

Escape

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

FREE GUIDE
SUMMER 2016/17



STAY, PLAY, EAT, DRINK & EXPLORE - SUMMER 2016/17

HOTEL, RESTAURANT,
SPA & CELLAR DOOR
REVIEWS

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

MELISSA PENFOLD'S
SHOPPING
GUIDE

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Bendooley Estate

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Escape for the weekend to **The Loch Berrima**, a stunning architectural barn conversion and boutique farm-stay.

Indulge in **The Tasting Room**, showcasing the best and freshest of the season's harvest dining in the gardens.

Bring the Highlands home when you visit our **Farm Stall** where you can find fresh produce, homemade treats, salts, condiments, jams and Kevin's farm restored antiques.

Experience something unique at our seasonal **Foodie Field Days**, a seven course garden degustation and access to the best producers and wine experts.

So much to celebrate, share, discover and enjoy.

Bookings are now open for Foodie Fields of Summer Feb 12
Try our traditional Christmas Garden Feast with all the trimmings in the open gardens Sunday, December 11 and Sunday, December 18

Subscribe to The Loch's newsletter for information on upcoming events and seasonal menus.

www.theloch.net.au



Summer

2016/17

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COVER DETAILS

Shot on location at The Loch, Berrima Food provided by Flour Water Salt Bakery Photography by Elise Hassey Styling by Nikki Wallman
Props provided by The Loch; tablecloth stylists' own





Next issue... Autumn 2017

*Keep an eye out for our guide to
Southern Highlands wineries and
cellar doors, plus much more!*

Escape

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

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Accommodation review
Gunu Berrima page 29

The Southern Highlands is one of those lucky places that has long boasted a combination of old-world charm and stunning natural beauty. A wealth of golf courses, beautifully preserved heritage buildings, grand estates and an abundance of wonderful local producers and chefs all make the region a popular escape for visitors from near and far.

But more recently, the Southern Highlands has also seen exciting new developments: from innovative, high-quality restaurants showcasing the very best local produce; to city-meets-country-chic cafes offering ever-changing menus in beautiful surrounds; to fantastic shops that draw style-seekers from near and far for their show-stopping wares. Then there's the increasing number of unique experiences on offer, from yoga in the vineyards or farm tours with gourmet picnics, to bespoke cool climate wine tours and long-table lunches in paddocks overlooking the surrounding green pastures.

Each season, we'll aim to showcase some of the best of the above – but with so many wonderful

things to discover in the Highlands, please be patient if you don't see your favourites in the mag... we'll get there!

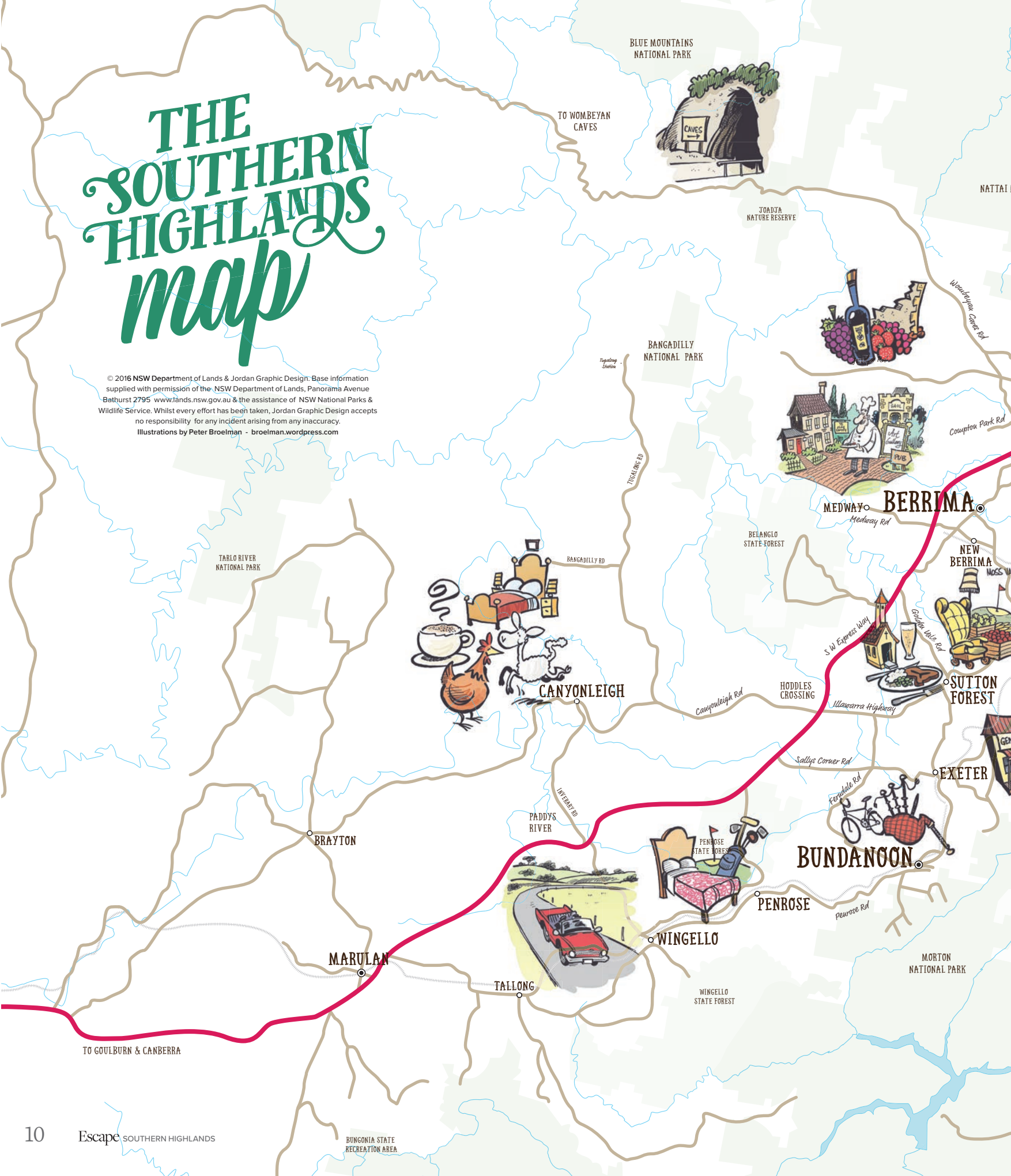
We could go on about the many and varied experiences that await you here in this beautiful pocket of regional NSW, but that's what this magazine is for – to help you discover the best we have to offer on your next escape to the Southern Highlands. There are also many, less obvious, things that make the Southern Highlands special: the passion of the many people who create, curate and collectively contribute to the region; the smell of the abundant flowers that bloom so beautifully here; the ducks who may cross your path on the road, forcing you to slow down and look around you; the light splintering over the hills at the end of a long summer's day.

We hope you enjoy discovering more about what the Southern Highlands has to offer visitors and locals alike. **E**

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS *map*

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Illustrations by Peter Broelman - broelman.wordpress.com







UPFRONT:

Southern Highlands towns at a glance

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

BERRIMA

This picturesque 1830s village has history (think the heritage Berrima Gaol, the iconic Berrima Court House, and National Trust-listed Harpers 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).

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.

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 pitstop. 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.

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.



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 cool new upheaval, with amazing homewares stores to tempt every taste and fantastic little cafes, as well as the retro-cool Bernie's Diner. Not far away is cosy Mount Ashby Winery cellar door and restaurant. The indoor aquatic centre is open year-round.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 

LOCAL MOVERS AND SHAKERS

The Highlands heats up for summer 2016/17 with a raft of new restaurant, cafe, accommodation and retail openings to discover



THE MILL, BOWRAL

This welcome addition to the Bowral cafe, retail, creative and business scene is an innovative new multi-use space breathing fresh life into a historic site first established in 1885. Having opened mid-2016 and continuing to evolve, The Mill currently boasts The Mill Cafe (more on that below); Cinnamon Fox, a pop-up retail space boasting boho-chic homewares (think beautifully coloured, oversized cushions, amazing rugs and more); a cool design space encompassing Jess Hunter Interior Design and AK47 Design (check out the enormous Italian fire pits!); Tziallas Omeara architecture studio; Plant Life, a landscape and garden design company, and COLLAB, a co-working space with hot-desking facilities to support communal working and collaboration. As we went to press, two new additions joined the team: The Mill Dumplings by Billy Chan, and Zoe Georgiou fashion boutique.

The Mill Cafe itself combines huge, almost warehouse-style space with a warm, friendly vibe. Local is lovely here, with a fantastic array of regional produce and goodies like pickles, honey and other tempters on offer for you to take home. The menu is varied, tempting and delicious, with a local flavour – daily specials can include delights like 'Sutton Forest pan-roasted goose eggs' with asparagus, local fetta, house-made macadamia pesto and chipotle; while the regular breakfast and lunch menu is also excellent, with something to delight everyone. Cool graffiti artwork, a central fireplace and great kids' play area area all seal the deal. This popular spot can get busy, so consider booking or simply browse The Mill's other attractions while you wait for a table.

Open seven days, The Mill, 210-224 Bong Bong Street, Bowral, facebook.com/themillcafebowral

Now you can Feast@Berrima

Fans of the former Feast@McVitty will delight in the news that Feast@Berrima is due to open in December. The 80-seater restaurant and wine bar is planning to open for lunch Thursday to Sunday, and dinner Friday and Saturday. A sample menu boasts dishes like crab & snapper croquettes with saffron aioli; crisp pork belly with roasted apple, spinach, caramel cashew chilli glaze; and white chocolate cheesecake with lemon, berries, shortbread crumbs and vanilla bean ice cream.

**Bookings on 4870 1268
The Alpaca Centre,
1 Market Plc, Berrima
feastatberrima.com.au**

STONES PATISSERIE, BOWRAL

Bowral is in for a sweet treat as the renowned Stones Patisserie in Berrima brings its expanded production kitchen to the heart of the town, adding to its courtyard and kiosk space in Bowral's High Street. Gourmet savoury pies, fruit tarts, lemon meringue pies and other faves will be on offer alongside a breakfast and lunch menu.

Open seven days, 8am - 4:30pm.

facebook.com/StonesPatisserie

Stones Patisserie, High Street
Arcade, Bong Bong Street, Bowral.



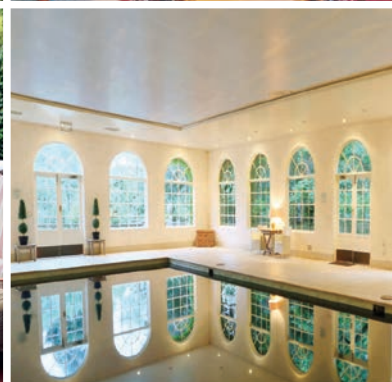
GRAND BISTRO, BOWRAL

This airy, green and white haven has quickly amassed a loyal following. Is it the excellent coffee? The stupendously good ricotta hotcakes with lemon curd creme and berries? The crispy pork belly soft roll with apple, sweet corn, currants and relish? The wine from the owners' own Howards Lane Vineyard? After kicking off with breakfast and lunch, Grand Bistro has recently launched a dinner service – turn to p43 for our review.

Shop 7E, The Grand Arcade, 295-297 Bong Bong St,
4862 2126, grandbistro.com.au

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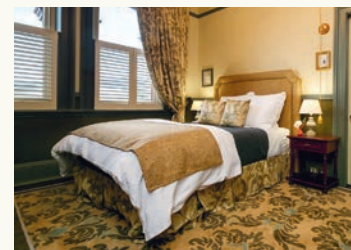


Tesapo



The Old Bank Boutique Hotel Mittagong

Opening after a painstaking seven-year restoration of Mittagong's 1892-built former bank into a boutique hotel, the result is a blend of old-world luxury with modern comforts. The property boasts unique elements, including a wine cellar in the original bank vault, along with log fires and Chesterfield couches. Warm touches include afternoon tea with homemade cake; port and shortbread for supper; and a hearty country brekkie with orange juice squeezed from the owner's orchard. The five suites boast feather doonas, Egyptian cotton bed linen, heated floors and towel racks, and coffee machines.



**From \$295 per night on weeknights (Sun-Thurs)
and \$345 on weekends (Fri-Sat). 83 Main Street, Mittagong,
4872 4496/0419 982 191, oldbankhotel.com.au**

BISTRO OFFICINA, BOWRAL

Bistro Officina chef Nicola Coccia and wife Alexandra run an operation that manages to be both down-to-earth and slick, making guests feel instantly at home in the newly refurbished space adjacent to the Berida Hotel (also being refurbished at time of writing). Think wooden beams, crackling fireplaces, mounted deer heads and separate bar and dining spaces. Nicola cooks only with fire, and with a smokehouse out back, serves up rustic, simple yet bold-flavoured dishes in either a tasting menu or a la carte. "I think Nicola Coccia is a fantastic chef," says The Southern Highlands Cookbook publisher Stefan Posthuma-Grbic. "I love his approach using all wood cooking methods, and just using great produce, prepared simply with traditional techniques." Dishes such as smoked chook with grilled corn and native pepperberries, and scotch fillet with onions and salty saltbush are just a taste of what's on offer. Not up for a full meal? Go the European path and settle in to the bar area for some small plates and summer cocktails.

Open seven days (breakfast every day; lunch Saturday and Sunday; dinner Thursday to Monday). 6 David Street, Bowral, 4861 7787, bistroofficina.com.au



Highlands Merchant, Moss Vale

This beautiful new cafe located in a reinvigorated strip of Moss Vale's Argyle Street has both foodies and Instagrammers salivating over its chic design and beautiful food. Look for the candy-striped awning and colourful floral wall mural, then head inside for flavour-packed offerings that change daily and often star local produce. From house-baked goodies such as white choc mud cake with raspberry frosting, to decadent breakfasts like maple, caramelised onion and thyme slow-cooked breakfast beans with salsa verde, free-range fried egg and toasted baguette, your biggest worry will be deciding what to order (follow them on Instagram @highlandsmerchant, or on Facebook to get a heads-up on the daily specials). Excellent coffee and warm, friendly service seal the deal.

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 8am to 4pm. 405 Argyle Street, Moss Vale, 4869 5746, highlandsmerchant.com.au



Continued on page 104

WHAT'S ON *Summer*

WE'VE OUTLINED JUST A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE COMING SUMMER IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BELOW. WITH SO MUCH HAPPENING, IT'S HARD TO SQUEEZE IT ALL ON THESE PAGES, SO PLEASE ALSO VISIT SOUTHERN-HIGHLANDS.COM.AU/EVENTS/WHATS-ON FOR THE LATEST EVENTS AND UP-TO-DATE DETAILS ON EVERYTHING FROM ART EXHIBITIONS TO GIGS, FESTIVALS AND FUNDRAISERS.

DECEMBER:

PLEASE NOTE THAT EVENT DATES AND DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE – SOMETIMES AT THE LAST MINUTE! - SO IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO CHECK WITH THE VENUE OR ORGANISERS VIA THE CONTACT DETAILS SUPPLIED BEFORE PLANNING YOUR TRIP.

Berrima Carols By Candlelight

Join the festivities at another year of the wonderful Berrima Carols tradition. Bring along chairs, rugs, torches and picnic hampers; sausage sandwiches, coffee and soft drinks will also be available for purchase. Geoff Harvey and musicians will be playing your favourite Christmas carols, and Santa will be visiting all the children.

Saturday, December 17, from 6.30pm, Holy Trinity Church grounds, Argyle Street, Berrima.
Contact 0418 971 878;
kathleen@kathleenhughes.com.au
For other local carols events around the Southern Highlands, see southern-highlands.com.au/events/whats-on



DEC 17



SHOP WINE DINE

– a Bowral Christmas Fair

Showcasing local artisans, products and produce as well as local food, wine and entertainment all in time for Christmas. Kids' activities, rides and Christmas photos (bookings via Facebook), and huge Christmas-style markets with more than 90 stalls.

**Saturday, December 10 (10am-8pm)
and Sunday, December 11 (10am-3pm),
at Bong Bong Racecourse,
460 Kangaloon Road, East Bowral.
facebook.com/shopwinedine**

Southern Highlands Night Market

Launching Saturday 17 December and following every fourth Saturday from January, the new Southern Highlands Night Market is all about keeping it local. With a kids' zone, food zone, entertainment and specialty stalls, this new addition to the Highlands market scene will take place at Moss Vale Showgrounds from 5pm-8:30pm. facebook.com/southernhighlandsnightmarket

WOMBAT HOLLOW FORUM CELEBRATES TWO YEARS

THE END OF 2016 MARKS TWO YEARS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WOMBAT HOLLOW FORUM, RUN BY MICHAEL AND SUSIE YABSLEY ON THEIR UNIQUE PROPERTY IN EAST KANGALOO (NEAR ROBERTSON). THEY WILL BE MARKING THE OCCASION AND THE FESTIVE SEASON WITH REFRESHMENTS IN THE SHED ON **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, FROM 4PM-8PM, AT 300 KIRKLAND ROAD, EAST KANGALOO. TO BOOK VISIT WOMBATHOLLOW.NET.AU** ►

DEC 18

Escape TO THE COUNTRY

HIGHLAND FARM IS SITUATED IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS. THIS BOUTIQUE PROPERTY HAS STUNNING RURAL VIEWS AND OFFERS RUSTIC-LUXE ACCOMMODATION, FARM TOURS AND PADDOCK TO PLATE EXPERIENCES.

SUMMER FARM TOURS: Fun for all the family!

Mini pigs - Highland cows - Cheeky mini goats - Guinea pigs - Rabbits - Chickens - Geese - Alpaca's - Sheep - Egg collecting & Craft activities!

GOURMET PICNIC EXPERIENCES: Grab our gourmet picnic hamper & a bottle of award winning local wine, wander down to the dam, pick your spot in the paddock and enjoy the spectacular setting, food, wine & views. The best of the Southern Highlands!



