGH

Made up of vast rural properties, Canyonleigh lies at an altitude of 700 metres and is fast gaining a reputation as a wine-producing area, known for shiraz, pinot noir, pinot gris, chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon. Situated on the drier western edge of the Highlands, it's nicknamed the 'outback' of the region and is a great place for kangaroo spotting and for a visit to the Birrong Suri Alpaca Stud to see baby alpacas (bookings essential).

FITZROY FALLS

The tiny village of Fitzroy Falls is surrounded by farmland and wilderness, and takes its name from an 81-metre waterfall in adjoining Morton National Park. The nearby Belmore Falls are equally spectacular. Head for the Fitzroy Falls picnic area for great views of the falls and for bird-watching opportunities – and the sounds of lyrebirds if you're lucky. The deck at the Falls Cafe is a lovely spot for refreshments.

HILL TOP

This northern village has a rich history as a former railway town and now gateway to Australia's largest rail museum, Trainworks at Thirlmere. Don't miss the exhilarating Cave Creek walking track.

EXETER

The historic Tudor-style Exeter Village Hall and adjoining park and oval are the heart of picturesque Exeter, a village of leafy streets, neat hedges and grand rows of trees. Another local icon, the Exeter General Store, performs its role as bookshop, post office, gourmet food store and cafe admirably. If browsing is on the cards, you'll find The Village Pump Antiques next door. The Exeter Markets are held on the first Saturday of each month in the village hall.


BURRAWANG

Quaint and pretty, Burrawang boasts old-world charm, country hospitality and historic character buildings. The Burrawang Village Hotel, with its huge grassed area overlooking beautiful rolling hills, is a popular spot; as is the Burrawang General Store Cafe. The 1883 School of Arts building plays host to the town's annual ball and other events. Burrawang is also becoming known as a hub of creative talent.

SUTTON FOREST

It might be small, but historic Sutton Forest packs a punch. Along with heritage houses, churches and cemeteries, another attraction is The Everything Store, which is true to its name and a popular pit stop. The area's wines and cellar doors are making a name for themselves, and Montrose Berry Farm (you can pick your own berries when in season) and the stunning garden at Red Cow Farm are well worth a visit.

JOADJA

Joadja, a region of farms and beautiful bushland on the periphery of the Southern Highlands was once more an area than a destination. But the success of Joadja Estate winery, and more recently Joadja Distillery, built among the ruins of the historic late 1800s township that thrived there, is changing that. Owners of the distillery run heritage tours of the historic site, once home to 1200 Scottish immigrant miners and their families. 



LOCAL MOVERS AND SHAKERS

THE HIGHLANDS IS HOME TO AN ECLECTIC COMMUNITY OF GIFTED ARTISTS, MAKERS, CRAFTSPEOPLE, PRODUCERS AND PURVEYORS OF FOOD, WINE AND SPIRITS. AS AUTUMN DRAWS IN AND THE NIGHTS GET LONGER, USE THE SHORTENING DAYS TO COLOUR YOUR WORLD WITH SOME OF **OUR LATEST GEMS...**



The Press Shop, Bowral & Bespoke Letterpress

There is something quite glorious about a stationery store opening, when all the naysayers persist in telling us print is dead. Well, in this shrine to handwriting, wrapping paper, ribbon and the printed word on card, it's not. Locals Alischa and Hayden Herrmann fell in love with what they termed 'the dying craft of letterpress' (printing with ancient presses on cotton paper), 10 years ago, and after operating from a cottage in their Bowral garden, opened their first retail space with a cafe, store and press room at The Acre. This shop is heaven on a stick, especially if you love putting pen to paper or harbour an affection for greeting cards (guilty). Give yourself time when you visit. You'll want to browse because this is more than a just a shop. Behind floor to ceiling glass walls, watch work in The Press Shop, as Bespoke

Letterpress's ancient yet beloved presses get on with the art of printing. Each press was found in a varying degree of disrepair, before being refurbished and named by Alischa and Hayden. Creating bespoke wedding invitations is one of Bespoke Letterpress's real talents, and the team creates hundreds of handmade bespoke invitations each year, for brides and grooms the world over. Find that perfect congratulations/commiserations/felicitations missive you have been searching for, and while you ponder the right words to write, imbibe something delicious from the stylishly designed cafe with fittings and fixtures from Schoolhouse Electric and Barnaby Lane. Every design element of this shop flows seamlessly. A bit like ink on paper.

The Press Shop
M-F: 6am - 5pm
S-S: 8am - 4pm
thepressshop.com.au

Bespoke Letterpress
By appointment only
M-F: 9am - 5pm
bespokeletterpress.com.au

The Acre, 391-397
Bong Bong Street, Bowral.

JONES & WRIGHT



Is there anything more luxurious than a beautifully handcrafted leather bag? Trevor Jones, leathersmith and owner of Jones & Wright handmade leather goods, began his making life as a furniture designer. Trained at Sturt in Mittagong, his love for wood and upholstery soon transformed into a greater love for leatherwork. His designs are simple and clean, with emphasis on workmanship, beauty and durability. 'My creative focus is always changing, but at the moment I'm exploring the world of briefcases using a beautiful Tuscan veg-tanned leather,' says Trevor, who creates and hand-stitches bags, belts, wallets and even dog collars.

He often shares his newly opened retail space, which doubles as his workshop, with his four-year-old and new puppy, and is happy with an audience. Interested in learning more? Next step for Trevor is a series of classes later this year. 'Being a maker really is a beautiful thing but there's a long tradition of skills fast disappearing. I'm aware we need to teach these skills to inspire the next generation.'

Open Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm

13 Old Hume Highway, Berrima - next to the Berrima General Store & Cafe. jonesandwright.com, 0410 285 376



MOSSY STORE

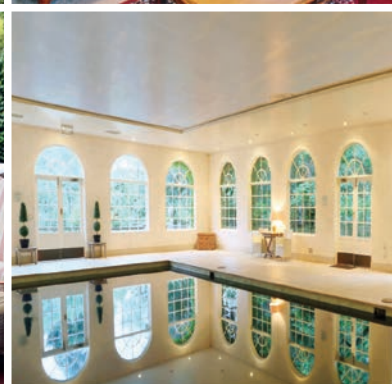
The arrival of homewares haven Mossy Store confirms Moss Vale's growing status in the Highlands as a design mecca. Just down a few doors from Made By Others, up a few from Rabbit Trap Timber and across the road from Suzie Anderson Home, Mossy Store stocks a mouth-watering array of furnishings, ceramics, and handmade furniture, including pieces by owner and furniture maker Simon Kenny. Simon and partner Genevieve Furzer are big on local makers who create handmade products that are beautiful, useful and endure. As Genevieve so succinctly puts it 'we sell heirlooms, not landfill.'

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394 Argyle Street, Moss Vale. 0409 223 277

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highlands handmade

THIS LITTLE PEARL OF A SHOP IN MOSS VALE WORKS THANKS TO 200 LOCAL MAKERS AND THE 5000 ITEMS HAVE THEY CREATED INSIDE.

Everything from jewellery to dream catchers to soaps to baby toys to clothing is made in the Southern Highlands by locals – the youngest, six, the oldest 91. Owner and founder Angus McKinnon started this artistic hub in June, intent on giving people an outlet for their creativity. 'It has turned into a real community and is all about putting money into local peoples' pockets, which is awesome.'



M-F: 10am-4pm
Sat: 10am-2pm
374 Argyle St, Moss Vale
4869 3698
highlandshandmade.com.au

GREEN LANE, BOWRAL

Following in their 'green' theme, owners of **The Green House** in Moss Vale, Chris and Maureen Gardner, recently launched the new look **Green Lane** shopping and dining precinct, adjacent to the popular **Dirty Jane's** in Bowral.

Nestled at the rear of **The Acre**, the impressive new redevelopment of the Endeavour Energy building at the southern end of Bong Bong Street, **Green Lane** is a leafy boulevard, opening into a village square surrounded by gardens and stylish homewares and gift shops. At its heart, the innovative wine bar **Harry's On Green Lane** will offer rustic classic cuisine with alfresco dining for breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week.

Next door **The Green Lane Kitchen** will serve coffee and gourmet sandwiches and breakfast, and across the courtyard, **The Cook and the Gardener** will soon feature a country kitchen setting with quirky gifts and books for cooks and gardeners. Nearby is the stylish **Suzie Anderson Home**, and woven throughout **Green Lane** space, **The Potting Shed Garden Shop** offers plants, vintage pots, gates, benches, garden furniture and courtyard features. Its adjoining sister store **The Orangery** specialises in indoor plants, conservatory furniture, mirrors and chandeliers. A veritable oasis of green gorgeousness.

The Green House, Moss Vale 4868 3948
greenlanebowral.com

BEAUTY SPOT

Boom Bam Brows, Moss Vale

WELCOME **BOOM BAM BROWS**, THE HIGHLANDS' FIRST DEDICATED BROW POP-UP. OWNED AND OPERATED BY EXPERIENCED BEAUTY THERAPIST MINDY HINDMARSH, **BOOM BAM BROWS** PUTS THE EMPHASIS ON GLAM, AND AS WELL AS BROW WAXING AND SHAPING, OFFERS LASH TINTING AND WAXING TREATMENTS. COMING SOON? SEMI-PERMANENT BROW FEATHERING.

538 ARGYLE STREET, MOSS VALE, 0425 218 541, BY APPOINTMENT.



IMAGES: STEVEN TONK PHOTOGRAPHY

LUDO, BOWRAL



Fans of the former Red Tree Cafe will delight in news the building has been reincarnated into Ludo, a fresh new dining treat where food for the communal table is the order of the day. Sporting a warm, vibrant makeover with a blue, wood and rattan theme, Ludo means 'to play' in Latin, and chef Peter Oakley has designed a menu full of local produce crying out to be shared. Tuck into the delicious looking charcuterie board with its selection of cured meats, chutney, cheeses and flatbreads with a mate, or try Nonna's ground pork and veal meatballs with rocket salad and pecorino. Eat inside and soak up the cosmopolitan new

look, or outside in Ludo's sunny courtyard. Kick back and enjoy a local wine or two, handpicked by Ludo's in-house sommelier.



Wednesday - Sunday 7am - 5pm
52 Station Street, Bowral
0499 900 645
ludobowral.com

Congrats to the hardworking team at Southern Highlands Welcome Centre, Mittagong, for blitzing the field at the NSW Tourism Awards, and taking home the gold gong for Best Visitor Information Services.

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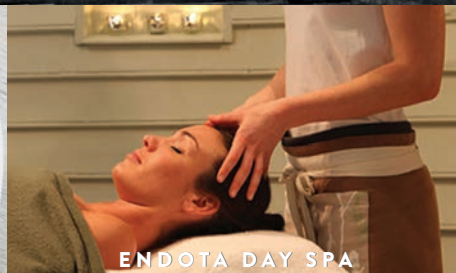
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— 6 david street, bowral —

WHAT'S ON *Autumn*

IT'S SHOWTIME

WE'VE OUTLINED JUST A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE COMING MONTHS IN THE HIGHLANDS. WITH SO MUCH HAPPENING, IT'S HARD TO SQUEEZE IT ALL IN SO PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK **SOUTHERN-HIGHLANDS.COM.AU/EVENTS/WHATS-ON** OR KEEP YOUR EYE ON ESCAPE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS **FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM PAGES @ESCAPESOUTHERNHIGHLANDS**



The Robertson Show

Get set for another two days of great country fun at the 134th Robertson Agricultural Show, with a full calendar of fun family events and demonstrations to celebrate the thriving farming community of Robbo, famed for its big potato. Enjoy the Bullocky demonstration, boggle at the chook-washing event, try your luck on Sideshow alley and join the crowds to cheer on this year's entrants in the ever popular Men's Potato Sack race. Contestants run 400 metres with a 50 kilo sack of spuds on their back to win \$1000.

Friday, 10 March and Saturday, 11 March 9am-5pm
Robertson Showground, Kangaloon Road.
robertsonshow.org.au



THE MOSS VALE SHOW

FARMER GEORGE QUIGG HAS BEEN CHOPPING AT THE MOSSIE SHOW EVER SINCE HE WAS A WHIPPERSNAPPER. NOW 74, CATCH GEORGE AND THE OTHER AXEMAN IN THE EVER POPULAR WOOD-CHOPPING EVENTS, AND THRILL TO NEW EVENT, THE ISUZU D-MAX PRECISION DRIVING TEAM AS IT TAKES TO THE MAIN ARENA. BE SURE TO VISIT THE FARMYARD NURSERY, TAKE PART IN THE X-FACTOR STYLE TALENT QUEST AND CATCH THE FABULOUS FIREWORKS DISPLAY – ONE OF THE BIGGEST IN THE HIGHLANDS. **FRIDAY MARCH 17, SATURDAY MARCH 18, SUNDAY MARCH 19 FRI-SAT 9AM-10PM, SUN 9AM-4PM. ROBERTSON ROAD, MOSS VALE. MOSSVALESHOW.COM.AU**

Selby & Friends

Selby & Friends presents chamber music at its best and opens its 2017 season with Youth & The Dance, starring brilliant young violinist Grace Clifford and bravura cellist Clancy Newman. Accompanied by acclaimed pianist, Kathryn Selby AM the trio will present a program of youthful works by Beethoven, Saint-Saens and Dvořák in the Highlands for one performance only.

**Mittagong Playhouse,
Main Street, Mittagong
Saturday 11 March, 5pm
selbyandfriends.com.au**

MAR
11-12

Buskers do Battle

The Moss Vale Buskers Battle returns this year and it's grown. Held now over a weekend, buskers of all ages will descend upon the streets of Moss Vale to battle for a share of the \$7000 prize pool. Held in Leighton Gardens the festival will include all the best in food and wine from the local area, as well as some fabulous live music. So get out your guitar, ukulele or harmonica and get practising.

Saturday 11 March – Sunday 12 March 10am-4pm
mossvalebuskers@gmail.com

APRIL



Brigadoon

Brigadoon, the Bundanoon Highland Gathering celebrates its 40th birthday this year with a big calendar of events including Jimmy Barnes acting as Chieftain for the Day. Other highlights include 20 pipe bands and a massed bands display; the inaugural Australian Highland Heavy Weight Events Championships featuring The Tartan Warriors who alongside other strong men from around the nation will compete in The Bundanoon Stones of Manhood; Scottish dancing; a ceilidh and a huge street parade to get the day's proceedings underway.

Saturday 1 April Bundanoon. brigadoon.org.au



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APRIL

Southern Highlands Autumn Open Garden Weekend

Autumn is the perfect time to visit the Highlands and some of its glorious gardens as the leaves turn. This year's weekend, in aid of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens (SHBG) features three town gardens including Retford Park, recently bequeathed to the National Trust by the late James Fairfax, as well as three Highlands country gardens Wildewood and Dragon Farm at Wildes Meadow and 5th Chapter Estate, Avoca. Also don't miss the SHBG Plant Fair and its huge array of plants including many rare and hard to find plants. **Saturday 22 April and Sunday 23 April 10am-4pm** autumngardens@shbg.com.au SHBG Plant Fair at the SHBG site. **9am-4pm** Corner of Old South Road & Kangaloon Road, Bowral. **9am-4pm**

Burrawang Easter Market

Set in the village's pretty main street, Burrawang Easter Market is a highlight of the Easter Highlands calendar. More than 150 stallholders showcase their homewares, gifts, crafts, arts, food and local produce during this fun day out which attracts visitors from near and far. Be prepared to park in designated areas and walk up the hill or catch the free shuttle bus (turn to page 91 for more information).

Saturday 15 April 8am-3pm Burrawang. burrawangeastermarket.com

Australian Heritage Festival, National Trust Week

This annual festival encourages communities to celebrate the places and events that have shaped our shared heritage. Harper's Mansion, Berrima is holding exhibition *Berrima. Voices – past and present*. 52 Shepherd Street, Bowral the childhood home of Sir Donald Bradman, is also taking part in the heritage festival. Enjoy a morning or afternoon tea of freshly-baked scones, cream, and home-made jam at the historic Burrawang General Store and Cafe, followed by a private tour of the house.

Adults \$25 children \$10. Bookings 4886 4496 or hello@52shepherdstreet.com.au harpersmansion.com.au nationaltrust.org.au



BIOTA & BDCU DINNER

Biota joins forces with Berrima District Credit Union for their annual dinner to raise money for the BDCU Children's Foundation, supporting local youth mental health support services. The falling leaves of Autumn BYO night includes a three course dinner at the two-hatted restaurant and welcome wine on arrival. Tickets \$90pp.

Tuesday, 2 May 7pm. Biota, Kangaloon Road, Bowral
Tickets at The Bowral Bookshop. 4862 1634

Mother's Day

The Highlands is the perfect place to enjoy High Tea and what better excuse, if you need one, than taking Mum out to celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday 14 May. The Tea Salon at Dirty Jane's, Bowral offers a wide range of teas, scones, and savoury and sweet treats all served on vintage crockery. Centennial Vineyards Restaurant; The Gibraltar Hotel and Peppers Craigieburn, all at Bowral as well as Peppers Manor House, Sutton Forest also create delicious High Teas with local produce, and the welcome choice of a glass of sparkling, or two.

dirtyjanes.com/tea-house, centennial.net.au
gilbraltarbowral.com.au, peppers.com.au/manor-house
pepperscraigieburn.com.au



ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES FAIR

The 30TH Southern Highlands Antiques Fair brings together 20 dealers from around Australia. Catering to all tastes and wallets, the range of items is vast with something for everyone, from the smallest thimble, to a Georgian ring or Victorian chest. Enjoy lunch or afternoon tea after wandering through the treasures and support the Bowral and District Hospital Auxiliary which helps fund equipment for the local hospital.

Bowral Memorial Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral
Saturday 6 May 9am-5pm, Sunday 7 May 10am-4pm
0428 446 534

TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

ADVENTURER HUW KINGSTON

Intrepid adventurer and ambassador for Save the Children, Huw Kingston spent 12 months circumnavigating the Mediterranean Ocean in 2014-2015. Travelling 17 countries over 13,000 kilometres by kayak, foot, rowboat and bike, Huw, a Highlands resident, writes about his extraordinary journey in his book, *Mediterranean – a year around a charmed and troubled sea*. Catch Huw talking about his epic adventure, undertaken during a time of great turbulence in the region, at Centennial Supper Club. \$45pp includes one course & glass of wine.

Thursday 30 March at 6.30pm

Centennial Vineyards Restaurant

252 Centennial Road, Bowral.

**Tickets available at The Bowral Bookshop,
Bong Bong St, Bowral.**

4862 1634; indies.com.au/bowral

ELAINE MUSGRAVE BOTANICAL ART CLASSES

Elaine Musgrave is a talented Highlands artist who has exhibited in Sydney, New York and London and was awarded a gold medal at the Royal Horticultural Society, London. In these Bowral classes, students will study the importance of light, shade, form and composition in botanical art. **Monday 13 March, Monday 27 March 9am-4pm. \$75pp. Bowral Art Gallery, 1 Short Street, Bowral. 4886 4050; elaine@tpg.com.au**

ART AT THE COWSHED

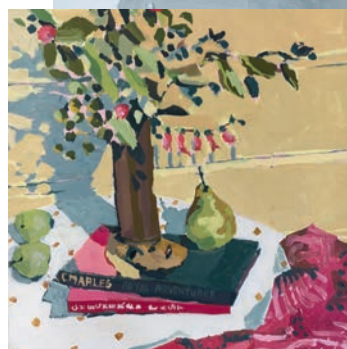
Enjoy a creative and culinary outing at Art at the Cowshed's one-day workshops for adults in Burradoo. Under the guidance of Highlands artist Kirsten Deakin learn how to see the world through an artist's lens. Leave with a completed artwork based on a theme of your choosing after enjoying lunch in the garden.

