

Escape

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

FREE GUIDE
SUMMER 2017/18

FIRST
BIRTHDAY
EDITION

STAY, PLAY, EAT, DRINK & EXPLORE - SUMMER 2017-18

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& CELLAR DOOR
REVIEWS

ART, DRIVES,
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Summer

2017/18

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EST 2017

GREEN LANE

BOWRAL



MEET YOU AT GREEN LANE

We invite you to *Green Lane* and to *Harry's Wine Bar and Bistro* with its delicious 'rustic classic' share dishes by renowned chef Jason Hughes. An international wine list, friendly service, and a cosy "Raffles" style setting make Harry's a popular meeting place. Open from 10am daily, with lunch from noon and dinner Friday and Saturday nights. And our new alfresco "Garden Bar" will serve wine, coffee and scrumptious street food in the garden.

Nestled between Bowral's famous Dirty Janes and The Acre, Green Lane is also home to *The Orangery* filled with orchids, indoor plants, art and antiques; The Potting Shed with its quirky array of vintage pots, gates, benches and topiary; *Green Lane Kitchen* for delicious, takeaway lunches and coffee in the garden; the charming botanical boutique "*Botanique*" and the stylish *Suzie Anderson Home* and *Campbell and Spearman Interiors*.

It's an oasis of green, a friendly meeting place for visitors and locals ... and a bustling hub filled with laughter, music and creativity. We love it, and we hope you will too!

Maureen and Chris Gardner

For more information, phone *Harry's on Green Lane* - 02 4862 2983
www.greenlanebowral.com | www.thepottingshedbowral.com | www.harryswinebarbowral.com

P.S. Be sure to also visit our Moss Vale shop, '*The Green House*' at 247 Argyle Street, Moss Vale (right next to Peugeot). Open garden, plant and gift shop, antiques and art gallery.
www.thegreenhousemossvale.com

Escape

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

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COVER IMAGE

Elise Hassey
Shot at The Orangery, Green Lane, Bowral

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Editor's welcome

Pheh! What a year it's been in the *Escape Southern Highlands* office since we launched our first issue last December. Now the long blissful days of summer with family get togethers, school holidays and some time off over the silly season have arrived, we'd like to say a big thank you.

Thanks to all our advertisers and readers who have supported and encouraged us so warmly in the first year of our magazine's life. It always was and it remains *Escape Southern Highlands*' enduring aim to showcase and headline this beautiful region of Australia we are so fortunate to call home.

Each season we have aimed to produce an informative, entertaining and strikingly put-together magazine that appeals to locals and visitors alike. It's been great fun in the past year writing about just some of the people, places, pastimes and peculiarities that make the Southern Highlands such an appealing place to live, and such a desirable destination to visit.

We look forward to bringing you much more in 2018.

In this, our first birthday issue, we take a look at what's going on in the Highlands over Christmas and summer. Places to take the kids or friends from out of town; undiscovered walking and swimming spots; local farmers opening their properties for farmstays; the hardworking chefs going to work on Christmas Day, so you don't have to.

Our summer cover shot, taken by photographer Elise Hassey at Green Lane's The Orangery in Bowral, speaks of the abundance of life in the Southern Highlands, especially over Christmas and the summer months as we feast on the rich pickings on our doorsteps. For those not so fortunate in our community, our story on page 17 shows how this year you can give to truly receive. Here's wishing you and yours a safe and happy festive season.

Enjoy your *Escape Southern Highlands*. ■

Alex

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS map





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OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS IS MADE UP OF MANY TOWNS AND VILLAGES, EACH WITH ITS OWN UNIQUE CHARACTER, CHARM AND ATTRACTIONS. HERE'S A CHEAT SHEET SO YOU CAN GET ACQUAINTED WITH JUST SOME OF THEM. TO DISCOVER MORE, AND FOR MORE DETAIL, MAPS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL INFORMATION, VISIT DESTINATION SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ([SOUTHERN-HIGHLANDS.COM.AU](https://southern-highlands.com.au)).

BURRAWANG

Quaint and historical, Burrawang boasts old world charm, country hospitality and one of the best NAPLAN achieving primary schools in New South Wales. The newly renovated Burrawang Village Hotel, with its huge grassy lawns overlooking rolling hills, is a popular accommodation and dining spot. As is the award winning Burrawang General Store Cafe across the road, with its great food served all day long and restored self contained accommodation. The 1883 School of Arts building in the main Hoddle Street plays host to the village's annual ball and the not to be missed Easter markets, which are a highlight of the Highlands market calendar and attract more than 10,000 visitors.

ROBERTSON

The small, character filled town of Robertson combines a rolling pastoral setting (did you know most of the movie Babe was filmed there?) with fabulous locally grown produce such as potatoes, truffles, pears, paddock raised eggs and award winning Pecora Dairy ewe's milk cheese. The Robertson Inn is a great place for a family meal, and the stylishly revamped Robertson Hotel is a luxurious launch pad for a night, weekend or week in the Highlands. The iconic Robertson Pie Shop has a huge range of sweet and savoury pies and is open all year round, and Crop Swap every Saturday morning at the Bowling Club is a great place to mingle with the local Robbo green finger gardeners.

BERRIMA

This pretty 1830s village has history (the heritage Old Berrima Gaol, iconic Berrima Courthouse and National Trust listed Harper's Mansion); nature (the Wingecarribee River runs through it); fantastic food (Eschalot, Josh's Cafe and Feast at Berrima, plus excellent patisseries, cafes, local makers and artisans) as well as Australia's oldest continuously licensed inn, the Surveyor General. The Berrima Schoolyard Market is held on the fourth Sunday of every month from February to November in the grounds of the local primary school.



BOWRAL

Watched 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 thriving country township is known for its vintage, interiors, antiques and homewares stores and precincts such as Dirty Janes and Green Lane, as well as markets, galleries, bookshops, nurseries and boutiques. Its dining scene has become all the richer recently with the opening of The Mill, Grand Bistro and Bistro Officina, which complement winning stalwarts such as Biota, Onesta Cucina, Cafe Rosso, Eccetera Trattoria Pizzeria, The Royal, and a raft of other local favourite restaurants, cafes and pubs. Visitors and locals are drawn to famous landmarks such as the Bradman Museum and International Cricket Hall of Fame, as well as the many festivals and events that include Tulip Time, the Bowral Classic and the Bong Bong Picnic Races. And of course there is a plethora of award winning vineyards nearby, such as Centennial Vineyards, to visit as well.

HILL TOP

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

EXETER

The historic Exeter Village Hall and adjoining park and oval lie at the heart of picturesque Exeter, a village of leafy streets and grand rows of trees. Local icon the Exeter General Store performs its role as bookshop, post office, gourmet cafe and food store admirably. If browsing is on the cards, you'll find The Village Pump Antiques and The Summerhouse Store nearby. The Exeter village markets are held on the first Saturday of each month in the grounds of the village oval.

SUTTON FOREST

It might be small but Sutton Forest has stuff going on with Montrose Berry Farm, where you can pick your own berries in summer, The Everything Store, which lives up to its name, and the stunning Red Cow Farm gardens with its recently opened seasonal garden shop, definitely worth a visit or two.

CANYONLEIGH

Made up of large rural properties, Canyonleigh lies at an altitude of 700 metres and is fast gaining a reputation as a wine producing area of the Highlands. Situated on the drier western edge of the region, it is a great place to spot native wildlife, or visit local hub The General at Canyonleigh.

FITZROY FALLS

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

JOADJA

An area of farms and bushland on the periphery of the Southern Highlands, Joadja is steeped in history, once being home to more than 1000 Scottish immigrants who mined shale oil in the late 1800s. The success of Joadja Estate winery, and more recently Joadja Distillery, and its association with food and experience festival WILDfest Southern Highlands, has firmly put Joadja on the map.

BUNDANOON

Packed with old world charm, Bundanoon is a vibrant town with cafes, tearooms, antique dealers and health retreats. Market days are held on the first and third Sundays, and bushwalking and mountain biking enthusiasts are drawn to the nearby Morton National Park. Brigadoon, the southern hemisphere's largest gathering of Scottish diaspora, complete with bagpipes, kilts, marching bands and highland games, is held every April and features all things tartan.