HIGHLAND FARM

*Boutique Accommodation
– Farm Tours – Paddock to Plate*



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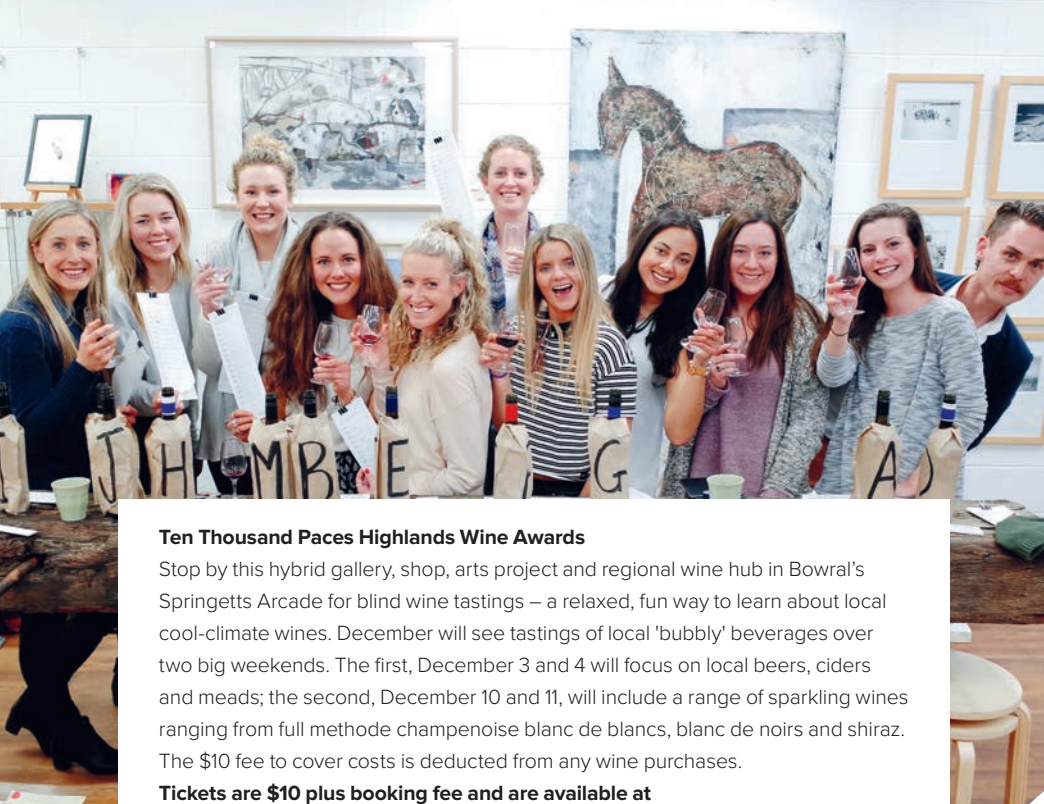


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DECEMBER:

**Ten Thousand Paces Highlands Wine Awards**

Stop by this hybrid gallery, shop, arts project and regional wine hub in Bowral's Springetts Arcade for blind wine tastings – a relaxed, fun way to learn about local cool-climate wines. December will see tastings of local 'bubbly' beverages over two big weekends. The first, December 3 and 4 will focus on local beers, ciders and meads; the second, December 10 and 11, will include a range of sparkling wines ranging from full methode champenoise blanc de blancs, blanc de noirs and shiraz. The \$10 fee to cover costs is deducted from any wine purchases.

Tickets are \$10 plus booking fee and are available at
hopheads.eventbrite.com.au and sparklingsplendour.eventbrite.com.au

**TEN THOUSAND PACES
DRINK & DRAW**

Beginners through to advanced artists are all welcome at these life-drawing workshops where you'll work with various life models in a relaxed and creative setting, with a glass of fine local wine. Absolute beginners through to advanced are welcome. Bring your own materials in whatever art form you wish to explore (except for photography). This isn't a teaching session, though there is always a lovely atmosphere of shared creative collaboration. Tickets are \$20 (plus booking fee) and cover the model and venue.

**December 1, January 19 and
February 2, at 5.45pm.**
[drinkanddrawlifedrawing.
eventbrite.com.au](http://drinkanddrawlifedrawing.eventbrite.com.au)

**A Grand
Day Out Tours**

A local tour company with a difference, A Grand Day Out runs a series of high-end gourmet day tours in the comfort of a brand new European luxe mini-coach, offering visitors an inside glimpse of the best of the region and surrounding areas, including the South Coast and ACT. Their 'To The Manor Born' tour traverses Bowral, Bundanoon, Mittagong and Sutton Forest, unveiling carefully selected gems: think breathtaking vistas at Bundanoon; stunning gardens to rival Monet's Giverny at Sutton Forest's Red Cow Farm; sampling some of Mittagong's finest cool-climate wines; and a luxurious high tea in the magnificent surrounds of Bowral's Milton Park. Tour departs Bowral every Saturday (and pre-arranged days) 8.30am, returning 4.30pm. Priced at \$228 per person; canapes, regional sparkling, wine sampling, shared tasting plates and high tea with a glass of French champagne are all included. **Visit** agranddayout.com.au **for further details and current calendar of all tours (they also offer bespoke tours, market events and lunch outings).**

**STEVE WAUGH
CRICKET CLINICS
AT BRADMAN OVAL**

Following a successful two-day clinic in September run by Steve Waugh Cricket in conjunction with the Bradman Foundation, two more clinics will be held during the forthcoming summer holidays – a two-day clinic on December 19-20, and a three-day clinic from January 9-11. Aimed at young girls and boys between six and 17, the cricket clinics also include a tour of the Bradman Museum, and continue the tradition of providing a unique opportunity for young cricketers to develop their skills during the summer break. To book, visit stevewaughcricket.com.au/registration. Cost for the two-day December clinic is \$250 and for the three-day January clinic is \$330; contact Jock McIlhatton on 0439 690 026 or Simon on 0404 865 109.

There will be plenty of other entertainment and challenges these school holidays at the Bradman Centre: bring in your favourite trophy to tell a tale of your own, engage in some cricket trivia, or test your reflexes on the 'Reactor Challenge' and compare your score to Australian Captain Steve Smith. See internationalcrickethall.com for details. ►

JANUARY:

Sturt Summer School 2017

Sturt's annual Summer School continues to go from strength to strength with increasing enrolments and courses on offer. Choose from over 20 different courses for adults is (there are also a number of fantastic kids' classes available) covering all art forms and abilities. Book online via the website; they also offer competitive accommodation and meal packages plus special functions, talks, movies, demonstrations and other social activities as part of the experience.

Monday 2 - Saturday 7 January, 2017

Sturt Craft Centre, Cnr Range Rd & Waverley Pde, Mittagong

4860 2083/ shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au

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SUNDAY 22 JANUARY 2017 10AM - 3PM, BRADMAN OVAL, BOWRAL
SOUTHERNHIGHLANDSWEDDINGFAIR.COM.AU

Australia Day Events & Celebrations

On Thursday 26 January 2017,

Berrima comes to life as the Wingecarribee

Shire celebrates Australia Day. Highlights include:

9.30am: Official Ceremony at Berrima Historic Court House incorporating a Citizenship Ceremony, announcement of the winners of Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards and special address by the Australia Day Ambassador, followed by tea, coffee and lamingtons on the lawn at the Berrima Historic Court House.

12pm: The Grand Parade - a colourful parade to entertain people of all ages. See classic cars, local bands, cheer on Emergency Services Volunteers, historic tractors and much much more in a street parade that is unique to Australia Day and Berrima. All-day market stalls, farmyard nursery, jumping castles and much more.

Thursday 26 January 2017, Berrima



Highland Farm Tours

Highland Farm has the perfect family day out on offer this summer - tour the farm and meet the friendly mini pigs, Highland cows, cheeky mini goats, guinea pigs, chickens, alpacas and Jersey the sheep. There's craft and colouring activities for the kids, and you can also round out the experience by grabbing a gourmet fine-dining picnic hamper (think 12-hour slow-cooked Highland beef with homemade horseradish cream, local rocket and tomatoes on a baguette, and salted caramel tarts and choc brownies) and kids' picnic box, then picking a spot by the dam to enjoy the fabulous views across the paddocks. Hay bales, picnic rugs, blankets, plates, cutlery, glasses and water are all supplied; there's also on-site accommodation should you wish to settle in for longer. **January 7, 8, 14, 15, 28 (other dates by appointment)** Farm tours start 10am; gourmet picnic lunches start at 12pm. highlandfarm.com.au



FEBRUARY:

Southern Highlands Polo Tournament

Southern Highlands Polo is excited to host its inaugural polo tournament at Bong Bong Racecourse, Bowral on **Saturday 25 February 2017**, from 11am to 5pm. Set against the backdrop of the rolling paddocks, equestrian prowess will dominate the afternoon accompanied by great local food, wine and boutique beer, ensuring the day provides a quintessential country polo experience. The event includes two thrilling polo matches played by local and Sydney teams.

For more information, visit southernhighlandspolo.com.au, or contact Veronica Kennedy-Good on veronica@mindsharevents.com.au

FEB 4-5

SMALL FARM FIELD DAY, MOSS VALE

THERE ARE AROUND 1,800 FARMS AND OVER 2,000 SMALL FARMS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGION, MAKING MOSS VALE THE PERFECT VENUE FOR THIS EXCITING EVENT FEATURING A RANGE OF EXHIBITORS AND PRESENTATIONS.

Sat 4 - Sun 5 February 2017 10am - 4pm; Adults \$5, Children under 15 free.
Moss Vale Showground,
Robertson Road, Moss Vale
hello@smallfarmfieldday.com.au
smallfarmfieldday.com.au

JIMMY BARNES @ WOMBAT HOLLOW FORUM

2017 KICKS OFF WITH JIMMY BARNES 'IN CONVERSATION' AT WOMBAT HOLLOW IN EARLY FEBRUARY. JIMMY WILL BE IN CONVERSATION ABOUT HIS BEST-SELLING BOOK *WORKING CLASS BOY*. **SEE WOMBATHOLLOW.NET.AU FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**
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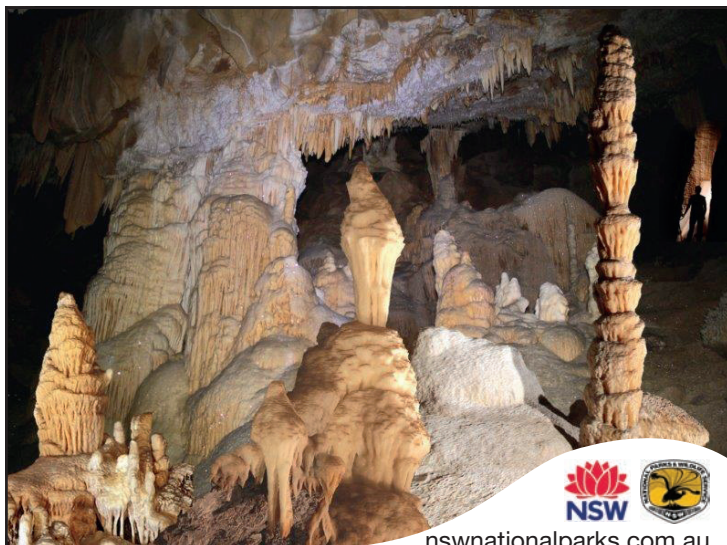


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Oxley Hill lookout. Image: Tony Sheffield



nswnationalparks.com.au

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HOTEL REVIEW:

PEPPERS MANOR HOUSE, SUTTON FOREST

Nikki Wallman checks in to Peppers Manor House to see how a recent multi-million-dollar facelift has added a new chapter to the historic hotel's storied past.

IMAGES ELISE HASSEY

IT MUST BE A TRICKY JOB, ACHIEVING A BALANCE BETWEEN OLD-WORLD HOSPITALITY AND MODERN COMFORTS; SO I'M KEEN TO CHECK OUT PEPPERS MANOR HOUSE FOLLOWING ITS RECENT \$4.5 MILLION-PLUS REFURBISHMENT.

The historic retreat is tucked away in the pastoral surrounds of Sutton Forest, along with adjacent golf course (Mt Broughton Golf and Country Club), and has long been a magnet for visitors to the Southern Highlands seeking a respite from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Pulling up at the entrance, an air of dignified country hospitality pervades: a wide wraparound verandah offers views of the grounds, full of well-maintained hedging, grand trees and country-escape essentials like tennis courts, swimming pool and statues. I'm not here with my husband this time (although photographer Elise is great company), but it would be a lovely romantic retreat for couples.

Reception is warm and friendly, and we're given a quick tour – including the jaw-dropping Great Hall, with its soaring ceilings, wood-panelled windows, comfy couches and roaring fire; the day spa; billiards room and the casual eating space, Katers Larder.

We check out our Garden Wing rooms (all 43 rooms and suites underwent a facelift as part of the refurbishment). Mine is sizeable, with a comfy bed, modular sofa/reading area, desk, television and large windows draped with double-layered curtains. Simply decorated in soft neutrals, with a hint of blue, the room is comfortable and classic. With the bathtub beckoning after a long day, I grab myself a Pigs Fly Pale Ale from the Bowral Brewing Company (a nice nod to talented local producers - and, importantly, a fantastic-tasting beer) from the bar fridge and enjoy a soak in the botanical Appelles amenities provided.

Before our dinner reservation at the award-winning Katers Restaurant, it's time to enjoy a glass of wine in one of the character-filled sitting rooms. There's the Great Hall, of course (pictured left); plus other lounges and fireplaces around the corner near the Nook Bar, where you can order your fireside tippie. This is a highlight of my stay; sitting beneath the soaring ceilings in this spectacular room, the fire crackling, enjoying small talk.

Walking a few steps to Katers, we sit down to a signature degustation dinner with matched wines. The meal takes us on a journey of local produce using innovative techniques.

Chef John Shelly, the menu informs me, is strongly connected to local producers. Raised on a farm, he understands well the importance of seasonality in selecting and creating the dishes we enjoy. The restaurant's onsite garden supplies many of its



DETAILS

**Peppers
Manor House**
Kater Road,
Sutton Forest
1300 987 600
[peppers.com.au/
manor-house](http://peppers.com.au/manor-house)

herbs and vegetables, and John uses local producers including Pecora Dairy, Mangers Meats, Li-Sun Exotic Mushrooms, Alpine Berry Farm and Sutton Forest Olives (and many more).

Standout dishes include velvety Jerusalem artichoke soup with a perfectly soft-poached egg, slices of artichoke and crunchy fenugreek. It's incredibly nourishing and comforting. I do a double take when I taste the barramundi with local mushrooms – the consomme, incredibly, tastes of pine needles, adding a new dimension to a classic fish dish. The dishes are expertly matched with wines from Spain to Mittagong.

Breakfast the next morning is served in the same room, with nice touches such as a quirky range of chipotle and sauces. The morning sun floods the space with light, beckoning us outside for the day. But to tell you the truth, I'd be perfectly happy to stick around – reading a book in one of the guest lounges, having a hit of tennis, checking out the spa and the gardens... There's plenty to explore here, making Peppers Manor House a destination in itself. ■

OTHER HISTORIC HOTELS TO TRY

Bundanoon Guest House thebundanoonguesthouse.com.au
Fitzroy Inn Historic Retreat, Mittagong fitzroyinn.com.au
The Robertson Hotel, Robertson therobertsonhotel.com
The Old Bank Boutique Hotel, Mittagong oldbankhotel.com.au

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LOOKING FOR A REAL ESCAPE FROM THE EVERYDAY?
NIKKI WALLMAN CHECKS INTO THIS INCREDIBLE AIRBNB
PROPERTY JUST OUTSIDE BERRIMA, WHERE - ESPECIALLY
DURING SUMMERTIME - **THE LIVING IS EASY...**

Driving up the long, winding, dirt driveway to Gunu Berrima, my toddler is screaming in the backseat, my husband's trying to placate him and I've got my nose buried in emails on my phone. We all need a break.

As the sprawling terracotta-coloured homestead comes into view, so do three kangaroos, who all look up as if to say: "Oh! You've finally arrived. Now stop stressing and look around you!"

Situated just four kilometres from Berrima, Gunu Berrima (the name is referenced from the local Gundungurra people) is surrounded by wild bush and organic veggie gardens. The grounds are beautiful – a mixture of abundance and landscaping, with plenty to explore.

Gunu Berrima boasts a number of fantastic outdoor entertaining spaces; while a huge fire pit surrounded by wooden chairs would be a fantastic spot during the cooler months (fire bans are in place between October long weekend and Easter). Then there's the pool, which looks like it's been transported from a villa in the Tuscan countryside, with a lovely stone alcove, outdoor fireplace and plenty of cushioned seating for whiling away the hours.

The house itself is no less stunning. It's large enough to accommodate extended families or groups, with three bedrooms in the main house and another separate studio adjacent to the main homestead. I walk through slowly, admiring the bold, graphic works commissioned from Italian abstract artist Marco Lorenzetto, cool-yet-comfy furnishings and gorgeous Moroccan rugs. The huge open living/kitchen/dining area is complemented by a fireplace, books and games; dining table and a great little sunken nook with cushioned bench seats and views over the garden. Guests can whip up

some eggs from the on-site chooks (kindly left in a crate for us, along with some fruit, veggies and herbs from the organic kitchen garden) for brekkie, sipping a Nespresso and looking out over the greenery.

The kitchen is well-equipped for both kids and adults, but you do need to bring all provisions with you (a small bottle of milk and – importantly! – a bottle of wine are also provided). Owner, Bianca, has compiled a comprehensive info sheet for the house, as well as providing a list of recommended places nearby to dine, drink, shop and visit.

After taking our son out to marvel at the roos nibbling away at the lawn just a few metres from the house, my husband lights the fire in the lounge room and gets some music on the sound system while I prepare our son's dinner. A high chair has also been arranged, as has a lovely cot in our bedroom, the master suite. Both of the spacious bathrooms have baths (toiletries are supplied) - a perfect way to end the day.

I prepare a simple meal and curl up on the couch in front of the fire with my husband. There's an enormous TV but we're exhausted, and retire early to the amazingly comfy, four-poster bed that I have to be dragged out of the following morning. I feel like a child again, seeing the sun come up over the gum trees, flooding the gardens and tempting me to stay, play and enjoy another day here in paradise. "Do we have to leeeeeeave?" I ask no one in particular as we pack up and head back to the real world. You're likely to feel the same, if you're lucky enough to experience Gunu Berrima. **B**



DETAILS

For further details and to book, visit airbnb.com.au/rooms/5280934; for more information, see gunuberrima.com



**NIKKI WALLMAN
DISCOVERS A
LUXURIOUS SPA
SANCTUARY THAT
TRULY DEFINES
THE IDEA OF
A WELLNESS
'ESCAPE'**

To get to The Wellness Spa at Milton Park in Bowral, you must first drive up a long road lined with majestic trees, and then climb a steep, winding driveway as the stunning historic estate (the spa is part of the luxurious Milton Park Country House Hotel) unfolds before your eyes. Gobsmacked by the gardens, awed by the glamorous, Gatsby-esque hotel, you then follow the winding path all the way to the stately building tucked up on the hill, with ivy-framed windows and a delicious sense that something amazing awaits you inside.

On the rainy spring Highlands afternoon that I arrive at Milton Park's Wellness Spa I step into the lobby area, shaking the raindrops off my jacket, and immediately feel my shoulders relax. The space is light and warm, with a luxurious fitout befitting a country estate. To my left is a gym; to the right, a serene-looking plunge pool, plus steam room and sauna. Tennis courts directly outside the spa are framed by lush greenery (hotel guests have access to the facilities; visitors who are not staying at

the hotel can purchase a day pass). I feel as though I've joined an exclusive club. I think I could get used to this.

Denise, my lovely therapist, greets me warmly and after a chat about my skin concerns to identify the right products to use in my facial, we get down to some serious indulgence. The spa stocks and uses luxury organic skincare range Sodashi (which you'll find in other top-notch retreats, including the Blue Mountains' Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley and Sydney's Shangri-La Hotel), renowned for both its purity and potency. Having identified my skin as sensitive, Denise will be using products from the 'Calm' line of Sodashi products, which features plant essences including chamomile, sandalwood, lavender and rose. I'm having the 'rejuvenate' package, which suits me perfectly after surviving my first Highlands winter and being in dire need of getting summer-ready.

We kick things off with a relaxing footbath in the soothing, low-lit treatment room I'll be spending the next two-and-a-half heavenly hours in. Denise applies

a body scrub, expertly massaging it over my skin as I feel the dry cells slough off and my muscles sink into a warm, fuzzy state of relaxation. She applies a body mud over the top of the scrub and allows it to work its magic while applying another mud, this time to my hair and scalp. I'm warmly wrapped up, cocoon-like; it's intensely calming and I almost drift off to sleep.

Each transition between treatments is seamless, meaning you avoid that disconcerting feeling of being half-asleep and then wrenched out of your reverie by harsh lights, banging doors, or long absences by your therapist.