Sunday 19 March, Sunday 30 April,

Sunday 21 May 9.30am-4pm. \$200pp.

**Includes materials & lunch. Nettlebed,
29a Eridge Park Road, Burradoo.**

0428 231110; artatthecowshed



Zoe Young

TWO TIMES ARCHIBALD FINALIST ZOE YOUNG WILL GIVE A TALK TO DISCUSS THE PROCESS OF PAINTING HER RECENT SERIES OF WORK, *SPACE BETWEEN HOURS*, TO BE EXHIBITED AT HER DEBUT SYDNEY SOLO SHOW LATER THIS MONTH. ZOE, WHO WORKS IN A RUSTIC STUDIO OVERLOOKING BOWRAL, WILL DISCUSS LOCATIONS, PEOPLE AND STORIES OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS THAT INSPIRED HER RECENT WORKS. **4.30PM THURSDAY MARCH 23. KEEP AN EYE ON ZOEYOUNG.COM.AU FOR THE LOCATION. *SPACE BETWEEN HOURS*: 30 MARCH – 22 APRIL. PIERMARQ GALLERY, 76 PADDINGTON ST, PADDINGTON.**

PETE'S SHED AND MRS

Ever wanted to learn the DIY skills to up-style or restore furniture? This wide ranging four-hour workshop, taught by furniture restorer and owners of Pete's Shed and Mrs, Peter Burrows covers everything from preparation to finishing. Using acrylic and chalk paints, Pete will demonstrate painting applications such as decoupage, stencilling, and how to rust pieces.

Morning tea & lunch included \$195pp. 9am-1pm Last Saturday of each month. 0417 293 168; peteshed@live.com

PERENNIAL HILL SUCCULENTS

Create your own succulent frame at this half day workshop at the magical one-acre garden

Perennial Hill, Mittagong.
Horticulturist Julie Hulbert will help you explore your green thumb creativity. Includes all material and equipment, morning tea, and a living masterpiece to take home.

Wednesday 15 March 9am-12.30pm. \$85pp. 1 Nero Street, Mittagong. perennialhill.com.au



BROOKE MUNRO AT DIRTY JANE'S

Join sculptural weaver Brooke Munro for a series of workshops at Dirty Jane's. Learn Random Wave Sculpture & Basketry, and Basket Making using Hidden Core Coiling techniques. **10.30am Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 May and Saturday 13 May. dirtyjanes.com.au**

CHEESE MAKING

Cheese please? Highlands farmer Lucy Nias demonstrates how to make feta, yoghurt and fromage frais from scratch. Well, from milk actually. All cultures, rennet and equipment supplied. \$150pp. Not suitable for children under 16. **Saturday 18 March, McVitty's Grove, Wombeyan Caves Road, Mittagong. 0423 527 227; lucynias@hotmail.com**

NATALIE MILLER

Join textural sculptor and weaver Natalie Miller and learn to tapestry weave. Take home a loom, a roll of warp and lots of wool and roving to continue your making (see Natalie on page 103). **Green Bridge Studio, 430 Argyle Street, Moss Vale. \$190pp. Saturday 8 April 10am-4pm. nataliemillerdesign.com; bleu2@bigpond.com**

BRIGADOON

40th Gathering Festival



SATURDAY 1ST APRIL 2017

*Out of the Highlands mist emerges Brigadoon,
the Bundanoon Highland Gathering.*

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WWW.BRIGADOON.ORG.AU

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HOTEL REVIEW:

THE OLD BANK BOUTIQUE HOTEL, MITTAGONG



Escape Southern Highlands stays at a new five-star boutique hotel and finds a splendid historic establishment with a big future.

A magic otherworldliness appears in the Highlands as autumn's first chill wind arrives. Trees blaze with colour, woodpiles are stacked and woollens unpacked as the rhythm of time resurrects an old friend.

Checking into The Old Bank is a bit like that. A new boutique hotel with beautiful bones, restored to the cycle of life. A grand former bank built in 1892 the Old Bank underwent a seven-year restoration. Walking inside feels like going back in time to a bygone era 125 years ago when Mittagong's streets were filled with horse-drawn carts, the 7th Earl of Jersey was Governor of NSW and Queen Victoria was on the throne.

The Victorian-Romanesque building with its towering ceilings, intricate rose cornices, wood panelling and grand cedar staircase was first used as a branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. The first bank manager, resplendent with handlebar moustache and felt hat, can be seen in the many heritage photographs that line the hotel's walls. He lived upstairs with his large family, and saddled his horse in the stable, now one of the hotel's two self-contained options in the courtyard area, and rode out to collect mortgage payments.

The building ended its life as a bank in 1970, and fell into disrepair. Restoration man and new owners Warwick Wainberg and wife Barbara Whitehouse bought the building in 2009. Its future looked bleak. A flock of pigeons was resident, and developers were circling.

'Warwick actually didn't mean to buy the building,' says the charming Barb, once personal chef to Kerry



Packer, who does all the cooking for guests. One-night stays come with afternoon tea, after-dinner port and shortbread, full breakfast, and a takeaway jar of Barb's jam, made from the cumquat trees outside in the sandstone courtyard.

'Another bank from the Victorian era had recently been demolished in Bowral, and Warwick was so upset,' says Barb. 'When this one came up for sale he couldn't bear to see the same thing happen, so he bought it.'

Warwick, a long-time farmer at Cayonleigh, and a former owner of Eling Forest Winery, worked with builder David Feld and other local tradespeople. Together, they breathed new life into the large two-storey building with its grand Victorian proportions. The finish and look they have achieved is lavish and elegant with every effort made to remain true to the period. The hotel has six luxurious suites with wood detailing, ornate drapery and shuttered windows. We stay in the Gibraltar Suite, with its sumptuously grand king bed and Egyptian cotton sheets. The designer bathroom, with its granite tiling, monsoon shower, heated floors and Australian-made toiletries by Biology, a welcome 21st century touch. We breakfast like... well, bankers... in the dining room with its views of Barb's eclectic tea cosy collection on the dresser, the orangery outside and Lake Alexandra in the background. Barb's yoghurt and mixed berry compote is followed by a full Highlands breakfast of bacon, pork sausages, eggs, grilled tomatoes and toast accompanied by jams.

We have only been here overnight, but it is hard to drag ourselves away. We will be back. Perhaps to enjoy dinner or to relax in the sitting room with its Chesterfield sofas, and enjoy another drink from the original bank vault and its one-tonne door, cast in London in 1852, which now doubles as the cellar and bar. The place feels like an old friend already. ■



DETAILS

The Old Bank Boutique Hotel
83 Main Street, Mittagong
4872 4496 oldbankhotel.com.au

Welcome to our historic guest house, offering graciously restyled accommodation for up to 36 people.

Delicious meals served in *the dining room* by popular local chef Eon Waugh.

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info@bundanoonguesthouse.com.au

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Call your host Maureen Varnavsky for more information on 0410 634 777 or mail to: ms.goose@sillygoosepark.com.au



Formerly the manager's residence for the historic Burrawang General Store, Bower Cottage is a lovingly restored 3 bedroom self contained cottage that sleeps 6 people very comfortably. With an open fire, reverse cycle heating and cooling and bathroom underfloor heating, a cosy stay is guaranteed. We will also deliver your morning coffee and there are dining options as well.

Bower Cottage
11a Hoddle St, Burrawang 2577
4886 4496
bgsc.com.au



Dixieland Estate is a magnificent 27-acre property featuring beautiful country vistas. A place to relax and unwind, this modern accommodation offers a luxurious environment with several entertaining spaces for people to come together. A pleasant one and a half drive from Sydney. Built in 2008, includes large country kitchen and under cover bbq facilities. Bedrooms: 8 Bathrooms: 5 Parking: 10+

Dixieland Estate
0412 144 271
info@dixielandestate.com.au
dixielandestate.com.au



This totally renovated property was built in 1900 on almost one acre of landscaped grounds, used for part of its life as a Catholic Dominican Nunnery. There are 4 rooms each with king sized bed and ensuite, 2 even have baths as well as showers. 4 single beds are also available. Ideal for a wedding party or an adult escape. There is also a separate guest lounge with fireplace and as you would expect the property is centrally heated.

The Old Nunnery B&B
27 Arthur Street, Moss Vale
4868 2772
Theoldnunnery.wix.com/theoldnunnery



Book Barn Cottage, Bendooley Estate.

A nirvana for bibliophiles

ESCAPE THE RAT-RACE AND RELAX WITH A GOOD BOOK AND A CHANGE OF AUTUMN PACE IN THIS CHARMING PROPERTY, SITUATED ON A GLORIOUS HIGHLANDS PROPERTY

IMAGES ELISE HASSEY



DETAILS

Book Barn Cottage
0412 551 295
bendooleyestate.com.au
stayz.com.au

In this age of technology there is something very endearing about staying at a place called Book Barn Cottage.

This cottage is located on Bendooley Estate near Berrima. If you know and love books you may also know this place was built on the success of books. The sixth inter-generational success of buying, sourcing, preserving and selling books.

Bendooley Estate is the home of the famed Berkelouw dynasty. Isidoor Berkelouw, a fourth generation book dealer and seller from Rotterdam, The Netherlands, came to Australia in 1948 to escape the horrors of World War II. He opened his first bookstore in Sydney in 1950 and became a pre-eminent dealer in rare, antiquarian and second-hand books. His son Leo began operating the family business from the historic 1839 Highlands estate Bendooley in 1977. He still lives there today alongside son Paul and his wife Katja, who continue the family affair.

Everything at Bendooley Estate is done with quiet good taste. Whether it is the newly renovated book barn situated up the poplar lined driveway from Book Barn Cottage, or the stone cellar door that sits quietly in front of growing vines, Bendooley is elegance personified. Book Barn Cottage is the newest addition to the Bendooley



estate. Formerly the gatekeeper's cottage, it has been extensively refurbished and is now available for weekend and short term lets. The first thing I notice when collecting the key is the key-ring: a tiny book attached to a string and the key. It is a nice touch. Inside the two-bedroom house, the smell of wooden floor polish sits nicely alongside the aroma book lovers will recognise: that waft of words captured forever on ageing paper.

In the sitting room with its huge leather sofa, armchairs, and open fireplace there is a large bookshelf filled with every genre of book. There are also books on the mantelpiece and coffee table, each one telling its own tale of mystery, adventure, love and loss. To me a house without books is not a home. I settle in immediately.

The refurb job is beautifully finished. There is a large master bedroom with a king bed, designer bathroom ensuite and large French windows looking out over green gardens. The twin bedroom across the hall has two king twins and a trundle, and its own bathroom with shower and bath. Serenity toiletries from Byron Bay are a welcome touch. Sheets are fine cotton, carpets wool, the laundry fully equipped and roomy. The cottage comes with all the mod-cons such as an LCD TV, DVD and CD player and iPod connector. There is a compactly designed kitchen opening onto the sitting room for those nights when staying in and cooking feels right. French doors open onto a verandah with a BBQ and small table for a meal or a pre-dinner drink to enjoy the lovely autumn evenings.

Staying here is a very civilised affair. Sleeping up to five people, the property is close to Mittagong and even closer to historic Berrima and is a terrific launch pad for exploring the Highlands. Arriving late in the day, we welcome the teabags and coffee which are provided. A few other extra essentials such as milk, bread and maybe some local jam might also go down a treat with guests. But there is little to find fault with this place. My only regret is I didn't have time to curl up in front of the fire with a good book. ■

BEAUTY MORE THAN SKIN DEEP AT ENDOTA SPA BOWRAL

ENDOTA IS AN INDIGENOUS WORD MEANING BEAUTIFUL.
ESCAPE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SPENDS TWO BLISSFUL HOURS
IMMERSED IN **AN OASIS OF SERENITY AND UNDERSTATED
ELEGANCE** IN THE HEART OF BEAUTIFUL BOWRAL.

Endota Spa owner and therapist Liane Shields sees it many times a day. The door of the Victorian terrace in Merrigang Street, home to Endota Spa, opens and in bustles another world-weary client, laden with the demands of daily life. However, once enfolded in Endota's interior with its soothing grey palette, signature essential oil scent and Zen-like music, something extraordinary happens.

'It's almost an immediate response,' says Liane. Their body language changes. Their shoulders drop, their face muscles relax, and they slow down and start preparing themselves to get in that zone between sleep and awareness.'

She is spot on. It's as if I have entered a blessed smelling, stylishly designed cocoon. Endota Spa is all about understated serenity, and giving clients, women predominantly, well-earned me-time. The Endota story began in 2000 when schoolfriends Melanie Gleeson and Belinda Fraser from Victoria's Mornington Peninsula started a day spa that walked a new line between traditional beauty salons and massage clinics. The emphasis is on earthy realness. There are no gilded gold fittings or intimidating therapists here. Endota Spa thinks of beauty as more than skin-deep.

'It's all about that sense of calm and wellness,' says Liane.

Which is just as well. Life is a juggle of work, kids and family, and I'm in dire need of some pre-autumn attention. Renee, my skilled therapist, takes me upstairs to a treatment room. With its opulently towelled bed, air thick with essential oils, soft lighting and that Zen-like music again, it's like being inside a sensory

pod. I sink right in. For two and a half hours, she transports me out of myself. A Billabong Footbath with products from Endota's signature organic range is followed by a blissful Deep Recovery Massage, with warm jade stones, and a New Age Light Therapy Facial, which cleanses, exfoliates, massages, hydrates and stimulates collagen. Perfect. Renee's hands are deft, and her expertise ensures the experience flows seamlessly. Every attention is given to my mind, body and soul. I emerge a new woman, still completely in the zone. As I say my farewells, and commit to returning soon to sample Endota's relaunched menu next month (April) with introductory packages, one of the spa's printed manifestos catches my eye. 'The ultimate feeling is one of freedom. The freedom to step out of the real world for a time, into a world where the only person who matters is you.' Mission accomplished. Endota Spa Bowral. Thank you. **E**

DETAILS

Endota Spa Bowral
20 Merrigang Street, Bowral
4862 5578; endotaspa.com.au/Bowral

Country French Patisserie




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pâtisserie
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tripadvisor
5 star rating

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DIRTYJANES.COM     #DIRTYJANES



Melissa Penfold's EASTER SHOPPING GUIDE



STYLE QUEEN MELISSA PENFOLD HONED HER IMPECCABLE TASTE AND ABILITY TO SET FASHION TRENDS DURING HER TIME AS **INTERIORS EDITOR AT BELLE MAGAZINE** AND LATER AS **SHOPPING GURU AT THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD**. DIVIDING HER TIME BETWEEN SYDNEY AND THE SOUTHERN

HIGHLANDS, MELISSA IS CONSTANTLY ON THE LOOKOUT FOR BEAUTIFUL PIECES AND BRANDS. HERE SHE SHARES HER HINTS AND BEST FINDS FOR EASTER IN THE HIGHLANDS. FOR MORE GREAT DESIGN & SHOPPING ADVICE VISIT MELISSAPENFOLD.COM AND FOLLOW HER ON INSTAGRAM @MELISSA_PENFOLD.



RABBIT TRAP TIMBER

The best handmade timber tables around. Renowned for hand-crafted wares such as their beautiful breadboards. We love the refectory table with sturdy barn plank tops. Now there are side tables and benches. 408 Argyle St, Moss Vale 0432 214 520 rabbittraptimber.com.au

You don't have to hunt far to find great deals around the Southern Highlands this Easter. From fireside baskets to autumnal throw rugs, and this season's IT coffee table books. I've gathered my favourites below for the weekend Easter hostess and pieces I love too.

ROUNABOUT THE HOUSE

Top buy includes its half-barrel planters to flank an entry. The kind you see in some of the world's most inspired gardens. Fantastic prices.

**96-98 Bowral Road, Mittagong
4872 2866**

Bed Bath N'Table

Brimming with inexpensive gifts. Remember, people who have guests to stay for the weekend and Easter can never have enough tablecloths, napkins and tea towels. The ceramic soap dishes, huckaback guest towels and Portuguese bathmats are on message too. Strong on affordable Easter bunny decorative items, many in great taste. Seek out the plates, bowls, mugs and ceramic eggs with rabbit motifs in black and white.

**334/336 Bong Bong Street,
Bowral, 4861 2158
bedbathntable.com.au**



Barbaras Storehouse

Update this Easter with the Sorrento wicker chair in grey or white wash finish, the Cascade Capri outdoor furniture timber range, or bentwood-style barstools in natural or white paint finish. Plus, all kinds of fashion-conscious, wallet-friendly bowls, lighting, cushions, tables, woven placemats, jumbo baskets, that show a beautiful interior isn't necessarily one full of expensive kit. Think glass storage bottles that are a pleasure to use plus photo frames, Chinese figures, ceramic milk jugs, glass cake-stands, big breakfast cups and saucers, and vases in low open shapes will bring your pal a lifetime of pleasure.

**31 Old Hume Highway, Mittagong
48671 1558; @BarbarasStorehouse**



FLOWERS ON ARGYLE

A lovely Highlands source of beautiful plants. Strong on succulents of all kinds – especially the green ones you see in lifestyle magazines. Also go for the best Phalaenopsis orchids, areca palms, fishbone ferns, aloe Vera, dracaena, and the kind of sumptuous succulents you see in magazines.

328 Argyle Street, Moss Vale,
4869 1544; flowersonargyle.com.au

THE BROWN BOOKSHOP

ALWAYS HAS THE LATEST TITLES ON ENTERTAINING, DECORATING, DESIGN, FOOD, GARDEN, TRAVEL, FASHION, AND LOVELY NOVELS TO CURL UP WITH OVER THIS EASTER LONG WEEKEND, TOO.

311 BONG BONG ST, BOWRAL
4861 3447

COTSWOLD FURNITURE

Give your outdoors an update for Easter (and Autumn) with smart, casual furniture in woven fibres, that is strong, durable and can be painted any colour you fancy. A-list designers swear by Cotswold Furniture Collection that sells major brands like Vincent Sheppard who creates timeless staples in quality materials.

221 Hume Highway, Mittagong.
1800 677 047; cotswold.com.au

Lydie Du Bray Antiques

A place you can't live without at Easter. Pop in for glass candlesticks, vintage baskets, terracotta pots, urns, jardineres, topiary, and to-die for French pieces for house and garden that will give any space instant pedigree.

117 Old Hume Highway, Braemar. 4872 2844
antiquesonconsignment.com.au

GUMNUT PATISSERIE

Hardly a secret. This is the place to buy a great tart when entertaining over the Easter season, cheating is acceptable and surprisingly affordable. How much is your social standing worth? The French have been doing it for decades.

Mittagong, Berrima, Bowral. 4862 2819
gumnutpatisserie.com.au



DIRTY JANE'S EMPORIUM

A shopping paradise which makes this ideal Easter present territory. Everything from the Austrian Reiss heritage enamel brand of kitchen essentials, as well as vintage baskets, linen cushions, books, vintage teacups, sterling silver, lacquer dishes, 1950s paintings, even wooden game sets like backgammon, chess, scrabble, solitaire. Then there's reindeer hides, feathers and old fashioned quills (pheasant to guinea fowl and turkey). Plus a full range of Sibella Court's hardware such as clips, drawer pulls, knobs and knockers. The emporium has a lot going for it. You won't be disappointed.

391 Bong Bong Street, Bowral, 4861 3231; dirtyjanes.com.au

HIGHLANDS MERCHANT

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE APPEAL OF WONDERFUL FOOD. IT SENDS THE MESSAGE THAT YOU THINK YOUR FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO APPRECIATES THE FINER THINGS. THIS IS THE PLACE TO FIND OVVIO ORGANIC TEAS (VANILLA LEMON, WHITE JASMINE, CHOCOLATE MINT), HANDMADE GINGERBREAD, EVEN UNUSUALLY BEAUTIFUL SOAPS MADE LOCALLY BY ATMARYSTREET.