MITTAGONG

Historic Mittagong, the site of one of the first iron ore discoveries in Australia, has plenty to offer. From parks (try Lake Alexandra) to walks (the nearby Box Vale track with its incredible views of Nattai Gorge) to wineries (including Howards Lane Vineyard, Artemis Vineyard and Winery, and Tractorless Vineyard Cellar Door @ McVitty Grove). There's also the treasure trove that is the Mittagong Antiques Centre, and fabulous craft and design centre Sturt with its shop, cafe and wood school. Stop off at Destination Southern Highlands Welcome Centre on the way into Mittagong and get informed about what's on locally.

MOSS VALE

Centred around the Victorian era railway station in Argyle Street, Moss Vale is known for being a down to earth country town. The annual agricultural show is one of the biggest in the area, and recently the main street has undergone a revival with the opening of many independent artisan and homewares shops. Fantastic cafes and eateries such as Bernie's Diner, The Vale, Highlands Merchant and Il Pranzo offer delicious eating choices, with newcomers Southern Highlands Brewing Kitchen & Taphouse and the Wine Mosaic Lounge bringing some well received glamour to old favourites such as Seafood Affair, and Briars Country Lodge and Historic Inn just up the road. 

LOCAL MOVERS AND SHAKERS

THE HIGHLANDS IS HOME TO AN ECLECTIC COMMUNITY OF **GIFTED ARTISANS, MAKERS, PRODUCERS, FARMERS AND PURVEYORS OF FOOD, WINE AND SPIRITS.** AND DON'T FORGET THE CARING BUSINESSES AND LOCALS WHO MAKE THIS A FABULOUS PLACE TO LIVE. WITH SUMMER FINALLY HERE, WHY NOT TAKE A LONG LANGUID LOOK AT **SOME OF OUR LOCAL GEMS.**



THE COOK'S COOKING SCHOOL

Anna Phillips wants to put the real back into the reality of cooking. The food presenter, stylist and consultant of 30 years recently opened The Cook's Cooking School in Bowral, and is intent on teaching people who insist they can't cook or are too afraid to try.

'Shows like Masterchef certainly drove people back into the kitchen but I think a lot of younger people now are almost afraid to cook. They love eating out and talking about food but if they don't think they can cook to the standard they see on TV, they won't give it a go because they don't want to fail.'

Anna's guest cooks don't include any TV chefs, rather seasoned professionals.

'These cooks have worked in food their entire careers, and in a way put food on the map years before these reality cooking shows came along. They are the unsung heroes of the industry, and many of us grew up learning how to cook thanks to their recipes in magazines like the Australian Women's Weekly.'

In the run up to Christmas, three hour classes include Christmas Salads, Christmas Seafood and Gingerbread Houses for Big People. The school is an initiative of local charity Your Angel, which funds community cooking classes for those need.

thecookscookingschool.com.au



Sweet as a (gum)nut

This local beauty has been going 22 years, and it just gets better and better. None more so than at Christmas when Gumnut Patisserie owners Tracy and Vicki Nickl, and their 70 staff at their Mittagong, Bowral and Berrima stores, go all out to get our dessert menus sorted with gingerbread houses, men and reindeer; Rocky Road Christmas trees, as well as Christmas cakes and puds; Yule logs and a multitude of fruit pies. Tracy and Vicki's ongoing commitment includes the training of more than 20 young apprentices over the years, including six current ones among them eldest son Josh. Youngest son Will is a keen helper. As they say (or don't), the family that pastries together, stays together. Thank you Gumnut and all your fellow Highlands pastry chefs baking up a sugary smorgasbord ... you will make many a sweet tooth very happy this Crimbo. gumnutpatisserie.com.au

FLYING HIGH

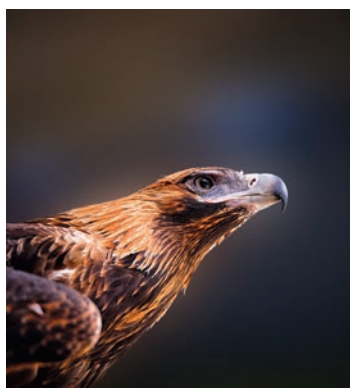
Peggy McDonald, authority on raptors, says you never forget the first bird you rehabilitate. In Peggy's case it was a Gang-gang cockatoo 30 years ago. 'It was when I had that bird in care that I realised what intelligent and sensitive creatures birds are, and none more so than our raptors. They have amazing intelligence and are an absolute joy to look after.'

Highlands local Peggy built Higher Ground Raptors, the rehabilitation and education campus of Australian Raptor Care and Conservation Inc., on her Fitzroy Falls property. She was recently awarded a coveted Churchill Scholarship.

Her proposal to 'advance the exchange of our knowledge of Australian raptor rehabilitation and release techniques' will take her on a whirlwind trip of the world's leading raptor centres, including the famed Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital next year. But the real work will begin on her return. 'My dream is Australia moving towards the forefront of world raptor care and release practices'.

Peggy has rehabilitated more than 1000 birds of prey to date, and while the scholarship will pay for travel and living expenses, she relies on donations to operate the raptor centre. She will soon start fundraising, and thinking about who will look after her feathered patients while she is away.

highergroundraptors.org



ESCAPE TO HILLVIEW

If there's such a thing as perfect timing, David Ball has it. The Highlands sculptor recently won Sculpture by the Sea with his large steel loop structure, Orb. Dave's win creates a neat segue to the biennial Hillview Exhibition of Contemporary Sculpture at Sutton Forest in April 2018. Works by David will sit alongside 120 indoor and outdoor pieces, including those by Ron Robertson-Swann and Peter Lundberg. Held on the 60 hectare heritage listed property, which was the former summer vice regal retreat of NSW governors, the month long exhibition is expected to attract more than the 25,000 art lovers. Escape Southern Highlands is delighted to be media partner with Sculpture at Hillview 2018, along with our sister publication Highlife magazine. sculptureathillview.com



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BowerBird on Argyle
LEFT Nest & Burrow

HOMEWARES HAVEN

Moss Vale continues its metamorphosis from sleepy country town to bustling homewares heaven with the opening of two new home stores. Long time Bundanoon retailers Jacki and Andrew Sinnett have transformed the former Lifeline shop on Argyle Street into Nest and Burrow, a glamorous retail emporium. You'll find a tempting selection of gifts and goodies for men, women and children, as well as homeware, kitchenware, accessories, toys, stationery, leathersgoods, and fabulous Chrissy trees and decorations. Next door, owner Karen Edwards' dream of a haven for local creatives has come true in Bowerbird on Argyle. The striking interior was

designed by local Catherine Simms and contains 10 mini shops, each offering an eclectic mix of preloved vintage and new furniture, furnishings, clothing, art and design and home decor. Moss Vale really is the place to shop these days, what with Suzie Anderson Home, Highlands Merchant, Made By Others, the Mossy Store, Highlands Handmade, That Beautiful Shop, Country Homes and Interiors, Antelope, Whytes, Green Bridge Studios and The Green House all within blocks. Best get your shopping skates on! **Nest and Burrow, 418 Argyle Street, Moss Vale; Bowerbird on Argyle, 416 Argyle Street, Moss Vale**



Give To Receive

Spread the Christmas love to those in our community most in need this year through these wonderful charity initiatives

SALVOS GIVING TREES

Children's toys and nonperishable foods are what's most needed by the Salvation Army, who will distribute your gifts close to Christmas. Place the gifts (no need to wrap them) at the trees located at BDCU Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale, Mittagong RSL and the Wingecarribee Shire Council in Moss Vale.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

This annual event, happening on December 23 from 5.30-8.30pm at the Southern Highlands Christian School, is held by nine local churches, a variety of businesses, Rotary, the Salvation Army, Wingecarribee Shire Council and generous local producers. Organiser Jade Barr says the aim is to get together anyone from the Highlands community who can't afford to celebrate Christmas. 'For anyone who would like to be with people who care at Christmas.' Attendees have a choice of a hot or cold dinner with all the trimmings plus dessert, and every child under 18 receives a gift from under the tree. There are gingerbread building competitions, Santa Sack guessing competitions, carol singing, raffles, and participants are encouraged to take home a decorated tree. The wonderful BDCU Alliance Bank are once again collecting gifts for this event, and for the Bowral and District Hospital children's ward under their Giving Trees (see above). Pick up and drop off transport available for people who'd like to attend the dinner. All welcome. RSVP essential to Chris Barr on 0402 033 282 or Penny Pilt on 0410 401 089.