After a dazed while, Denise directs me to the in-room, candlelit shower to rinse off the mud (it does take a while to get it out of my hair) before re-settling on the heated bed for my marine mineral facial. Thanks to her expert technique, I feel as though waves are rolling over my face as she cleanses, exfoliates, applies a skin-quenching mask and massages in a skin-boosting treatment, followed by an eye-lifting gel and calming moisturiser. After again almost being lulled into a trance, I'm gently stirred from my reverie by Denise informing me it's time to return to reality. Sipping tea outside in the entrance lobby, I curse myself for not bringing my swimmers – I really could have settled in for the afternoon, wandering between the steam room and plunge pool. Oh well... I guess I'll just have to come back. ■



DETAILS:

Milton Park Country House Hotel & Spa

Horderns Road, Bowral 4861 8100

reservations@miltonpark.com.au

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WORDS MELISSA PENFOLD

STYLE QUEEN MELISSA PENFOLD HONED HER IMPECCABLE TASTE AND ABILITY TO IDENTIFY THE LATEST AND GREATEST TRENDS DURING HER TIME AS **INTERIORS EDITOR AT BELLE MAGAZINE** AND AS THE **SHOPPING GURU AT THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD**. DIVIDING HER TIME BETWEEN SYDNEY AND THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, MELISSA'S AN EXPERT ON ALL THINGS SHOPPING IN OUR BEAUTIFUL REGION – AND WE CONVINCED HER TO SHARE HER TIPS TO MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS (OR ANYTIME, REALLY) SHOPPING THIS YEAR THE BEST YET! FOR MORE OF MELISSA'S FANTASTIC INSIGHTS AND STYLE ADVICE, VISIT MELISSAPENFOLD.COM AND FOLLOW HER ON INSTAGRAM @MELISSA_PENFOLD.



The Southern Highlands has been drawing people to the area for generations, but these days they're as likely to come for the shopping as they are for a great weekend. If you're looking to explore this corner of the country, Christmas shopping is the perfect time to start. From soaps to serving pieces (and everything in between), these retail hot spots offer all the right ingredients for you to give something unexpected, yet thoughtful, and show up in style this season.

GREENGRASS ANTIQUES

Get great ideas in quality and style from Portobello Road's Greengrass, whose shop offers loads of

quirky, interesting, collectable bits. Start with the walking sticks - from ivory duck heads to ladies' canes with hounds; then check out the boxes (Ceylonese ebony sewing boxes, Russian snuff boxes, agate stamp box), as well as binoculars, apothecary weight sets, inkwells, ivory picture frames, acorn nutmeg graters, and lots more. Greengrass Antiques, Mittagong Antique Centre, 87 Old Hume Highway, Mittagong, 4872 3198 or 0420 791 549, greengrassantiques.com



Babilonia

Stuck for time and inspiration? Head to this Highlands fave for a dazzling selection of gorgeous gift ideas such as Cire Trudon candles, Laguiole cutlery, Cascada alpaca blankets, throws and scarves as well as covetable French soaps and bubbles by Seda France, Provence Sante and Neste Dante. Look out for Jac & Jack, jewellery plus lots more.
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LYDIE DU BRAY ANTIQUES

Feeling flush, but stuck for inspiration? Head here to find gifts for the tricky person who has it all. The huge emporium, barn and garden is chock-full of one-off French antiques that will add instant pedigree to your friends' digs – seek out pieces that conform to your family and friends' tastes, but that they would think too indulgent to buy for themselves. Paintings, vintage baskets, statues, urns, busts, mirrors, porcelain, even plants that can make a room. **117 Old Hume Highway, Braemar, 4872 2844, lydiedubrayantiques.com.au**

THREE WISE MONKEYS

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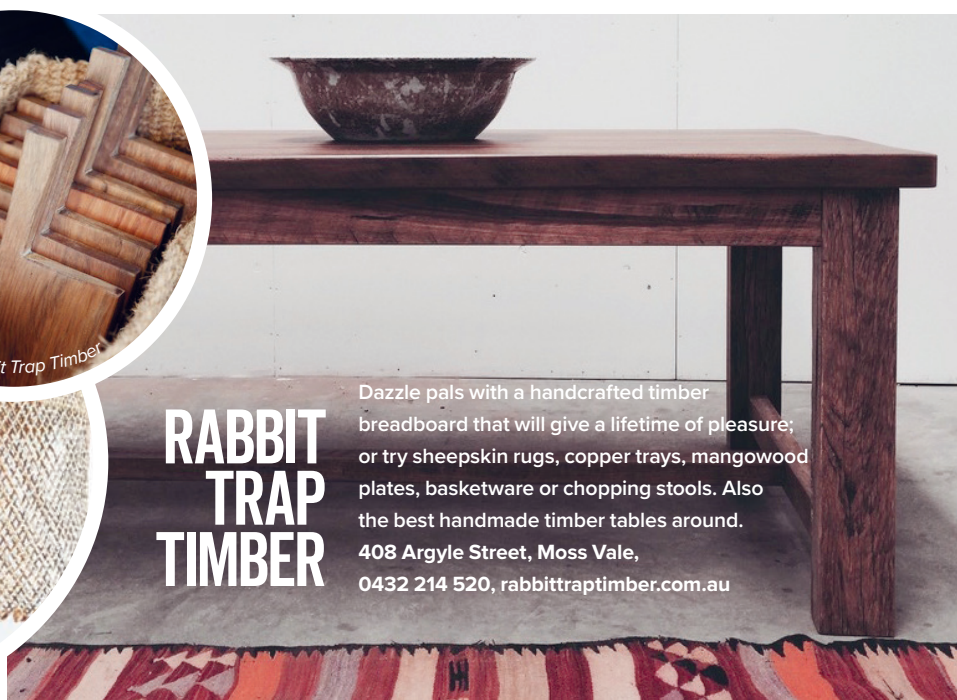
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A mod mecca of textile installations, macrame teepees and more, made using hand-dyed Australian wool and top-grade rope by textile artist Natalie Miller, who has made her mark on the international craft scene (she's created the world's biggest macrame chandelier for Hong Kong's Pacific Place, after all). This cool space also houses the workshop of talented sculptor and fibre artist Harriet Goodall.
430 Argyle Street, Moss Vale, 0414 306 166, facebook.com/greenbridgestudios



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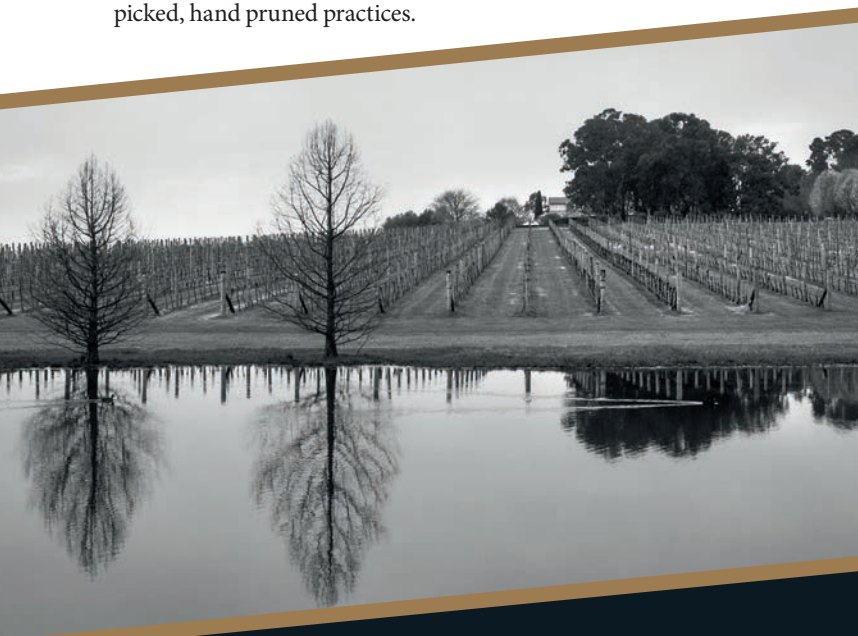
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Our Food and Wine section kicks off with a Q&A with Stefan Posthuma-Grbic, director of Quicksand Food and author of The Southern Highlands Cookbook, which features recipes and produce from the region's best restaurants, cafes, farms and estates.

(RRP \$39.95; available at all good Highlands bookshops, gift stores and contributing cafes and restaurants. Also available online at www.quicksandfood.com)

Q: What made you decide to focus your latest cookbook on the Southern Highlands – and why now?

A: The Southern Highlands for me has been a bit of a hidden treasure when it comes to food destinations. It's unique because of its elevation and seasonality, and it has diverse and beautiful landscapes that lend themselves in different ways to the production of great food. The history of the Highlands means there is a level of sophistication and understanding about good food that may not be there in younger food regions. It is accessible – a bit over an hour to Sydney, Canberra and the coast I think in the [past] few years there has been a surge in quality food and wine options in the Highlands. There have been so many new restaurant openings, [the] initiation of food tours, farmers' markets and food groups. The food culture here is now so healthy and dynamic, and I wanted to capture this with the new book.

Q: What makes the Southern Highlands unique when it comes to the climate/environment; and also the food culture, and the people working within it?

A: I think environment and history is where it starts. The Highlands has great rainfall and four distinct seasons, making it great for growing a huge variety of things. There are generations of agricultural knowledge here – people are intimately connected to the land – and [they] have experience and understanding of the conditions, so the produce is amazing. The chefs in the Highlands know how to make use of this produce in the best ways. Menus are seasonal and ever-changing, modern and sophisticated – and they always connect to the land around them. I guarantee the majority of great Highlands chefs know most of their suppliers well, and have an ongoing dialogue about what's good and in season. You can't have this in cities or larger, less accessible regions. It's really unique.

Food and Wine



Image: Peach Verrine with peach compote and nectarine granita, The Shaggy Cow, Mittagong from Quicksand Food – The Southern Highlands Cookbook.

Q: Did you discover anything during the course of making the book that would surprise people not familiar with the food and wine scene in the Southern Highlands?

A: One thing that surprised me is the volume of amazing food and produce in a relatively small region. It only takes about 45 minutes to drive from one end of the Highlands to the other, and the sheer number of fantastic restaurants, cafes, bars, wineries, estates, patisseries, bistros, pubs and produce is astonishing. It's a fantastic place to come to for a weekend away but you'd need every weekend of the year to discover all the Highlands has to offer.

Q: Any favourite/standout moments or experiences when compiling the book?

A: Some of the most memorable moments for me were times with the producers. I love getting my hands (and boots) dirty and talking to producers about what they are so passionate about. [I loved] pulling spuds with Norm in Robertson, chasing pigs with Katrina from Red Leaf in Fitzroy Falls, hunting truffles with Ted and Barbara at Yelverton, and going underground into the weird world of fungi at Li Sun Exotic Mushrooms in Mittagong. These people are so passionate and knowledgeable – it's great to learn from them.

Q: Why should visitors check out the Southern Highlands food scene this summer?

A: Summer is a time of abundance. The vegie gardens around the Highlands will be in full swing: plump berries, stone fruit falling from the trees, flowers in the gardens, and juicy green pastures. There's always so much food, and the chefs who put the hours into making summer produce sing on the palate will as always be working hard to give visitors the best Highlands experience possible. ■

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GRILLED TERIYAKI TROUT

Serves 2

Here's one way to enjoy a delicious trout dish at home. This recipe is all about simplicity, and all about that beautiful trout – perfect for a warm summer's evening.

Ingredients

- 150ml teriyaki sauce
- 2 plate-sized trout, filleted and bones removed
- 2 cups vibrant salad greens (mine are locally foraged watercress, with some coriander and fennel)
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste

Method

- 1** Pour half the teriyaki sauce into a heat-resistant ceramic or stainless steel dish. Place trout flesh-side down in sauce, leaving skin sauce-free. Refrigerate in dish for 2-4 hours to marinate.
- 2** Toss salad ingredients with lemon juice and oil, season with salt and pepper and place in a bowl.
- 3** Heat remaining teriyaki sauce in a small saucepan. Pour into a small jug.
- 4** Place trout (in dish; skin-side up) under a very hot grill and cook, without turning, for 3-5 minutes. Watch the fish at all times - look for the skin to start browning at the edges and sneak a peek at the flesh by lifting up with a knife. Once the flesh side no longer looks raw, your fish is cooked.
- 5** Serve trout with dressed salad, warm teriyaki sauce and crusty bread if desired.

LOCAL TROUT WITH SOME SERIOUS CLOUT

WORDS & RECIPE **GEOFF JANSZ** IMAGES **TONY SHEFFIELD**

CELEBRITY CHEF AND SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS LOCAL GEOFF JANSZ MEETS **DENNIS DORLING**, ROBERTSON'S RESIDENT **HOBBY TROUT FARMER**, TO FIND OUT THE STORY BEHIND HIS BEAUTIFUL, IN-DEMAND FISH.

Clear sparkling eyes, firm unblemished flesh and no fishy odour whatsoever...meet Dennis Dorling! You actually could meet Dennis, Robertson's resident trout man, if you made your way to the Robertson Crop Swap held outside Rockabellas Roadside Diner (74-76 Hoddle St, Robertson) on a Saturday morning. This great initiative sees local growers exchange free excess produce, have a communal coffee and return home with fresh ingredients and even fresher gossip. Dennis brings his rainbow trout around 9am. If you're not a local with goodies to swap, you can call Dennis ahead and arrange an order for him to bring along, or even to drop off nearby.

Dennis and wife Anna embody the spirit of biodiversity, self-supply and regenerative ethical growing. Their small plot produces fruit, vegetables and fish. Nothing is wasted: filtered fish and animal

manure, along with composted vegetable waste, is shovelled into the famous red soil of Robbo, where the cycle begins again.

Dennis was kind enough to take me on a 'trout tour' recently, weaving between six tanks in his garage, each containing 300 well-travelled fish which were conceived in Tasmania, grown to fingerling size (sometimes called fry) in Tamworth and matured right here, in tank No. 1 in Robertson.

The tanks are aerated naturally to recharge the pristine spring water with life-giving oxygen as the trout are fed daily and grow to plate size in two years. Dennis uses no chemicals, other than the same bicarb of soda I put in my cakes (it neutralises the acid waste). His trout are humanely and skilfully harvested to arrive bruise-free and fresh into the hands of only a handful of customers (I personally hope

for this sort of end when my time arrives... Dennis, when the morphine stops working, expect a call!).

Initially, Dennis tells me, the trout were only for immediate family. As quantities grew and word got out, a fresh trout was expected in place of the usual bottle of wine when Dennis and Anna were invited to dinner. Nowadays you'll find Dennis' trout as a weekend special on local menus, including the Robertson Inn and Bowral's The Mill Cafe. Taking country-style service one step further, Dennis will prepare a fish or two for you to pick up if you give him a call a few days ahead. If you're an out-of-towner, remember to pack an esky along with your pyjamas when you do what the savvy food-trippers do on a weekend... head down hungry to the Southern Highlands. ■



DETAILS

Dennis Dorling at **Robertson Trout Farm** can be contacted on 4885 1193 or dennis.dorling@hotmail.com

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS OLDEST VINEYARD AND WINERY.

A visit to family-owned **Joadja Estate** will give you a glimpse into the workings of the **Southern Highlands' oldest vineyard** and winery. Estate-grown, our wines are nurtured from the vine to the bottle.

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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



Fruits of the Sutton Forest Food & Wine Scene

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO ONE OF THE **FOOD AND WINE CLUSTERS** SHOWCASING THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS' INCREDIBLE BOUNTY

If you're into cool climate wines, you're in luck – they're basically the lifeblood of the Sutton Forest Food & Wine Cluster, along with olive groves, berry farms, pickles and preserves. A travellers' stop for more than 150 years, many of the township's historic homes and estates have been converted to accommodation – the perfect base for exploring this lovely pocket of the Highlands.



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ABOVE Olive groves **ABOVE RIGHT** Sutton Forest Country Store produce
RIGHT Cherry Tree Hill
FAR RIGHT Sutton Forest Country Store.
Images: Bastien Chapignac





WHAT ARE THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FOOD & WINE CLUSTERS?

Dynamic local foodie Brigid Kennedy, from The Loch at Berrima, has teamed up with Food Path pioneer Jill Dyson to identify nine different Southern Highlands Food & Wine Clusters. Each cluster offers an authentic taste of the local lifestyle; sublime 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 local producers and discovering the backstory behind the beautiful produce of the region. Simply download the cluster maps from southernhighlandsfoodandwineclusters.com.au to get started. The clusters are an initiative of Moss Vale & Rural Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 100 regional growers and producers.

Wines / Cellar Doors

Discover Italian sensibility with a Highlands flavour at the beautiful **St Maur Estate**, a rustic dairy farm where father Nerio (a former tailor from Italy) and son Marco Panizzutti are committed to 'sharing more of the good life' through their small-batch wines. An Italian influence also pervades **Sutton Forest Estate Wines**, where the Lo Rosso family combines its European background in grape growing with the unique microclimate of the Southern Highlands. Visitors can also tuck into antipasto, pastries and gelato while enjoying the scenery.

Don't miss your chance to get your hands on the only Pinot Noir to earn a gold medal at the 2016 NSW Wine Awards at **Rotherwood Wines** - their 2015 Pinot Noir, which also picked up a silver at the recent National Wine Show of Australia. Call David Young on 0406 740 457 to arrange a tasting.

Family-owned and operated, **Banjo's Run Vineyard** earns rave reviews from guests for its fantastic hospitality, offering award-winning wines for tasting in the crisp country air overlooking the vineyard. A friendly welcome also awaits at **Sallys Corner Wines**, a vibrant boutique vineyard offering free wine appreciation lessons from passionate viticulturists Dawn and Allen Davies.

At **Cherry Tree Hill**, you can't go past the renowned rieslings, which have notched up numerous awards and accolades. Three generations of the Lorentz family run the vineyard, bringing fantastic depth of experience to the winemaking process.

Another family-owned and operated vineyard is **Cuttaway Hill Wines**, where winemaker Mark Bourne artfully blends traditional and New World wine techniques to create a signature style based on classic grape varieties that demonstrate a fantastic cool climate

complexity. You can taste Cuttaway Hill wines at **Eling Forest Estate**, a heritage property in a gorgeous rural setting boasting colonial-era cottage and homestead accommodation alongside a winery, cellar door and dining options.

Food / Produce

Drop by **Sutton Forest Olives** to taste (and collect!) award-winning, premium cold-pressed olive oils, olives and other produce. Most of the olives grown by the Burrows family are of Tuscan origin, making them well suited to the cool climate of the Highlands. Here, the oil is extracted from the olives within six-12 hours of harvest, making it fresh, fruity and vibrant.

It's worth factoring in a visit to **Montrose Berry Farm**, a heritage-listed homestead with rambling gardens and a working berry farm where visitors can pick their own berries (in season - check montroseberryfarm.com.au for availability) including blueberries, red raspberries, boysenberries and even hazelnuts. Berries not ready for picking? The on-site store offers delicious berry pies, jams and other produce year-round.

Bring your esky and head to **Medway Farm Beef** to discover how the Galbraith family have free-ranged their grass-fed beef cattle at Sutton Forest. Their ethical approach to stock handling, combined with a commitment to chemical-free farming means happier cows and a healthier end product for you to buy direct from the farm in a variety of cuts.

Want to get hands-on? At **The 1910 Bottling Company**, passionate gardener and writer Steve Hogwood shares the basics of pickling, preserving and fermenting with fellow food lovers. Steve is well versed in the benefits of fermented organic foods, and prepares his preserves in the traditional way using only filtered rainwater, organic honeys and vinegars to pickle seasonal, handpicked organic produce.