405 ARGYLE STREET, MOSS VALE. 4869 5746;
HIGHLANDSMERCHANT.COM.AU

COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS

Country Homes & Interiors was one of the first furniture and design shops in Moss Vale and like a fine Easter wine, it gets better with age. Dining tables, hall tables, ottomans, table lamps abound with lovely Easter touches like porcelain bunnies and plenty of prints and sculptures on hand for the many in the Highlands who favour horse and hounds.

450 Argyle Street, Moss Vale.
4868 1200; argyleimports.com.au

TIPS FOR GIFT GIVING EASTER 2017 IF YOU'RE SHOPPING LAST MINUTE STICK TO ELEVATED, LIMITED-EDITION VERSIONS OF LOVED ONE'S FAVORITE STAPLES FOR AN EASY GO-TO EASTER GIFT. THINK EVERYTHING FROM LIQUOR TO BEAUTY ESSENTIALS.

- When the hostess opens your present, they want to see something they can use immediately, which will slot effortlessly into their lives, and boost their egos.
- Give the Best. The best of anything is special, be it a swizzle stick or a snazzy snack bowl.
- If you're stuck, opt for classic gifts such as beautiful serving spoons or a tray. They're old faithfuls that always work.
- Don't give cheap anything: cheap things make the recipients feel worthless.
- Don't give anything with a fancy border. Choose only simple plain basics. The very thing that you think 'just makes it' are more likely to be the very thing that makes it wrong.
- Give things that add to a collection, whether it's glass cake-stand or milk jug.



What could be more gorgeous than handmade soap?

And seriously, no kidding AtMaryStreet soap is soap you will want to lather yourself in, and give away as Easter goodies to all your closest friends. Created by talented maker Harriet Turnnidge in her Mittagong soapshd from the milk of her East Friesian ewes, once you've bathed in AtMaryStreet's Lavender Milk, Crushed Cinnamon Milk or our favourite, Clary Sage Milk you will be a lifetime convert.

Available at Flower Flower, Mittagong, Pippin & Otto, Dirty Jane's, Bowral, Highland Merchant, Moss Vale.
atmarysteet.com.au



SUZIE ANDERSON HOME

Five rooms filled with classic hostess gifts from pretty wicker drinks trays to imported soaps and bath oils. Also water jugs in glass or china; fresh, crisp cotton or linen napkins; good serving spoons in timber, metal, bamboo or resin; hurricane candle lamps, and silver-plated champagne bucket (remember a little sparkle goes a long way), Then there's fireplace baskets, cosy throw rugs, pretty snack bowls, quality tableware, classic books, placemats in rattans, wickers or bamboo weaves – all will step up your pal's entertaining game. Or dazzle family and friends with a fab chunky knit throw by Dutch brand Vacht Van Vilt. Anderson's is also the place to find US brand Dash & Albert rugs which can transform the entire tone of your home.

409-411 Argyle St, Moss Vale
4868 2662; suzieandersonhome.com





Purveyors of quality requisites for the home. A rich and compelling tapestry of beautifully designed and handcrafted domestic goods from a diverse range of Australian and International designers and artisans.

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Mossy Store

394 Argyle St, Moss Vale
0409 223 277
mossystore.com.au



Masuki Store is the new flagship for the locally designed organic baby and kids label, Milk and Masuki. The store also features a carefully curated selection of toys and accessories from Australia and beyond with a focus on high quality design. For a friendly and unique shopping experience, Masuki Store is the new retail destination for kids in the Southern Highlands.

Masuki Store

Shop 8/380 Bong Bong St, Bowral
milkandmasuki.com.au



Shelly Burrows has been in the fashion industry for over 35 years, as a shop manager, owner & in a buying role for both wholesale & retail. Shelly's style is relaxed and layered, believing her style truly suits the Australian lifestyle. Join Shelly in a 2.5 hour Workshop at her beautiful Saint Eloi Guest House in Burradoo for styling tips to embrace a individual style that works for you. Learn how to think outside of the square! Style-Sort-Store.

layering with style

Shelly Burrows 0419 585 279
info@burrowsfashion.com.au
layeringwithstyle.com.au



20th Century decorative arts

Wotifind

space61, Dirty Janes Antique Market,
Bowral. 0417 049 477
katemadden21@bigpond.com



Classic shirt dress by Australian designer Sacha Drake. Sacha designs ladies clothing for true Australian women. Sacha a size 14 herself, understands the importance of looking stylish. Sacha designs dresses with the view not all bodies are the same. Sacha has a unique tagging system that informs women of the body type the garment best suits, from pear & apple shape to column & pregnancy. Sacha Drake has a range of everyday dresses to party & occasion wear.

Auberjean

20A Bowral Rd, Mittagong
4872 1585
auberjean.com.au



This eclectic boutique is a treasure trove of both Australian and European labels. Nu and Noa Noa from Denmark, some of our Australia made labels including Valia, Very Very and Seven Sisters. Our winter collection featuring outerwear, pure wool and cashmere knitwear. A great range of jeans, Mavi & New London. Personalised service to style you for any occasion.

Mic Mac Boutique

280 Bong Bong St, Bowral
4862 5409
micmac.com.au



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The Bay Tree Gallery is located in the Historic Southern Highlands village of Berrima. The Gallery has six levels, two featuring a large range of mixed local and regional art works and four levels that offer a great retail experience. Our products include a large range of clothing and accessories including hats, gloves, scarves, jewellery. The gallery also has a range of Ugg boots and gifts. Experience The Bay Tree Gallery's unique service, art work and products.

The Bay Tree Gallery
Shop 2, 11B Old Hume Hwy, Berrima
4877 1333
thebaytreegallery.com.au



The Brown Shutter Gift Shop is located at the northern end of Berrima, The White Shop at the Top. This iconic store has a large range of gifts, crafts, homewares, clothing, children's ware, toys, cane ware and much more. Our friendly staff will be happy to gift wrap your purchase and provide you with an exceptional experience. For that unique gift for every occasion visit The Brown Shutter in Berrima.

The Brown Shutter
9 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima
4877 1211
thebrownshutter@bigpond.com



Established in 1936, The Robertson Cheese Factory is a Southern Highlands icon, maintaining all its original charm and character. It houses a variety of specialty stores including clothing, homewares, toys and sweets, plus a delicious range of gelatos made onsite. The Factory Dairy Store offers Australian 'off the farm' cheeses, plus a range of complementary gourmet products. Come and enjoy delicious food in the cafe, open everyday.

The Robertson Cheese Factory
107 Illawarra Hwy, Robertson
4885 1168
robertsoncheesefactory.com



FOOD & WINE

IMAGES TONY SHEFFIELD

Pecora Dairy is a Southern Highlands food success story. We speak to Cressida and Michael McNamara about the science of cheesemaking, the importance of collaborating with chefs, and why their East Friesian ewes are anything but stupid.

Q: How many ewes do you milk, and what makes Pecora cheese stand apart?

A: About 100 this season. Ewe's milk, in its raw state, is sweeter than cow's milk and has double the solids. This richness makes it ideal for cheese-making, and the cheese develops clean, creamy, delicate flavours, with a more rounded mouthfeel and complexity.

Q: Your farm sits in a unique microclimate. Why is that important?

A: Our patch of dirt sits right on the top of the Jamberoo escarpment at 700m altitude, and has very high rainfall, with the famous low lying Robertson cloud that settles in the early morning and evening. This climate makes us ideally suited for classic perennial dairy pastures of rye, clover, native herbs and grasses for the sheep to graze off. This means their milk is rich, seasonally distinct and flavoursome.

Q: Do you have to be a bit of a chemist to be a cheesemaker?

A: Yes. Cheesemaking is an incredibly complex science. What we do, milking a single flock of animals and making cheese, is the most technically difficult of all. We need to work with the seasonal variations of the milk, allowing the nuances of the time of year be expressed in the cheese. After the ewes lamb in July and August, the milk is sweet and clean. It produces exquisite fresh cheeses like our Bloomy White, and our Fresh Curd. Spring milk is beautiful and consistent for cheese making. During summer, with its more diverse range of grasses, the milk becomes more rounded with a balance of fats and sugars. Autumnal milk like we are getting now is rich and creamy with a high percentage of solids. It lends itself beautifully to our Jamberoo Mountain Blue and Mezza.

Q: How have Farmers markets helped Pecora?

A: The story behind our cheese is not something you get off the label. The cheese that will be made in a year's time, starts today, whether it be through improving pastures, raising lambs or selecting rams. A cheese, on any given day, has taken years of development, breeding and farm improvement. It's a different proposition to a commercial block of cheese. Farmers markets, and collaborating with chefs is the only way to tell our whole story.

Q: You recently invited some of your customers to your place for a celebration. Who was there?


A: Our chef collaborations are really important to us. Especially the long standing relationship we have with James Viles at Biota, Bowral. We celebrated our fifth anniversary last year, with a long table lunch at our property, and our guest list read like the who's who of Sydney restaurants. Quay, Tetsuyas, Bennelong, Bathers Pavilion, The Bridge Room, Pilu at Freshwater and Rock Pool have all made beautiful dishes featuring our cheese. It's something we are immensely proud of.

Q: Where can we sample or buy Pecora cheese locally?

A: Biota and Bistro Officina in Bowral; The Robertson Cheese Factory, Robertson and a bit further afield at the Kiama Farmers market which is held every Wednesday afternoon.

Q: And finally, please finish this sentence 'sheep get a bum steer because ...'

A: Sheep have a strong flocking instinct which often makes them appear to do silly things. So ill-tempered sheep that aren't used to being handled are very frustrating and can do some pretty dumb things out of pure instinct. But a docile sheep breed that is well handled, particularly dairy sheep, is trusting, personable, cheeky and very trainable. They will come when called, remember faces and open farm gates and steel drums to get to feed.

pecoradairy.com.au 



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2013 PCC Riesling
Trophy Best Riesling 2015 Australian & New Zealand Boutique Wine Awards. 97 points, 2016 James Halliday Wine Companion.

2015 PCC Pinot Noir
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TERTINI WINES

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sales@tertiniwines.com.au www.tertiniwines.com.au

ON YOUR PLATE

The Highlands is full of innovative chefs, restaurants, producers and foodies doing delicious things. On Your Plate serves up the lowdown on eating in, eating out and the sandwich in between.

Coffee on Tap

Chilled coffee on tap anyone? Baedon and Sally Terry, founders of RUSH Roasting Co are coffee pioneers, starting their cafe and coffee roasting business in Bowral nearly 20 years ago. Their latest innovation is Nitro Coffee, cold brewed coffee infused with 100% nitrogen and served chilled through a tap system. Bit like a schooner of Guinness. Baedon, who has been experimenting with the science for six months says brewing the coffee for 12-18 hours 'gives it a thicker, velvety feel in the mouth and sweeter taste.' Try Rush's Nitro cold brew coffee at RUSH Roasting & Co at The Grand Arcade or in a Espresso Martini cocktail at The Royal Hotel, Bowral. Cheers. rushroasting.com.au

Jamberoo Mountain Farm

Nicole and Lachy Feggans only entered the world of chooks six months ago but such is the demand locally for free range pasture raised eggs, the couple recently tripled their number of laying hens. Running their Jamberoo Mountain Farm operation entirely off grid and following the regenerative land principles of US eco-farmer Joel Salatin, their eggs are available at Mangers, Burrawang and Moss Vale; The Robertson Cheese Factory and The Friendly Grocer, Robertson. Fellow producer, Robertson Rainbow Eggs with its beautifully packaged organic free range eggs, is another doing great things for chooks and Highlands egg lovers. [@roborainboweggs](http://jamberoomountainfarm.com)

FEAST at Berrima

It's always hard when a loved local moves on, which makes it all the more pleasing when it pops up elsewhere. Anne Holloway and Philip Martin ran FEAST @ McVitty for five years before moving on in 2015. Now the couple have reopened at The Australian Alpaca Centre, Berrima. 'Berrima is a pedestrian place where everyone walks around with their dog so many of our friends have been popping in to say hello, and welcome back,' says Philip. feastatberrima.com.au

The Shaggy Cow

Fingers crossed for The Shaggy Cow, Mittagong one of ten finalists in the Australian Small Business Champion Awards in the cafe category. The winner is announced 1 April. theshaggycow.com.au

Bendooley Estate

What could be nicer than dining in a restaurant full of books near a roaring autumnal fire? Bendooley's restaurant is elegance personified and has a seasonal lunch menu to match. Or pull up a pew at the cellar door and enjoy a range of European wines with finger food and fine morsels. Admire sculptor Dave Ball's huge steel corkscrew on the way in. www.bendooleyestate.com.au

Cafe Rosso

With weekly specials inspired by regions of Italy, this modern eatery is a Bowral institution. Choose from an array of thin and crispy pizzas - we love the mushroom variety. Bellissimo! caferosso.com.au

The Loch

Skip breakfast and join other foodies at The Loch's Foodie Fields of Autumn: Festival of The Roast on Sunday 21 May. This seven-course degustation is for meat lovers with local duck, lamb and beef on the menu, matched with some of the Highland's best wines. theloch.net.au

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www.wombathollow.net.au



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Download the touring map now and discover this hidden oasis of the Highlands

www.southernhighlandsfoodandwineclusters.com.au



The family meal

CELEBRITY CHEF AND LOCAL GEOFF JANSZ LOVES NOTHING BETTER THAN PREPARING A SIMPLE, WHOLESOME MEAL FOR HIS FAMILY. HE TELLS ESCAPE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WHY GOOD FOOD DOESN'T HAVE TO BE COMPLICATED, AND WHY THE SIMPLE MEALS ARE THE BEST.

WORDS & RECIPE **GEOFF JANSZ**

The family meal... let's face it, is anything more potentially explosive? The kitchen table, more than any other location in the house, is the hallowed ground on which life-long memories are born. But family dinners can also quickly descend into battlegrounds: a figurative killing fields where tears are shed and wiped away, as we parents' come to first hear those dreaded words from our children.

What's that? I hate that. You know I hate that Dad.

And you know, perhaps the ungrateful little sods have a point sometimes. The other day when I was considering what to cook for those kids of mine still at home, it occurred to me my parents never cooked lobster for me.

Or scallops. Or foie gras for that matter. Nor did anything vaguely resembling dry-aged Rib Eye ever step foot over the entrance to my family home.

What I have come to realise through parenthood is if you want happiness to descend on your kitchen table over family meal times, don't sweat it stupid. Cook simple, nutritious meals you know the kids will like and eat. Like pasta with fresh seasonal ingredients and salads with ingredients picked straight from the garden. Save the gourmet fare for meals out without the kids, and restore peace to mealtimes. ■





WARM SALAD OF EGGPLANT AND TOMATO WITH FETA, OLIVES AND CHILLI

Serves 4

Here's one that is all about local seasonal produce, where the mighty eggplant also known as an aubergine, is king. Make this en famille and eat al fresco with loved ones.

Ingredients

1 large eggplant	Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO)
2 large tomatoes	Finely sliced 1/2 red onion
Chilli to taste	1/4 cup feta
Enough sourdough for 4	12 Kalamata olives

Croutons

Char grill sourdough slices brushed with a little EVOO and sprinkled with a little salt and pepper. Keep warm.

Dressing

- Mix together 4 tbsp, red wine vinegar, 1/2 clove garlic crushed to a paste with some salt, 1/2 tsp dry oregano, a few grinds of black pepper, 1 tsp Dijon mustard, 1/4 cup EVOO and chilli and salt to taste.
- Slice the eggplant into discs and fry gently in plenty of EVOO on medium heat until lightly brown on both sides and the oil has been released. Eggplant is like a sponge, but upon further gentle cooking will release absorbed oil. Remove and drain on kitchen paper.

When ready to serve

On an oven proof platter (that fits in your oven) assemble the eggplant and tomatoes and warm through in a low oven. Just before serving scatter over in the following order: olives, the dressing, onions, feta and croutons.

Bon Appetit.



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Joadja Estate Vineyards Cnr Greenhills and Joadja Roads, Berrima
For more information, visit www.joadjaestate.com.au or call 4878 5236



What are The Southern Highlands Food & Wine Clusters?

Food dynamo Brigid Kennedy from The Loch, Berrima teamed up with FoodPath pioneer Jill Dyson to identify nine different Southern Highlands Food & Wine Clusters. Each cluster offers an authentic taste of the local lifestyle, produce, historic ambience and gastronomic delights for which the region is becoming increasingly renowned. Think of the clusters as an insiders' guide to eating, drinking and shopping like a local as well as meeting producers and discovering the backstory behind the foods of the region. The clusters are an initiative of the forward thinking Moss Vale & Rural Chamber of Commerce which represents more than 150 small farmers and artisan producers. For details to visit or contact members download the cluster maps from southernhighlandsfoodandwineclusters.com.au to get started.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Park Hill Garlic, Railway
Street Markets, Jams from
Robertson Cheese Factory.



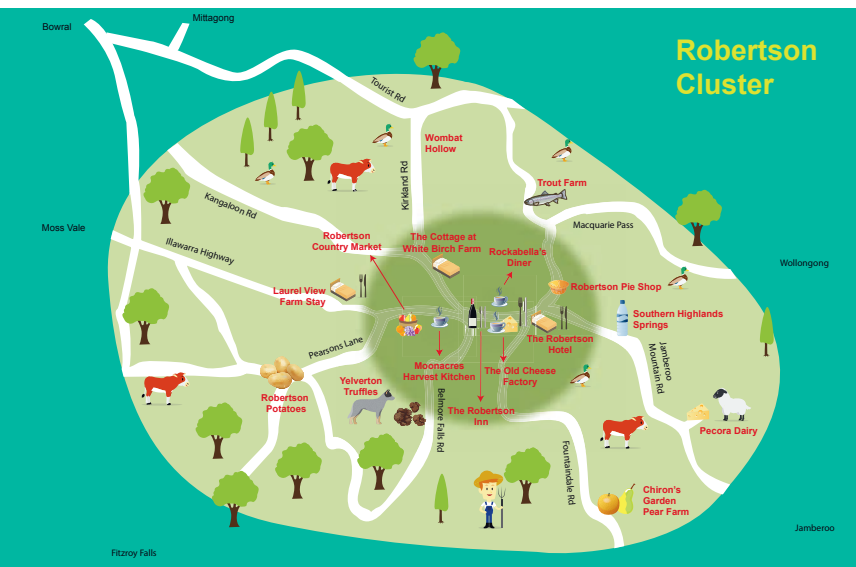
The Fruits of ROBERTSON

Robertson is an area of rolling hills with mist like a Scottish haar that slips in, enfolding the land in a cloudy embrace. It is also a foodies' delight and is renowned for that most humble of vegetables, the potato and the spud farmers who have worked this land for generations.

Local families supply the Sydney market with varieties King Edward, Kipfler, Pink Fur and Dutch Cream, and every second Sunday of the month, sell locally at the Robertson Country Market. They are part of a wider community, working together to live and farm more sustainably.

Food/Produce

Robbo holds the record for the largest truffle ever found in Australia. Uncovered at Yelverton Truffle Farm by grower Ted Smith, the black Perigord monster weighed 1.172 kilograms and didn't take a dog to unearth it because it broke the soil, nudging above the ground. Yelverton opens its doors to truffle hunters in June to try their own luck. Down the road Pecora Dairy has built an enviable reputation providing East Friesian Ewes cheese to some of the Highlands and Sydney's best chefs (see our story page 38) while Robertson Trout Farm has put trout back on menus locally. Pick your own pears at



family run Chiron's Garden Nashi Pear Farm (see page 57); wash it down with a bottle of Southern Highland Springs naturally still water from a local spring 740metres above sea level, and if you're in town on Saturday morning check out Crop Swap, an initiative bringing local producers together.