CHRISTMAS CARE HAMPERS

Drop any nonperishables and gifts into the Salvation Army shop at 418-420 Bong Bong Street, Bowral. Minister Jake Horton says the Salvos will be packing hampers for those in need from December 11. 'Our hardest group to provide with gifts tends to be those older children from 10 to 18 who get forgotten a bit because people are so generous to younger kids. Also, mums struggling at home to feed their family will buy their children something for Christmas but often go without themselves, so we find things as simple as a lovely tube of hand cream can make someone's day.' The Salvation Army will be distributing the hampers to families in need at the Community Christmas Dinner, and throughout the community. ■



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— 6 david street, bowral —

WHAT'S ON SUMMER

BELOW ARE JUST SOME OF THE HIGHLANDS SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS TO LOOK OUT FOR OVER THE COMING MONTHS. WITH SO MUCH TO CHOOSE FROM, IT'S JUST A SNAPSHOT OF OUR FAVOURITES, SO KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR UPDATES ON @ESCAPESOUTHERNHIGHLANDS AND CHECK OUT [SOUTHERN-HIGHLANDS.COM.AU/EVENTS/WHAT'S ON](https://southern-highlands.com.au/events/what's-on)



DEC



'IN THESE HANDS' STURT GALLERY

It's not often in the Highlands we get to see cutting edge indigenous works by artists such as Pepai Jangala Carroll, Lynette Lewis and Alison Milyika Carroll of Ernabella Arts in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (AYP) Lands, South Australia. Opening alongside Sturt's annual Artisans Night Market, this important exhibition celebrates 70 years of Ernabella Arts, and the long connection between Sturt, the oldest craft centre in Australia, and Ernabella, the oldest continually running indigenous arts centre (see more on page 110). **December 7, from 5pm, Range Road, Mittagong** sturt.nsw.edu.au

BOWRAL FAMILY CAROLS

If you love Christmas and carols, circle December 7 on your calendar because this is a fabulous event. Bring a rug, a picnic, your sense of community, and join others on Bradman Oval. There are live performances, a nativity parade with horses, donkeys and camels, and a firework finale. Loads of room for the kids to charge about and get super excited in the Christmas countdown. Can't make Bowral? Then let fly your best renditions of Jingle Bells, etc, at Berrima's Carols by Candlelight, Holy Trinity Church, on December 16 from 6.30pm or Moss Vale's Carols in the Park on December 9, Leighton Gardens from 6pm. Santa may even put in a guest appearance. **December 7, 5.30pm, Bradman Oval, St Jude's Street, Bowral**

WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM

Mittagong likes to mix it up come Christmas. One year, it's carols at Lake Alexandra, the next a colossal reenactment of that first trek through Bethlehem. And this year's event sounds bigger than Ben Hur. Live animals plus 90 shepherds, Roman soldiers, wise men, carpenters, metal workers, stall keepers, Mary, Joseph and, of course, the baby Jesus, and a streetscape of Bethlehem built inside the church hall. Last year 1100 people came along to witness the event. And there's free afternoon tea afterwards. **December 15 & 16, 4-7pm, St Stephen's Anglican Church, Main Street, Mittagong**

CHARITY FIGHT NIGHT

Never underestimate the restorative nature of boxing and its power to help troubled teens. With plans to build a new boxing studio and start new boxing programs to help kids at risk gain a sense of purpose, the Southern Highlands Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) is hosting a Charity Fight Night. Because who knows, the next Jeff Horn may be about to climb into the ring here. **December 9, 5pm, 6 Hawkins Drive, Mittagong**
Tickets online at Eventbrite and southernhighlands@pcycnsw.org.au



MOSS VALE RAILWAY STATION SESQUICENTENARY

If walls could talk, Moss Vale Railway Station could tell some stories. Opened in 1867, it was a stopover for troop trains during both World Wars, feeding up to 500 men in one hour. Even Edward, then Prince of Wales and later the King of England before his abdication, visited in 1920 as a 'royal thank you for the service and sacrifice given by the Dominions in the war'. There will be a shuttle train from Mittagong stopping at Bowral then Moss Vale, Highlands Pipes & Drums, Army Cadets ACU Chevalier, street stalls and the unveiling of a plaque honouring railwaymen who served in wars. Train tickets Destination Southern Highlands 1300 657 559
December 9, 10am-3pm, Daly's Way, Moss Vale

SUMMER SOLSTICE FEAST

WILDFest Southern Highlands founder Amanda Fry has a new experience afoot for those in search of adventure, nature and great food. Her Midsummer Feast takes place on the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year, in a mystery location only revealed upon booking. Diners will imbibe local wines and feast on three courses that will include lamb cooked over fire from Redleaf Farm, the Fitzroy Falls home of Sam and Katrina Sparke. 'On the longest day of the year, fairies are afoot, so rejoice with us the balance between water and fire in our billabong setting,' says Amanda. Funds raised will help Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc. and Higher Ground Raptors (see our story on page 15). Pagan dress welcome. **December 22, 7pm, bookings essential.**
wildfoodadventures.com.au



Our unique gift emporium has now
expanded into two locations.
Come & visit our new Moss Vale
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FEB



JAN

STURT SUMMER SCHOOL

While many Highlanders take a well-earned breather in January, craft and design centre Sturt has its Summer School. Now in its 20th year and busier than ever with a bumper program of 23 courses for adults and children, Sturt is the place to be. So if you're looking for a gift, or you have some time free and want to give you and/or your children's creative sides some love, check out Sturt's wonderful schedule of classes. **January 3-7, Cnr Range Road and Waverley Parade, Mittagong sturt.nsw.edu.au**

Australia Day

Berrima is the traditional spot for Australia Day celebrations in the Highlands. A citizenship ceremony at the historic Berrima Courthouse kicks off the day, followed by the announcement of this year's winner of Young Citizen and Citizen of the Year. Then there's the grand parade through the main street with classic cars, bands, tractors and flag waving galore. Plus there are all day market stalls. January 26, 9.30am for the official ceremony, 12 noon for the parade, Berrima township

LOVE A FAIR

WEDDINGS ARE BIG BUSINESS IN THE HIGHLANDS, AND WHO WOULDN'T LOVE TO BEGIN MARRIED LIFE HERE. IN ITS THIRD YEAR, LOVE A FAIR'S 70 LOCAL WEDDING VENDORS WILL SHOWCASE EVERYTHING ANY PROSPECTIVE BRIDE OR GROOM COULD WANT ON THEIR BIG DAY. SO IF YOU'RE IN THE MARRIAGE MARKET, THIS IS ONE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS. **JANUARY 22, 10AM-3PM, BRADMAN OVAL, ST JUDES STREET, BOWRAL**

Small Farm Field Day

Read what Jimmy Hindmarsh, our Ask a Local, has to say on page 127 and understand the pressures on Highlands farmers. But the farm sector is changing as a new breed of smaller scale growers moves here to live the dream. According to Small Farm Field Day, there are more than 2000 small farms in our region, and this event caters for those farmers and all who are interested. Two days of exhibitions, demonstrations and displays of all things pertaining to the land and life on it. We especially love the sound of the Hawkesbury Working Kelpie Show. **Adults \$5, kids under 15 free. February 3 & 4, 9am-4pm, Moss Vale Showground**



Aaron Bertelsen of Great Dixter

Aaron Bertelsen is the long time kitchen gardener and cook at the historic home and garden of Great Dixter in Sussex in the UK. And you can join him at this fundraiser as he chats about working at the renowned English house for the past 17 years. Aaron, who will also talk about his book, *The Great Dixter*