Pubs / Shops

Stop by the **Sutton Forest Country Store** for the ultimate antidote to soulless supermarkets. Browse the selection of locally grown produce, traditional marmalades and yummy yoghurts blended with seasonal fruits. Big day on the foodie trail? Pull up a stool at **The Sutton Forest Inn** for a soothing ale (or a local wine) and you're likely to get chatting to one of the local producers. ■



TOP LEFT Medway Farm Beef
LEFT Steve Hogwood



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ITALY IN THE
SOUTHERN
HIGHLANDS**

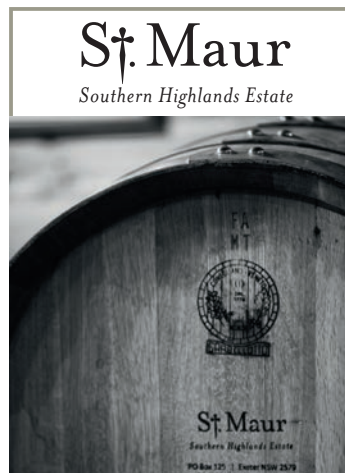
International award winning boutique wines, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio and Classic Chianti style Forest Red. Light meals, antipasto, focaccia, espresso, teas and gelatos available. Wine specials always available at Cellar Door. Open Friday-Sunday, Public holidays 9am-5pm.



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(next to northbound McDonalds)
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www.suttonforestwines.com.au*

St. Maur
Southern Highlands Estate



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GRAND BISTRO, BOWRAL

NIKKI WALLMAN SAMPLES THE **FRESH, FLAVOUR-PAKED MENU**, COOL SURROUNDS AND WARM SERVICE AT BOWRAL'S GRAND BISTRO.

The Grand Bistro has been welcoming a steady stream of delighted locals and visitors since opening in June 2016.

Tucked around the side of Bowral's Grand Arcade, the airy, fresh space is light and welcoming, with white walls, tables and chairs offset by pops of apple-green, and towering fiddle-leaf figs. More often than not you'll be greeted by the unfailingly friendly Justine, while chef Damien often pops out of the kitchen to bring out dishes and chat to diners about the food. You sense a genuine passion for what they're doing here.

With fans like chef Guillaume Brahimi singing his praises, Damien's talent in the kitchen hits full flight here in Bowral, where he has direct access to the Southern Highlands' incredible local food producers. He's passionate about seasonality and showcasing the best of the region, and works with other local chefs such as Nicola Coccia of the also-new nearby Bistro Officina in a 'locals supporting locals' mentality - the ever-changing specials menu is testament to this.

Having already sampled the excellent coffee (The Grounds of Alexandria), the crunchy-yet-pillowy, cinnamon-y deliciousness of their ricotta hotcakes, and the cauliflower fritters with soft egg, spinach, hazelnuts and raisins for lunch, I've come to try the new dinner service, which launched in September. Entering the restaurant one Saturday evening, it's filled with the same warm buzz that pervades during the day, and remains casual and informal. With a kids' menu and service starting from 5:30pm, it's a great option for families looking for an early dinner on the town.

My husband and I peruse the menu, which is complemented by a wine list featuring Damien and Justine's Howards Lane Vineyard alongside other local stars including Tertini Wines, Artemis and Cherry Tree Hill, and offerings from further afield (you can also grab a Southern Highlands Brewing Co ale on tap).



We kick off with a few starters, which would also go down well as companions to cocktails or wines with a group of friends. My husband gives the plump oysters with a mignonette dressing a thumbs-up; and we both enjoy crunchy, creamy salt cod coquettes with smoked paprika aioli (dangerously more-ish) and puffed cassava crackers with a Balinese peanut sambal (the perfect foil to a crisp white wine or cold beer). For mains, I go for the pork belly - meltingly soft squares of meat topped with crunchy crackling and accompanied by roasted fennel and a fresh combo of apple and celery. My husband orders the duck breast - tender, pink slices of duck with juicy segments of Valencia orange. A wild rocket salad with crunchy walnuts and delicious merlot dressing, and some Swiss brown mushrooms round out our meal.

My husband and I tend to talk a lot when we get a rare night out together; perhaps for that reason, by the time we finish our mains we're nearly the last left in the restaurant. Full to the brim, we pass on dessert - but with raw chocolate torte with pecan crust, espresso and Seville orange peel, and vanilla bean panna cotta on the menu, dessert's definitely another drawcard. ■



DETAILS

Grand Bistro

Shop 7E, The Grand Arcade
295-297 Bong Bong Street,
Bowral 4862 2126
grandbistro.com.au

Breakfast and lunch Tues-Sun
Dinner and cocktails Thurs-Sat

***Note:** menus are subject to change.



A FEAST FOR THE SENSES AT McVITTY GROVE

ALEX SPEED VISITS A LOCAL VINEYARD WHERE THE SHEEP ROAM FREE, THE FINE WINES ARE APLENTY AND THE SUNNY DECK BECKONS VISITORS KEEN FOR A TASTE OF THE GOOD LIFE.

IMAGES **TONY SHEFFIELD**

McVitty Grove vineyard sits on six hectares of rich rolling farmland, a ten-minute drive from Mittagong, and five kilometres along Wombeyan Caves road. The cellar door and restaurant is a stylish glass and concrete building high on the side of a multi-million-dollar vista, with views out to nearby Mount Jellore and the Blue Mountains in the distance. It's an idyllic setting. First impressions upon entering the vineyard are pleasing too: an avenue of golden-leaved trees lines the driveway; fattening Angus cattle graze in the lush paddocks; and a flock of black-faced Hampshire Down sheep, a rare British breed, graze among the vines and nearby olive trees.

No need though to call the neighbouring farmer and give him a blast for not mending fences, Jeff Aston, one of three wine makers at McVitty Grove, reassures me – the sheep aren't interlopers. Born and bred here, they are chief weed controllers and pruners; part of the organic biodynamic farming practice McVitty Grove follows. (First championed by educator Rudolf Steiner in the 19th century, biodynamics sees all soil, plant, animal and human health as interconnected and influenced by cosmic influences.) Aston first instigated these sustainable methods at McVitty Grove in 2013 with the help of fellow winemakers Mark Bourne and Ian MacDonnald. The result was the Tractorless Vineyard label, with varieties including pinot gris, rose, cabernet merlot, riesling and a new limited-release series, the Creators wines.



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TRACTORLESS VINEYARD LOST
FLOCK 2013, JUDGED BEST RED
BLEND AT THE 2016 AUSTRALIAN
HIGHLANDS WINE SHOW.

viticulturist Bourne, who produced its first vintage in 2001, the Cuttaway Hill range consists of eight grape varieties including chardonnay, pinot noir, merlot and semillon sauvignon. Produced from grapes grown on several different local vineyards and bottled at Eling Forest winery, Bourne describes his baby as “a taste of the Southern Highlands based on clean varietal fruit”. Certainly, it’s an industry staple and local success story, selling more than 400 cases each year.

Summer beckons, and on warmer days the deck of the restaurant is a stupendous place to sit and enjoy lunch. The original owners of McVitty Grove restaurant built an enviable reputation, so Aston and his cohorts have their work cut out, after a series of subsequent owners. Since taking over the operation in February they’ve been busy sourcing local produce, serving it in a hearty menu to accompany the excellent home-grown wine list. The ham and cheese croquettes I sample are a delicious crispy, light starter, and the spring lamb cutlets seasonal and local.

The cellar door also stocks other on-site farm produce such as olives and olive oil; and apple cider vinegar, which is also used to drench the sheep. Because, as Steiner – and Aston – surmise, everything is interconnected. And that includes wine making. 🍷

DETAILS

McVitty Grove

4878 5522; mcvittygrove.com
Lunch Wed-Sun 10am-4pm;
Dinner Fri & Sat from 6pm;
Sun buffet breakfast from 8am.
Wedding & function
enquiries welcome.

GETTING THERE:

McVitty Grove, 434 Wombeyan
Caves Road, Mittagong, is 120
kilometres from Sydney via
Mittagong and 10 kilometres
from Mittagong CBD via
the Old Hume Highway.

Aston says of Tractorless wines: “We make these wines for real wine drinkers. If we’d made them five years ago they probably would not have sold that well because there are little too textural, a little too dry, a little too European for the general Australian market. But wine drinkers here are much more sophisticated now. We have a mailing list and the Tractorless vintages sell out quickly”. The Tractorless Riesling, I can attest, is delicious, with notes of zesty lemon and lime that Aston says are representative of the region. Time to try another wine, I think. With the promise of winning a case if I can guess which five varieties of red grape go into making it (spoiler: I can’t), I savour Tractorless Vineyard Lost Flock 2013, which Aston describes as a “rich, full-bodied wine to be enjoyed with friends around a fireplace”.

McVitty Grove is also the cellar door home of fellow award-winning local label, Cuttaway Hill. Owned by



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7480 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest, 4868 1842, redcowfarm.com.au
Admission \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and groups, \$4 children (4-14 years).
Open 10am – 4pm daily (except Christmas Day) during summer.

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TOURIST DRIVE 16

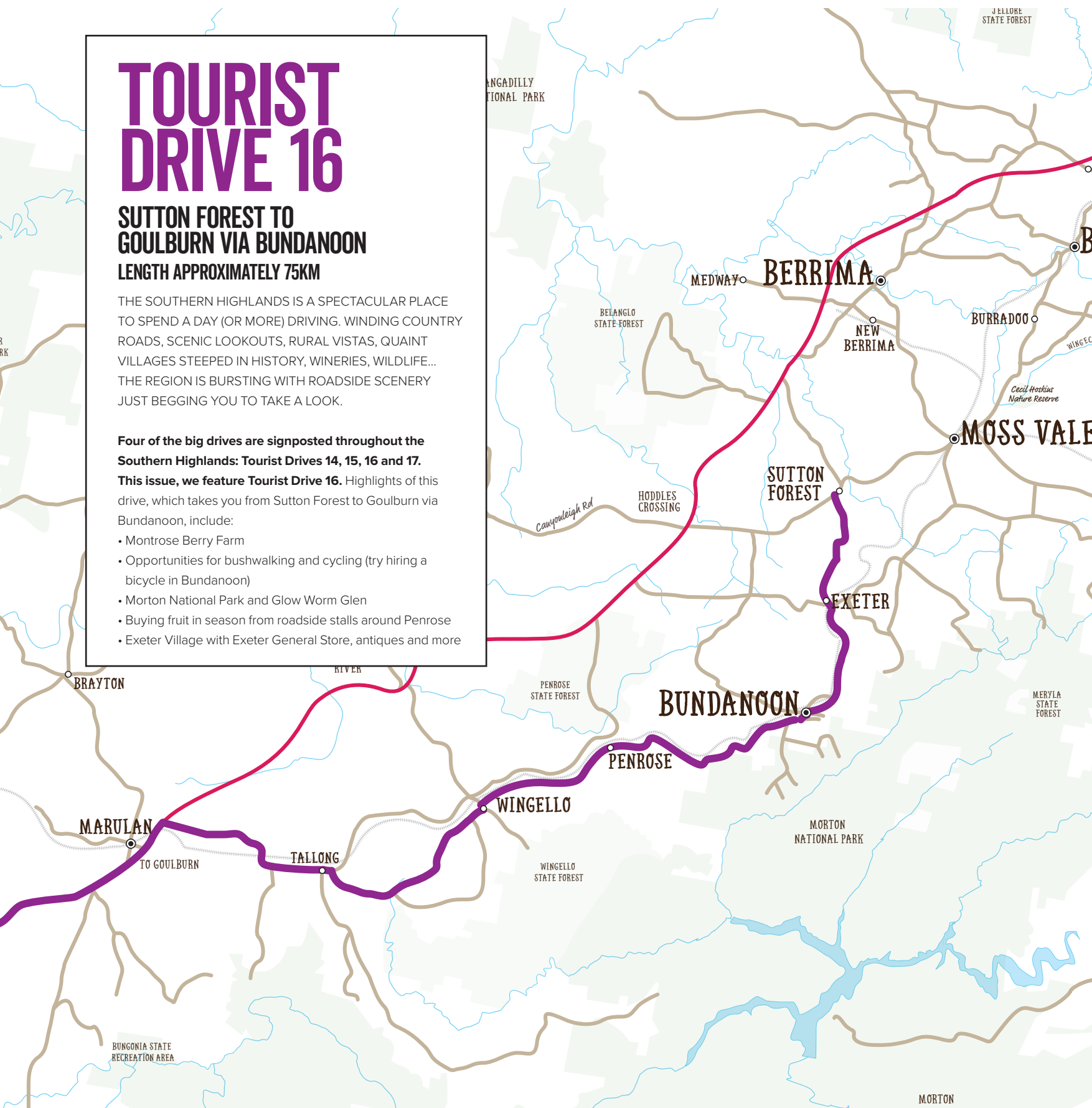
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Four of the big drives are signposted throughout the Southern Highlands: Tourist Drives 14, 15, 16 and 17.

This issue, we feature Tourist Drive 16. Highlights of this drive, which takes you from Sutton Forest to Goulburn via Bundanoon, include:

- Montrose Berry Farm
- Opportunities for bushwalking and cycling (try hiring a bicycle in Bundanoon)
- Morton National Park and Glow Worm Glen
- Buying fruit in season from roadside stalls around Penrose
- Exeter Village with Exeter General Store, antiques and more





THE DRIVE

From Sutton Forest to Exeter you'll encounter some amazingly picturesque countryside, with rolling green hills and pastures on both sides of the road. At Exeter village, you will see a wonderful example of an English style stone church, as well as lots of beautiful estates. In Bundanoon you'll find Glow Worm Glen (best viewed at night), in the Morton National Park. Bundanoon is a fantastic spot for bushwalking, camping and picnicking; while cycling is also popular (you can hire bicycles in town). From Bundanoon you will pass through the villages of Penrose, Wingello and Tallong. The road then intersects with the Hume Highway – 29 kilometres further on you will come to Goulburn. This drive is also ideal for those looking for an alternative, scenic route to Canberra. 📍

Visit the 'Drives' section of Destination Southern Highlands' website, southern-highlands.com.au/visitors/drives for further information on each tourist drive; plus fantastic videos taking you along for the ride (we've provided the QR code for Drive 16 here).



Scan this QR code to view a video of Tourist Drive 16.



THE GEM OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Located in Mittagong the Highlands Golf Club boasts extensive club house facilities including a pro shop, restaurant and function room.



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WORDS JO CROWLEY IMAGE ELISE HASSEY

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;
gibraltarbowl.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

Peppers Craigieburn

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

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 Highlands Wines. Accommodation available at Peppers Manor House.

Contact: 4868 3200;
mtbroughton.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;
kangaroovalleygolf.com.au

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

STEVE ROSA, MANAGER, DESTINATION SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SAYS:

“The Southern Highlands is the ultimate regional golfing destination where you can play any of our eight picture-postcard golf courses: from the Scottish-lookalike, PGA-rated Mt Broughton at Sutton Forest, to a leisurely & fun nine holes at Sylvan Glen set amongst a national park backdrop at Penrose, where you will probably play alongside some of our local wildlife such as kangaroos.

The Southern Highlands is also the perfect mid-week golfing destination, with eight fantastic courses inviting you to experience a ‘Stay & Play’ mid-week package deal. The deal allows you to play any of our courses Sunday

to Friday, while staying overnight and enjoying real Southern Highlands hospitality in the region’s historic and boutique hotels and guesthouses. All of our eight courses offer something for everybody, from the pro-minded golfer to the fun leisure golfer. Head to the Destination Southern Highlands website at southern-highlands.com.au to find out more about the ‘Stay & Play’ deals, and plan your next mid-week golfing escape in the Southern Highlands.”



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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



Bowral Golf Club. Image: Tony Sheffield



Berrima Bakehouse Motel

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Moss Vale
Bowral
Gibraltar
Mt Broughton



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Maximum number 20 Guests
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Northern view from Saddleback Mountain Road, image: Tony Sheffield



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BUSINESS EVENTS

Southern Highlands

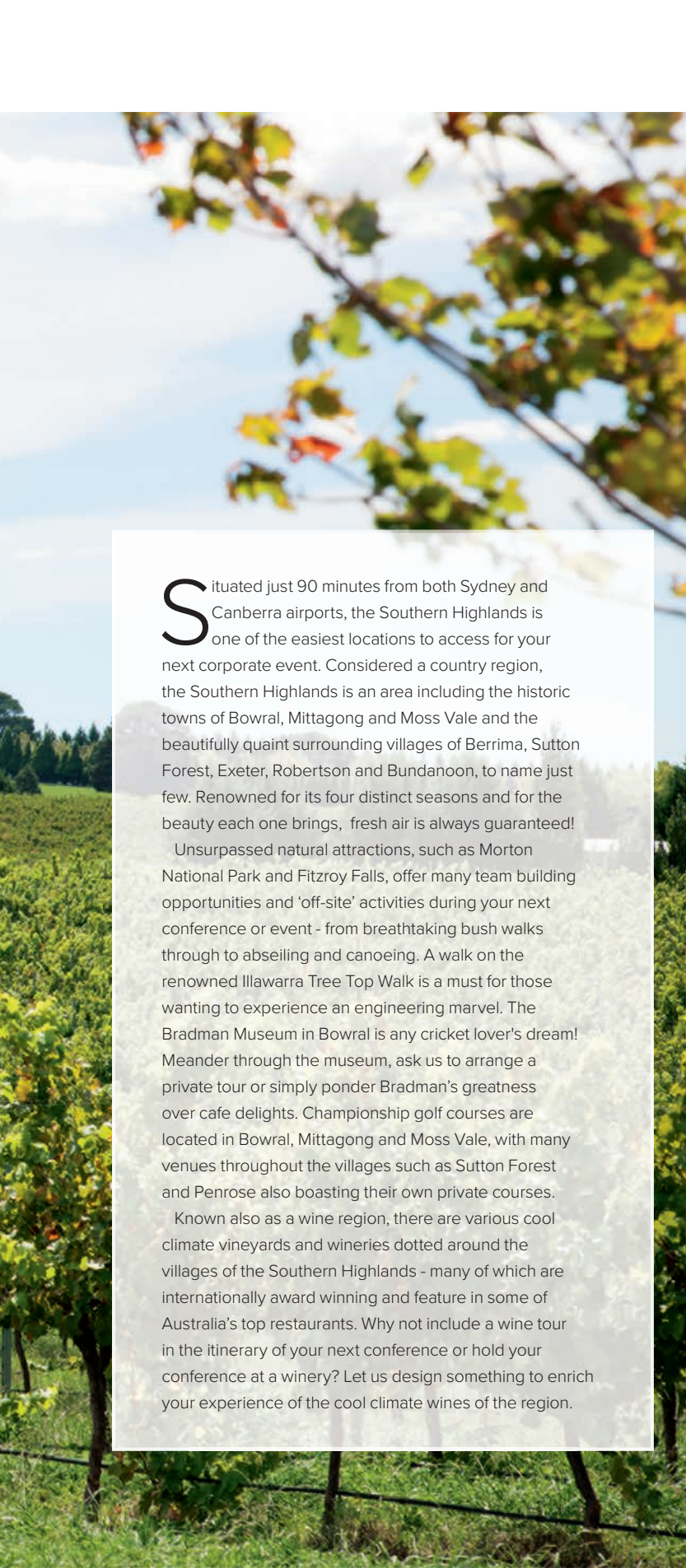
THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CONSTANT GROWTH AND INNOVATION FROM MANY LOCAL BUSINESSES AND VENUES MEANS THE REGION IS CORPORATE READY AND ABLE TO DELIVER A SEAMLESS, ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE CONFERENCE OR EVENT TAILORED TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

Bowral Golf Club

The Southern Highlands A CORPORATE DESTINATION

IN RECENT YEARS THE DEMAND FOR UNIQUE VENUES AND EXPERIENCES FROM CONFERENCE ORGANISERS HAS SEEN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, AND ALL THAT IT HAS TO OFFER, BLOSSOM INTO A POPULAR CORPORATE TOURISM DESTINATION.