Places to Eat, Stay, Entertain

Down the road at The Old Robertson Cheese Factory, sells a huge range of local cheeses including Pecora's four varieties. The food emporium also makes delicious gelato and sorbet on site. Crowd favourites include blood orange and salted caramel. Pop next door for breakfast or lunch in the cosy cafe. If a pie is more your thing, hightail it up the road to the famous Robertson Pie Shop with its 24 varieties of sweet and savoury pies or get along to Rockabella's Roadside Diner where Ely cooks up the best chimichangas and gluten-free food around. If organic food is more to your liking, Moonacres Harvest Kitchen serves up wholesome food picked right from the vines, trees and fields of their organic farm each morning. The Robertson Inn is Australia's last remaining fully wood-constructed hotel and offers great pub fare with space to hold private events. As does Wombat Hollow nearby which regularly hosts exhibitions, lunches, forums and private celebrations.

Finally, if want to make an overnight stay of your visit you are spoilt for choice. If privacy is what you seek, The Cottage on White Birch Farm offers rainforest walks while Laurel View, a classic farmhouse on a working farm has country ambience. If you are looking for something historically opulent, book into the Robertson Hotel. Deemed the 'most luxurious hotel in the Commonwealth in the 1920s' this historic location with its Gatsby-esque ambience, log fires and rambling gardens even has its own railway platform where on occasion the old steam train from Sydney pulls up at the base of the steps to the mansion. ■



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Feast at Berrima has recently opened in the historic township of Berrima. Located in the Alpaca Centre at the southern end of the town, Feast offers modern Australian cuisine in a chic casual setting with a menu prepared by owner/chef Anne Holloway, and a carefully crafted wine list specialising in the best of the local crop, with a fine selection from elsewhere in support. White chocolate cheesecake with seasonal berries. Lunch Wed - Sun. Dinner Fri - Sat.

Feast at Berrima
The Alpaca Centre, 1 Market Place, Berrima
4870 1268
feastatberrima.com.au



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bistroofficina.com.au



ESCAPE EATS AT... BERNIE'S DINER, MOSS VALE

ESCAPE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS **STEPS BACK IN TIME** AT MOSS VALE'S BERNIE'S DINER, AND CHATS WITH INDEFATIGABLE OWNER IOANNIS BENARDOS

One of the first things Ioannis Benardos heard after opening his American-styled diner in Moss Vale in 2013 was 'I give you a year, mate.'

He wisely chose to ignore the proclamation and last month Bernie's Diner celebrated its fourth birthday. Now a loved fixture, the diner is quiet on this early evening. However, pretty soon the locals will arrive with kids in tow and regulars travelling through to Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne will make the detour off the Hume Highway to eat.

My dinner mates and I order Bernie's specialities: the Whole Kit & Kaboodle burger; the house-made beer smoked pastrami and corned beef sandwich; and a pulled pork burger with fries on the side. Mouths watering, we take our seats in a red leather booth to await our food, and look about.

Bernie's Diner is named in honour of Ioannis' grandfather Emmanuel Benardos, commonly known as Bernie. Originally from the Greek island of Kythera, he came to Australia on a voyage that took six weeks and, like many Greek immigrants before him, decided his future lay in opening a milk bar. He opened his first business, The

Central Cafe, in 1925 and two years later moved to the site of his grandson's reincarnated version. The Benardos family ran Bernie's Cafe until 1958 when they sold the business. Black and white photographs on the walls depict Emmanuel's life.

Bernie's Diner channels decor from 1950s America. Ioannis spent six months on a US road trip and loved the formica-topped tables and swirling bar stools. There is something about Bernie's that takes you back to a lost age: to a time when burgers and chips were served in baskets, and giant ice-cream sundaes came with a glace cherry on top.

Full of hungry expectation, our meals don't disappoint. The Whole Kit & Kaboodle is as stupendous as it sounds on the blackboard: dill pickle, mayo, tomato sauce, onion, lettuce, tomato, beetroot, Angus beef burger, cheese, bacon, egg, pineapple and onion rings on a sesame seed bun. The pastrami sandwich, made from brisket cured in a salt and sugar brine and then smoked over American beechwood soaked in Budweiser is heaven, and my pulled pork burger made from free-range pork, slow cooked for nine hours and served with slaw on a sesame seed bun, is a triumph. A messy one but a triumph nonetheless. It is a nice touch when we learn all Bernie's meat is provided by local butcher, Maugers. Ioannis joins us as we polish off the last vestiges of a delicious hands-on meal.

'I couldn't be happier,' he says, grinning. 'When I opened, my ethos was simple. Cook simple food and smash it out of the park. Some people won't get it and I'm cool with that. But do what you love. Build it and they will come.' ■

DETAILS

Bernie's Diner
402-404 Argyle Street,
Moss Vale 4869 1502
berniesdiner.com.au
6am-10pm every day

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4861 7411
palatepleasure.com.au



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Bistro Officina, Bowral.

NECTAR OF THE GODS AT ARTEMIS

A full-page photograph of a vineyard. Two men are walking towards the camera on a dirt path between rows of grapevines. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and light-colored trousers. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and dark trousers. A black dog is running on the path to the left of the men. The vineyard is lush with green leaves, and the sky is blue with some clouds.

ESCAPE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS VISITS A LOCAL VINEYARD BUILT ON DEDICATION AND VISION WHERE FINE WINES FLOW AND SUNNY LAWNS BECKON.

Artemis wines take its name from Artemis, Greek goddess of hunting and the earth. Twin sister of Apollo, daughter of Zeus. But there's no putting the success of this Southern Highlands vineyard, winery and cellar door down to luck of the Gods. This place is carved out of hard work, and family commitment.

Joseph and Barb Balog and winemaker sons Anton and Mark bought Artemis, once a scrubby bush block more than 20 years ago. They had a dream to make beautiful wines. The family worked alongside each other to cultivate this once fallow land.



DETAILS

Artemis Wines Cellar Door **Cellar Door**

Wed-Fri 10am-4pm
Weekends & Public Holidays
10am-5pm
enquiries welcome
0401 199 075
artemiswines.com.au

Getting there

46 Sir Charles Moses Lane
Off the Old Hume Highway,
Mittagong

In 1997 the family planted pinot noir. A grape favoured in Burgundy, France, it was unfamiliar to Australian wine drinkers. Today, sitting in Artemis' cellar-door with tasting bar, tables and stools handmade by Joseph from natives cleared for vines, Barb recalls the tough years.

'Twenty years ago we would go into local restaurants and say 'are you interested in taking any of our wines?' and people would look at us as if we were mad. Now we have people ringing looking for our wines all the time. Cool climate wines are finally having their day, which is so wonderful to see.'

With seven acres under vine, Artemis is hard pushed to keep up with demand. Its Pinot Noir 2015 is stocked nationally by Dan Murphy's, and recently won a silver medal at the Vienna International Wine Show. One of only a handful of Southern Highlands producers growing and making onsite, Artemis bottles between 5000-7000 cartons of wine annually. The commercial success of its Pinot Noir 2015 allows room for other wines to be produced such as the Close Vine Pinot Noir 2015 and Pinot Grigio vintages 2014.

'We are a small family business and to get a foot in the door at Dan Murphy's has been amazing for us,' says Sanne, Mark's fiancée who runs the cellar-door, and with the help of Barb and a dedicated team has established a calendar of events at Artemis.

'Locals have also been incredibly supportive, and people are getting to recognise the wines and labels widely.'

Events at Artemis are well patronised. Taking place on the lawns in front of the vines, these include yoga mornings, open mic afternoons, wood fire pizza evenings and an active wine club.

The cellar door and lawns are also available for private events, and Sanne is considering events such as cinema nights and a Winterfest for later in the year.

Artemis also produces Sunshack ciders, BEE Mead, Australia's first sparkling mead and one beer a year, and has branched out into food. I spend a very pleasant interlude in the cellar door, which looks out over the vines, tasting wines while devouring a Southern Highlands Tasting Board. Jane Brabon, team member and former owner of the Bowral Cheese Shop, gives me the rundown.

'Everything was chosen to accompany Artemis' wines and showcase local producers of the Highlands,' says Jane.

The extra virgin olive oil is from Scarlett Grove, free range salami from Redleaf Farm, smoked pepper ham from Polish deli Nasz Stolik and the relish is made by retired Werai chef, Ian Morphe. Even the balsamic reduction is made locally, by Jake Warwick, a team member who works in the vines and runs the pizza wood fire oven on Artemis pizza nights.

It is a delicious feast for two and although I am only one, I put quite a dent in it, as I enjoy Artemis's delicious Sparkling Riesling 2015, the cellar door's first sparkling. Cold and delicate, with wafts of apple, citrus and honey, it is delicious. It's clear talking to the Artemis team that hard work and innovation is at the heart of this business. And the team is not finished yet.

'We are considering going down the wedding track as a venue for couples wanting smaller more bespoke weddings,' says Sanne. 'We already do a lot of pre and post wedding get togethers, and there is no doubt the amount of weddings in the Highlands helps us with that. But we'd also like to think it's down to the name Artemis is making for itself.' ■

St. Maur

Southern Highlands Estate



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e: sallyscornerwines@bigpond.com
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Banjo's Run

Banjo's Run Winery and Bed & Breakfast

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www.banjosrun.com.au

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International award winning boutique wines, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio and Classic Chianti style Forest Red. Light meals, antipasto, focaccia, espresso, teas and gelatos available. Wine specials always available at Cellar Door. The newly released Premium Chardonnay 2016 recent award winner of the South Coast and Southern Highlands 2017 wine show. Open Friday-Sunday, Public holidays 9am-5pm.

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www.mcvittygrove.com.au 02 48785522



THE Wine Trail SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

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HIGH RANGE

FOOD & WINE | Cellar Door Trail

JOADJA

Joadja Rd

JELLORE
STATE FOREST

COLO VALE

South West Rd

14

13

3

Compton Park Rd

2

WILLOW VALE

WELBY

MITTAGONG

1

BOWRAL

Range Rd

MEDWAY

Medway Rd

BERRIMA

NEW
BERRIMA

BURRADOO

Cecil Hoskins
Nature Reserve

MOSS VALE

Kangaroo Rd

GLENQUAN

WINGECARRIBEE
RESERVOIR

12

S W Express Way

5

HODDLES
CROSSING

Canyouleigh Rd

10

Sallys Corner Rd

Ferrdale Rd

BUNDAN

PENROSE
STATE FOREST

PENROSE

Pewrose Rd

WINGELLO

1. Marist Wines
Cnr Old South & Bong Bong Rds,
Mittagong.
Open Sat-Sun 11-45pm. P:02
4872 1911

2. Artemis Wine
46 Sir Charles Moses Ln,
Mittagong.
Open Wed-Fri 10-4pm. W/ends
and P.Hols 10-5pm. P:02 4872 1311

3. Tertini Wines
Lot 5 Kells Creek Rd, Mittagong.
Open Thur-Mon 10-5pm. P:02
4878 5213

4. Centennial Vineyards
252 Centennial Rd, Bowral.
Open 7 days 10-5pm. P:02 4861
8722

**5. Cuttaway Hill Wines @ Eling
Forest**
12587 Hume Hwy, Sutton Forest.
Open 7 days 10.30-4.30pm.
P:0409 902 982

6. Sutton Forest Estate Wines
21 Black Horse Ln, Sutton Forest.
Open Fri-Sun & P.Hols 10-5pm.
P:02 4878 9278

**7. St Maur Southern Highlands
Estate**
Old Argyle Rd, Exeter.
Open Fri-Sun 10.30-4.30pm. P:02
4883 4401

8. Southern Highlands Wines
Cnr Oldbury Rd & Illawarra Hwy,
Sutton Forest.
Open Thur-Mon 11-5pm. P:02
4868 2300

9. Mount Ashby Estate
128 Nowra Rd, Moss Vale.
Open Thur-Sun & P.Hols 11-5pm.
P:02 4869 4792

10. Banjo's Run Vineyard
212 Sally's Corner Rd, Exeter.
Open W/ends and P.Hols 10-4pm.
P:0408 228 724

11. Bendooley Estate Cellar Door
3020 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima.
Open 7 days 10-5pm. P:02 487
2235

12. Cherry Tree Hill Wines
12324 Hume Hwy Sutton Forest.
Open Thur-Mon 10-5pm. P:0414
366 000

13. McVitty Grove
434 Wombeyan Caves Rd,
Mittagong.
Open Wed-Sun 10-4pm. P:02
4878 5522

14. Joadja Estate
110 Joadja Road, Berrima.
Open Weekends 10-5pm. Thur, Fri
& Mon 12-5pm P: 02 4878 5236

15. Eden Brewery
110 Joadja Road, Berrima.
Open Wed-Sun 12-5pm
P: 02 4855 2696

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Highlands
 Moss Vale
 Bowral
 Gibraltar
 Mt Broughton



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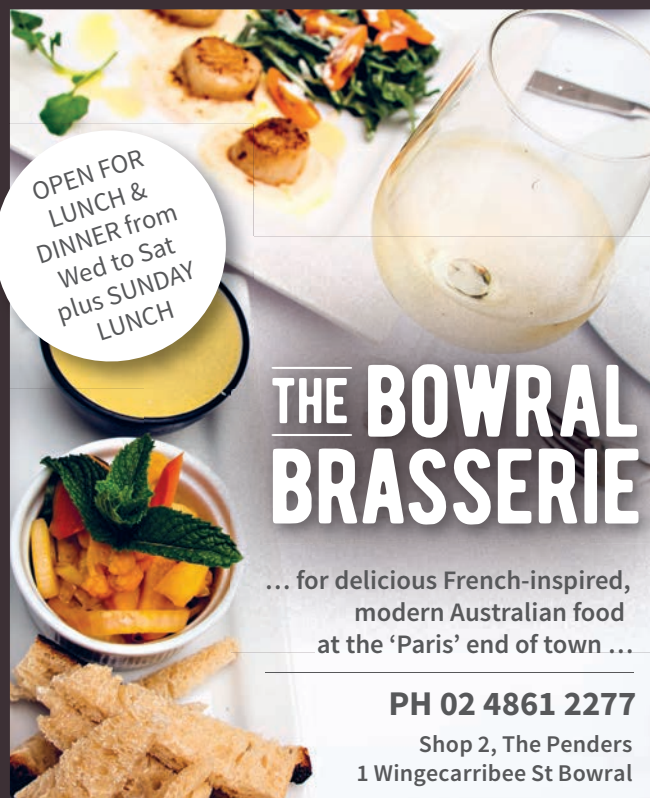
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The great outdoors

CHIRON'S GARDEN NASHI PEAR FARM IS A 40 HECTARE ORCHARD ON THE SIDE OF THE ROBERTSON ESCARPMENT. Part of the Robertson Food Cluster, the property is owned and run by the Lim family, and previously by the Jeffries family who farmed there for 30 years and established the orchard of more than 4,000 Asian Pear trees. The Lims use regenerative practices on the farm and also produce cider, geese and ducks. They hold Open Farm Days during pear harvest season, when visitors can join a pear cider crush and meet local fixture Dice, seen here posing happily in front of his trees.

Open Farm Days - first Sunday of every month until May. 277 Fountaindale Rd, Robertson; 0422 000 770, plim@people.net.au



IMAGE: ELISE HASSEY



Justin Longhurst has joined the Welby team with over 24 years experience in running a garden centre in the Southern Highlands.

Welby offers an extensive range of trees shrubs perennials all suitable for the local area.

The annual Welby Autumn Sale is on from 25th March till 9th April with 20% off Roses and Deciduous trees a great saving and time to plant. Spring bulbs and organic garlic now in stock.



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Old Hume Hwy, Welby

Entry to nursery via Berrima St

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www.welbygardencentre.com.au

Operated by Challenge Southern Highlands providing employment and training for people with disabilities.

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Mt Broughton Golf and Country Club is a naturally beautiful site where lush greens, natural waterways and wide fairways combine with skilled design to create a truly memorable golfing experience.

Located deep in the heart of the Southern Highlands, Mt Broughton Golf and Country Club opened in November 1994 and rapidly gained a reputation as one of the country's **top 100 golf courses**.

Less than **90 minutes from Sydney's CBD**, the course has become popular with golfers of all levels for its alluring surroundings and challenging fairways.

We have a number of tee positions that enable golfers of all levels to enjoy the course and their day which includes the black tees for the lower handicap golfer.

Mt Broughton Golf and Country Club provides an impressive array of facilities.

The clubhouse itself is a picture-perfect tribute to the courses Scottish heritage and the second floor balcony provides the ideal vantage point from which to absorb the views and watch the players complete their round.



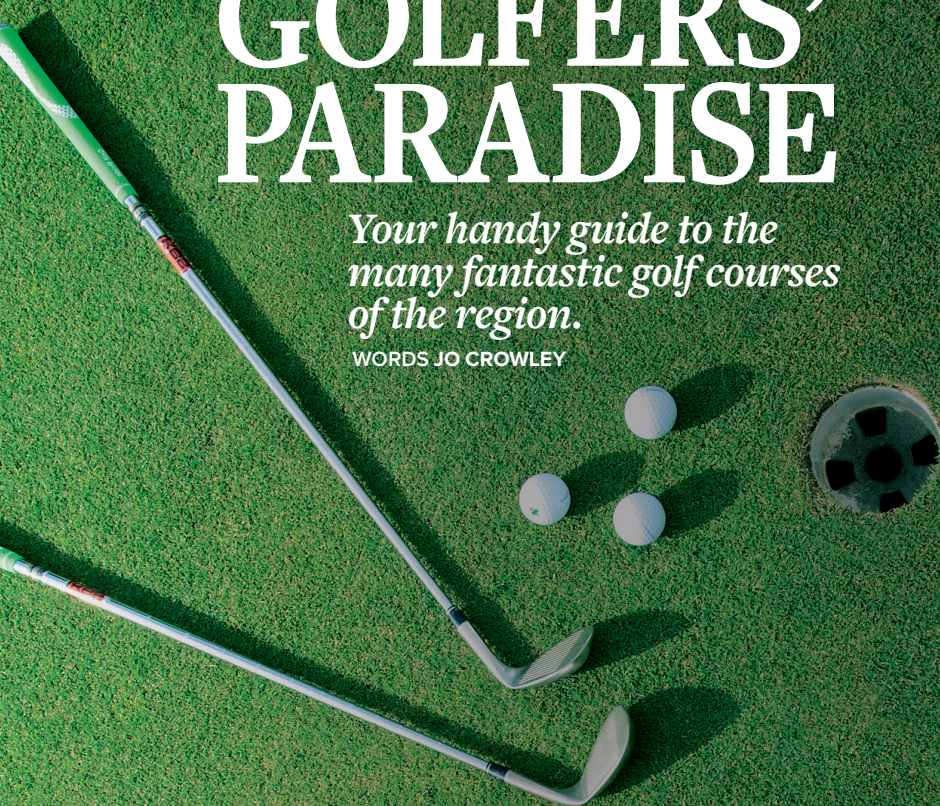
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GOLFERS' PARADISE

Your handy guide to the many fantastic golf courses of the region.

WORDS JO CROWLEY



Bowral Golf Club

18 holes – par 69
Kangaloon Road, Bowral

Open to the public seven days including competitions. Bookings essential.

Professional: Kevin Kenny and Daryl Purchase

Cost to play: Visitor \$38.50, twilight \$20. Clubs and carts available to hire.

Lessons: \$50 individual. Groups and beginner clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 18th – 409m, par 4. A narrow fairway with a 240m carry off the back tee to get over the water, then uphill to a sloping green.

Toughest green: 16th.

Two bunkers and a right-to-left slope.

Additional facilities: Putting green, practice area, croquet lawn. Full club and bar facilities.

Functions catered for.

Contact: 4861 1042;
bowralgolfclub.com.au

Gibraltar Country Club

18 holes – par 70
Boronia Street, Bowral

Open to the public seven days around competitions. Bookings essential.