Cookbook: Recipes from an English Garden, was enticed to Bowral by local horticulturist Colin Blanch of Essential Gardens, who volunteers each year to work in the renowned British gardens. 'Originally Aaron was going to present in Sydney and I said to come to the Highlands, because it's the closest thing to England in Australia. Tickets are \$80 and include the lecture (From the Vegetable Garden to the Kitchen), a copy of his cookbook and morning tea. **February 16, Annesley, 10 Westwood Drive, Bowral trybooking.com/319578**



Southern Highlands Polo Tournament

See chukkas aplenty and divots fly for the second Southern Highlands Polo Tournament at Bong Bong Racecourse. The four teams, Mercedes Benz, Southern Highlands Brewing, Royal Hotel and Home Hardware, will take to the field on ponies for some fast and furious play. Last year's inaugural tournament attracted a crowd of 600, and with the extension of the lounge area organisers are expecting more than 800 fans to watch the Gubbins Home Hardware team fight to retain its crown. The day will also include Fashion on the Field, the men and ladies dash and, of course, the obligatory divot stomp. **February 24, 11.30am-4.30pm, Bong Bong Racecourse, Bowral southernhighlandspolo.com.au**



TALKS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS

Create unique cocktails at this garden inspired spirit workshop at Ashton Park near Moss Vale, home of former politician Dr Peta Seaton. Learn about the alchemy of spirits from a Noble Spirits expert, and pick herbs, berries, fruits and flowers to create cocktails for your festive table. Write up your recipe in your gift book, and enjoy taste testing, of course! **December 9, 3.30-6.30pm, tickets \$50pp** ashtonparkmossvale.com



BRILLIG FARM

JOIN EXETER FARMERS SAM AND ELIZABETH FOR THEIR SPLENDID SERIES OF TASTING AND MAKING WORKSHOPS OVER FEBRUARY AND MARCH. THESE INCLUDE A HALF DAY 'APPLE EXPERIENCE' WHERE YOU SAMPLE AND TAKE HOME SOME OF THE 80 VARIETIES OF HEIRLOOM APPLES GROWN ON BRILLIG, BUILD A WOOD FIRED BREAD OVEN, LEARN HOW TO BAKE BREAD IN YOUR WOOD FIRED OVEN AND OPEN FARM DAYS. SOUNDS BRILLIANT! **CALL 0415 256 065 FOR DETAILS OR GO TO @BRILLIGFARM**



LEATHER WORKSHOPS

The Handmade Workshop at Berrima is running monthly classes through summer. Instructed by clever leathersmith Trevor Jones, classes include an introduction to leatherwork, make a stock whip and create your own felt and leather bag. **thehandmadeworkshop.com.au**

SEWING CLASSES

Seamstress Danielle Hewitt is hosting workshops from her Bundanoon studio. The 'Kids Back to School' class for children 7-12 years will teach wannabe sewers how to use a sewing machine and decorate their own library tote and pencil case. It happens on January 16 at a cost of \$80 with all materials provided. Grown up sewers might like Danielle's 'Bring Your Own Project' to tackle that thing you've always wanted to attempt or finish but didn't know how. The sessions start on **February 15 and you can come to one, two, three or all four at \$80 per session or \$280 for four.** daniellemeganhewitt.com

FRAGRANCE MASTERCLASS

Looking for that perfect present for the hard to buy love in your life? This free Christmas fragrance masterclass with Dimitri Weber, the nose behind heady Goldfield & Banks perfumes, may inspire. To be held at Suzie Anderson Home Moss Vale, the evening will begin with Champagne, followed by Dimitri's perfume masterclass. You'll also get a sneak peak of his new fragrance and a complimentary deluxe sample set to take home. **December 14, 6.30pm-8.30pm Book before December 11 on 4868 2662**

MAXTON COTTAGE

Learn the ancient skill of slow stitching with Lisa Mattock at historic Maxton Cottage in Burrawang (home of @themodernmajorgeneral) and create a fabric collage. Or join weaver Brooke Munro and learn cord making with plant fibres (foraged by her partner in life and art, Colin Munro) to make a string bag. Slow stitching will happen on February 2 and 3; string bags on February 9 and 10, 10am-4pm. Materials, lunch, morning and afternoon tea, and bubbles included for \$195. themodernmajorgeneral.com.au

KINESIOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS

Try a new way of listening to your inner self and use muscle testing to make better choices. All welcome to this workshop (\$99pp) on the doorstep of the Highlands. Receive a mystery gift when your friend makes a booking as well! **February 11, 10am-1pm, Bungonia Hall, Bungonia. Jacqui Herrmann, Soul Vibe Kinesiology, 0427 552 369**



THE SUMMERHOUSE STORE CLASSES

Own made is always so much nicer, and this year you can bring some special joy to your home with a fresh or faux Christmas wreath made by you at The Summerhouse Store in Exeter. Or try a chalk paint furniture class featuring Australian made Blake & Taylor furniture paints on January 14 or February 25. There will also be an Easter food styling workshop with a Sydney caterer and food stylist on March 10, and a fabulous rose and hydrangea still life painting class with Melbourne artist Carolyne Hallums on March 16 and 17. All classes include a Champagne luncheon. **2 Exeter Road, Exeter**

COWSHED PAINTING WORKSHOPS

Enjoy a creative culinary outing at Art at the Cowshed at these one-day Burradoo workshops for adults. Learn from artist Kirsten Deakin and have lunch in the beautiful garden. **February 4 and March 4, 9.30am-4pm, \$200 includes tuition, materials, lunch and treats. @artatthecowshed**

PETE'S PAINT CLASSES

Learn the art of upstyling and restoring furniture with Peter Burrows in his wide ranging chalk and special finishes classes in Mittagong. **Go to petessedandmrs.com or email peteshed@live.com for dates and more details**

MACRO FLORAL PAINTING WORKSHOP

Be guided through the painting process and create your own large scale floral painting with artist Tracey Miller. Beginners very welcome. **February 3 and 4, 10am-4pm, BDAS STUDIO 1, \$120pp traceymillermill@gmail.com**

BDAS MEMBERS EXHIBITION

Catch the annual Members of the BDAS Gallery Exhibition, an eclectic smorgasbord of paintings, drawings, sculptures, ceramics and printmaking of up to 120 of our talented local artists. **January 19-February 11, 1 Short Street, Bowral bdasgallery.com**



Settle in at the Southern Highlands' newest 60s-inspired wine bar

Choose from thoughtfully sourced wines and craft beers while enjoying a sumptuous grazing plate with friends in our relaxed, friendly lounge. Peruse our extensive wine range in the Argyle Street Wine Merchants and receive expert advice and tips.



WINE MOSAIC
LOUNGE



ARGYLE ST
WINE MERCHANT

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Open Wed to Sat 12 noon to 9pm

ARGYLE STREET WINE MERCHANTS

Open Tues to Thurs 10am-6pm,
Fri and Sat 10am-7pm and Sun 11am-4pm

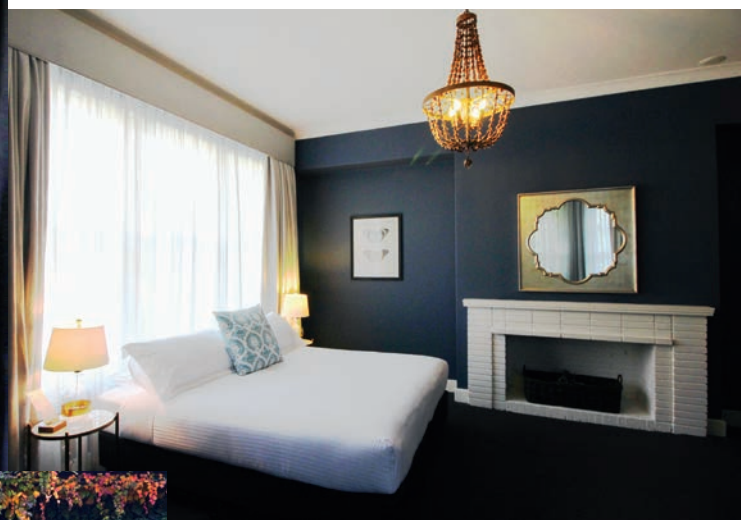
386 Argyle Street, Moss Vale
PH: (02) 4868 2552



HOTEL REVIEW

Berida Hotel, Bowral

WORDS ALEX SPEED



guest rooms with new beds, carpets, paint and wallpaper, as well as updating the lobbies, hallways, restaurant common areas, WiFi and air conditioning. All needed revamping, the whole kit and caboodle. After 18 months, stage one is done; stage two, which involves replacement of more bathroom suites and pool renovations, begin early next year.