Southern Highlands Wines, Sutton Forest



Situated just 90 minutes from both Sydney and Canberra airports, the Southern Highlands is one of the easiest locations to access for your next corporate event. Considered a country region, the Southern Highlands is an area including the historic towns of Bowral, Mittagong and Moss Vale and the beautifully quaint surrounding villages of Berrima, Sutton Forest, Exeter, Robertson and Bundanoon, to name just few. Renowned for its four distinct seasons and for the beauty each one brings, fresh air is always guaranteed!

Unsurpassed natural attractions, such as Morton National Park and Fitzroy Falls, offer many team building opportunities and 'off-site' activities during your next conference or event - from breathtaking bush walks through to abseiling and canoeing. A walk on the renowned Illawarra Tree Top Walk is a must for those wanting to experience an engineering marvel. The Bradman Museum in Bowral is any cricket lover's dream! Meander through the museum, ask us to arrange a private tour or simply ponder Bradman's greatness over cafe delights. Championship golf courses are located in Bowral, Mittagong and Moss Vale, with many venues throughout the villages such as Sutton Forest and Penrose also boasting their own private courses.

Known also as a wine region, there are various cool climate vineyards and wineries dotted around the villages of the Southern Highlands - many of which are internationally award winning and feature in some of Australia's top restaurants. Why not include a wine tour in the itinerary of your next conference or hold your conference at a winery? Let us design something to enrich your experience of the cool climate wines of the region.



The perfect moment to remember

The sweeping Southern Highlands provides the perfect backdrop to the most special of celebrations, your wedding day. Set amongst the lush garden countryside, Peppers Manor House and Peppers Craigieburn are two of the most romantic Southern Highlands settings to say your I do's.

Featuring reception venues that open onto the manicured gardens both venues are unique and offer the perfect destination for those looking for an indulgent celebration.



Book your wedding with Peppers Manor House or Peppers Craigieburn by 31 December, 2016 to receive a complimentary upgrade to the Premium Beverage Package. Simply mention "escape to the perfect wedding destination" at the time of booking

Experience Peppers
For enquiries call (02) 4860 3108
or visit peppers.com.au/weddings

PEPPERS

Bride and Groom and Craigeburn image
courtesy of The Evoke Company photography

RETREATS • RESORTS • HOTELS

A CHARMING REGIONAL CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

THE REGION IS HOME TO A WONDERFUL SELECTION OF VENUES THAT CAN BE SOURCED ACCORDING TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS - FROM SPRAWLING COUNTRY ESTATES AND GRAND MANOR HOUSES STEEPED IN HISTORY, TO BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED GUESTHOUSES, INNS AND HOTELS.



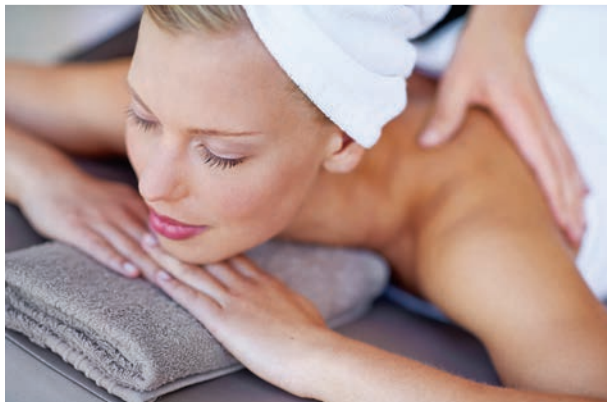
Sylvan Glen

Bowral boasts two of the finest venues in the area: Milton Park Country House Hotel & Spa and Peppers Craigieburn. In neighbouring Sutton Forest, the picturesque and newly refurbished Peppers Manor House sits conveniently adjacent to Mt Broughton Golf and Country Club championship course. Boutique inns and guesthouses such as the charming Fitzroy Inn and the historic Sylvan Glen offer a more intimate but quintessential Southern Highlands experience.

The region has also gained a great reputation for its produce, delicious cool climate wines and restaurants - and for very good reason. ►

*Enter a world in which your only problems
are those on your agenda.*

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS LEADING LUXURY HOTEL



*M*ilton Park excels in all aspects of professional conference management, an ideal environment in which to focus on the ideas and challenges of 2017 and beyond. The productive value of a well-planned conference in a serene environment is well documented.

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of your conference planning & coordination.



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WHERE A WARM WELCOME AWAITS...

Nestled in the beautiful green hills of the Southern Highlands, The Dormie House is an elegant guest house situated right on the Moss Vale Golf Course. Established in the early 1930's, The Dormie House retains its period charm while providing all the modern amenities of a quality golf resort.

The Dormie House's intimate atmosphere and personal service makes it a perfect retreat for couples and small groups. Whether you are planning a casual business conference or a golfing weekend with friends, Dormie House provides a comfortable and welcoming environment.

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Shotz - Indoor Golf and Sports Bar

Rain, hail or shine...perfect for individuals, group, lessons, a wet weather activity, birthday parties or just a night out with a group of friends. Contact us on 4868 1811 to make a booking. We also have a driving range. You can organise a bucket of balls from \$10 from our pro shop. Bistro open 6 days per week for lunch.



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e: dormie@mossvalegolfclub.com.au
www.dormiehouse.com.au



Restaurants have been winning coveted 'Chef's Hat' awards here for years. The choice of gastronomical experiences is endless. Offsite dining can be taken to a new level at Biota Dining, with its seasonally influenced menu featuring ingredients from the on-site garden and the surrounding landscape. A short drive to Berrima finds you at Eschalot, where you are seated in one of the most historically significant buildings of the region, and presented with a menu that delivers consistently beautiful cuisine with an elegant and understated sense of occasion.

If a more relaxed, yet equally enjoyable experience is required, the many vineyards in the area complement their exceptional wines with wonderful food and catering for up to 150 delegates, providing tailor made events showcasing the region's delicious offerings.

Varietals of pinot noir and pinot gris have consistently been the star performers at national and international wine shows for the Southern Highlands, but the area is also gaining a reputation for its impressive cool-climate chardonnay, merlot, riesling, sauvignon blanc, shiraz and sparkling wines. With over 60 vineyards in the area - many with cellar door - there are certainly plenty of opportunities for touring, tasting and team building.

For larger groups, discover Centennial Vineyards, Southern Highlands Wines and Mt Ashby Estate. For a more boutique experience, McVitty Grove and the multi award winning Tertini Wines are fantastic options.

To appreciate the region's amazing produce from an entirely different perspective a 'farm gate' experience is a definite addition to the conference agenda. Truffling, free range chicken farming, cheese making, olive oil, jams and not to mention paddock to plate workshops (where you may just spot a celebrity chef) are all on offer.

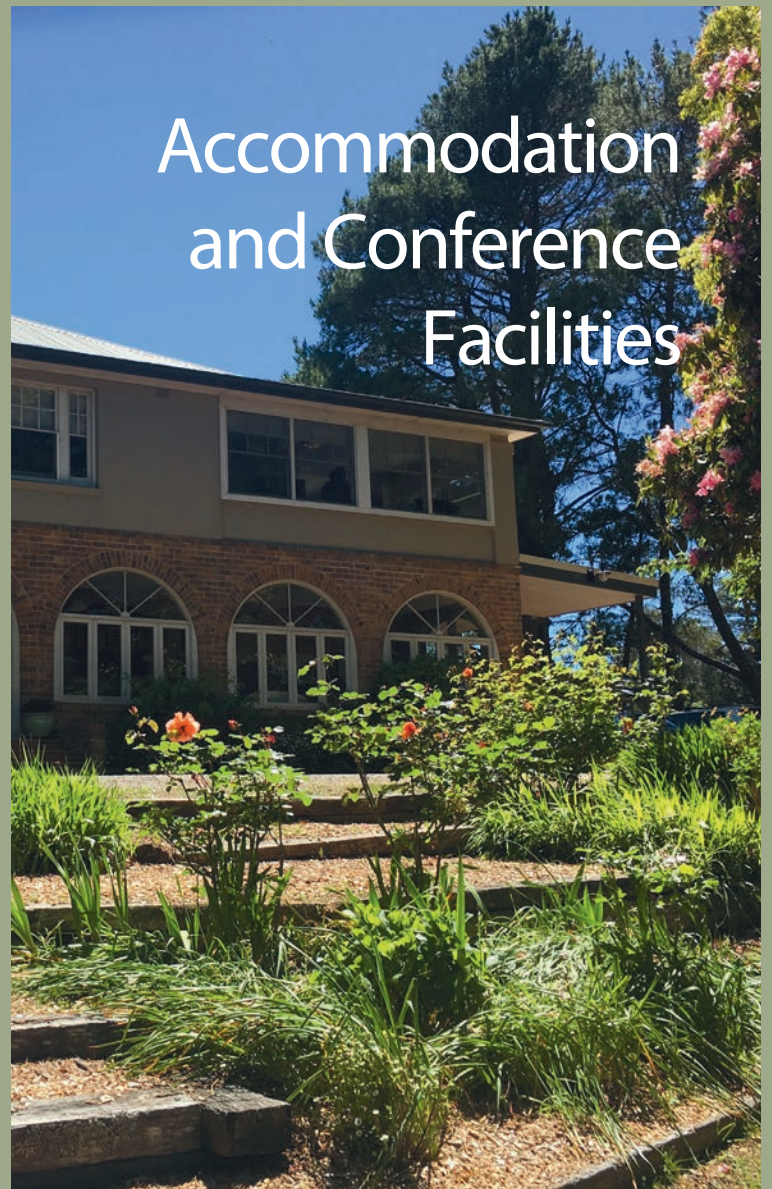


OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP LEFT Mt Ashby Estate BELOW LEFT Biota TOP RIGHT Tertini Wines BELOW RIGHT Peppers Craigieburn

THIS PAGE: TOP LEFT Eschalot TOP RIGHT Centennial Vineyards ABOVE Milton Park RIGHT Southern Highlands Wines.



Accommodation and Conference Facilities



Killarney House

Located in Bundanoon in the beautiful Southern Highlands, Killarney House provides a tranquil, private and productive environment available for exclusive hire.

From the moment you enter the gravel drive, you begin to feel renewed, refreshed and inspired.

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WHAT'S NEW?

The Southern Highlands continues to innovate, refresh and inspire - here are some of the latest developments.

Bundanoon Guest House

BUNDANOON GUEST HOUSE

Formerly 'Tree Tops' Guesthouse, Bundanoon Guest House is under new ownership and has undergone extensive refurbishment and styling to bring this c1910 heritage-listed beauty back to its former glory. This venue is perfect for exclusive hire, accommodating up to 21 delegates with generous lounge areas, games room including billiard table, conference room and breakout areas. You will also be spoiled for choice with the newly appointed in-house chef on hand to cater to your every culinary requirement.



Bistro Officina at Berida Manor

2 BUNDANOON COUNTRY INN MOTEL

This delightful motel on the edge of Bundanoon village dates back to the 1930s and is currently enjoying a transformation. The 20 rooms and 2-bedroom apartment are undergoing a complete update, with the bathrooms already receiving new heating. The conference room has been completed and is available for up to 65 guests. Tailor made team-building experiences will also feature in 2017.

3 KILLARNEY HOUSE - BUNDANOON

The first guest house to be established in this picturesque village is currently updating its 17 rooms, including two lodges as well as the main house, with fresh paint, new carpet, new beds and furniture. This tranquil venue, renowned for its retreat-style atmosphere, will no doubt be even more relaxing now!

4 BERIDA HOTEL BOWRAL

This beautiful ivy-clad manor house is under new ownership and is going through a complete refurbishment in 2016/17. The new European-style bistro and bar, 'Bistro Officina', is already in residence and receiving rave reviews.

Make it happen!

Would you like to organise a conference or event in the Southern Highlands?

WHY NOT CONTACT THE CONFERENCE SHOP? Specialising in matching your requirements for conferencing and events with regional destinations throughout New South Wales, ACT and Victoria, we can save you time and money by recommending venues, attractions and suppliers for free! Our office is based in Bowral, meaning there is nothing we don't know about the Southern Highlands, and can offer you help in all areas of your planning today!

Contact us on 02 4861 5973, enquiry@theconferenceshop.com.au or visit www.theconferenceshop.com.au





The Southern Highlands' most charming venue

Sylvan Glen country weddings and conferences



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At the heart of Sylvan Glen is a historic country guesthouse with 15 lovingly decorated ensuite rooms.

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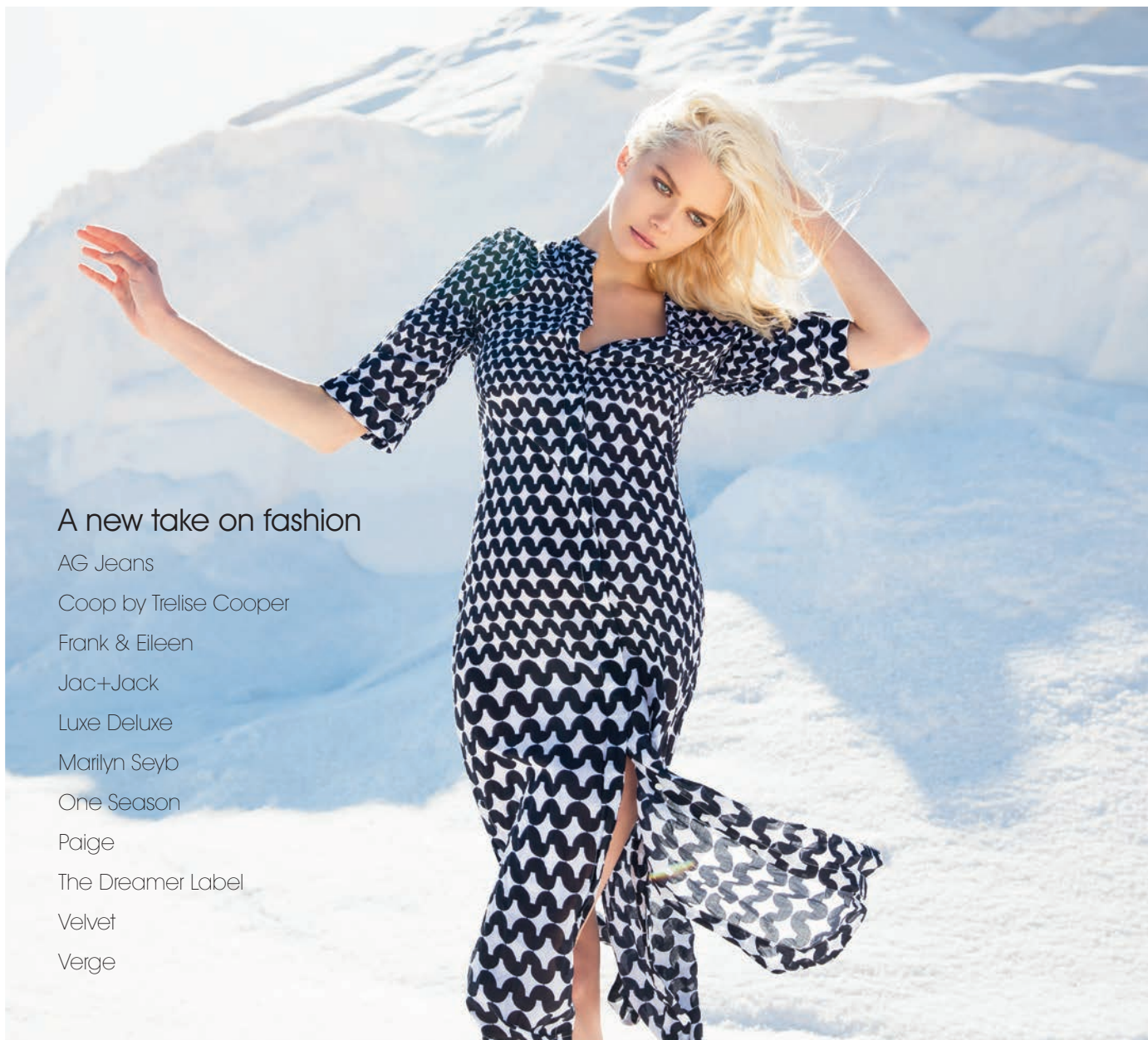
Get cosy on the couches in front of the fireplace, have a laugh over a game of pool or take your coffee onto the decking and look out of the countryside.

When motivation hits, how about racing through vineyards on our off-road motorised scooter tour, testing your skill with our Archery Strike game, trying the new Foot Golf or simply enjoying a 9-hole round of golf.

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**KATE AND PINO CURCIO'S
SUMMER WEDDING IN THE
BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS OF
BOWRAL'S BIOTA WAS A GOURMET
FEAST FOR THE SENSES.
PHOTOGRAPHER MILTON GAN'S
PICTURES SHARE A PEEK INTO
THEIR SPECIAL DAY.**

IMAGES MILTON GAN PHOTOGRAPHY - MILTONGAN.COM



“It was important to us that our wedding felt like a beautiful garden dinner party, as opposed to a formal wedding set-up.”



Based in Sydney's Paddington, Kate and Pino have both always loved the Southern Highlands. So when it came to planning their February 2016 wedding, “We were after something close to Sydney so it was easy to travel to, but also something unique that created a relaxed atmosphere and enabled a short getaway for our guests,” says Kate. “The atmosphere in Bowral is instantly relaxing, and being out of the city we found that this created a special long weekend with our family and friends. We opted for a Friday wedding to enable our guests to enjoy a weekend away and planned day-after events to enjoy more of the Highlands together.”

As both are lovers of great food, Biota proved to be the perfect venue for their nuptials – much to the delight of their guests. “We were all excited for the food, local wines and produce,” says Kate. “The celebrations kicked off with classic Pimm’s pails and champagne cocktails with elderflower from the Biota garden.” They also enjoyed delicious canapes, and a “very impressive produce table to start, full of cold meats, cheeses, salads, vegetables and Biota breads”.

For the main event, guests tucked into meats including suckling pig and enjoyed outdoor tandoor oven offerings of chorizo, chicken and blood sausage. There was also a seafood/raw bar including prawns, oysters and sashimi; and desserts including local cheeses, chocolate truffles, lemon meringue, and chocolate and caramel mousse. “The Centennial Vineyards wines selected by Biota were equally fantastic,” adds Kate.

Kate and Pino clicked with Biota’s approach immediately. “The option to have their amazing food flowing throughout the night, with guests able to interact with the chefs and make their own selections, captured the personalised atmosphere we were looking for,” says Kate. “It was important to us that our wedding felt like a beautiful garden dinner party, as opposed to a formal wedding set-up”. ►



NINA LÉON'S

Shoe Boutique

southern highlands

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- Linen hire
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Ph/Fax: 02 4868 1099

www.mossvalevillagecaravanpark.com.au



"The Biota grounds and garden, and [the] informal venue layout, enabled us to host our ceremony onsite under the tree by the pond, then begin celebrations in the garden, with guests flowing freely through the courtyard and indoor areas throughout the night. It was perfect!"

Of course, it wasn't all about the food and wine. Kate's favourite moment of the day?