Professional: Tony White

Cost to play: Weekday \$35; weekend \$40

Lessons: Groups and beginner clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 9th – 380m, par 4. Uphill all the way.

Toughest green: 2nd. A tough slope back-to-front and bunkered on the right.

Additional facilities: Putting green, practice area, full club and bar facilities. Driving range and aqua range facilities available. Functions catered for.

Contact: 4862 8615;
gibraltarbowral.com.au

Peppers Craigieburn

9 holes – par 32
Centennial Road, Bowral

Open to the public seven days.

Cost to play: \$15 for 9 holes.

Clubs available for hire.

Lessons: On request.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 4th – 180m, par 3. Up a hill and over a ridge. To make par you can have only one shot on the approach to the green.

Toughest green: 4th.

Needs a good approach.

Additional facilities: Full club and bar facilities. Functions and conferences catered for. Luxury accommodation available at Peppers Craigieburn.

Contact: 4862 8000;
peppers.com.au/craigieburn

Penrose Golf Club

9 holes – par 31
Kareela Road, Penrose

Open to the public seven days.

Cost to play: \$17 for 9 or 18

holes. Clubs and carts available for hire. Guests of Sylvan Glen play for free.

Lessons: Residential golf school.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 5th. Plays over water to a narrow green with a steep face

Toughest green: 5th. Rolls back to front with a steep bank

Additional facilities: Coffee shop. Accommodation and function facilities are available at the Sylvan Glen Country House.

Contact: 4884 4306;
sylvanglen.com.au

Mt Broughton Golf And Country Club

18 holes – par 72
Kater Road, Sutton Forest

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Professional: Larry Canning

Cost to play: Weekday \$50, weekend \$70. Clubs and carts available for hire.

Lessons: \$50 per hour.

Groups and clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Strictly no denim.

Hardest hole: 2nd – 227m, a long par 3 with lots of water. Often plays into the wind.

Toughest green: 15th. Slopes right to left and guarded by two big bunkers.

Additional facilities: Full driving range, chipping and putting practice areas. Full club and bar facilities. Functions catered for by Southern Highland Wines. Accommodation available at Peppers Manor House.
Contact: 4868 3200;
mtbroughton.com.au

Highlands Golf Club

18 holes – par 70
Old Hume Highway, Mittagong

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Professional: Scott Martyn

Cost to play: Weekday \$29, weekend \$35. Clubs and carts available to hire.

Lessons: \$55 per half hour.

Groups and clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 6th – a long 390m drive slightly uphill to a raised green guarded by fairway bunkers.

Toughest green: 14th.

Features treacherous slopes to the left and right.

Additional facilities: Full club-fitting service, putting green, full club and bar facilities.

Functions catered for.

Contact: 4871 3274;
highlandsgolfclub.com.au

Moss Vale Golf Club

18 holes – par 71
Arthur Street, Moss Vale

Open to the public seven days around competitions. Bookings essential.

Professional: Davyd Reeves

Cost to play: 18 holes

– \$35. Clubs and carts available for hire.

Lessons: From \$50. Groups and clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 18th – 378m, par 4. Dogleg hole turning left around a large gumtree with a natural waterway in front of the green.

Toughest green: 14th.

Very undulating with a bunker to the left.

Additional facilities: Practice facilities include driving range, golf simulators, nets and putting green; and the pro shop provides an advanced club-fitting service. The clubhouse bistro opens for lunch six days and dinner on Friday nights. Restaurant and bar, and accommodation, are also available at adjoining Dormie House.

Contact: 4868 1503;
mossvalegolfclub.com.au

Kangaroo Valley Golf And Country Resort

18 holes – par 71
Mt Scanzi Road,
Kangaroo Valley

Open to the public seven days; both members and visitors are welcome to play in competitions.

Cost to play: Weekday \$55, weekend \$65.

Includes motorised cart hire. Clubs and additional carts available for hire.

Lessons: On request.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 7th – par 4.

Difficult driving hole with narrow fairway which rolls right to left. Second shot is up a steep incline and the green has two tiers.

Toughest green: 13th. Slopes back to front with two tiers.

Additional facilities: Practice fairway, chipping and putting practice areas.


Full club and bar facilities.

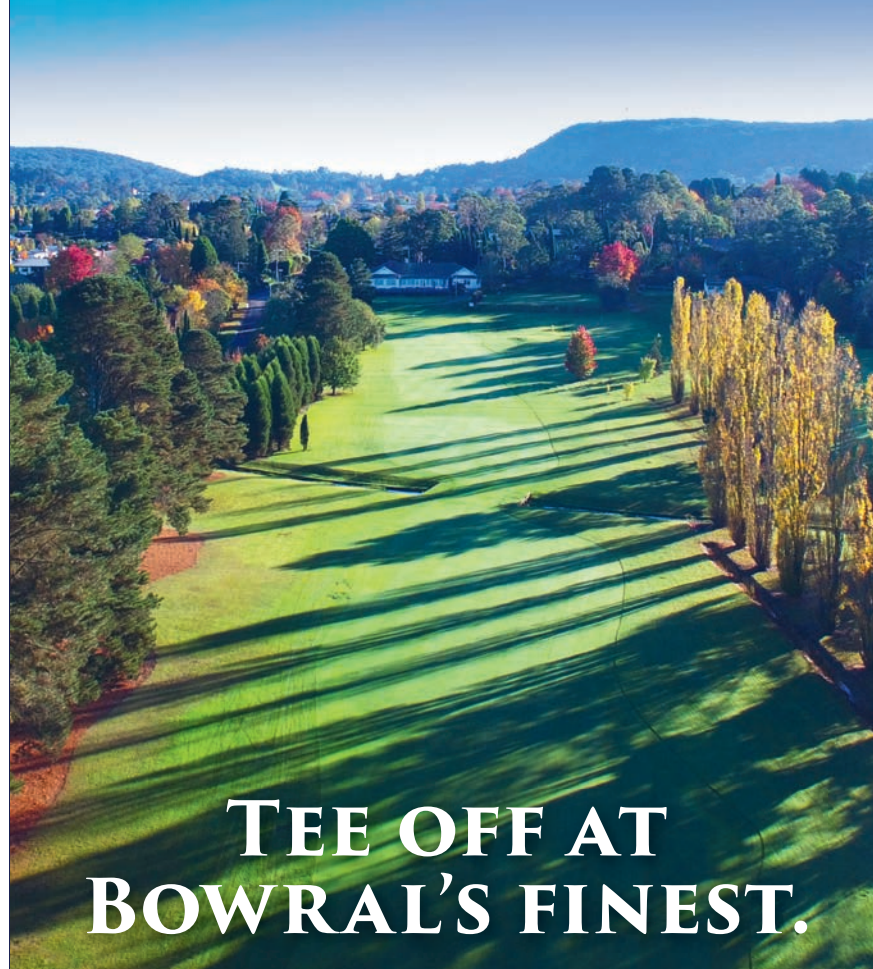
Functions and conferences catered for. Accommodation is available in rustic wood cabins and luxury two and three bedroom villas located right around the resort.

Contact: 4465 0200;
kangaroovalegolf.com.au

19TH HOLE

Is this one of the best kept secrets of the Highlands?

Open for lunch six days a week, Shotz Bistro offers great food, and million dollar views over Moss Vale's championship course, designed by the late great golf pro and course architect Carneige Clark. Sink a few quiet ones at the bar and watch the balls fly. Perfect end to a day's work. 



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IN A LUSH PICTURESQUE
SETTING CLOSE TO
BOWRAL'S TOWN CENTRE.

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Visitors are invited to enjoy the ambience of a club 115 years in the making or indulge in lunch or a glass of wine while you appreciate the warmth of the log fire when toasting the day or sit on the terrace and enjoy the view.

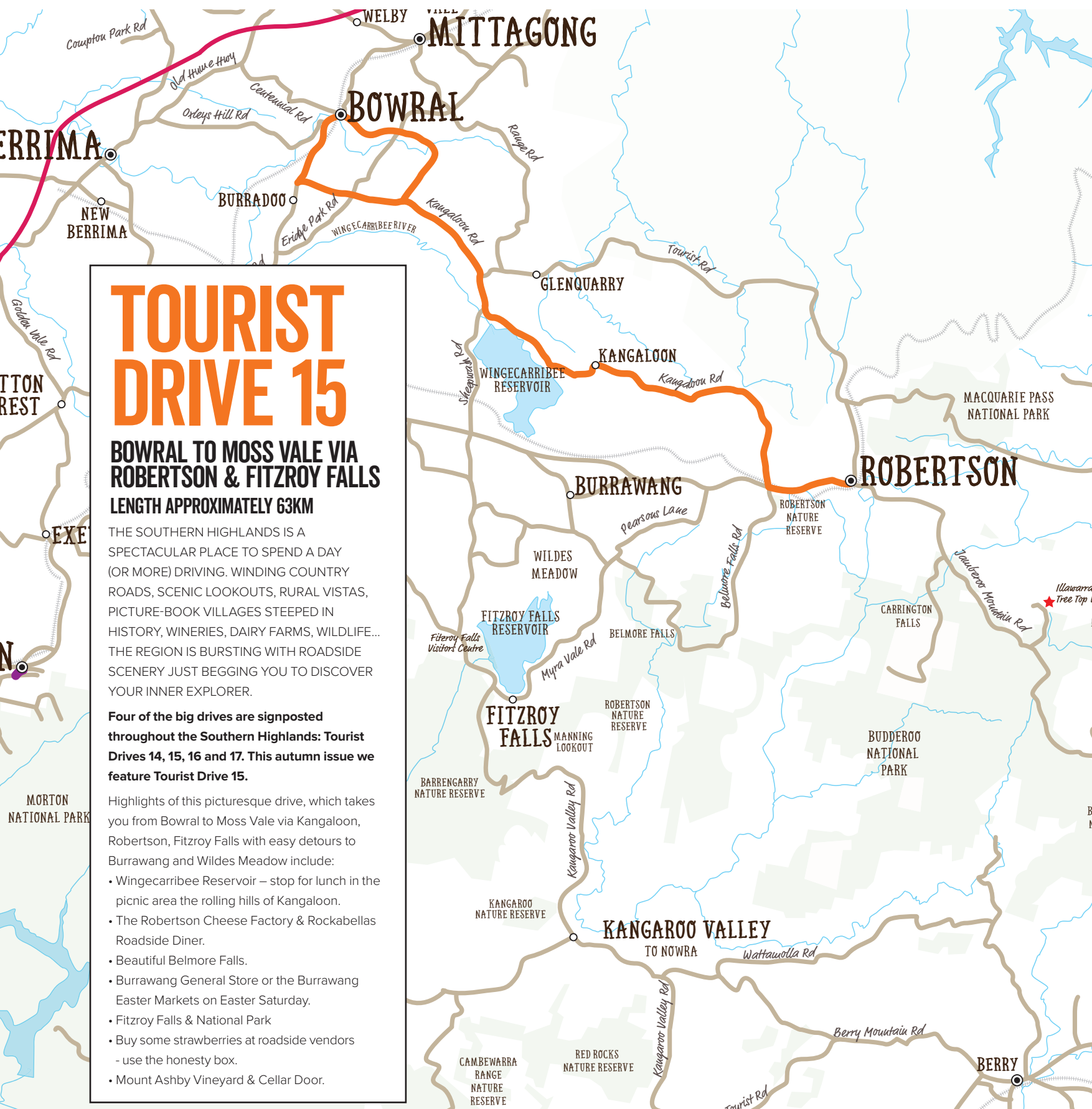
Memberships available.



BOWRAL GOLF CLUB

Enquires to admin@bowralgolfclub.com.au
or call Kevin Kenny 4861 1042

Cnr Kangaloon Road and David Street, Bowral, NSW 2576
www.bowralgolfclub.com.au



TOURIST DRIVE 15

BOWRAL TO MOSS VALE VIA ROBERTSON & FITZROY FALLS LENGTH APPROXIMATELY 63KM

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS IS A SPECTACULAR PLACE TO SPEND A DAY (OR MORE) DRIVING. WINDING COUNTRY ROADS, SCENIC LOOKOUTS, RURAL VISTAS, PICTURE-BOOK VILLAGES STEEPED IN HISTORY, WINERIES, DAIRY FARMS, WILDLIFE... THE REGION IS BURSTING WITH ROADSIDE SCENERY JUST BEGGING YOU TO DISCOVER YOUR INNER EXPLORER.

Four of the big drives are signposted throughout the Southern Highlands: Tourist Drives 14, 15, 16 and 17. This autumn issue we feature Tourist Drive 15.

Highlights of this picturesque drive, which takes you from Bowral to Moss Vale via Kangaroo, Robertson, Fitzroy Falls with easy detours to Burrawang and Wildes Meadow include:

- Wingecarribee Reservoir – stop for lunch in the picnic area the rolling hills of Kangaroo.
- The Robertson Cheese Factory & Rockabellas Roadside Diner.
- Beautiful Belmore Falls.
- Burrawang General Store or the Burrawang Easter Markets on Easter Saturday.
- Fitzroy Falls & National Park
- Buy some strawberries at roadside vendors - use the honesty box.
- Mount Ashby Vineyard & Cellar Door.



THE DRIVE

Head east from the Kangaloon Road roundabout in Bowral. Pass Bong Bong Racecourse on your right and turn left onto Kangaloon Road. The Wingecarribee Reservoir and picnic area is on your right. Wind your way up the hillside and pass sheep and cattle grazing on emerald green pasture. Proceed into the villages of Kangaloon and East Kangaloon. Look out for the old church and cemetery. Dry stone walls are a feature of this area. From here the road winds its way into the township of Robertson. Buy the Highlands best gelato at the Old Robertson Cheese Factory or enjoy a chimichanga at Rockabellas Roadside Diner, or a drink at The Robertson Inn. Follow the tourist signs down Pearsons Lane to Belmore Falls, one of the three scenic waterfalls in the area and Hindmarsh Lookout. Detour to the beautiful villages of Wildes Meadow and Burrawang. Back on the Tourist Drive motor to Fitzroy Falls and walk to see the falls nearby. Continue onto Moss Vale but make sure to call into Mount Ashby Vineyard and pick up a bottle of local wine to take home as a delicious memento. 🍷





Geoff Jansz

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anyone drawn to excellence.*

Geoff Jansz will personally present **on his Burradoo Farm**, inspirational and educational sessions featuring rare and elite ingredients.

Coerced from the cellars, ageing rooms and secret nooks of Australia's leading artisan producers, top notch produce is beautifully prepared and expertly explained, before a sumptuous tasting session. Sessions can be tailored to your group of food obsessed friends or colleagues on conference.



Maximum number 20 Guests
Enquiries: office@geoffjansz.com.au



#bringingbowralbacktothefuture

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WORDS CARLA OFFORD

IF YOU ARE TASKED WITH ORGANISING YOUR COMPANY'S NEXT CORPORATE CONFERENCE, MEETING OR EVENT, THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGION HAS **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS.**

Venues offer tailor made solutions to make each experience memorable, reflecting the region's reputation for its warm and generous hospitality. Whether you need a luxurious high-end meeting experience for your company's VIPs, a private and exclusive base for a sales conference or simply a convenient and well resourced meeting point to use on a regular basis, you will find it all here and don't just take our word for it!

Sylvan Glen



Milton Park Country House Hotel & Spa

Company: DHL Express

Event: 2017 Planning & review meeting

Duration: 2 days 1 night

Delegates 10 x Senior Management VIPs

Conference Capacity: 200

Number of accommodation

Rooms: 54

Full day package: From \$70.00

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5 function rooms

3 Restaurants & private dining

Wellness Spa

Gymnasium

Tennis Court

Indoor Swimming pool

Billiard Room

Team Building

Wi Fi

The VIP Experience

Following an easy drive from Sydney, delegates were greeted on their arrival at the esteemed Milton Park Country House Hotel, by sprawling World Heritage listed gardens and a Grand Luxurious Country Manor immediately inducing a sense of exclusivity and style from a bygone era.

On entry to the main house business suddenly seemed a world away, given the inviting warmth of beautifully furnished sitting rooms, cozy fireplaces, charming antiques, the impressive Polo Bar and the well appointed French Provincial meets Grand Country Manor interiors throughout - including the irresistible accommodation rooms, as discovered on check in.

A short stroll to the conference centre saw delegates arrive at Elms II conference room. Boasting floor to ceiling windows and views to the bluebell wood and expansive gardens, the room also features quality climate & lighting control, high speed Airstream Wi-Fi, screens, projectors and flip charts, and an all important fully automatic Nespresso coffee machine and outdoor terrace.

Superb catering complimented the great facilities, with 'Chef's selection' healthy morning and afternoon teas, delicious lunch offerings such as navarin of lamb, grilled Atlantic salmon with caperberry cream, classic beef bourguignon, with seasonal vegetables and to finish, French pear tarts and delicate creme brulee.





FEATURE SUPPLIED BY:  The Conference Shop
Australia's largest online marketplace

Following Day 1 of the rather intense 'think tank' a welcomed pre dinner drink at the gentrified Polo Bar was enjoyed, and then it was on to Hordens Fine Dining a la Carte Restaurant. Here, Executive Chef, Matthew Byrnes and his passionate team, wove their magic on some French classics such as soufflé, crepinette, confit Duck and slow cooked wagyu beef cheeks with a bordelaise sauce, not forgetting the sweet offerings such as tonka bean scented pannacotta, poached meringue and chilled chocolate fondant. All, of course, matched with local, Australian and International wines selected by the in house sommelier.

In the early morning hours of the following day, some delegates found themselves enjoying the tranquillity of the hotel's stunning indoor swimming pool, the relaxing steam room and well equipped gymnasium - a wonderful way to prepare for the day ahead and all included in the accommodation rate.



A repeat of Day 1, complete with consistently good service, inspiring surroundings and five star catering, Day 2 wrapped up at 4pm and the meeting was deemed to be productive and most enjoyable by those who attended.

Nikki Garlick – EA to Senior VP Express, Oceania commented, "The food, service and facilities offered by Milton Park were exceptional! All of our Senior Management team thoroughly loved the venue and were very happy with the outcome of the event and how accessible the location was."



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James Hone – CEO of Bluefin Resources says “Sylvan Glen put on a great event for us. There are always high expectations from my staff for our annual Sales Conference, and I think it’s fair to say that Sylvan Glen didn’t disappoint. The food, hospitality and accommodation were exceptional. The staff rated it as the best sales conference we’ve ever had.”

Sylvan Glen

Company: Bluefin Resources
 Event: Christmas in July 2016
 Sales Conference
 Duration: 2 days 1 night
 Delegates: 40

Exclusive use Conference
 capacity: 30
 Accommodation rooms: 20
 Day Delegate Rate from \$69.00

ON SITE FACILITIES:

Coffee Shop
 Multiple Function Rooms
 9 hole golf course
 Alfresco BBQ and Pizza Oven
 Pool table
 Tennis court
 Team building
 Wi-Fi

The Exclusive Experience

When one of Sydney’s leading recruitment firms, needed a private retreat for exclusive use to host their annual sales conference, they looked no further than Sylvan Glen. Nestled in the small village of Penrose, this gorgeous country guesthouse set on 60 picturesque acres, boasts a rich and varied history dating back to the 1870s.

As the coach pulled up outside the guesthouse at 9.30am on day one, the smell of bacon rolls and fresh coffee greeted keen delegates – instilling the thought that the next two days were to be filled with some wonderful country hospitality and personal touches.

On entering the charm filled guesthouse, there was a feeling of being transported back in time to a typical family home from yesteryear, with a modern twist. This feeling continued past lounge areas filled with an eclectic array of antiques and charismatic decor, open fire places, pool table, beautiful decked verandah and on into the individually decorated bedrooms, all with en suites.