The property has fascinating history. It was built in 1925 by pioneering doctor Dr Jessie Strahorn Aspinall and her husband, Ambrose William Freeman. Jessie was the first female doctor appointed junior resident at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1906, but the medical board refused to allow her appointment. There were public demonstrations by civil liberties groups in Sydney. She went on to have a successful medical career, and following her husband's death in 1941, Jessie donated the property to the Red Cross, who used it as a convalescence home for return servicemen, and later as a children's retreat. In 1977, Berida Manor was turned into a health retreat, with cook Margaret Fulton creating the meals. The place became a hotel in 1990, with many wings added on over the years.

Current manager Rebecca Fuller said bringing Berida Hotel into the 21st century has been a major undertaking. There is a new pool room, guest gym, library, Endota Spa, cellar, outdoor courtyard, lounge and bar area, and a soon to open local produce shop to showcase Highlands growers and farmers.

'The owners wanted to get away from the term "manor" by relaunching it as a hotel while very much going for that English country look with modern luxurious touches,' says Rebecca. 'We are starting to attract a much younger clientele, often from Sydney, and we are finding many locals are booking in family and friends who come to stay as well.'

ARRIVING AT THE **NEWLY RENOVATED BERIDA HOTEL**, YOU MIGHT FEEL LIKE YOU'VE BOOKED INTO A MALMAISON ESTABLISHMENT IN EDINBURGH, LONDON OR MANCHESTER. LIKE THAT FAMOUS BRITISH HOTEL CHAIN, BERIDA IS A **TASTEFUL MIX OF GLAMOUR, HISTORY AND LUXE, WITH A BIG BALLSY RESTAURANT ON THE SIDE.**

It's nearly happy hour and the carpark is awash with Maseratis and SUVs; always a good indicator of popular appeal. But this is the Highlands and dirt roads and carloads of grubby kids are also the norm. No problem. The 20-year-old Pajero fits right in.

Berida is a 10-minute saunter from the middle of Bowral. Years ago I brought my eldest here to learn to swim. Back then, this place hadn't been touched for three decades, and it showed. It looked like one of those nursing homes you pray your kids never put you in.

But as with the best of facelifts, a recent renovation has seen years taken off the place and it looks a million bucks. Local hoteliers the Duffy family bought Berida Hotel in February last year and set about the massive job of renovating, restoring and refurbishing the 42 ensuite



Designer Gina Berney has made dramatic use of fabric, mirrors and light fixtures to contrast playfully with the hotel's moody interior palate. Chandeliers hang majestically, and walls in the lobby, main corridors and guest lounge are decorated with sumptuous Colette Dinnigan and Catherine Martin wallpapers. Many walls have been painted in a bespoke Berida Hotel blue, and original furniture has been reinvented and reupholstered in satins and velvets.

The overall effect is of a plush boutique hotel, impactful with drama and glamour with thoughtful and welcoming staff who underscore its country feel. Antlers are a theme. Our queen room is compact but comfortable. Fine linen and a nicely stocked mini bar are five star touches. The water pressure in the newly renovated bathroom points to the building's nearly 100 year old plumbing.

With stomachs grumbling, it's a short walk to Bistro Officina, the hotel's hugely popular and recently hatted restaurant. It was opened 18 months ago by Alex and Nicola Coccia (formerly of Quay, Ormeggio and Biota Dining), and attracted fabulously effusive praise by food critic Terry Durack back in July.

'Coccia cooks like an Italian grandmother but plates as if he is the dark nemesis of Donna Hay,' wrote Durack. 'Yes, it's #foodporn for hunter-gatherers, eco-tourists and zero-wasters, but it's so full

of positive energy, so adaptive and collaborative, and so strong a voice, that I don't care.'

After savouring one of Nicola's fabulous Black Angus fillets, and staying a night sans kids at Berida Hotel, I can safely say I had no cares either. Malmaison, eat your heart out. 🍷

DETAILS

Berida Hotel

6 David Street, Bowral
4861 1177
beridahotel.com.au

the dining room

@ THE BUNDANOON GUEST HOUSE



The Dining Room with local chef **Eon Waugh** recreates dining of yesteryear with a contemporary seasonal menu showcasing the best of local wines and produce. Fully licenced and recently refurbished, enjoy drinks by the open fire, dine with friends in our stunning new private room or just soak up the ambience of the 100 year old guest house. *Dinner Thurs to Sat from 6pm. Lunch Sun from 12noon.*

the
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101 Railway Avenue, Bundanoon
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www.bundanoonguesthouse.com.au



Berrima Bakehouse Motel

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www.berrimamotel.com.au (02) 4877 1381

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- From individuals to groups of 30
- Accommodation for single, share twin, family rooms
- Great BBQ area for post game drinks & presentation ~ cook your own steaks & we do the shopping for you!
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Fantastic rates for Autumn starting from \$75 share twin including 18 holes at any of these courses -

Highlands
Moss Vale
Bowral
Gibraltar
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Dixieland Estate is a magnificent 27-acre property featuring beautiful country vistas. A place to relax and unwind, this modern accommodation offers a luxurious environment with several entertaining spaces for people to come together. A pleasant one and a half hour drive from Sydney. Built in 2008, includes large country kitchen and under cover bbq facilities.

Bedrooms: 8 Bathrooms: 5 Parking: 10+

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



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

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



Accommodation Directory

STAYING THE NIGHT

SUMMER 2017/18

Jellore Cottage	16 Jellore St, Berrima	www.jellorecottage.com.au	0404 951 884
The Settlers Hut	16 Jellore St, Berrima	www.jellorecottage.com.au	0404 951 884
Harper's Cottage	8 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima	www.jellorecottage.com.au	0404 951 884
Yallambee	43 Garland Rd, Bundanoon	www.yallambee.net.au	02 4883 7787
Bundanoon Country Inn Motel	2 Anzac Pde, Bundanoon	www.bundanoonmotel.com.au	02 4883 6068
Berrima Bakehouse Motel	19 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima	www.berrimamotel.com.au	02 4877 1381

DOUBLE DELIGHT

WITH ITS STRIKING RED DOOR AND SKY BLUE WEATHERBOARDS, THIS **QUAINT COTTAGE ON ONE OF BOWRAL'S CENTRAL STREETS** COULD EASILY BE MISTAKEN FOR YET ANOTHER CHARMING HIGHLANDS HOME. BUT THERE IS MORE TO THIS WARM AND WELCOMING PROPERTY THAN FIRST MEETS THE EYE.