"The ceremony under the beautiful flower-wrapped tree by the pond was definitely a highlight. Seeing each other for the first time down the aisle, and with all of our favourite people watching on from the lawn and verandah... Magic!" 🍷



DETAILS

VENUE:

Biota
18 Kangaloon Rd, Bowral
biotadining.com

BRIDE'S DRESS:

Oscar de la Renta;
veil and belt by Ervan Woo

GROOM'S SUIT:

Calibre

BRIDESMAID'S DRESS:

Zimmermann

FLORIST:

Myra Perez from My Violet
myviolet.com.au

HAIR AND MAKE-UP:

Samantha Lee
samanthalee.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Milton Gan Photography
miltongan.com

LIVE MUSIC:

Tillee Music & Scotty Sax



Here for a wedding?

**OUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE
TO MAKING THE MOST OF
THE WHOLE WEEKEND
IF YOU'RE VISITING THE
HIGHLANDS TO HELP
FRIENDS CELEBRATE
THEIR BIG DAY (OR EVEN
IF YOU'RE NOT!).**

Many first-time (or repeat) visitors to the Southern Highlands find themselves in our beautiful region to help celebrate a friend or loved one's wedding. But what else should you do while you're in town? Where are the best pre- and post-wedding places to eat, drink, shop and recover? We've compiled a handy guide to help you get the most out of your time here (and maybe inspire a repeat visit or three).

The day/s before the wedding

Cool off...

...at a local swimming spot. **Bowral Swimming Centre** (152 Mittagong Rd, Bowral; wsc.nsw.gov.au/services/swimming-pools) is a great public swimming complex with a number of pools catering to all types, whether you want to swim some laps, linger waist-deep in the water while having a natter, or take the little ones for a paddle in the shade. The retro styling of the front entrance and old-school tuckshop are a fantastic trip down memory lane, too. Bear in mind the nearby Mittagong pool is closed this summer season thanks to extensive storm damage in mid-2016, so things could get a little busier – but it's still a lot more relaxed than Bondi!

GET CREATIVE

Set on a beautiful semi-rural property within easy reach of Berrima, Mittagong and Bowral, Louisarose and Co jewellery workshops take place in a creative studio that makes an Instagram-worthy backdrop for some pre-wedding bonding or just a treat with girlfriends. Delve into the gorgeous gemstones, pearls and semi-precious beads and create your own quality statement jewellery. Morning or afternoon tea is provided (along with some bubbles to get the creativity flowing, of course!), as well as all materials, making it a great option for some pre-wedding bonding (and accessorising).

From \$175 per person (groups of 4-6) or \$160 per person (groups of 7-12).

Contact Louisa de Haas; louisa@louisaroseandco.com.au or visit louisaroseandco.com.au

GET ACTIVE

Nervous grooms and groomsmen (or brides and bridesmaids) might enjoy a few hits in the nets down at the hallowed turf of **Bradman Oval** (St Jude St, Bowral) – even just a browse around the fantastic interactive **Bradman Museum & International Cricket Hall of Fame** could help take the edge off any wedding-day nerves. If you didn't pack your cricket kit, you can purchase bats and balls at the on-site shop, which is packed with paraphernalia.

Of course, the Highlands is home to plenty of fantastic golf courses for those more inclined to swing a club than a cricket bat – see our handy guide on pp50-51.

Or, for a down-to-earth afternoon with a beer in hand, head to the **Bowral Bowling Club** (40 Shepherd St) and indulge in a few leisurely games of bowls – it's a great way to while away a few hours.

Images of Bradman Oval & Bowral Swimming Centre by Elise Hassey



Bowral also offers some reliable high-street shopping, including **Seed Heritage** (Shop 6, Corbett Plaza, 294 Bong Bong St) and **Witchery** (4/18 Station St) for wedding essentials like heels, belts, or even last-minute outfits. Try **Cable Melbourne** (Shop 2, Corbett Plaza, 294 Bong Bong St), located next to Seed in the lovely open-air Corbett Plaza, for sophisticated separates in beautiful fabrics. While you're here, fuel up with a takeaway coffee from **Janek's** (the locals swear by it) and pop into **Nina Leon's** for a great selection of footwear.

If you've got a bit of time, it's worth stopping by **Mic Mac** (280 Bong Bong St) or **By Helene** (Springetts Arcade) - both of which stock pre-loved designer clothing at bargain prices (recent rummagings in By Helene, for example, have turned up gems including silk Equipment shirts, vintage Diane von Furstenberg wrap dresses and embellished Sass & Bide tees). **Mic Mac** also stock new clothing and shoes.

Bowral's main (Bong Bong) street also yields the likes of **Sportscraft** for its feminine tailoring and casuals, and **Baskerville & Brown** for classic pieces in natural fibres. Duck into High Street Arcade to pick up some delicious fudge from **Bowral's Sweets & Treats** or a baked goodie from **Stones Patisserie** to keep your energy up. In Boolwey Street, you'll find **Cloth & General**, a cool little boutique stocking a range of labels including the likes of By Malene Birger, American Vintage, and J-Brand; fabulous jewellery and accessories; and boho-chic homewares. Next door is **Babilonia**, another local

favourite stocking Paige Denim, lush cashmere and silk pieces, and a fantastic range of gift ideas. Back on the main street, you'll find **Quirkee Birds** (372 Bong Bong St) - a great choice for luxe labels with a boho twist, like Joie, Maison Scotch and POL Design. You may even nab a last-minute frock for the wedding.

Forgot to pack your foundation/mascara/lippie? Having a last-minute skin freak-out? The lovely staff at **Glam** (325 Bong Bong St) will sort you out. This place is a bit of a surprise - it's like stepping into an airport duty-free store, but with that inimitable small-town friendliness thrown in. Sleek, huge and packed with top brands including Chanel, Clarins, Lancome, Napoleon Perdis and pretty much every perfume you can think of, this is also a one-stop shop for beauty services including make-up and waxing.

Another potential surprise for city slickers is the fact that celeb hairdresser extraordinaire, **Joh Bailey**, has opened a salon upstairs in Springetts Arcade. The super-friendly team are often run off their feet during Bowral's party and events seasons, for good reason - top-notch blow-dries are a calling card.



Joh Bailey

The next day...

Feeling the effects of last night? Pick your poison. If you're the type that needs a bright green juice to feel better, head to **Raw & Wild Market & Cafe** (250 Bong Bong St, Bowral), a popular spot serving up wholesome brekkies, lunches and juices. There's also a range of healthy food and other goods for sale at the front of the premises.

If you're the type to seek out something a bit more substantial to soak up the excess, you've got a few great options. The good folk at **Primary Espresso** (23 Boolwey St, Bowral) do a mean bacon and egg roll; the Spanish eggs are also a hearty way to start the day. If you're feeling fragile, breakfast in **Biota's** green sanctuary (18 Kangaloon Rd, Bowral) is a soothing way to ease into the day while enjoying top-notch food and coffee. **The Shaggy Cow** in Mittagong (112 Main St) also does great – and, importantly, all-day-breakfasts; or if you're up for a bit of a drive, the **Exeter General Store** (1 Exeter Rd, Exeter) is a destination in itself, with popular breakfast boards, books for browsing and other general store accoutrements (follow it up with a ramble around the postcard-pretty town's antique stores and shops).

Late night means you missed breakfast? Try heading to the **Royal Hotel's** (255 Bong Bong St) courtyard for a spot of sunshine and damn fine burgers, perhaps to accompany a hair of the dog. The **Imperial Hotel** (cnr Bong Bong and Bundaroo Sts) just across the road does great wood-fired pizzas and boasts plenty of space to accommodate groups; and **Briars** (653 Moss Vale Rd, Bowral) boasts lovely outdoor decking, plus a kids' play area to keep tots entertained while you recover. Or, if you're in too much of a rush to stop and eat, the iconic **Gumnut Patisserie** (Shop 7, Grand Arcade, Bong Bong St, Bowral) does a mean sausage roll or pie (or vanilla slice...) for the ride home. ■

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Highlands summer

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS IS A MECCA FOR SUMMER VISITORS, WITH (MOSTLY) Milder TEMPERATURES AND AN ABUNDANCE OF OUTDOOR PLACES TO EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY. HERE'S OUR GUIDE TO GET YOU STARTED.

IMAGES ELISE HASSEY

VISITORS HAVE BEEN FLOCKING TO THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS TO ESCAPE THE BLISTERING SUMMER HEAT SINCE THE 1880s, AND THE TREND SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN. THE REGION'S HOT-LIST OF PLACES TO DRINK, DINE AND ENJOY THE OUTDOORS **MAKE A HIGHLANDS SUMMER FLING A MUST-DO THIS SUMMER.**

Let's start with the quintessential Australian summer pastime: enjoying a beer or glass of crisp white wine in a buzzing beer garden or quiet courtyard. Perhaps the most famous (and lovely) such option in the Highlands is out the back of the **Burrawang Village Hotel** (14-16 Hoddle Street, Burrawang), a historic pub packed with country character. Grab a local ale and head outside to the courtyard to soak up spectacular views of the surrounding lush, rolling countryside. There's plenty of space for kids to run around on the grass and it's hard to imagine a lovelier way to end a summer's day.

Briars (653 Moss Vale Road, Bowral) is another quintessential country setting boasting plenty of outdoor space – some covered, some open-air – in which to enjoy a cooling drink on a warm day. Make sure you check out the interiors too – the Georgian-style inn dates back to 1845 and comprises cosy drinking dens and multiple bars, plus a dedicated dining area (there's also on-site accommodation if you want to make a night of it).

The Mittagong Hotel (89-91 Main St, Mittagong) also has a great outdoor beer garden, perfect for enjoying a leisurely beer and perhaps some Mexican food from the La Cantina bistro.

In Bowral's town centre, the **Royal Hotel** (255 Bong Bong St, Bowral) has recently spruced up its beer garden, a nice little space strung with festive party lights, framed by a bright green tree and offering partial cover. This popular local institution serves great pub grub and is the perfect spot to settle in for a lunch break, or as the sun sets after a day's sightseeing or shopping.

Just around the corner at the **Grand Bistro** (Shop 7E, The Grand Arcade, 295-297 Bong Bong Street) you can pull up a chair on the little astro-turfed outdoor area out the front and order from a great selection of wines, including the owners' Howards Lane rose – perfect for balmy summer afternoons or evenings – and a bunch of other local favourites including Cherry Tree Hill, Artemis and Tertini. Grab a few delicious nibbles (GB croque monsieur with jamon, truffle, pecorino and brioche, anyone?) from the evening menu to complement the drinks and you're sorted.



Speaking of wines, the Southern Highlands boasts plenty of cellar doors with fantastic outdoor settings, so you can imbibe both the wines and the surroundings. Some highlights include **McVitty Grove** (see review, pp44-45) where the spacious deck offers fantastic views over the hills and vines; **Joadja**

Estate (cnr Greenhills Rd and Joadja Rd, Berrima), a rustic cellar door with rambling, established gardens perfect for enjoying a picnic; **Centennial Vineyards** (252 Centennial Rd, Bowral), where you can enjoy views from the verandah along with your food and wine; and **Bendooley Estate's** (3020 Old Hume Highway, Berrima) cellar door, where you can sit in picture-perfect surrounds outside within (wine) spitting distance of the vines while enjoying gourmet fare (Berkelouw next door also has outdoor seating).

Artemis Wines (46 Sir Charles Moses Lane, off Old Hume Highway, Mittagong) boasts a lovely outdoor seating area to taste their renowned range – including their highly awarded 'Close Vine' pinot noir, their recently released sparkling riesling, and their crowd-pleaser, the 2015 pinot grigio. Artemis also produce Sunshack Cider and the unique BEE mead, billed as Australia's first sparkling mead – so you're likely to find something to please every palate. ►



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
The Loch, Royal Hotel,
Burrawang Village Hotel

Robertson Cluster

Moss Vale Cluster

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southernhighlandsfoodandwineclusters.com.au



Artemis also hosts various events like Yoga in the Vines (every second Sunday of the month, excluding January) where you can do either a morning or afternoon session of yoga, followed by a wine and cider tasting paired with local produce; and Open Mic & Woodfired Pizza (first Sunday of every month, excluding January) to really make the most of the surrounds. It's worth following them on Facebook, as other events (Riesling and Seafood; Movies in the Vines; Duck and Pinot Noir) are planned – you wouldn't want to miss those, would you? Continuing with our drinks theme, Biota (18 Kangaloon Rd, Bowral) is set in a garden oasis near the heart of Bowral. Here, surrounded by tall hedges, gorgeous green grounds and even a large pond, you can perch on the wooden balcony overlooking it all and order delicious botanical cocktails, excellent wines and amazing bar food (to make a real evening of it, book into the two-hatted restaurant for a dinner to remember).

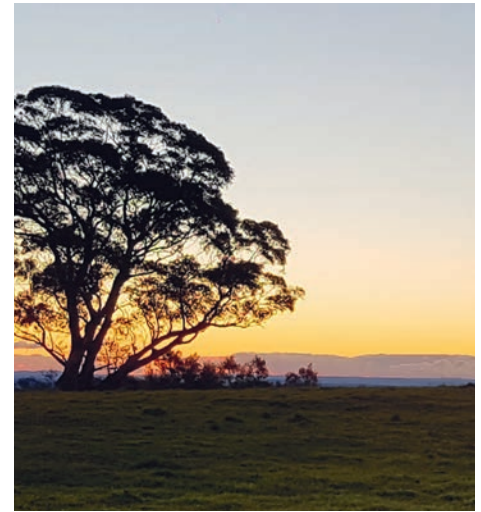
For more of a daytime dining experience, try the pretty little garden out the back of the charming **Burrawang General Store Cafe** (11 Hoddle Street, Burrawang), or nab one of the tables out front on the balcony to soak up the quaint village atmosphere while tucking into their delicious fare. In Berrima, take a seat on the covered balcony at the **Magpie Cafe** (Old Hume Highway, Berrima) for a leisurely lunch, including the likes of gourmet pies and excellent Ploughman's platter, while day-trippers wander past. **Gumnut Patisserie** (Shop 1, Post Office Corner, Old Hume

Joadja Cluster

Sutton Forest Cluster

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CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Burrawang General Store
Cafe, outdoor seating
at Berkelouw, sunset at
Highland Farm, Highland
Farm long lunch.

Highway, Berrima) has a courtyard space out the front where you can indulge a sweet tooth in the sunshine. And closer to the hub of the Highlands, Bowral has plenty of cafes with outdoor seating options for a quick pit-stop while in town – try **Primary Espresso**, **Palate Pleasure**, or **Raw & Wild Market and Cafe**'s courtyard out the back.

Of course, nothing beats a summer picnic. Stop into the award-winning **Flour Water Salt** (374 Bong Bong Street, Bowral) to pick up a bunch of delicious baked goodies (think amazing sausage rolls, pies and savoury tarts; cute cupcakes; decadent chocolate tarts and more) before heading to your chosen picnic spot. After a proper hamper? Call ahead (4861 7900) and they'll put together a made-to-order feast based on your needs.

At 2 Park Rd: **The Corner Store** (Bowral) a cute, bright little corner store that does yummy takeaway sandwiches, coffees and sweet treats, you'll be within walking distance of Glebe Park and Bradman Oval, (as is the fabulous **The Hospital Shop Cafe**, 4 Mona Road) where the kids can hit

the playground and parents can ogle the hallowed turf of 'the Don'.

If you're planning a weekend cycle in the beautiful surrounds of Bundanoon, there are plenty of great options to pick up some food to fuel both your tastebuds and your legs. Try the new **DeliLicious Bundanoon** (5 Railway Ave) which locals tell us does a mean pulled-pork roll and excellent coffee, plus sweet treats like Nutella and hazelnut muffins; or the cyclists' fave, you can hire bikes here **Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe** (9-11 Church Street) cafe. Or pop by **The Terrace Tea Shop** (27 Railway Ave) to reward yourself with some afternoon scones and tea following a morning's cycling.

Finally, this summer will see the Southern Highlands put on an array of fantastic events that take advantage of the incredible range of local produce and wine as well as the bucolic scenery. **Highland Farm**, for example, runs a number of outdoor events including farm tours, gourmet picnics, and long table lunches. At the long table lunches, local ingredients such as organic grass fed Highland beef ►

from Joadja, cheeses from the Robertson Cheese Factory, organic vegetables, eggs and herbs from Moonacres Farm, and petit fours from The Gumnut Patisserie are joined by wines from Tertini, Centennial, SHW and Cherry Tree Hill and teamed with beautiful views over the surrounding countryside. Summer highlights include Christmas champagne and canapes (9th and 10th December) featuring sparkling wines from Centennial Vineyards alongside Christmas classics, music, a firepit, hay bales, and teepee lounge; 'Growlers and Grub' (end Jan; see facebook.com/Southernhighlands), where guests will enjoy an afternoon by the fire pit, enjoying the views over the paddocks, while savouring local beers with gourmet Highland beef burgers, lamb and feta sausage rolls, pulled pork sandwiches and more; and a Summer Sunset Spit (end Feb, see facebook.com/Southernhighlands). Their farm tours are fabulous for the kids, who can meet the friendly mini pigs, Highland cows, cheeky mini goats, guinea pigs, chickens, alpacas and Jersey the sheep; you can make a day of it by adding a gourmet picnic to the mix, too (every weekend during school holidays; see highlandfarm.com.au).

Brigid Kennedy is planning to hold her Summer Foodie Field Day event on Sunday 12th February on the grounds of her beautiful property, **The Loch**, with a focus on matching

dishes like double-baked parmesan soufflé with champagne sorrel sabayon; Tuscan veal with thyme-scented French beans and fig salsa on a French tart; and raspberry curd tart with fresh summer berries with award-winning local wines. To book, email Brigid@simmeronthebay.com.au.

And if you're interested in pitching a (beautifully designed, luxuriously comfy) tent to really make the most of our beautiful outdoors, check out **Me Jane Campout** – the brainchild of local Jane Quinn, who creates bespoke 'primal luxury' camping experiences for everything from wedding parties to pop-up events at local vineyards. Me Jane Campout (mejanecampout.com/jane@mejanecampout.com) will be running a pop-up campout at Banjo's Run Vineyard between mid-December and mid-February – just imagine fishing your own trout from the on-site dam and barbecuing it before washing it down with some of their finest wines, and settling in to your luxurious tent for the night. 🍷



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Picnic spot suggestions:

Any of the green spaces along Bowral's **Cherry Tree Walk**, which also follows a lovely river.

Nellies Glen – a fairytale swimming spot in the Budderoo National Park, perfect for a day spent exploring.

Lake Alexandra in Mittagong is a fantastic place to take the kids, with a large lake, walking track, playground, picnic tables, plenty of grass to spread out on, and ducks to feed.

Leighton Gardens in Moss Vale is right near the town centre yet a peaceful oasis, with plenty of great cafes nearby whereby you can pick up a picnic lunch.

Bowral's **Corbett Gardens** may be best-known for hosting Tulip Time, but it's lovely year-round, with manicured lawns, lush garden beds and pretty rotundas.

Mt Gibraltar, overlooking Bowral and Mittagong, boasts lovely views among the trees. Active picnickers will enjoy the walking trails, too.

ARTS FOR ALL

AMANDA MACKEVICIUS

ROUNDS UP THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SUMMER ART SCENE.

While the beach may beckon many Highlanders over summer, for others it provides a chance to regroup and gather together – especially when it comes to the arts. Collaboration is the theme of the season. It's the time of year our diverse creative community presents its artistic endeavours in several group, mixed-media exhibitions, featuring both emerging talent and established artists.