When it was time to ‘face the agenda’ of the day a light filled and well equipped conference room with timber and checkerboard floor, panelled walls, huge windows overlooking the golf course and modern amenities, set the stage for a successful event.

A delicious lunch of local produce was served in the onsite coffee shop before the team went outdoors for some competitive laser clay pigeon pursuits and fresh air on the first fairway. The strategic team building activities continued into the afternoon before delegates enjoyed some well earned wine tasting!

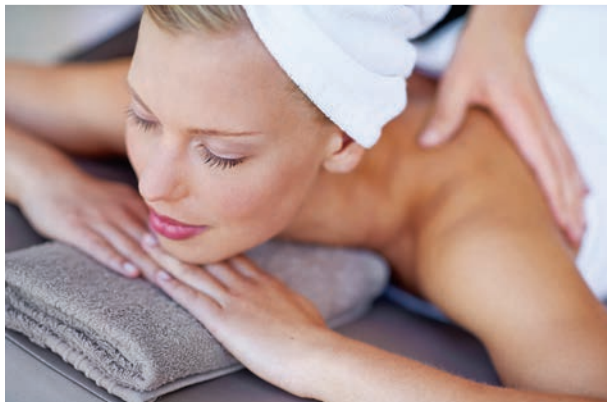
The dinner that evening was themed ‘Christmas in July’ complete with ‘hideous’ Christmas jumpers and a sumptuous feast of fresh asparagus soup, turkey with all the festive trimmings and classic desserts of homemade sherry trifle and Christmas pudding with brandy sauce. A DJ kept the delegates dancing late into the evening.

Day 2 saw a morning forecasting meeting, finished with a serving of a generous, mouth watering morning tea and then as the old saying goes “all good things must come to an end”, the delegates jumped back on the bus and headed back to reality.



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Mittagong RSL

Company: NSW Corporate Credit Services

Event: Monthly Meeting

Duration: 1 day

Delegates: 8

Conference Capacity: 400

Day Delegate rate from \$69.00

Accommodation rooms: 71

ON SITE FACILITIES:

5 Function Rooms

AV and presentation equipment.

Wi-Fi

Refurbished dining precinct

A Convenient Meeting Place

If your goal is to simply and efficiently get things done, then you really can't go past Mittagong RSL. Just over 1 hour from Sydney, 90 minutes from Canberra and 45 minutes from Wollongong, it ticks all the boxes for delegates from surrounding regions to meet up. Following a massive \$8 million refurbishment, this versatile venue is ideal for conferences and has been delivering a simple and economical solution to this loyal client for the past 15 years.

On arrival at 8.45am delegates made their way to the Lennai Suite, a private and quiet room where a u-shaped meeting table was fully set with the days stationary requirements and tea and coffee at the ready.

Time efficiency is key for the 5 hour meeting that was in store for the day, so a morning tea of delicious scones and working buffet lunch were served in the room as minimal interruption was required.

The Head Chef was trusted to select the lunch offering of the day: two hot dishes, seasonal steamed vegetables, rice and crunchy bread rolls. On this day, the chef prepared a Thai red chicken curry and Mongolian lamb and delegates were not disappointed!



At 2pm the meeting came to a close, job done easily once again, until next time...

Jan Burgess – Meeting Organiser and Small Business Owner says, 'Mittagong RSL meets all my requirements it is conveniently located for Sydney and Canberra, there is accommodation available if necessary and plenty of parking. More importantly are the quiet, private function rooms. The staff are always extremely polite and happy to be there for us and the catering is of excellent quality and plentiful! The fact that I have continued to hold my meetings at Mittagong RSL for in excess of fifteen years is testament to the quality of this venue and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to anyone.'

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LEFT Sylvan Glen ABOVE Milton Park

VENUES WITH ACCOMMODATION		CONFERENCE CAPACITIES						
	Accommodation (no. of rooms)	Boardroom	U shape	Classroom	Theatre	Cabaret	Banquet	Cocktail
Berida Hotel, Bowral	42	26	22	60	100	30	60	120
Briars, Bowral	32	40	30	80	120	80	150	180
Bundanoon Country Inn Motel	21	24	36	60	60	60	60	60
Milton Park, Bowral	46	45	75	150	300	130	200	250
Peppers Craigieburn	72	50	60	120	200	130	180	200
Peppers Manor House, Sutton Forest	43	40	38	80	120	40	60	140
Links House, Bowral	17	X	25	30	40	X	40	60
Mittagong RSL	71	80	80	200	450	200	350	500
Dormie House, Moss Vale	32	40	30	60	120	45	90	140
Killarney House, Bundanoon	15	16	25	30	60	25	40	70
Bundanoon Guest House	16	34	30	25	60	20	40	60
Sylvan Glen, Penrose	20	40	45	60	50	60	100	100

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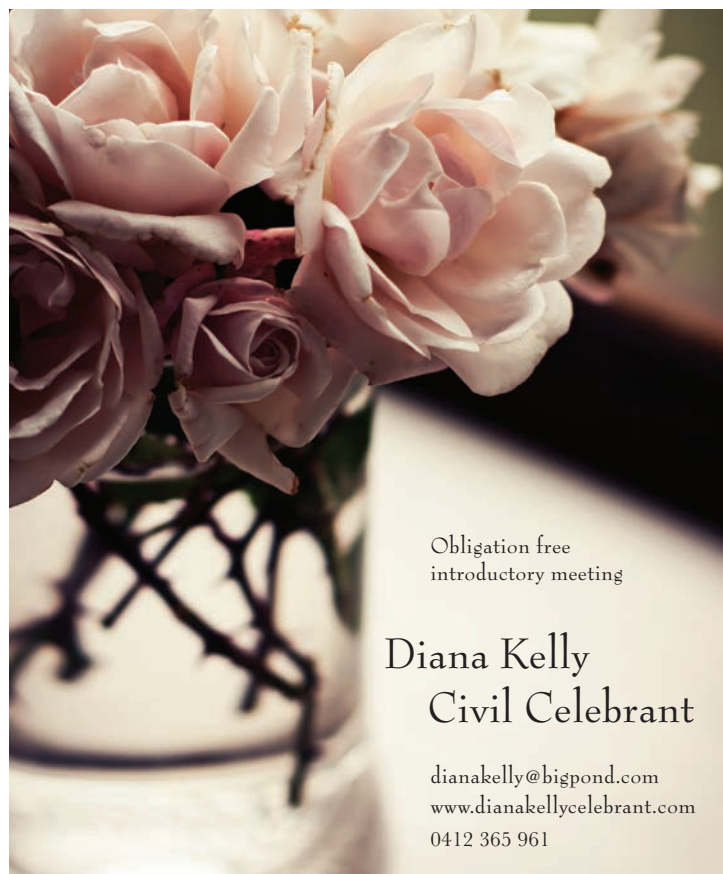
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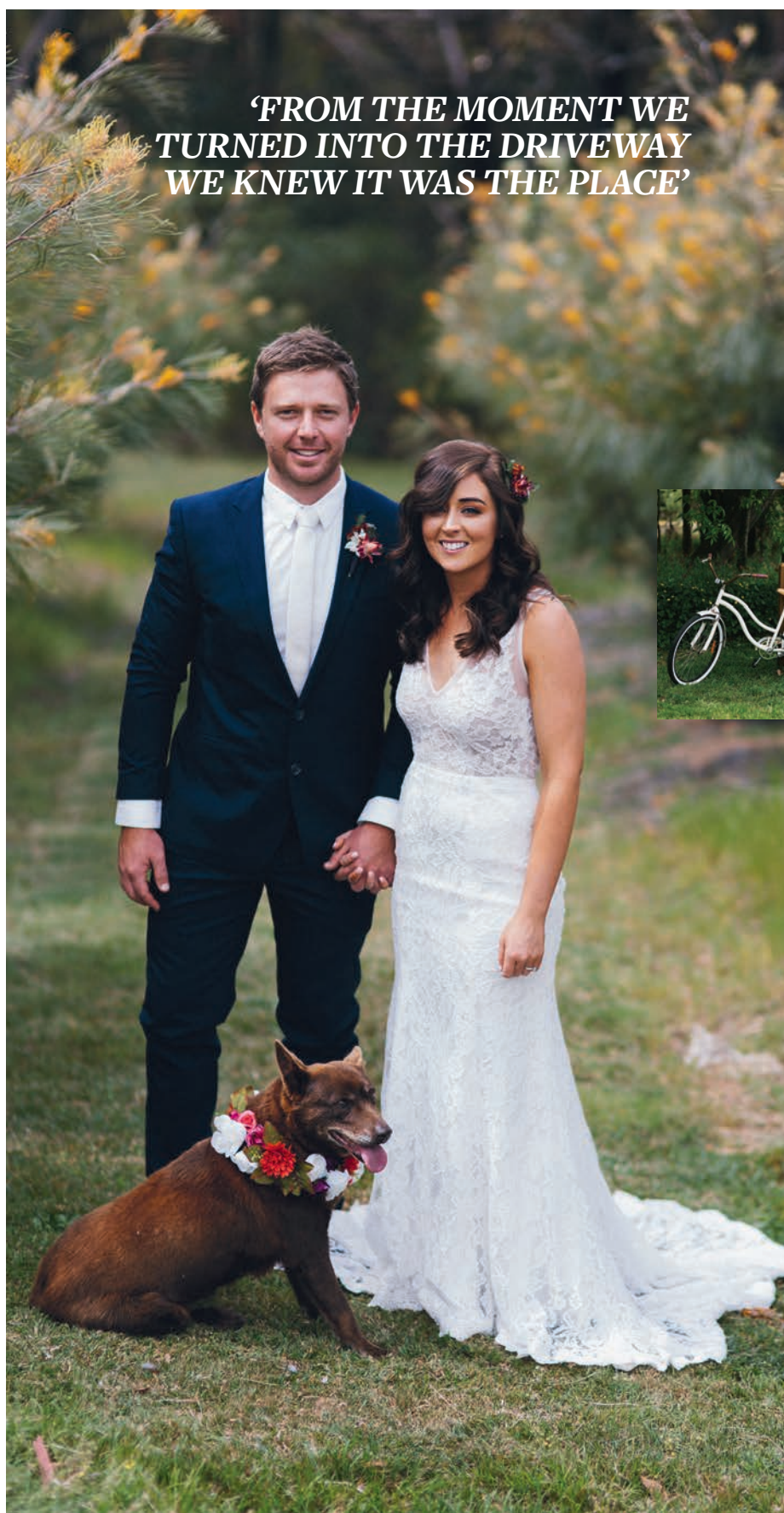
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**'FROM THE MOMENT WE
TURNED INTO THE DRIVEWAY
WE KNEW IT WAS THE PLACE'**



Kylie and Matt Radnidge are not the sort of people who like a lot of attention. As long-time zookeepers at Matt's family's business, Symbio Wildlife Park at Helensburgh between Sydney and Wollongong, their days are spent caring for the zoo's 500 full-time residents.

'Working within a wildlife park is very rewarding but hard work emotionally, mentally and physically,' says Kylie. 'It's a job you can't switch off from as caring for animals is a 365-day commitment. Symbio is not only our office, we live on-site so it's our home too. Work is not a job. It's a lifestyle.'

Kylie joined the zoo in 2008, and the pair became an item in 2011.

'Matt was a great mentor and a hard worker. I always admired him. We were both dedicated to work, and had a lot in common. What we didn't realise was many of our nearest and dearest had been waiting for us to date for years.'

The couple became engaged while on safari in South Africa. Once home, they began looking for relaxed, casual, dog-friendly venues.

'After receiving quote after quote from expensive venues, we were beginning to doubt we could afford a wedding. We also knew we wanted an outdoor wedding in a more casual setting, with either a barn or marquee.' ►

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PHOTOGRAPHER

Thomas Stewart
thomasstewart.com.au

They came across Growwild by chance. A visit to the farm near Alpine, ten minutes from Mittagong and an hour's drive from Sydney, ticked all their boxes.

'From the moment we turned into the driveway we knew it was the place,' recalls Kylie. 'Matt particularly loves Australian natives so everything about Growwild was exactly what we wanted and more.'

Growwild is a working native flower farm that supplies the Sydney market, started by locals Peter and Sue Stewart in 2006. Set on 10 hectares it has a barn, a marquee and plenty of space for weddings. Importantly, says Kylie, Sue and Peter accommodated Jess, their kelpie.

'We knew we wouldn't be able to incorporate any animals from Symbio in our big day, but we had to have Jess because she's a big part of lives. Peter even helped look after her during the ceremony.'

The couple booked Growwild for three days, enabling family and friends to help set up, and pack down the day after the wedding.

'Growwild let us create what we wanted,' says Kylie. 'We didn't have the funds for a stylist, so everyone mucked in and helped bring our ideas to life. Nothing was formal. We all spent the morning getting ready together, and we did bridal photographs before the ceremony so we could relax afterwards. It was just a really wonderful day. I think our family and friends loved it almost as much as we did.' ■





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WORDS ALEX SPEED IMAGES ELISE HASSEY





LOCATION
Banjo's Run, Exeter

PHOTOGRAPHY
Elise Hassey

TENTS
Me Jane Campout

STYLING
*Tash Perkins of Golden
Birdie & Jane Quinn*

PROPS
*Mr&Mrs Munro; Mossy
Store; Fond Industries;
Wombat Hollow; Golden
Birdie and Braus Haus*

Jane Quinn hadn't been back in the Southern Highlands long when she saw a big opportunity to open the region's first luxury pop-up glamping business.

A consummate hospitality professional who spent ten years living in the Maldives developing luxury spa resorts, Jane became a Highlands eco-tourism forerunner when she identified the growing trend of glamping 'glamorous camping in nature' and started Me Jane Campout. Jane, who grew up in Bowral comes from a family of Highlands hospitality pioneers. Her parents opened The Bowral Cafe in the 1980s. Her idea for a luxury bell tent company with all the bells and whistles came while working on an opulent spa development on a deserted Indian Ocean island.

'My former husband and I were working together developing Amilla Fushi, an exclusive island destination in the Maldives built on a virgin atoll and reached by either seaplane or speedboat,' recalls Jane.

'I bought a tepee for us to live in while the development was ongoing but unfortunately my marriage ended and I returned to live in Australia with my three children. However, I've always had a passion for nomadic living so I think that's where the idea of Me Jane Campout grew from. That's certainly where the passion came from; finding the freedom to remove yourself from modern life and really immerse yourself in nature if only for a short time. That to my mind has always appealed as true luxury.'

Me Jane Campout has operated since 2015 on some of the Highlands most private, prestigious and picture perfect properties. Places like Banjo's Run Vineyard, Exeter, and Wombat Hollow, the idyllic bush home of Michael and Susie Yabsley. Jane's focus is on weddings, festivals and milestone events and celebrations. The long-term vision is to provide pop-up accommodation to hotels at peak times of high season.

'As soon as we moved home to the Highlands I saw there was a real need for beds during peak times, and I think glamping and eco-tourism is an innovation in tourism that is so well suited to our beautiful countryside,' says Jane.



'In my line of work I have always been interested in encouraging people to give themselves a digital detox and get back to nature. So Me Jane Campout is all about fusing that primal need to immerse yourself in the great outdoors without forgoing luxury.'

Nothing if not glamorous (see our cover shot on location at Banjo's Run Vineyard, Exeter) all glamping stays are bespoke and tailor-made to guests requirements. First class comfort is guaranteed. 'When you spend 11 years helping create award winning resorts like Sanak Retreat Bali, and judging the World's best Asian spas and resorts you know what guests want and expect,' says Jane. 'Things like beautiful Egyptian linen, feather doonas, exclusivity, space, every aspect of their stay planned and thought out.'

No request is too great or small, says Jane. Power generators, personal chefs, arrival by helicopter, even an outdoor hot-tub. She's done it all.

'Anything is possible with planning and know-how,' says Jane. 'My aim with each guest is to awaken their inner child. There is nothing more romantic than waking up in a beautiful tent in a beautiful location with the one you love, and watching the sunrise.'





Katrina Sparke knows all about remarkable accommodation in beautiful locations. The Highlands farmer, graphic designer and mother of four, and her husband Sam have just completed an exceptional luxury accommodation project: Carriage 1238.

‘This was one of those whims that Sam and I came together on that has worked,’ says Katrina. ‘In the beginning it was a crazy undertaking but I am thrilled now because it is so beautiful and I think it’s a new experience that people coming to the Highlands will just love staying in.’

A former passenger train that worked the South Coast and Southern Highlands line until the 1970s, Katrina found the dilapidated red rattler in a backyard in Bega on Gumtree. When it arrived in late 2015 ‘it was held together with paint and sticky-tape and good luck’. It now sits happily on their property Redleaf Farm, near Moss Vale.

Hundreds of hours of hard work by Katrina stripping, sanding, painting, welding, sewing, and salvaging has restored Carriage 1238 to a new life as a unique, self-contained exclusive two person Highlands getaway. There is now a beautiful kitchen dining room with in-period features such as polished silky oak panels and brass luggage racks. There is a refurbished shower room and loo.

Former dog-boxes have been converted to a dressing room, sitting room and a luxurious master bedroom with the finest Egyptian cotton bedding and woolly throws, drapes and strategically placed earplugs for those not acquainted with the early animal wake-up calls of a working farm. Redleaf produces free-range pork, lamb and beef, and supplies acclaimed Sydney restaurants ARIA, 4Fourteen, Chiswick and gourmet butcher Victor Churchill. Sam built a beautiful deck off the front of the carriage. There is a BBQ and an original 1920s luggage trolley that acts as a daybed with luxurious Redleaf monogrammed blankets. It catches the sunset out over paddocks busy with free-range chooks, and is open for bookings.

Katrina has already begun work on her next project, Carriage 343. Located a kilometre away, up among Redleaf’s Silky Gums and still on wheels, Katrina says this former guards’ carriage will be as luxurious, solar powered and will sleep four.

‘The whole idea behind this project was to make coming to stay here a beautiful rustic experience. I want to take guests back to the days of overnight train travel. When catching a train was a true adventure. A journey to another destination.’ ►



Transporting guests to another world is also what organisers of the Highlands newest outdoor luxury experience, WILDFest is all about. To be held on a 400 hectare property in Joadja April 21, 22 and 23rd, WILDFest offers guests five-star service, paddock to plate dining, remote luxury camping and bespoke eco-adventures. Guests can sign up to a premium three day accommodation glamping package, and choose from 10 tailor-made adventure activities such as escarpment abseiling or canoeing the Shoalhaven River in a canoe tailor made for four with canapes and Southern Highlands sparkling wines provided. Or simply join in the festival's dinner under the stars, Wild Feast on International Earth Day.

'Guests are greeted with a tiara and gloves for the ladies and top hat and tails for the gentlemen as we set forth into the woods for a seven course native food extravaganza prepared by celebrated local and guest chefs,' says WILDFest founder Amanda Fry.

'WILDFest is a celebration of Southern Highlands nature through soul-stirring authentic activities. And as nature is unpredictable, and exciting we mix in the whimsical to craft truly exceptional moments.' ■



DETAILS

mejanecampout.com
redleaf-farm.com
wildfest.com.au

IMAGE: WILDFEST



The Robertson

H O T E L



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BURRAWANG EASTER MARKET



AS THE REST OF US EAT TOO MANY HOT CROSS BUNS AND ORGANISE EASTER EGG HUNTS FOR THE KIDS, SPARE A THOUGHT COME **EASTER SATURDAY FOR THE GOOD FOLK OF BURRAWANG** AS THEY PREPARE FOR AN ONSLAUGHT OF THOUSANDS TO DESCEND UPON THEIR VILLAGE, POPULATION ABOUT 250.

Rob MacDonald, chairman of Burrawang Easter Market, estimates approximately 9,000 visitors showed up at last year's market and expectations are high for huge crowds again this year. Not that the locals are complaining. Far from it as monies raised go towards supporting great causes, the local primary school and The Burrawang School of Arts.