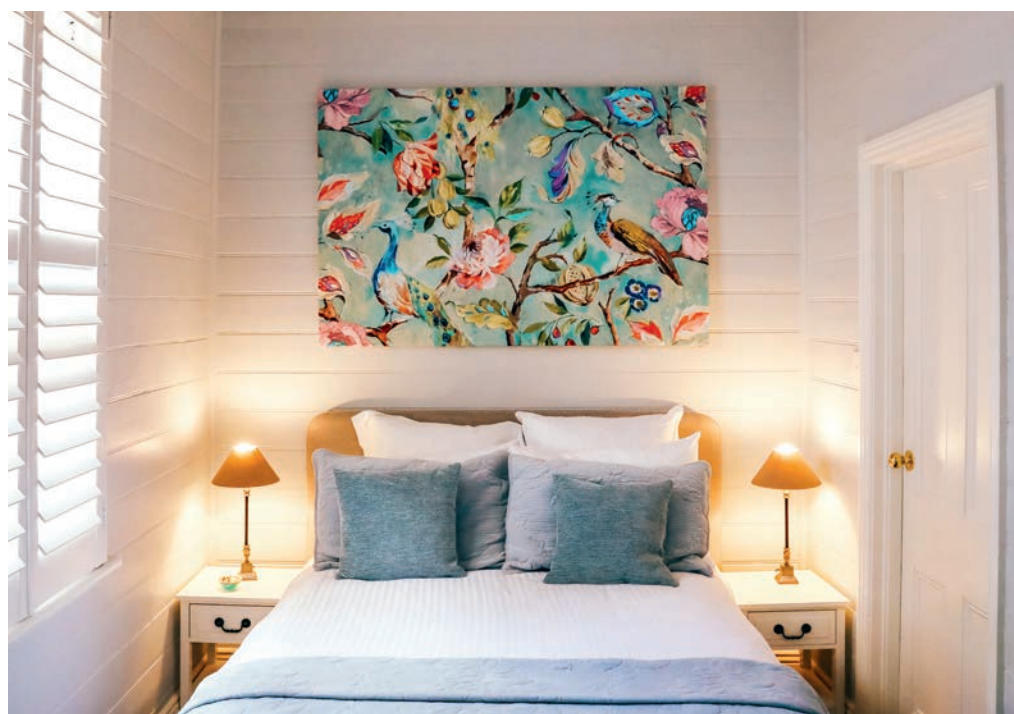
WORDS JANE O'CONNELL

The Hidden Door Bowral Villa + Cottage, as the name suggests, offers two distinctly different accommodation options, with flexible living for two couples or a small family in the cottage, and a similar arrangement in the modern villa tucked out of view at the back of the block.

In a former life, the century old cottage was home to Campbell & Robertson Fabrics, and its new owners have respectfully retained its design heritage, evident in the beautiful bed linens and colourful block mounted fabric prints on the walls. In addition to the two double bedrooms, guests can sink into comfortable lounges in the living area or share a meal in the cosy dining room, although most guests choose to take a night off cooking and venture out to sample the excellent local fare at nearby cafes and restaurants.

Both properties exude elegance and charm, with thoughtful Highlands touches like mouth watering treats (Sea Salt Butter Caramels for our visit) from Ms Peacock Fine Chocolates, who is just a short walk down the street, translucent resin bowls from the Milk Factory Gallery, and fresh seasonal flowers from the garden of the Hidden Door's property manager, Maree Reid. During our stay, both the cottage and the villa showcased a selection of old world roses with intense fragrance, a sure sign of home grown rather than mass produced varieties.

To discover the Hidden Door's villa accommodation, follow the path down the side of the cottage in a clever layout that ensures privacy for guests who choose to keep to themselves. The clean lines of the entrance set the tone for the two storey villa, designed by Sydney based architect William Zucco and purpose built six years ago.




On the ground floor, a double bedroom, open plan kitchen and living area wrap around a generous outdoor courtyard. Glass doors along the polished concrete hallway slide open to create an al fresco entertaining area, perfect for a cocktail or two as the sun sets.

A delightful cow theme adds a sense of country whimsy to the villa; a black and white cowhide covers the floor in the entry foyer, and artwork includes a gorgeous monochrome portrait of a friendly Highlander peering at guests through its shaggy fringe.

The kitchen is well stocked with crockery, cutlery and glasses for all manner of occasions; it seems the type of property where guests instinctively reach for Champagne flutes, and these are thoughtfully provided. A door off the kitchen leads to a small garden with table and chairs, a lovely sunny spot for a cuppa or losing yourself in a book.

Head upstairs to the master bedroom and second bathroom, the only two rooms on this level. Remnants of the Hidden Door's interior design heritage are present throughout with the choice of quality fabrics and furnishings, including Sanderson wallpaper in muted tones of stone and wood. Linen curtains pull back for a daytime district view or stargazing at night.

In its two distinctly different yet complementary properties, The Hidden Door Bowral Villa + Cottage blends traditional with modern to create a unique accommodation offering. An easy stroll from the centre of Bowral and its plethora of restaurants, shops, and other sights and scenes to discover (see our story on page 114), these properties can be booked separately or together, and have a minimum two night stay. Perfect for a break near home, or for friends and family visiting. 



DETAILS

**The Hidden Door
Bowral Villa + Cottage**
17 Bundaroo Street, Bowral
thehiddendoorbowral.com



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STURT GALLERY PRESENTS

In These HANDS

Mara nyangangka

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF
Ernabella Arts

7 December 2017 – 11 February 2018

paintings
ceramics
punu (wood)
tjanpi weaving



*Pictured: Hand of Tjariya Stanley.
Photo by Alex Craig, courtesy of the artist and Ernabella Arts.*

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holidayscollection.com.au

@ The Mill Bowral | Cnr Bong Bong & Bundaroo Streets | Bowral NSW 2576 | t- 02 4411 7000 | www.holidayscollection.com.au

Please contact Craig McIntosh today for a one on one appraisal of your property on craig@holidayscollection.com.au

ESCAPE'S SUMMER SHOPPING FAVOURITES

Has December come around a bit quickly for you? Need to get a handle on shopping for Christmas, the summer solstice, or just because? Escape Southern Highlands uncovered these local gems to help make it happen.



SALTY AND SMOKY

THE OLSSONS ARE THE OLDEST OWNER/ OPERATOR SALT FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA, AND THEY HAVE ALSO HAD A BEEF FARM IN MOSS VALE FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS. THEIR FABULOUS RED GUM SMOKED SALT WAS CREATED WITH THE HELP OF AWARDED CHEF ROSS LUSTED AND PIALLIGO ESTATE SMOKEHOUSE IN CANBERRA. A SNAPPY LITTLE ADDITION TO ANY KITCHEN BENCH, GET YOURS FOR THAT FOODIE FRIEND AT HIGHLANDS MERCHANT IN ARGYLE STREET, MOSS VALE. OLSSONS.COM.AU

Chop, chop

Summertime is outside time, and there's nothing some kids love more than racing around the garden, shrieking at the top of their lungs, and play fighting. These splendid (and generally not deadly) long-lasting wooden swords are handmade by Moss Vale fine furniture/sword maker Torquil Fitch, especially for little hands. Just the thing to keep the lambkins happy for hours. torquil@fitchfinefurniture.com



Rainbows and unicorns

Bring a blast of bling to the silly season with these fabulous Spotting Unicorns earrings, handmade in Bowral by the talented Sarah Carpenter. Statement pieces for ears such as her Chinese zebra fans, glittery lightning flashes, Ariel in full flight and multicoloured ice cream scoops will rock any summer/Christmas/NY party. spottingunicorns.com.au



Cushioned for Christmas

Rugs, throws and cushions make a house a home, and we are totally loving the local choices at the moment. PieceByPieceHome creates gorgeous one-off designs with material sourced from all over the world, like this Zoe Ingram cushion, while 4 leaf clover, another Bowral artisan, produces fabrics and wallpaper with our native flora and fauna as inspiration. piecebypiecehome.com
4leafclover.bigcartel.com




Slice, slice

The perfect gift for yourself (or others, if you don't believe in that old superstition that giving knives as gifts will sever the relationship), these exquisite hand-forged knives are by local maker Tim Anson. Yorkshire born Tim, who lives and makes in Robertson, has been creating knives and other pieces from found objects and metals for more than two decades. Get yours at Ten Thousand Paces in Bowral. tenthousandpaces.com



CHEESE PLEASE

AHHH SUMMER. A BOTTLE OF WHITE WINE (COLD CLIMATE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, OF COURSE), CRACKERS AND SOME DELICIOUS LOCAL CHEESE. AND THEY DON'T COME MORE LOCAL OR DELICIOUS THAN THE CHEESES BY PECORA DAIRY AT ROBERTSON.

ESCAPE PARTICULARLY LOVES THE CURLY RED, A WASHED RIND CREATED BY OWNERS CRESSIDA AND MACCA FROM THE MILK OF THEIR EAST FRIESIAN EWES, AND AVAILABLE FROM NOW TO EARLY AUTUMN. WITH ITS PALE ORANGE COLOUR AND BALANCED SALTINESS, CURLY RED IS THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS CHEESEBOARD CENTREPIECE. GET YOURS AT THE OLD ROBERTSON CHEESE FACTORY. 

First day's sip

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Pete's love of painting vintage furniture has led to Pete's Shed becoming the destination shop in the Southern Highlands. He sells and uses Aussie made Canterbury Blue furniture paint and a speciality selection of brushes, waxes and doorknobs. Pete conducts regular workshops each month and sells his painted vintage furniture and collectables in Dirty Janes Emporium and instore at Just a Smidge. Open 7 days.