Art spaces The Milk Factory Gallery, Sturt Gallery, Ten Thousand Paces and Bowral Art Gallery will all host group shows with a mix of contemporary artists and designers, from first-time local exhibitors to those of domestic and international acclaim.

It's a good idea to check individual venues for opening hours as some close for a Christmas/New Year break.

The party starts in the historic gardens of Mittagong's Sturt Gallery, the Highlands' much-loved centre of traditional and contemporary crafts, from 5.30pm on the evening of December 8, with an artisans night market (live music, food, drinks) where renowned local artist Zoe Young will be one of the artists selling their work. The event will also serve as the launch of two exhibitions: *Materialise - Contemporary Craft from our Region*, showcasing new work by artists in the Highlands and Tablelands of NSW; and the *National Contemporary Jewellery Award 2016*, a biennial exhibition from Griffith Regional Art Gallery. Both run from December 9 to February 12.

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

The Summer Exhibition, December 20 to February 28, at Bowral's Milk Factory Gallery (yes, it's an old milk factory) includes paintings, etchings, photography, sculpture and glass selected from exhibitions held throughout 2016. The Milk Factory's dedicated pop-up gallery features the work of award-winning photographer Robert Billington until November; separate galleries showcase works by Broome animal artist Sobrane, and creative and romantic partners Gillie and Marc (he's the dog with the six-pack and she's the Jessica Rabbit) – and there's a great cafe too.

33 Station Street, Bowral;
milkfactorygallery.com.au

Check out the dramatic oil paintings of Justin Pearson, inspired by Wagner's opera *The Ring Cycle*, in *Overlapping Circles*, an exhibition of dynamic work from artists united in the shared experience of living and working in the Highlands. It's on at Ten Thousand Paces gallery in Bowral's Springetts' Arcade, from December 3 to 17.

Bong Bong Street, Bowral;
tentousandpaces.com

The popular annual members' exhibition at Bowral Art Gallery (formerly BDAS Gallery) presents an opportunity for its 500 or so members, which include painters Libby Hobbs and Robyn Kinsela, to exhibit a work of their choice. Make sure to wander through the beautiful sculpture garden while you're there. From January 28 to February 12.

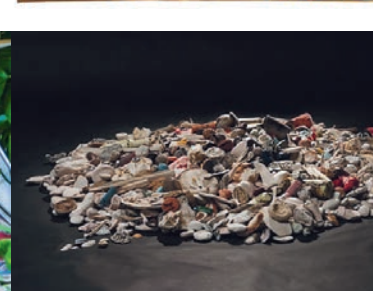
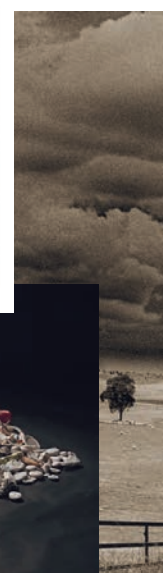
1 Short Street, Bowral;
bdasgallery.com

Nestled beneath the Moss Vale railway bridge, the groovy Green Bridge Studios is always worth a visit. It's a drool-worthy retail and workshop space featuring works from fibre artist and sculptor Harriet Goodall; macramé and tapestry and much more.

430 Argyle Street, Moss Vale;
facebook.com/greenbridgestudios

Finally, if you'd like to take part in a fascinating photomedia project, photographer Hamish Ta-Mé is inviting everyone in the Southern Highlands (including visitors) to have their portrait taken at Ten Thousand Paces gallery, from January 16 to February 3. Titled *We Are Here - Not There (Face of the Highlands)*, the black and white portraits will be exhibited during May.

Bong Bong Street, Bowral;
tentousandpaces.com







THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT *The Australians* - Zoe Young, Weaver Natalie Miller, *Returning* - Carolyn Sullivan, *Midden* - Antonia Throsby. Photo: Greg Piper **NEXT PAGE** *Country Lane* - Robert Billington



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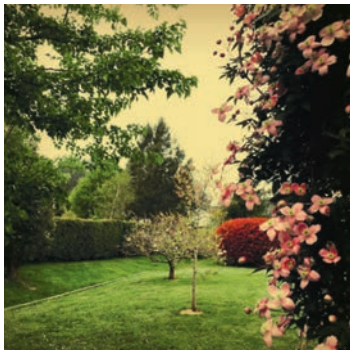
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LOCAL INSTAGRAMMER TO FOLLOW:
BETH MACDONALD (AKA BABY MACBETH)
@babymacbeth
baby-mac.com

Beth Macdonald is the creator and author of the highly successful blog BabyMac, and has amassed over 21,000 followers on Instagram with her honest, laugh-out-loud funny, and beautiful posts about life with her family in the Southern Highlands. Beth first began blogging as a means of keeping in touch with her two interstate sisters, but when she and husband Rob moved from the hustle and bustle of Sydney to the beautiful Southern Highlands, her blog transformed into a showcase of stunning photography, honest heartfelt writing and entertaining storytelling. In Beth's own words, she believes in family, good friends, pork, champagne, long lunches, sleeping without being woken by small children, clean sheet days, fresh flowers, open fires (and sitting by them with drink in hand), bad reality TV, cooking, eating and more... and she puts it all out there for her readers and followers to share.

MY NAME IS... BETH MACDONALD

I live in... A lovely home in the village of Burrawang.

My life in five words is... Busy, happy, loud, messy, lovely.

Followers of my Instagram feed can expect to see...

Pictures of well-made beds, plumped cushions, a glass of something, flowers in vases or my garden, my youngest daughter Maggie and lots of baked goods.

I've lived in the Southern Highlands for... Almost six years.

My three favourite things about the Southern Highlands are... The stunning landscapes around every corner, the proper seasons, and the climate.

My three favourite places in the Southern Highlands are... Belmore Falls for an amazing outlook, the Burrawang Village Hotel on a warm Sunday afternoon... and my backyard!

My favourite place to eat locally is... Burrawang General Store Cafe for consistently good food and coffee, that is ALWAYS open!

My favourite place for relaxing is... Walking around the village checking out other people's gardens and the gorgeous trees on the roads out of Burrawang to Robbo or Wildes Meadow.

My favourite place for time with family or friends is... My friend's farm for a weekend bonfire with good food and wine and kids running around.

Something that people who don't live here might not know about the Southern Highlands is... [The area is] filled with amazing places to eat and shop and stay, and only 90 minutes from Sydney. I think the whole place is an undiscovered gem for so many people.

If I could live anywhere else in the world, it would be... New York!

You really shouldn't leave the Southern Highlands without...

Some Robbo potatoes, some cheese from local cows, some good wine from the many wineries, or some amazing organic produce from Wildes Meadow. 🍷





POLO IN THE HIGHLANDS

*Saturday, 25 February 2017 | Bong Bong Racecourse
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**Tickets will not be available for purchase at the gate on the day of the event.*

For ticket purchases, please visit www.southernhighlandspolo.com.au.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities or to make a booking, please contact Veronica Kennedy-Good at info@southernhighlandspolo.com.au or by calling 0416 10 11 10

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Experience the hospitality of the Inn and stay in one of our elegant King or Queen rooms with private ensuites and delight in the beautiful 5 acres of gardens. Food and Wine play an important role in Fitzroy Inn's reputation, renowned chefs Stephen (Phatt Duck) Crooks and his wife Teena have been delivering a unique and exciting dining experience for over 12 months. With an emphasis on the finest produce, some from our kitchen garden and an extensive list of local wines, The Dining Room at Fitzroy Inn is the perfect venue for your next function, celebration, wedding or even a romantic dinner for two.

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HISTORY, ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT, FUNCTIONS & WEDDINGS



FITZROY INN

HISTORIC RETREAT

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stones
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24 hours in... BERRIMA

POSTCARD-PRETTY AND PACKED WITH HISTORICAL AND GASTRONOMICAL DELIGHTS, HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE THE MOST OF **A QUICK GETAWAY TO BERRIMA.**

IMAGES **ELISE HASSEY**

11am: Browse books and wines among the vines

Make a beeline for the new tasting room at Bendooley Estate: a lovely space built from locally sourced stone and cleverly engineered to feel like an extension of the vineyard, featuring the vibrant work of artist John Olsen. Those so inclined can sample wines and choose from delicious share plates of local produce, or a more substantial menu selection. There's also the restaurant next door at the famed Berkelouw Book Barn, which has both indoor and outdoor seating in the dappled sunlight that filters through the trees (bookings advised).

Don't leave without browsing the selection of latest release and antiquarian books in the beautifully renovated space; you may be inspired to pick up a cookbook or some of the food and wine items on offer!



Bendooley Estate



Magpie Cafe

2pm: Step back in time

After all that food, how about a gentle stroll around the historic heart of Berrima? With highlights including the Berrima Courthouse and Harper's Mansion, the village also boasts some of the finest remaining examples of Georgian architecture in Australia. The Berrima District Museum has walking guides available or see southern-highlands.com.au (search 'Berrima Historic Walk') for more details.

Families with kids will also love the Berrima River Reserve, a great park with heaps of space for picnics (drop into the nearby Magpie Cafe for some sweet treats; or stop in to the Gumnut Patisserie to stock up on picnic fare) as well as a fantastic playground complete with mini fortress.

3:30pm: Take a (sweet) break

Time for refreshments... For a small village, Berrima is blessed with an abundance of places to satisfy those mid-afternoon cravings. Try Two Skinny Cooks, nestled down in a pretty courtyard off the main street, where you can also pick up prepared meals and accompaniments for dinner if you're planning on staying in that night. Or take a seat at Stones Patisserie, housed in a gorgeous old building framed by greenery on the main drag. The interiors are Frenchy-chic and the food is to-die-for – you'll have trouble choosing between delicacies such as perfectly torched mini lemon meringue pies, brulee tarts, apricot danishes and a never-ending array of mouthwatering special concoctions from the incredibly skilled patisserie chef Mark Stone.

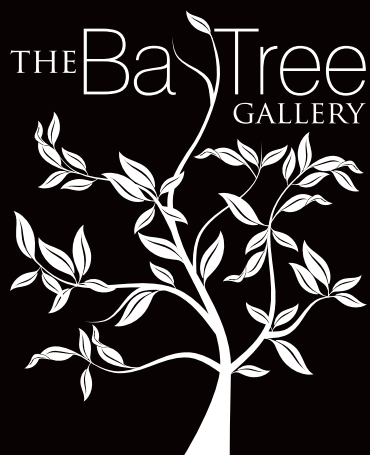


Surveyor General Inn

6pm: Time for a drink

In the name of historical research, it's imperative of course to stop in at the Surveyor General Inn, which lays claim to being Australia's oldest continuously licensed inn (est. 1834). The front bar is especially characterful with its fireplace, polished wooden bar and pressed-metal ceilings; there are historical mementos dotted around the interiors; and the beer garden is lovely in warm weather. On weekends you can cook your own steaks, and the Bush Ranger's Bistro also has a kids' menu. ►





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8pm: *Dinner at Eschalot*

Chef Richard Kemp is one of a rare breed – a stalwart who continues to innovate. Says Stefan Posthuma-Grbic, author and publisher of *The Southern Highlands Cookbook*: “Richard Kemp from Eschalot is a longstanding favourite who is always pushing with his menus. He’s got 10 chef’s hats under his belt, but still has such a fresh approach to his food, staying innovative, relevant and true to his Highlands roots.”

This makes Eschalot a must do for dinner, with its reputation for sublime dining within the lovely sandstone walls of a heritage cottage, which originally served as an inn. The kitchen garden supplies herbs and vegies for dishes that look just as beautiful as they taste.

If you’re after a more casual but still excellent meal, Josh’s Cafe is a firm local (and visitor) favourite, located just across the road.





Harper's Mansion. Image: Tony Sheffield



Stones Patisserie

11pm: *Rest easy*

Bed down at Berrima Bakehouse Motel if you're after something located smack-bang in the centre of the village – perfect if you've made dinner reservations in town.

If you're keen to stay further afield but still within easy driving distance, there is a range of fabulous self-contained accommodation options – check out berrimavillage.com.au/accommodation for suggestions; Airbnb also has a range of properties listed (check out our review of Gunu Berrima on p29).

Looking for something a little different? At The Loch, 10 minutes out of town on Greenhills Road, you'll have the option of taking over the whole house with your family or friends, and enjoying a real taste of life in the Highlands. Cook up a hearty country brekkie the next morning with the hamper of farm produce supplied (kids can meet the farmyard animals too!).



Gunu Berrima

9am: *A delicious start to the day*

Stones Patisserie does a great breakfast menu including eggs, ricotta pancakes and gourmet granola with vanilla poached peach and Greek yoghurt; or, of course, you could go for the traditional croissant and coffee. The nearby Courtyard Cafe is also a popular choice, with a nice little outdoor space true to its name.



10am: *Pick up a piece of the Highlands*

Browse the charming local shops for the perfect little piece of Berrima to take home. The Bay Tree Gallery is home to a range of local arts and crafts, as well as leather goods, accessories and other gift ideas. The Brown Shutter stocks caneware, collectibles, accessories and more; Berrima's Natural Australia boasts lovely knitwear and accessories; while keen gardeners should pop into the Berrima Cottage Nursery. The Lolly Swagman is a sugary paradise to rival Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory... you've been warned!

If you happen to be in town on the fourth Sunday of each month (Feb-Nov) and 2nd Sunday in December, don't miss the Berrima Schoolyard Market, where you'll find seasonal produce, country-style cookery and local craft, fashion and homewares stalls. ■



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A man with short brown hair, smiling, is shown in profile from the waist up. He is wearing a navy blue crewneck sweater over a white collared shirt. He holds a white disposable coffee cup with a black logo in his right hand. His left hand is tucked into his pocket, holding a rolled-up magazine or newspaper. The background is a wall with horizontal bands of light grey, orange, and dark grey.

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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. You'll find 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.

THE BUNDANOON MAKERS MARKET

**First and third Sunday 8.30am - 1.30pm
(Except January)**
**Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall,
Railway Ave, 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 worth the scenic drive to Bundanoon.

CROP-SWAP

Every Saturday 9.00am - 10.00am
**At Rockabella's Roadside Diner,
Hoddle Street, Robertson**

Locals gather outside this popular diner to swap their excess fresh, organic produce in a welcoming atmosphere. Visitors are welcome and it's a great way to gain insight into the charming community of 'Robbo'.

COLO VALE MARKETS

Stalls include country crafts, handcrafted goods, plants, jewellery, jams, chocolates, fresh garden vegetables in season and much more.

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

BOWRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL MARKETS

**Second Saturday
8.00am - 1.00pm
(Except January)**
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; leathergoods to botanical art. Then there's the food – from French to Vietnamese, pizza to pastries; there's something to suit every taste.

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 boasts farmers, artisan food producers, upmarket designers and traders at the farmers' market; while dealers and private sellers gather with a mixture of trash and treasure at the Highlands' largest communal garage sale. Perfect for foodies and treasure hunters. ■

ROBERTSON MARKETS

SECOND SUNDAY 9.00AM - 3.00PM
HODDLE STREET, ROBERTSON
A VARIETY OF STALLS, FOOD AND
REFRESHMENTS IN THE VIBRANT
COMMUNITY OF ROBERTSON.

MITTAGONG MARKETS

**Third and fifth Saturday
9.00am - 3.00pm. Except January.**

Corner Albert and Alice Streets, Mittagong

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 11:00am - 2:00pm

On the Greens, Railway Street, Moss Vale

This popular produce market 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 outside are the setting for this monthly market featuring local producers, artisans and craftspeople.

Berrima SCHOOLYARD MARKET

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

**Fourth Sunday 8.30am - 3.00pm (Except January;
and 2nd Sunday in December) Oxley Street, Berrima**



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THE MILL CAFE, BOWRAL

With a dedicated kids' play area (tiny chairs and tables, drawing paper, crayons and more), cavernous yet cosy space (perfect for little feet to run off some energy without knocking over hot coffees) and hot-to-trot menu for both grown-ups and little ones, this new offering in Bowral has been packed with happy hordes since opening in mid-2016. **Open 7 days. Shop 6, 210-224 Bong Bong St, Bowral; 0466 664 510; facebook.com/themillcafebowral**

JUMPING ROCK CAFE, BUNDANOON

This popular local haunt has an outdoor area for little ones (or little pets) to hang out and enjoy sandwiches, house-made baked beans, pies and croque monsieurs. They do cute kiddie-friendly treats like Cookie Monster cupcakes; and you can pick up some baked goodies to take home while you're here, too. **Open 7 days. 1/3 Church Street, Bundanoon; facebook.com/jumpingrockcafe**

THE GELATERIA AT THE ROBERTSON CHEESE FACTORY, ROBERTSON

Beat the summer heat with a creamy gelato from the gelateria housed within the Robertson Cheese Factory (salted caramel and vanilla bean are very popular, as are their dairy-free sorbets). A combination of biodynamic milk from local dairies with ripe, seasonal fruit from local farms makes this a treat the whole family will love. There's indoor and outdoor seating; plus an adjacent cafe boasting plenty of tables and chairs. **Open 7 days. 107 Illawarra Highway, Robertson, 4885 1168; robertsoncheesefactory.com.au**

EXETER GENERAL STORE

This cute cafe/general store/post office has a reputation far beyond the pretty little town of Exeter, where it draws locals and visitors alike. Nab a table in the courtyard or out the front on a sunny day, or eat at one of the large tables indoors and browse the bookshelves and beautiful homewares while the kids busy themselves playing with toys from the toy bucket, or running around the back lawn. The breakfast board is a winner, but there's something to suit everyone and the coffees are great, too. Don't forget to pick up some local goodies like house-made relishes and pickles, extra-virgin Sutton Forest Olive Oils, and vinegars and jams from the nearby Montrose Berry Farm to stock the pantry back home.

Open 7 days. 1 Exeter Road, Exeter; 4883 4289; facebook.com/ExeterGeneralStore



HIGHLANDS MERCHANT, MOSS VALE

The chic interiors and lovely gourmet goods on sale at this café will delight grownups; but this fantastic addition to the Moss Vale scene also thoughtfully stocks picnic blankets, various bats and balls out the front for customers to take right next door to the park. Order your delicious food (follow them on Instagram to check out daily specials), sweet treats and top-notch coffee to take away, and indulge in a gourmet picnic on the grass before burning it all off with a game of soccer in the sunshine.

Open Tuesday – Saturday. 405 Argyle Street, Moss Vale; 4869 5746; highlandsmERCHANT.com.au

FARM CLUB CAFE, WERAI

This quaint, fully licensed cafe and store gives kids a lovely taste of rural life and serves up delicious, hearty meals to be enjoyed on the verandah or out on the lawns (perfect for little ones to work up an appetite running around). They do an all-day breakfast, burgers and other delicious dishes utilizing produce from the edible garden; plus a kids menu. There are also sweet treats, local teas, and a great farm shop with interesting leather goods, hampers and other items to browse. Want to stay longer? Farm Club also offers fantastic accommodation and farmstay experiences (it's also worth following them on Facebook to get regular updates on school holiday events and workshops).

Open Wednesday – Sunday. 1 Greenhills Road, Wera; 4883 4664; farmclubaustralia.com.au

RAINY DAY?