But in order to ensure the whole event doesn't descend into a logistical nightmare with the highway into Burrawang blocked and traffic into the hilltop village at an unholy standstill, much planning and foresight is required.

'The leg work is divided among many of the village groups,' says Rob. 'In the past few years the Hockey club has run parking at the oval in conjunction with the oval committee but the set up and volunteering is done by a wide range of volunteers from the community.'

This shot was taken by photographer Meg Nurse, who jumped at the chance of capturing some aerial photos of the market several years ago. Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban, who have a home in the Highlands, were amongst the thousands who attended that year perhaps accounting for the bottleneck at the top of Meg's photograph.

Celebrity spotting aside, Burrawang Easter Market is a wonderful Highlands day out with more than 150 stallholders selling everything from arts and crafts, locally grown food produce, clothing, jewellery, and visitors enjoying the event from far and wide.

'It's a fantastic community event,' says Rob. 'We are constantly looking at how we can improve things but everyone seems to keep smiling, which is great.' ■

DETAILS

Burrawang Easter Market
Saturday 15 April 8am-3pm
burrawangeastermarket.com

BRAX
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Mount Ashby Estate



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Mount Ashby Estate is a beautiful boutique vineyard and restaurant located within the rolling hills of the Southern Highlands, NSW. The property has a unique and rustic charm providing guests with an opportunity to relax and enjoy the French inspired menu with a glass of Mount Ashby Estate wine. Guests are seated in the original dairy on handcrafted French farmhouse tables surrounded by the Sally Beresford collection of antiques.

The architecture of the building is a blend of French provincial and early Australian, which reflects the involvement, importation and restoration of French antique furniture.

Visit Mount Ashby Estate to take in the ambience and stroll through the original Bowral Produce Store (circa 1918) filled with antiques or simply dine with friends on the veranda overlooking the grazing cattle.

128 Nowra Rd, Moss Vale NSW 2577 T: 02 48694792
events@mountashby.com.au www.mountashby.com.au www.sallyberesford.com.au



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ATTRactions
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MOSS VALE SHOWGROUND, ILLAWARRA HWY, MOSS VALE - WWW.MOSSVALESHOW.COM

30th Southern Highlands ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES FAIR

Bowral Memorial Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral



**Saturday 6th May 9am-5pm
& Sunday 7th May 10am - 4pm**

Local, Sydney and country dealers offering a wide selection of furniture, jewellery, silver, porcelain, linen, lamps, books and many other interesting collectables. Refreshments available all weekend.
All items for sale. Lucky door prize.

Admission \$9.00 Accompanying children free.

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2017 EXHIBITION OPEN
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Saturday 6 May, 9am-5pm
Sunday 7 May, 10am-4pm

Old Town Hall/Library Building
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Find us on: [facebook.](https://www.facebook.com/allthingsgreataresmall) All Things Great Are Small Miniature Exhibition

2017 Concert Series

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Series I

SAT 18TH MARCH 7.30PM ~ SUN 19TH MARCH 2.30PM
MEMORIAL HALL, BENDOOLEY STREET, BOWRAL

Jean Sibelius <i>Finlandia</i> <i>Op. 26</i>	Camille Saint-Saens <i>Cello Concerto No.1 in</i> <i>A Minor Op. 33—soloist</i> <i>Catherine Barnett</i>	Antonin Dvorak <i>Symphony</i> <i>No.8 Op. 88</i>
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CONDUCTOR: DR ALLAN STILES

Series 2 - Sat 17th June 7.30pm & Sun 18th June 2.30pm
Series 3 - Sat 9th Sept 7.30pm & Sun 10th Sept 2.30pm
Series 4 - Sat 2nd Dec 7.30pm & Sun 3rd Dec 2.30pm

Adults: \$35 Concessions \$30 Children/Students under 15 Free
Tickets: TryBookng.com/24791 • www.shso.org.au • The Bookshop
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Tickets may be available at the door • Enquires: 0416 380 567

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SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS markets

Regular markets are held in various villages and towns throughout the Highlands and are a fantastic way to get an insight into the creative side of the region, through its artisans and producers. You'll find fabulous fresh local produce, arts and crafts, jams, cakes, preserves, food, fashion, plants and much more – happy wandering! For further information and details, see southern-highlands.com.au.

Berrima SCHOOLYARD MARKET

Fourth Sunday 9.00am – 2.30pm (Except January; and 2nd Sunday in December) Oxley Street, Berrima

This lively market features more than 50 stalls stocking everything from fresh local produce to artisanal wares, gourmet goodies to stock the pantry or make a great gift, plus plenty to keep the kids entertained (including a jumping castle and playground) and the fabulous Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Cafe.

THE BUNDANOON MAKERS MARKET

**First and third Sunday 8.30am - 2.00pm
(Except January) Bundanoon Memorial
Hall, Railway Parade, Bundanoon**

Sewers, knitters, woodworkers, photographers; leatherwork and silver jewellery; fresh fruit and vegetables, freshly baked bread, Lebanese take home meals, hot Indian dishes, Japanese pancakes, honey and eggs, cakes, pies and melting moments all make this market more than worth the scenic drive to Bundanoon.

Bowral Public SCHOOL MARKETS

Second Saturday 8.00am - 1.00pm (Except January)
(main produce market) Bendooley Street, Bowral

Boasting everything you could wish for from a local market, this lively monthly gathering boasts everything from local produce and gorgeous plants to beautifully crafted toys and children's clothing; from boho-chic fashion to cowhide and Moroccan rugs; leathersgoods to botanical art. Then there's the food – from French to Vietnamese, pizza to pastries; there's something to suit every taste.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS NIGHT MARKETS

Fourth Saturday
5.00pm – 8.30pm
Moss Vale Showground,
Illawarra Highway, Moss Vale

A new addition to the Highlands market rounds, Southern Highlands Night Markets kicked off in December. These family orientated markets emphasis the 'shop locally' ethos and showcase the local produce of artisans, such as those sold in Moss Vale's, Highlands Handmade. Live music and lots of food.

THE FARMER'S & FLEA MARKET

Fourth Saturday 8.00am - 1.00pm
[except December (17th) &
January (third Sunday)]
Moss Vale Showground, Illawarra
Highway, Moss Vale

This new, combined event brings together farmers, artisan food producers, upmarket designers and traders at the farmers' market; while dealers and private sellers converge around the old wooden kiosk with a mixture of trash and treasure at the Highland's largest communal garage sale. Perfect for foodies and treasure hunters looking for a special market find.

ROBERTSON MARKETS

SECOND SUNDAY 9.00AM - 2.00PM
HODDLE STREET, ROBERTSON

A variety of stalls, food and refreshments in the vibrant community of Robertson, often featuring fabulous trash and treasure finds.

MITTAGONG MARKETS

Third and fifth Saturday 8.00am - 2.00pm.

Corner Albert and Alice Streets, Mittagong

Held in the grounds of the Uniting Church, here you'll find plants, collectables, fresh produce, children's toys and clothing, as well as handcrafted goods, jewellery, and items for the mind, body and spirit.

RAILWAY STREET FARMERS MARKET

Every Thursday 3:00am - 6:00pm

On the Greens, Railway Street, Moss Vale

This popular produce market, that recently celebrated its first birthday, boasts everything from fresh seasonal vegetables, eggs, fish, bread, quiches and pies, jams and pickles and fresh cuts of beef; to compost, plants and seedlings.

Exeter Village Markets

First Saturday 9.00am - 2.00pm

Exeter Village Hall, Exeter Road, Exeter
Exeter's quaint Village Hall and beautiful lawn hemmed by the village's cricket pitch are the setting for this idyllic monthly market featuring local producers, artisans and craftspeople.

CROP-SWAP

Every Saturday 9.00am - 10.00am

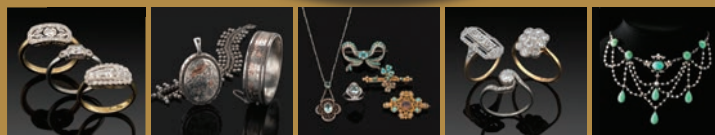
At Rockabella's Roadside Diner, Hoddle Street, Robertson
Locals gather outside this diner which also sells fabulous vintage clothes and accessories, to swap their excess fresh backyard produce in a welcoming atmosphere on top of an old flatbed Ford. Visitors are welcome and it's a great way to gain insight into the charming, and supportive community of 'Robbo'.

COLO VALE MARKETS

First Saturday 9.00am - 2.00pm (Except January)
Colo Vale Hall, Railway Ave, Colo Vale

STALLS INCLUDE COUNTRY CRAFTS, HANDCRAFTED GOODS, PLANTS, JEWELLERY, JAMS, CHOCOLATES, FRESH GARDEN VEGETABLES IN SEASON AND MUCH MORE. E

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Jeff Freeman, John Gallagher, Laura McCusker, Mark Lenny, Nick Statham,
Paul Nicholson, Roy Schack, Stuart Faulkner, Stuart Pinkerton, Warwick Wright.

Table by Laura McCusker, photo by Peter Howard



Sturt Gallery 9 April - 4 June

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Below (L-R) works by: Barbara Ryman, Evan Dunstone, Fleur Schell



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Harper's Mansion
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0409 823 861
info@harpersmansion.com.au
www.harpersmansion.com.au



Today a visit to the Berrima courthouse is much more a unique theatrical experience rather than a foreboding one. The highlight of the tour is the spectacular Son et Lumiere (sound & light show) titled "Treachery Treason & Murder" a dramatic and moving audio visual experience masterfully depicting the most infamous trial of the 1840s The Berrima courthouse has become one of the "must see" attractions. Open 7 days 10am to 4pm.

Berrima Courthouse
Argyle St, Berrima
4877 1505
berrimacourthouse.org.au



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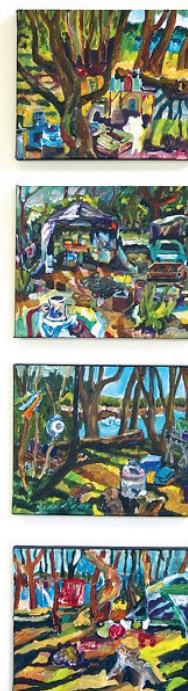
GILLIE and MARC at The Milk Factory Gallery



Title: "From up here he could see the world" - Bronze with mixed patina - 60 x 30 x 60 cm (H*W*L)



FROM LEFT Steel sculpture titled 'The Cut Out' by Lucinda McDonald, Milk Factory exhibition 'Where are they now?'; Lake Alexandra by Tina Hansen-Jones; 'Alumni' exhibition at Sturt - Roy Schack; Britta Stenmanns Wingecarribee landscape prize winner 2016.



ARTS FOR ALL

AMANDA MACKEVICIUS TAKES A LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ARTS SCENE THIS AUTUMN.

Whether you prefer to look at art, buy art or create art, there's a whole lot going on this autumn in the Highlands' vibrant, energetic arts scene. Immersed as we are in beautiful landscapes, it is hardly surprising that the environment has inspired many of the artists whose work can be viewed at our major art spaces: the Bowral Art Gallery, Sturt Gallery, Ten Thousand Paces and Milk Factory Gallery.

Bowral's Milk Factory Gallery is kicking off the season with a group exhibition of small scale mixed media works logically called *Keep It Small*, from March 1 to 27. During April, *Where Are They Now?* invites more than 30 female artists who have exhibited at the gallery since it opened in 2005 to join in a group show of mixed media work. Artists include Robyn Kinsela, Heidi McGeoch, Lucinda McDonald, Ros Goody, Del Cooley and many more. April 1 to 30. **33 Station Street Bowral (rear); milkfactorygallery.com.au**

In the Stone Garden features recent works on paper by local artist Bruce Woods. Wood's interest in Asian ink paintings and calligraphy manifests itself in contemplative representations of landscape, where water meets the land. He encourages viewers to consider each work as a meditation or a brief poetic response to the landscape. From March 4 to 17. The popular Drink N Draw life drawing group continues to gather monthly (contact the gallery for details and bookings) and has invited artist Marguerite Bronwick to show her new works, from March 18 - 31. In April, artist Tina Hansen-Jones will share her creative response to the ever-changing colours and light in her backyard near Gibbergunyah Reserve, in *Spring Street*, April 15 - 28.

Ten Thousand Paces, Springetts' Arcade, Bong Bong Street, Bowral; tenthousandpaces.com

An intriguing exhibition at Sturt Gallery, *Gauge - A matter of water*, finds artist B. Jane Cowie creating an ethereal and ephemeral environment described as 'pleasant, comforting and soft'. Using glass, woven mesh, thread and air, the site-specific installation investigates the collection and creation of water and rainfall, and will, fascinatingly, be 'dissolved' at the exhibition's conclusion. Gumboots not required. April 9 to June 4. Also at Sturt, the School of Wood *Alumni* exhibition continues until April 2, showcasing the work of graduates from 1985-2005 including Stuart Faulkner, Roy Schack and Stuart Pinkerton.

Cnr Range Road and Waverley Parade, Mittagong; sturt.nsw.edu.au

The Bowral Art Gallery (BDAS) is hosting three of its annual prize exhibitions (all with cash prizes), open to amateur and professional artists. The Bowral Sculpture Prize, an indoor-outdoor exhibition, is on from March 10 to 19 and will be followed by the council sponsored Wingecarribee Landscape Prize from April 21 to 30, won last year by Britta Stenmanns. Artists between the ages of 16 and 26 are eligible to enter the Young and Emerging Artists Prize, sponsored by Eleonore Solomon, a BDAS life member and former long-time resident of the Southern Highlands, in memory of her art-loving grandson Nathan. It runs from May 26 to June 4 and offers \$2000 in prize money. **1 Short Street, Bowral; bdasgallery.com**

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24 - 26 MARCH 2017

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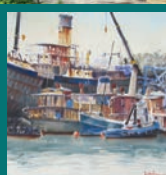


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FOLLOW ME TO THE HIGHLANDS



Natalie Miller is a textile artist, weaver and macramé artisan with international reach. Her striking posts detailing the gloriously coloured hand-dyed Australian wool she uses, her wall-hangings, and recent commissions including two of the world's largest macramé chandeliers, are ardently watched by her 65,000 Instagram followers. An architect and interior designer in Sydney for 25 years, Natalie came to weaving after moving to the Southern Highlands, and following a dream to create with her hands. She recently collaborated with Woolmark, featured in an Australia Post advertising campaign, and travels the world sharing her love of her art. Natalie lives with husband Darren and their three children, and shares Green Bridge Studios in Moss Vale with friend and fellow artist, sculptural weaver Harriet Goodall.



Local Instagrammer to follow:

 Natalie Miller @natalie_miller_design
nataliemillerdesign.com



My name is NATALIE MILLER

I live in... Kangaloon.

I love it here because... It's extraordinarily picturesque. It is a special place in the world that has green rolling hills, dairy farms, country lanes and in the summer the mists, which add to the beauty.

My life in five words is... Creative, colourful, busy, fulfilling, crafty.

Followers of my Instagram feed can expect to see... My textile art, travels, my colourful yarn shop, the environmental architectural home we are building and the hills of Kangaloon.

I've lived in the Southern Highlands for... Five years.

We moved here because... We wanted to build an incredible environmental house with an incredible vista, and to escape the city.


My three favourite three things about the Southern Highlands are... The beautiful surroundings, the creative people that I now call my friends, the strong community.

My favourite things to do in the Southern Highlands are... Take long runs along the many running tracks, hang out in my studio in Moss Vale, watch the sunsets over the Wingecarribee River, in winter to light a log fire every night.

I always take friends who come to stay to... Biota for tapas and Bistro Officina, both in Bowral and both have a fabulous atmosphere.

The thing I hear most people visiting the Southern Highlands say is... They would love to relocate as it's so beautiful yet so close to Sydney.

My special place for time with family and friends is... At home by the fire, or a long lunch on the table in the field.

You really shouldn't leave the Southern Highlands without... Visiting the many water-holes that are in the Highlands, a visit to Belmore Falls and the many coffee shops in Bowral and Moss Vale. Oh and visit Green Bridge Studios, and the other great shops located in Moss Vale, which has recently become a wonderful creative hub. 

24 hours in... MITTAGONG

MITTAGONG IS THE GATEWAY TO THE HIGHLANDS, AND HOME TO MANY EATING, SHOPPING, AND STAYING GEMS, SOME EASY TO FIND, OTHERS MORE HIDDEN AWAY.

IMAGES ELISE HASSEY

9am: *Get yourself some sightseeing wheels*

Do it like the Parisians, and hire a funky electric bike from the Highlands Welcome Centre. Bikes come with a free helmet, a lock and a motor to do the work so you don't have to.



Perennial Hill Garden



Mittagong Antiques Centre

10am: *Uncover past and present treasures*

Make a beeline for the Mittagong Antiques Centre, and lose yourself in pieces from the past. With 45 dealers selling their wares here, this emporium has the lot including furniture, jewellery, silver, glass, and paintings. If contemporary design is more your thing, motor up to Sturt Gallery, catch its latest exhibition (see our arts page 100) and support an Australian maker in the fabulous shop. On your way back to town, swing by Perennial Hill Garden; one acre of jaw-dropping rare and exotic gardens, located on the side of Mount Gibraltar.

12pm: *Time for eats*

After all that activity, you'll have worked up an appetite. Pick up a picnic at the wonderful Polish deli Nasz Stolik. Choose from their mouth-watering array of foods including house smoked meats, such as peppered ham, traditional cabbage rolls with mince or Polish sweet treats. Goodies in hand, head down the road to Lake Alexandra Reserve, with its shady trees and water fountain. Share your lunch with the resident ducks, geese and birds. ►



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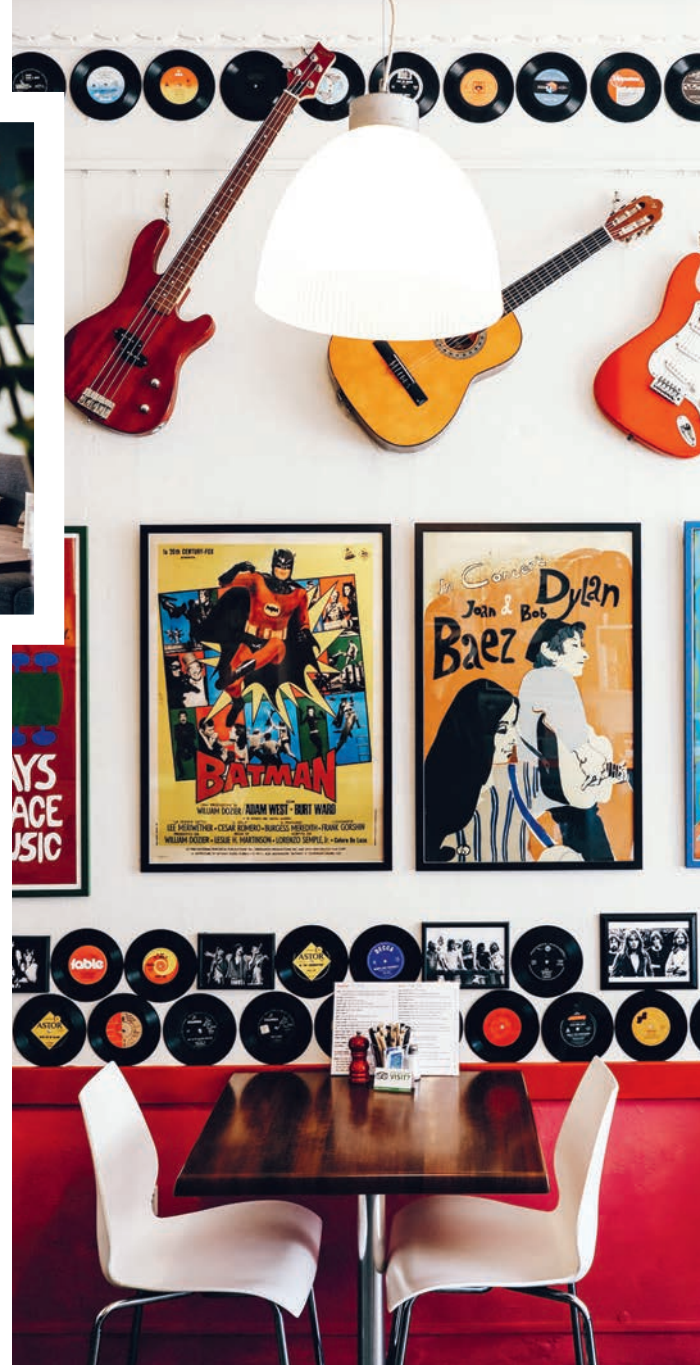


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 **Tankar**
Self Storage Centre

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT
The Shaggy Cow, Brewsters,
Pete's Shed and Mrs. Twisting Vintage.