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peteshed@live.com



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

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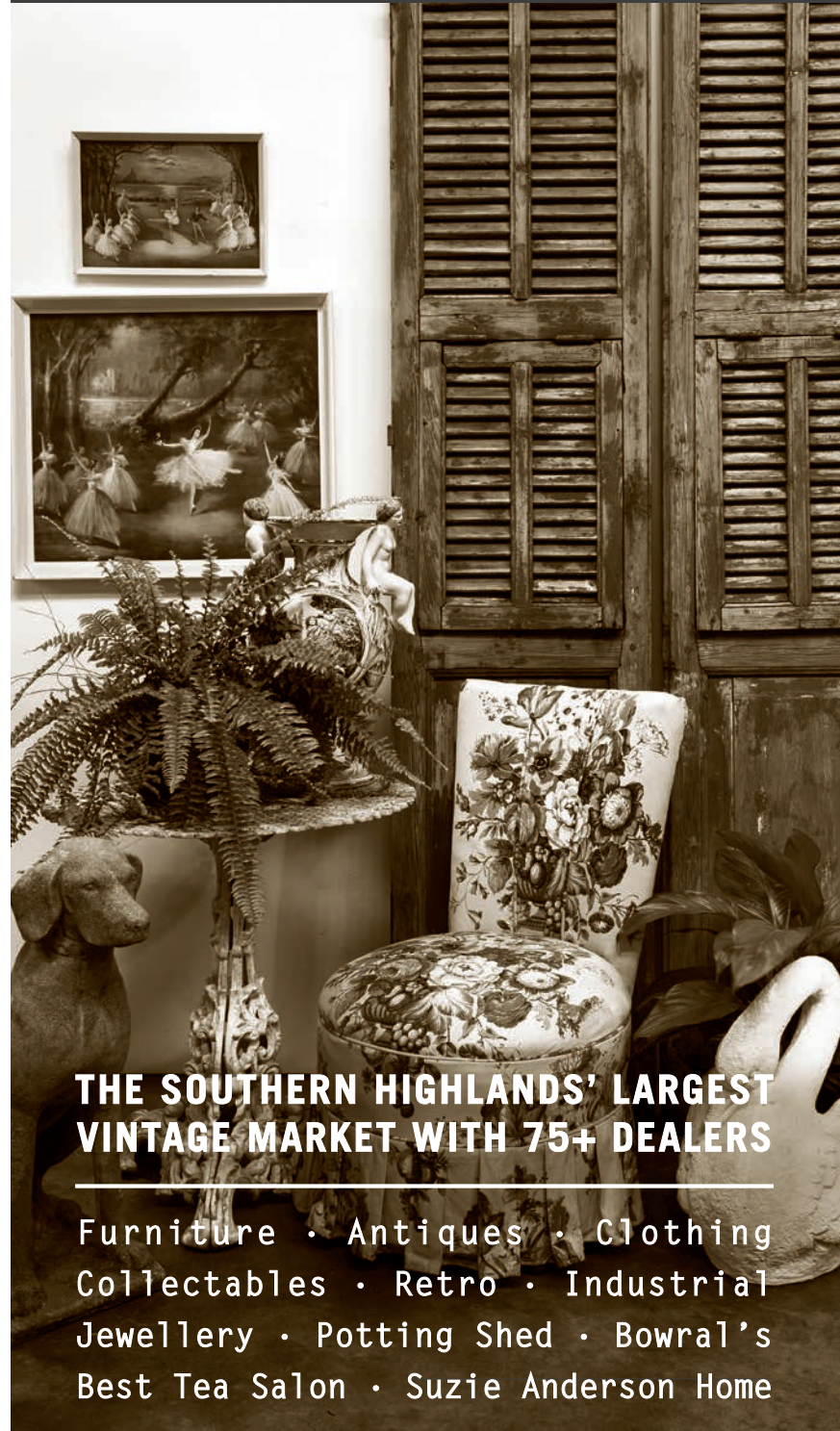
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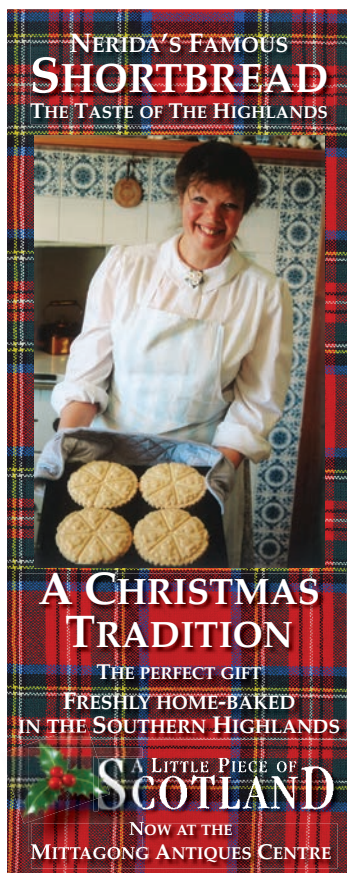
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It was apparently Aristotle who said, 'Show me the child at seven, and I'll show you the man.' It's a thought that comes to mind standing in the hallway of 52 Shepherd Street in Bowral, the childhood home of Don Bradman.

'A happy man starts with a happy childhood, and what we are trying to tell here really is the story of a family at the turn of the century, and where it all began for Don,' says Andrew Leeming, cricket buff and the house's owner, custodian and restorer.

'He had a very happy upbringing and that is important to know because who Don Bradman the man became is in fact far more interesting than simply Don Bradman the cricketer.'

Young Don Bradman lived here during his formative years, from three to 15. His parents, George and Emily, moved to the 1890 Victorian house from a farm near Cootamundra in 1911. They had five children: Victor, Lilian, Islet, Elizabeth May and Donald, the youngest.

Their home, says Leeming, was a noisy, industrious and happy one where study, music, patience and concentration were valued above cricket.

Don was taught to play the piano in this house by Lilian. He started at Bowral Public School in 1913, and was later described by his headmaster as being especially good at mathematics and French. Learning was much encouraged in this house, and later in life Don became a gifted pianist, businessman and a man of letters. George and Emily were also always supportive of Bradman's cricket.

'At 12, Don scored his first century while living here,' says Leeming, leading the way to the bedroom Don shared with Victor. A cricket bag with bat and pads of the period, rests against a wall. George extended the house from its original four rooms to accommodate his large brood.

'Every afternoon, Don would arrive home from school, run through the front door, say hello to his mother, throw his satchel down in the hall and head out to the tank stand to play with his golf ball and stump,' says Andrew.

'Records show that often Emily would stop what she was doing and bowl to him in the backyard.'

It was also here as a 12-year-old boy that Don met Jessie Menzies, who was to become his wife of 65 years. He'd just come off his bike and

was covered in blood, says Andrew. And of course, it was out here against the tank stand that Don honed his reflexes with a golf ball; skills that saw him become the greatest batsman with an average of 99.94.

Leeming, a businessman, bought 52 Shepherd Street in 2008. Its association with Don Bradman had been rediscovered in 1998, and the house, although in reasonable condition needed repair works. Leeming set about a three-year renovation that returned the house to its condition during the Bradman occupancy. Its exterior and interior fabric were restored or replicated from materials of the day. There are original photographs, and an original 1917 musical theory book belonging to Lilian sits on the piano, a replica from the age, harking back to singalongs the family had on Saturday nights with friends and neighbours. Tours of the house, are held on Thursdays and Sundays, and include a cup of tea and biscuit, and are accompanied by an audio soundscape that takes you back to life when Don lived there. The visitor centre outside contains a touch screen with more than 3000 images from the late 19th century and 20th century as well as catalogues, ephemera, magazines, articles, artwork and cricketing memorabilia Leeming has collected over 35 years. Private and group bookings are available, and even if cricket is not your thing, 52 Shepherd Street is a fascinating insight into the social and cultural history of the early 20th century, and of the boy who went onto become an international hero and superstar. The property is winner of The National Trust and Wingecarribee Shire awards for Conservation and Heritage, and a fascinating window into Don the boy.