*Head to Mittagong RSL. Recently refurbished, the club boasts a number of spacious dining and cafe areas, plus the crowning glory – a fantastic indoor kids' playground where the kids can burn off their cabin fever while mum and dad sip a coffee. **mittagongrsl.com.au** Cnr Hume Highway & Bessemer Street, Mittagong; 4872 6700*



THE HOSPITAL SHOP CAFÉ, BOWRAL

This gorgeous, warm and friendly cafe serves up some of the best baked goodies in town alongside great coffee, with breakfast and lunch on offer too. Cosy up indoors under the quirky tea towel collection; pull up a chair on the covered deck right next to the collection of kids' toys and books; or stake a claim on the coveted lawn enclosure out the front, where young ones can roam free while mum and dad bask in the sunshine. Babycinos come in rubber cups, perfect for spill-prone toddlers. Added bonus: the cafe is a minute's walk to Bradman Oval and Glebe Park, where a fabulous cricket-themed playground awaits. **Open 7 days. 4 Mona Road, Bowral; 4861 7253; facebook.com/The-Hospital-Shop-195607177126962**

Elizabeth Burton at The Milk Factory Gallery



"Along the River" mixed media on canvas 125x95cm



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image: Elise Hassey

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Cheers to local beers

WHAT BETTER TIME THAN SUMMER TO SAMPLE SOME OF
THE LATEST LOCAL BEERS TO HIT THE HIGHLANDS?

Beer with a conscience at EDEN BREWERY

Slated to open in early December, Mittagong's Eden Brewery is run by Jacob and Deb Newman, who not only share a passion for great beer, but also for making a difference in the world (they met while working in a volunteer organisation) – as a result, Eden will use 100 per cent green energy, and will also be donating 10 per cent of all profits to charity, helping to build wells to provide clean water to those in need.

Back to the beer: pull up a stool at the enormous, beautiful wooden tasting counter and sample from the seven hand-crafted beers available ("Diversity is key", says Jacob), including a Birch Wit (a wheat beer with orange peel and coriander), Palm Pale Ale (a traditional Aussie-style pale ale with hints of tropical fruit), and Sherwood ESB (extra special bitter) to special editions such as the Phoenix D (a rare, very crisp and clean beer style said to be made by only two other breweries in the world, featuring honey, molasses, oats and wheat) and a German-style Bock Beer, the only lager of the bunch.



Visitors will be able to taste, tour the brewery and load up on their choice of beers to take home in growlers (2 litre stainless steel, insulated thermos that keep beer cold for about 48 hours and can be refilled), perfect for that camping trip or storing at home for a few drinks over the weekend. **1/19 Cavendish St, Mittagong, 0431 612 177, edenbrewery.beer**

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BREWING CO HITS ITS STRIDE



SHBC launched in May 2016 - the result of a chance encounter on a rugby field between Cameron ('Camo') McKenry James and Ben Twomey, who combined their skills and passions across the fields of hydrography, business and beer to create some truly special brews. Their range of draught beers comprises the Southern Highlands Brewing 'Celtic', a Scottish ale with hints of raisin and nutmeg; their 'Original', an American pale ale with citrus fruit aroma, which is a great seasonal all-rounder; the 'Bong Bong Picnic Ale', a pale mid-strength ale, full bodied and hopped with tropical and earthy characteristics; and the "Naked Harvest", a pale and crisp Australian Blonde Ale with light citrus and spice undertones. You can sample these local heroes at the Grand Bistro, Robertson Inn, Onesta Cucina, Bowral Rugby Club, Sutton Forest Inn, Burrawang Hotel, and Post Café & Bar; and the boys have plans for bottling, canning and other exciting developments in the works – watch this space. **southernhighlandsbrewing.net.au**



Dirty Janes, Bowral, expands in exciting new development

One of the best-known shopping destinations in the Highlands, Dirty Janes (13-15 Banyette Street, Bowral; **dirtyjanes.com**) was extended in 2016, and now houses more than 75 purveyors of the most incredible vintage furniture, homewares, clothing and assorted curios you're likely to find. Your Vintage Occasion Tea Salon, housed within the same building, is perfect for mid-shopping refreshment. The beautiful new Bong Bong Street building at the front of Dirty Janes, called The Acre, has also been recently completed and boasts retailers including Bespoke Letterpress, The Potting Shed, Suzie Anderson Home, Shaz's Secret, The Bowral Shop and Muller~Maher Photography - all set to make up Bowral's latest premium shopping experience. Watch this space, as more exciting developments are planned. **dirtyjanes.com**

Suzie Anderson Home, Moss Vale

Suzie has expanded her eponymous homewares haven to a second store in Moss Vale, right next door to Highlands Merchant cafe. The drool-worthy space is chock-full of stunning pieces sourced on Suzie's regular European missions. You'll find beautiful linens in moody, muted shades; stunning chandeliers; rustic furniture and plush cushions, alongside characterful accents that will finish off any room. Open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm and Sunday, 10am to 3pm. 409-411 Argyle Street, Moss Vale, suzieandersonhome.com



image: Elise Hassey



COOL KIDS MOVE INTO BOWRAL WITH MASUKI STORE OPENING

Anyone with young kids (or grandkids, or nieces and nephews...) will go gaga over the super-cool childrenswear, accessories, toys and books at this beautifully fitted-out store on Bowral's main drag. The store stocks the owners' popular Milk & Masuki label, a collection of beautiful graphic-print babies' and kids' clothing in certified organic cotton; alongside children's books, toys made from sustainable wood, plush baby play mats, very cool Wishbone bikes (they convert from three to two wheels) and even organic skincare and stylish accessories for mums.

Shop 8/380 Bong St, Bowral
milkandmasuki.com



Sport meets style at Sandy Short Sports

Sports enthusiasts who like to look the part will be in heaven amongst the stylish sports and resort wear and accessories at the recently opened Sandy Short Sports, with brands including Daily Sports, Jamie Sadock, and Bette & Court. Located in The Grand Arcade, next to the Grand Bistro, the style-savvy store also does gift vouchers – a perfect option for Christmas shopping!

Shop 9, The Grand Arcade, 291 Bong Bong St, Bowral; 4861 3338

SHOPPING ALERT

Other new retail openings include... beautiful homewares in a postcard-pretty cottage opposite the Exeter General Store Cafe at **THE SUMMERHOUSE STORE** (2 Exeter Rd, Exeter)... a fantastic selection of new, second-hand and vintage books across categories including kids, pop culture, non-fiction, fiction, history and science fiction at **THE GOOD READER** (365 Bong Bong St, Bowral)... great everyday basics for guys and girls at **COTTON ON** (299-303 Bong Bong St, Bowral).

At time of print, the Red Leaf Cafe was due to re-open as Ludo...first pictures hint at a stunning new space in which to enjoy food with friends. 52 Station Street Bowral; ludobowral.com

THE MERCHANT OF WELBY

Good pickings for well-crafted, traditional, brown furniture. Lots of mahogany and good bookcases. Keep an eye out for solid pieces built before World War II, which are more likely to feature trad joinery techniques, better woods and less glue. English and Australian antiques are good value at the moment, as the fashion has shifted to 20th-century classics. Make the most of the opportunity, as they'll be back.

72 Old Hume Highway, Welby, 4871 2158,
merchantofwelby.com.au

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SALLY BERESFORD ANTIQUES

Here you'll find European grandeur, with serpentine-fronted commodes, oak-fronted bureaux, armoires, workbenches with vices, farmhouse plank tables (that can be custom built to order), urns with plinths, and dining room chairs.

Mount Ashby Showroom, 128 Nowra Road, Moss Vale, 4869 4144,
sallyberesford.com.au



DIRTY JANES

Dirty Janes is the Portobello Road of Australian shopping, with more than 75 shops and a mind-blowing collection of one-off finds: affordable enamel teapots, vintage bentwood coat stands, old tin pails, advertising signage (think new, vintage, industrial, antique), orchard ladders and so much more. Plenty of second-hand carved oak side tables, wicker whatnots, birdcages, vintage chests and 1950s American upholstered furniture that won't break the bank. Good gift hunting ground; remember, perfect presents are things your friends would like, not things you would like to own.

13-15 Banyette Street, Bowral, 4861 3231;
dirtyjanes.com

CLOTH & GENERAL

For friends who appreciate all things soothing and neutral. Everything from wicker chairs, to shell inlay trays, throws, knits, coral, candles, baskets, juju, even heavenly elixirs and unguents for the body; plus gorgeous clothes.

1/23 Boolwey Street, Bowral, 4862 2595
facebook.com/clothandgeneral



COOKSHOP PLUS

The kind of quality cookware serious foodies use when they entertain at home: Think really good knives, well-designed pepper grinders, chopping boards, sets of bowls and pretty serving spoons that will give a lifetime of pleasure. Also, quality casserole pots to saute pans; non-stick griddle pans; and copper-base oven dishes that are for keeps. These are things your foodie pals can use immediately and that will slot effortlessly into their lives.

340 Bong Bong Street, Bowral, 4861 1105, cookshopplus.com.au





MOUNT MURRAY NURSERY

Visit this gem of a nursery, for those who appreciate quality exotic shrubs, pines, spruces, perennials, topiary, magnolia, fruit trees (peach, apple, plum, lemon, cherry). Also stone ornaments, water features – the whole bit.

**Lot 1 Old Dairy Close, Moss Vale,
4869 4111, mtmurraynursery.com**

WINTER HILL TREE FARM

Surprise loved ones with a big, beautiful tree pruned into a fab shape. The 70-acre Canyonleigh farm has more than 300 semi-mature and advanced specimen trees and distinctive standards (hello cypress, beech, oak, plane, juniper, bay, laurel, maple as well as tulip and pear trees). The landscaper's choice.

**Canyonleigh Road, Canyonleigh,
4878 9193, winterhill.com.au**

THE GREEN HOUSE

Maureen Gardner's (of The Potting Shed Bowral) new shop has heaps of gardenware exclusives, including mini gardens potted with crocus, snowdrops and hyacinth – a foolproof present. Plus beehives, books and cast iron urns.

**247 Argyle Street, Moss Vale,
0419 154 860, thepottingshedbowral.com**

THE POTTING SHED BOWRAL

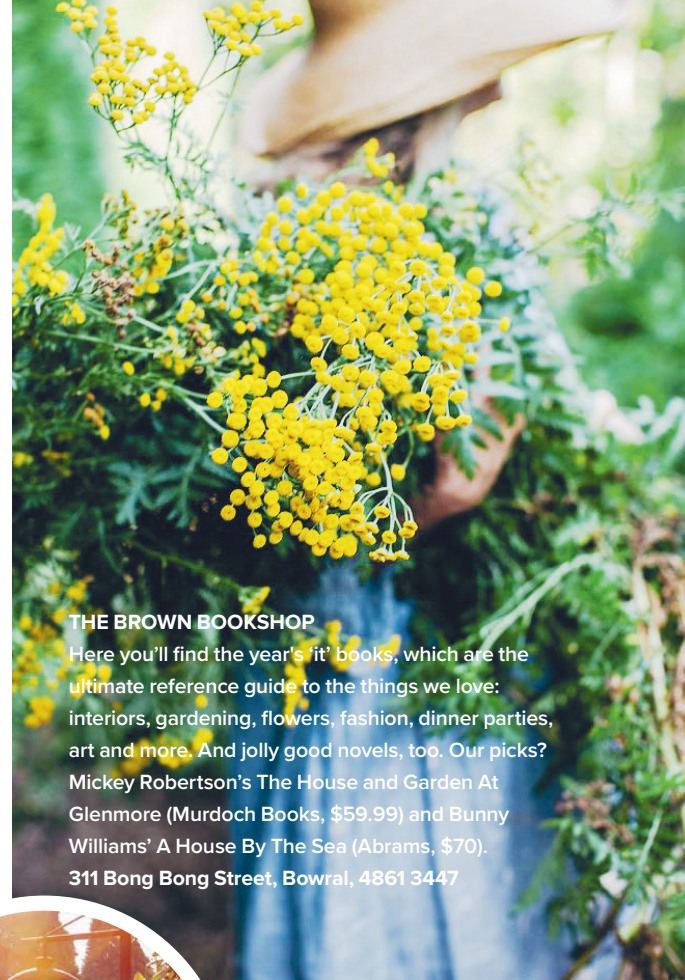
The perfect place to source on-trend plants – from succulents to topiary, herbs to standard cumquats – to add to a pal's collection, or to fill a vacancy. Plus find lovely old pots, English-style benches, obelisks, willow ware, fire pits, arches and more.

**Dirty Janes, 13-15 Banyette Street,
Bowral, thepottingshedbowral.com**

BERRIMA COTTAGE NURSERY

Hardly a secret, but an essential stop at Christmas. A strong line of lavender, rosemary and buxus plants, which always strike the right note. Don't forget: people who entertain a lot love to have pretty plants dotting the house.

**28 Old Hume Highway, Berrima,
4877 2929, [facebook/berrimacottagenursery](https://facebook.com/berrimacottagenursery)**



THE BROWN BOOKSHOP

Here you'll find the year's 'it' books, which are the ultimate reference guide to the things we love: interiors, gardening, flowers, fashion, dinner parties, art and more. And jolly good novels, too. Our picks? Mickey Robertson's *The House and Garden At Glenmore* (Murdoch Books, \$59.99) and Bunny Williams' *A House By The Sea* (Abrams, \$70).
311 Bong Bong Street, Bowral, 4861 3447



BERKELOUW BOOK BARN

Head to this Highlands institution for old runs of books that are seriously affordable. Scan your pal's bookshelves: do they like biographies or books on photography? Gather clues. Presents don't need to be expensive, they just need to be thoughtful.

**3020 Old Hume Highway, Berrima,
4877 1370, berkelouw.com.au**



SUZIE ANDERSON HOME

If we had to send you to one place for Christmas gifts in the Highlands without knowing your budget or taste, it would always be Anderson's flagship store in Moss Vale. Brimming with beautiful, up-to-the-minute homewares, furniture and fashion for those pals with everything. Start with beautiful bowls, trays, serving spoons, napkins, platters, placemats, dipping dishes, champagne buckets, and perfectly packaged candles, soaps, and bubbles. All in a timeless palette of white, ecru, sable, coffee, grey, blue and charcoal that you can coordinate (or contrast) to suit the recipient's taste.

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

MADE BY OTHERS

In a league of its own, with a unique collection of handmade ceramics, cushions, bags, aprons, napkins, paintings, prints, textiles, jewellery, object design, lighting and more.
2/366 Argyle Street, Moss Vale, 4868 2026, madebyothers.com.au

HIGHLANDS ESSENTIALS

A COMPENDIUM OF USEFUL CONTACTS THAT MAY COME IN
HANDY DURING YOUR STAY IN THE HIGHLANDS.

EMERGENCY:

Fire / Ambulance / Police 000

Bowral Fire Station 16 Merrigang St, Bowral, 4862 1446

Mittagong Fire Station 10 Bowral Road, Mittagong 4871 1002

Moss Vale Fire Station Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1288

Bowral Police Station 53 Wingecaribee 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 78 Station St, 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:

260 Bong Bong St, Bowral 13 13 18

3/63 Main St, Mittagong 13 13 18

9/15 Clarence St, Moss Vale 13 13 18

TRANSPORT:

Southern Highlands Taxis Hire Cars & Coaches

21 Lyell St, Mittagong 4872 4800

05 Club Hire Cars & Mini Bus 205 Lackey Rd, Moss Vale 0400 505 113

Berrima Bus Lines 90 Old Bowral Rd, Mittagong 4871 3211

Highland Chauffeured Hire Cars 4872 3038 or 0400 921 239

Transport Info Line (Trains) 13 15 00

Railway Stations:

Bowral Station St

Mittagong Regents St

Moss Vale Argyle St

HELPFUL:

Electricity Emergency Endeavour Energy 13 10 03

Gas Emergency Jemena 13 19 09

AGL Emergency 24/7 on 131 245

Telstra Emergency 13 22 03

Wingecaribee Shire Council Open 8.30am – 4.30pm

(Monday to Friday) Civic Ctr, Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 0888

Resource Recovery Centre Open 7.30am – 4.30pm

(Rubbish Disposal Centre) 117 Berrima Rd, Moss Vale 4868 0555

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highlandsprivateconcierge.com



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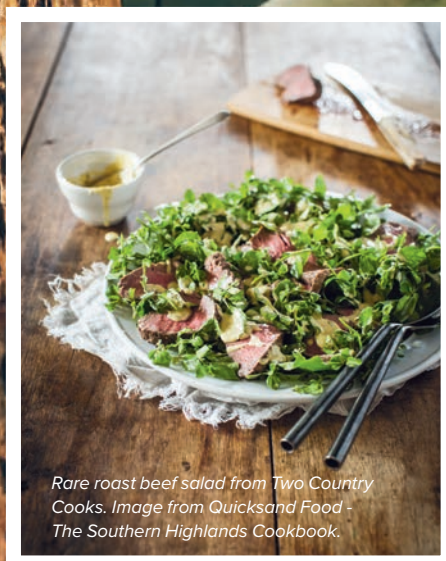


51 Bowral Street, Bowral
(02) 48622551
www.bongbongvet.com.au



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Rare roast beef salad from Two Country Cooks. Image from Quicksand Food - The Southern Highlands Cookbook.

The Southern Highlands Cookbook

The Southern Highlands Cookbook is a beautifully produced insight into the region's many fantastic producers, chefs, cafes, restaurants and more. See p36 for more on this stunner of a book from Quicksand Publishing's Stefan Posthuma-Grbic.

RRP \$39.95; available at all good Highlands bookshops, gift stores and contributing cafes and restaurants. Also available online at quicksandfood.com.

Follow @quicksandfood on Facebook and Instagram for latest news; and listen to the Southern Highlands Cookbook Podcast at quicksandfood.com or through iTunes – featuring interviews with contributing chefs and producers.

Image: Elise Hassey



Our Village Table – A collection of recipes from the Exeter community

This lovely cookbook was created as a fundraiser for Exeter Public School, and includes recipes contributed from the school and wider Exeter community. It provides a glimpse into one small community through the food they love; from classic cakes and slices passed down through generations, to fail-safe favourites like mini sausage rolls, with a few recipes from the Exeter General Store cafe for fans as well.

The two talented women behind the book

- Greer Worsley and Lauren Johnson - both have kids at the school, are eager foodies (Lauren and her husband own the Exeter General Store and Greer is a freelance food photographer and recipe writer) – so it's a great balance of professional cookbook and home-spun warmth.

You can get your hands on a copy (RRP \$39.95) at the Exeter General Store, various other local outlets and online at ourvillagetable.bigcartel.com



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Home



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409-411 Argyle Street, Moss Vale &

Dirty Janes Bowral, Shop 101, 13-15 Banyette Street, Bowral

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*A rotunda amongst the gardens at
Peppers Manor House*

image: Elise Hassey

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‘Kowana’, Bowral

‘KOWANA’ IS A CHARMING AND ELEGANT CIRCA 1890s HOME ON “NOTTS HILL”.

This commanding position is within minutes of the centre of Bowral and the house is surrounded by a century-old garden.

The unspoilt four-bedroom historic home has been beautifully restored in recent times, keeping original features that include Kauri floorboards, high ceilings, wrap-around verandahs and a slate roof.

With formal living rooms featuring open fires, cosy casual living spaces with beautiful French doors flowing out to the verandah and courtyard, this really is a dream Highlands home to suit all seasons. Now, excuse us while we picture ourselves sipping a cuppa on this beautiful verandah.... ☕

HIGHLANDS

PROPERTY

Looking to escape permanently to the Southern Highlands? Highlands Property can help!

Highlands Property is the largest, independent, locally owned real estate agency in the Southern Highlands, proudly serving people since 2005. We relocate around 400 families a year in the local area. So if you're thinking of a tree change, call us to either rent before you buy, or to purchase a property for your Highlands escape!

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HIGHLANDS

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