2.30pm: *Shop, shop, shop*

With lunch taken care of, it's time to shop. Head straight to Twisting Vintage, Mittagong's absolutely fabulous vintage boutique. With designer brands and clothes from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s you'll be sure to find that Jackie O look, or Hermes scarf you've coveted since you were last in France. Next door, local favourite Auberjean stocks sportswear, and snappy casuals to smarten up any autumn wardrobe and retro cafe, Brewsters, roasts its coffee onsite. The Shaggy Cow a few doors down, serves food all day under the watchful eye of photographer Tony Sheffield's iconic Highland cows pictures. Nearby, up-style your look with a piece of funky vintage or recycled furniture at Pete's Shed and Mrs.



4pm: *Your room awaits*

Bunker down for the night at the Fitzroy Inn, a historic colonial sandstone hotel in leafy gardens. Built in 1836, this hotel has 11 suites with all the 21st century mod cons. Eat in the dining room on selected evenings, and enjoy the food by local Phatt Duck chefs, before relaxing in front of an open fire on chilly autumn nights. Fancy eating out instead? You can't go past the excellent Japanese fare at Toshi's or Mexican at La Cantina, Mittagong Hotel.




IMAGE GARY COWLING

ABOVE Fitzroy Inn.
LEFT Eden Brewery.



10am: *Pastries and pale ales*

Rested and ready, head down to the other side of town and eat brekkie at the iconic Gumnut Patisserie. Watch the talented chefs make their magic through the glass window, before devouring a pain aux raisin (artist John Olsen's favourite) or a delicious almond croissant, accompanied by a hot chocolate from the flowing chocolate fountain. Then if it's not too early, pop across the road for a bevvie, and sample the beers from newcomer Eden Brewery. Try the Palm Pale Ale, apparently best drunk 'while shearing sheep in thongs, whistling Waltzing Matilda, and cooking some snags on the barbie'. 



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KIDS WHAT'S ON

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PORTRAIT WORKSHOP FOR TEENAGERS AND ADULTS

This sounds like a nice way to spend a day with your teen. Local artist and tutor Tracey Miller takes this portrait making class at the Bowral & District Art Society workshops in Bowral. Suited to beginner and intermediate levels, something you can hang on your wall beats a selfie any day. \$120pp. Includes all materials.

Studio 1, BDAS, 1 Short St Bowral
10am-4pm. 0481 480 829;
traceymillermail@gmail.com

BERRIMA COURTHOUSE & GHOST TOURS

My kids love hearing about the colonial convict history of Berrima – the gorier the detail, the better. Head along to Berrima Courthouse built in 1839 and take your kids on a tour around the colonial building. Tours start every 30 mins, and include prison cells and the Treachery, Treason & Murder presentation in the grand courtroom. If the kids are over 15 and not the fainthearted kind, head back in the evening for Australia's Most Haunted Ghost Tour. The accompanying psychic will tune you into the many spirits said to occupy the Courthouse. Paranormal tours last 2.5 hours. \$65pp. **ozghosttours@gmail.com**

OLD JOADJA TOWNSHIP

Head out to old Joadja town, now the site of Joadja distillery, and impart a fascinating piece of Highlands history to the family. Once the site of a large oil shale mine used for kerosene, this site was home to more than 1200 Scottish workers in the late 1870s. Tours are held on selected Sundays and run for 90 minutes, and include a tour of the new whisky distillery. Adults \$20 and kids \$5.

joadjadistillery.com.au

CAMP WOMBAROO

Camp Wombaroo, off Wombeyan Caves near High Range, started life as a farming property before being established as an outdoor camp nearly 20 years ago. Set on 50 hectares in bush surrounds, it hosts outdoor camps and offers a great calendar of all-day adventure camps for kids this Easter holidays. Days are broken into different outdoor activities and are designed to challenge, build and strengthen children's skills, stamina and enjoyment of the great outdoors. Suitable for 8-16 year olds. Drop off between 8am-9am & pickup 5pm-6pm. **campwombaroo.org.au**

TRAINWORKS

On the Sydney side of the Highlands, Trainworks at Thirlmere is a fun day out for those machine obsessed members of your tribe. More than 125 exhibits follow the development of NSW's railways from the 1800s. Lots of interactive displays and keep an eye out for the special days with Thomas the Tank Engine, complete with steam engine rides and The Fat Controller.

4683 6800; trainworks.com.au

'FAST FOODS'

My kids do not have well developed food tastes. When we have a family meal out, my husband and I encourage them to try some of the Highlands gourmet delights, but they still prefer burgers, pies etc if given half the chance. Lucky then the Highlands has such a fabulous array of cafes, restaurants and stores turning out delicious 'fast food'. Rockabellas Roadside Diner in Robertson and Bernie's Diner in Moss Vale (see our food review page 47) do it really well and for pies try Gumnut Patisserie, Polly's Pies and Bundanoon Country Bakery. Or better still, check out Southern Highland Welcome Centre's fabulous new pie trial map, and try them all! **southern-highlands.com.au**

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Old Hume Highway, Berrima.
lollyswagman.com.au

BAREFOOT BOWLS

A friend of mine swears by this family outing, and although we've yet to try it, it sounds great fun. Barefoot Bowls is exactly what it says... bowling in bare feet. You don't need any prior knowledge or competency – the club provides everything you need (bowls, mats and a quick rundown of the rules) and you are game on. The kids apparently love it and afterwards you can lunch together in the bistro.

\$10pp. **40 Shepherd St, Bowral.**
bowling@hinet.net.au



DANCE FLAMENCO

Flamenco is an artwork that hails from the Andalusian regions of Spain that combines dancing, music and accompaniments such as hand clapping, footwork and percussion. Highlands dancer and teacher Marisol Santos studied at the famous Amor De Dios Flamenco School in Madrid and now teaches flamenco, and a variety of Flamenco rhythms such as castanets, Cajon (a percussion box) palmas (hand clapping) and pits (finger clicking) to children and adults alike from her Moss Vale studio, Flamenco Solymar.

4869 4553; solymar12@hotmail.com

HIGHLANDS ESSENTIALS

A COMPENDIUM OF USEFUL CONTACTS THAT MAY COME
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Mittagong Fire Station 10 Bowral Road, Mittagong 4871 1002
Moss Vale Fire Station Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1288
Bowral Police Station 53 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral 4862 9299
Moss Vale Police Station Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1222
State Emergency Services (SES) 13 25 00
Emergency Bush Fire 000

HOSPITALS / HEALTH:

Bowral Public Hospital Mona Road, Bowral 4861 0200
Southern Highlands Private 99 Bowral Street, Bowral 4862 9400

Doctors:

Bowral Street Medical Practice 70 Bowral St, Bowral 4861 3183
Mittagong Healthcare Centre 3 Albert St, Mittagong 4872 3933
Southern Medical Centre 61 Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1500
Eastbrooke Medical Centre 4-10 Funston Street, Bowral 4862 7666

VET CLINICS:

Bowral Vet Hospital Temporarily at The Old Milk Factory,
35D Station Street, Bowral 4861 1444
Mittagong Vet Hospital 109 Main St, Mittagong 4872 2028
Southern Highlands Vet Centre 48 Berrima Rd, Moss Vale 4868 1310

AUSTRALIA POST:

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3/63 Main St, Mittagong 13 13 18
9/15 Clarence St, Moss Vale 13 13 18

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Highland Chauffeured Hire Cars 4872 3038 or 0400 921 239
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Railway Stations:
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Mittagong Regents St
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Gas Emergency Jemena 13 19 09
AGL Emergency 24/7 on 131 245
Telstra Emergency 13 22 03
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IMAGE: ELISE HASSEY



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IMAGE TONY SHEFFIELD

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Michael Maloney

Principal/Licensee | 0414 482 150 | mrm@randw.com.au

With over 30 years as the principal and licensee of Richardson & Wrench Bowral, Michael Maloney is one of the Southern Highlands' most experienced and respected agents. Michael loves spending time on his farm in Burrawang, catching up with family and friends and has a passion for horse racing and sport in general. As a fifth generation local, Michael is equipped with a knowledge of and passion for the Southern Highlands that is beyond compare. He said, "I feel very privileged and lucky that my ancestors decided to focus on the Southern Highlands in 1858 as the place they wanted to

be. Our district offers so much- wonderful towns, exciting villages, genuine four seasons and a countryside that is so amazingly beautiful. I love the excitement felt when locals, Sydney-siders and those from all over come to the Highlands and find their dream location." Always conducting himself with the utmost level of integrity, Michael has earned the respect of his peers and locals personally and professionally. Michael's discreet but confident approach to selling real estate is instrumental in ensuring exceptional results.

Debbie Pearce

Licensed Real Estate Agent | 0400 339 449 | debbie.pearce@randw.com.au

Originally raised in Sydney, Debbie recalls numerous weekends spent in the Southern Highlands and experiencing that feeling of never wanting to leave. Married to an Englishman, it's the Highlands landscape and climate that offered that memorable connection right here in Australia. The decision to make this her family's forever home was an easy one, with their daughter commencing boarding school in Mittagong, and they've never looked back. Besides the landscape, it's the weatherboard cottages, living in town and being able to walk everywhere, misty winter mornings, open fires (even in December) and popping to the

local pub where you'll never sit alone, that Debbie loves to share with prospective relocators.

Having undertaken several sympathetic renovations and new developments has provided Debbie with a broad knowledge and level of expertise across the property spectrum. In her role as an agent and advisor, Debbie believes the process of buying and selling should be an exciting and positive experience and therefore, her assurance is to always keep things real, maintain her clients' interests as the number one priority and commit to operating within the highest ethical standards.



Philip Dwyer

Licensed Real Estate Agent | Stock and Station Agent | 0439 467 468 | philip.dwyer@randw.com.au

Philip has made the Southern Highlands his home since leaving the corporate world of Sydney 15 years ago. In his search for a return to the country life of his youth, it was an easy decision to choose the Southern Highlands. With an English and Swedish heritage, the scenery and climate naturally appealed and his vast knowledge of rural and residential property in the area has proven invaluable for his clients. With a young family in tow, Philip cherishes how fortunate he is to live in such a wonderful part of the world.

His integrity, professionalism and refreshing approach to marketing property is evident in the loyalty his clients are pleased to provide for him. Having owned and renovated numerous homes from residential units and houses to small and large acreage, Philip has a broad knowledge of property types throughout NSW and the Southern Highlands. Growing up on horseback and with an affinity for the great outdoors, Philip loves to share his passion for the region and the people that live here.

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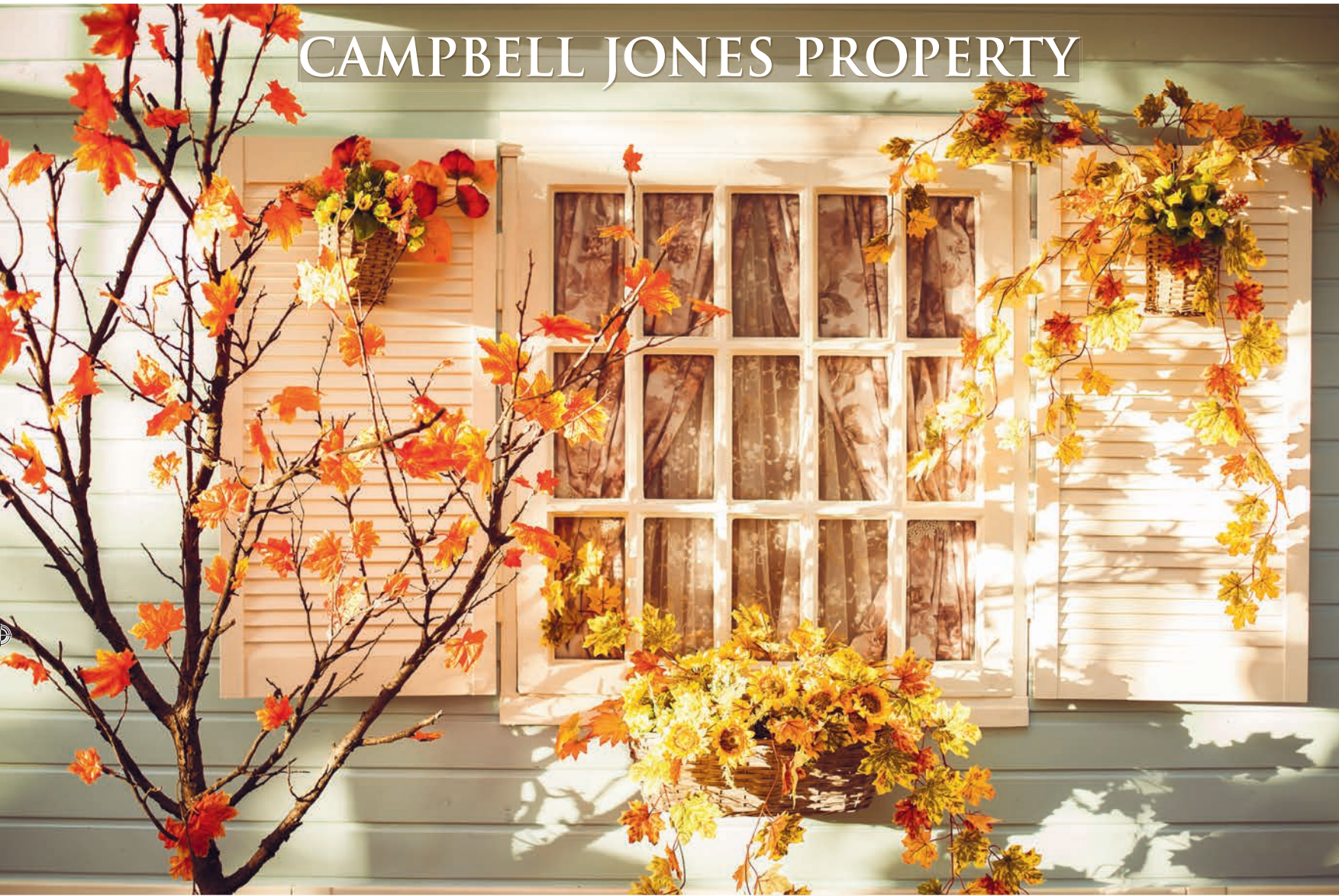
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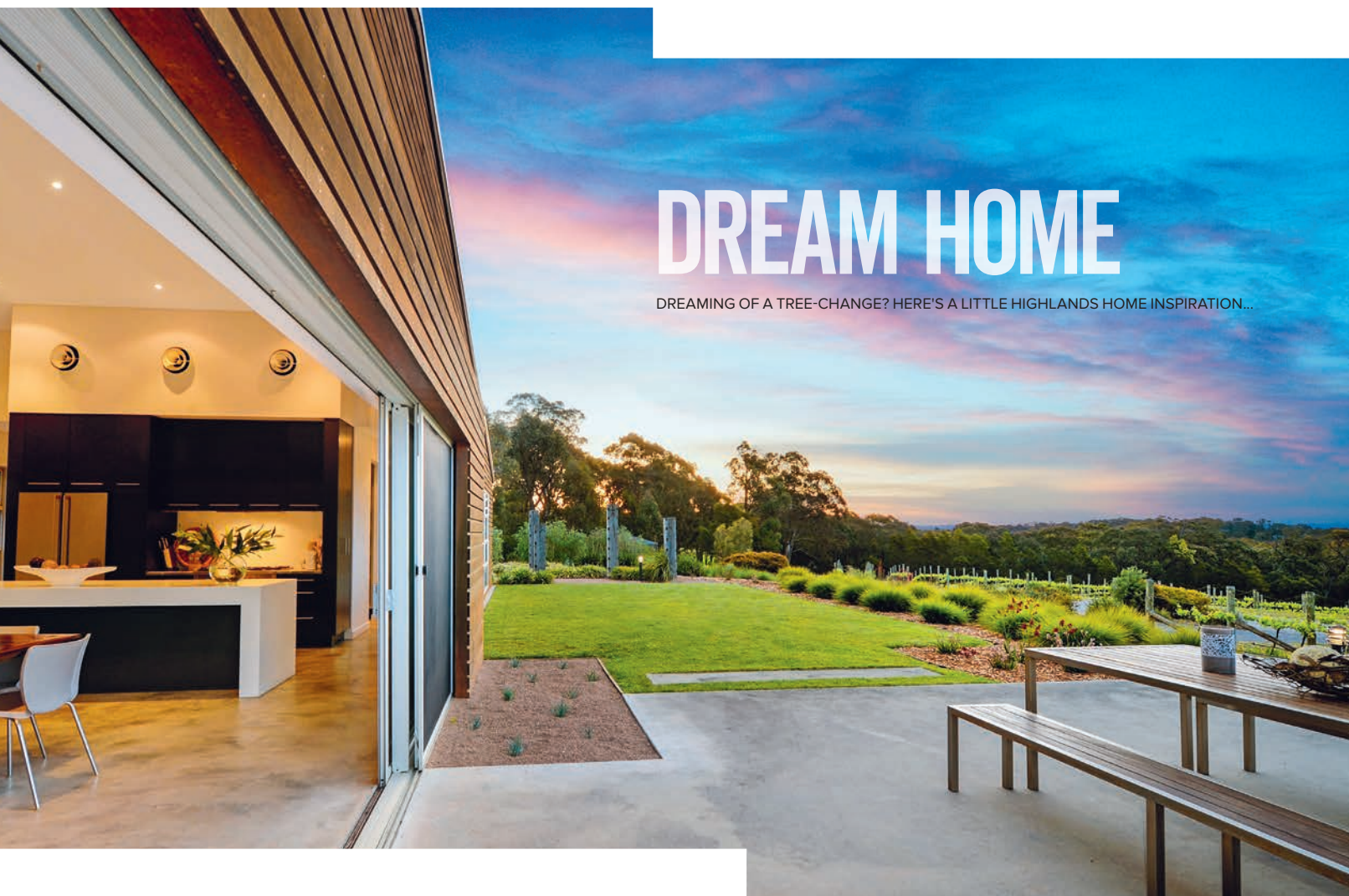
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‘Capanno’, Canyonleigh

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Fancy becoming your very own vintner? This stunning 10-hectare property which recently sold, had a readymade vineyard and is currently producing pinot noir and pinot gris. Situated in Canyonleigh with to-die-for vistas across the vines and surrounding bushland, ‘capanno’ means shed in Italian. But there’s not a lean-to in sight. Designed by local architect Richard Rowe, this is an uber-impressive, multifunctional iron and wood open-plan home with polished concrete floors, warehouse ceilings and five bedrooms including an exceptional master suite with floor to ceiling windows. Set among expansive Australian native gardens, *Capanno* also boasts vegetable beds, olive groves, an outdoor courtyard and barbecue area, even a petanque court. All this and wine! What could be dreamier. **12**

HIGHLANDS

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