'Don was a polymath who excelled at a whole set of things during his life, and I think we need people like him to encourage and motivate us,' says Leeming. 'He inspired a generation during the Depression, and still today his popularity transcends gender and age.'

52shepherdstreet.com 📍





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FOOD
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Food & Wine

Nicki and Dave Penn left Sydney to start Cuttaway Creek Raspberry Farm in 2002, and today their homegrown raspberries and blackberries make up their awarded range of jams, sauces and vinegars. The fruit farmers talk berries, hard work and what they'd do if they won the lottery.

Your former corporate careers were a world away from farming. What made you take the leap? Our

daughter Maddie was one, and we both felt a strong desire to lead a different life and do something together on the land. It was one of those 'now or never' moments. **Were you**

farming novices? We didn't have farming experience per se, although we were both studying a horticultural degree by correspondence in preparation before we moved to our 12 hectares near Mittagong. Nothing beats being thrown in the deep end in terms of learning, and no books prepare you for on farm experience. There was a lot of trial and error. Still is, but particularly so in the early years. **Why berries?** We'd looked at several different farming opportunities while still in Sydney but it wasn't until we started looking more seriously in the Southern Highlands that growing berries became more of an interest, especially after we saw this property. The previous owners had put in some raspberry canes, and we saw we could put our own stamp on it. It also had stunning gardens we loved. **Why the Highlands?** Dave's parents have lived here for 30 years so we knew the area. Traditionally, most berry fruit in Australia had been grown in the colder climes of Victoria and Tasmania but the development of poly-tunnels has meant raspberries particularly are now grown all year round in NSW and southern Queensland, so we decided to give it a go. **Is berry farming hardwork?** Yes. It's extremely labour intensive. From the planting of the canes to the mulching, weeding, fertilising, picking and grading of the fruit, everything on our farm is done by hand. **What's your growing cycle?** We generally plant tissue culture plants in late spring, once the threat of frosts has subsided, and we grow the fruiting varieties which are less vulnerable to late frost. We're busiest during the picking months, February and March. All our fruit is handpicked. We employ up to four pickers, and Maddie and our son George are pretty good helpers. **Which**

came first, the berries or the jams? The berries, but the product side of Cuttaway Creek came soon after. We started with raspberry jam, as we had a small amount of surplus fruit during our first harvest. Dave would bring it up to the kitchen, I'd add some sugar and put it on the stove top. We've now got 10 varieties of jams and marmalades like rhubarb and ginger jam, and three fruit marmalade as well as two dessert sauces and three berry wine vinegars. **Where can we taste test?** Locally you can find us at Harris Farm and Centennial Vineyards, Bowral; Southern Highlands Welcome Centre, Highlands Fresh, Tertini Wines, Mittagong; Joadja Winery; IGA Moss Vale, and the Tahmoor Garden Centre. We're also sold throughout NSW, Queensland and Victoria, and export to Asia and the Middle East. These days we also manufacture products under license for other companies, domestically and internationally. All the fruit we use is 100% Australian grown. **Do you have a farm gate?** Only during the berry season, late January through to late March and early April. Even then we're restricted to the fresh fruit that's left after filling orders from established customers. It's something we'd like to do more of down the track but for now, it's best to ring to check what's available. **Biggest**

farming challenge? The weather. **Three top qualities you need to be a successful berry farmer?** Perseverance, perseverance, perseverance. **If you won the lottery what, if anything, would you change?** We'd most likely further expand the manufacturing side of the business. And get someone else to do the weeding! cuttawaycreek.com.au 📧



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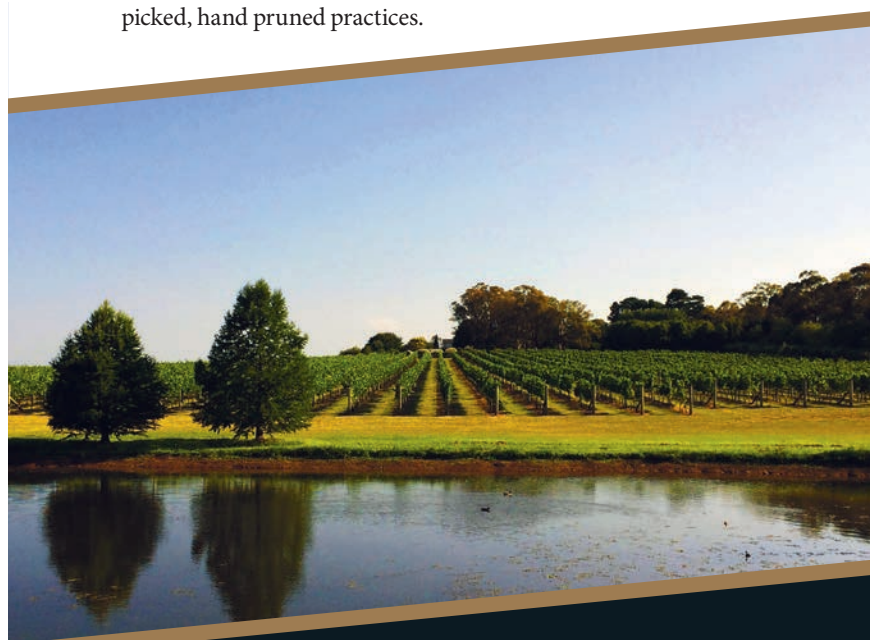
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ON YOUR PLATE

Come December 25, if you usually find yourself elbow deep in turkey stuffing wishing you'd booked to eat out, check out these fabulous local restaurants doing the hard work for us this year. Happy holidays to that!

WORDS JILL DYSON

BIOTA DINING, Bowral

Celebrate at one of Australia's top 50 restaurants as voted by the Weekend Australian in August. Feast on five courses by chef James Viles and his team for \$190 pp (drinks additional). Two sittings, 11am or 2pm. biotadining.com **4862 2005**

MILTON PARK, Bowral

Start with a glass of Champagne or a summer fruit cocktail then enjoy a feast of five courses including kingfish sashimi and beef sirloin. Vegetarian and children's menus available; \$165 pp; \$69 for children 12 and under. miltonpark.com.au **4861 8100**

FEAST AT BERRIMA, Berrima

Annie Holloway will cook up a storm for Feast at Berrima's first Christmas buffet in its new home. Canapes and a complimentary drink followed by a smorgasbord of seafood, beef fillet and turkey breast with all the trimmings, and Christmas pud with brandy anglaise, berries and cream. \$140 pp. feastatberrima.com.au **4870 1268**

THE OLD BANK HOTEL, Mittagong

Revel at this restored boutique hotel for its inaugural Christmas Day lunch, starting with Champagne on the terrace. Four courses include turkey breast stuffed with a chicken mousseline, roasted pistachio nuts and cranberries. \$150 pp; \$75 children 12 and under. oldbankhotel.com.au **0419 982 191**

BISTRO OFFICINA, Bowral

Newly hatted Bistro Officina celebrates 'Natale' with Italian chef Nicola Coccia and his fabulously glamorous French front of house and wife Alexandra. Five Christmas courses will include piatto di mare (literally dish of the sea) and ravioli with buffalo ricotta and spinach. Sure to be a feast full of passion and theatre. \$150 pp. bistroofficina.com.au **4861 7787**

PEPPERS CRAIGIEBURN, Bowral

Lots to choose from for Chrissy lunch or dinner here. On the menu is a hot and cold buffet selection including king prawns, oysters, poached salmon and smoked trout, ham, pork and turkey, and an impressive dessert trolley, plus a 2½ hour beverage package. Or take the shared platter lunch that includes starters of East Coast seafood and mains of spatchcock, lamb and ham. \$99-\$179 pp; children's prices available. pepperscraigieburn.com.au **4862 8011**

THE FITZROY INN, Mittagong

Add a pinch of history to your day and indulge in lunch at one of our oldest restored hotels. Start celebrations off with a glass of sparkling wine and devour a hot or cold seafood plate and rolled Christmas turkey with pistachio and cranberry stuffing followed by pavlova and summer fruits or steamed Christmas pud. \$180 pp; \$90 for children under 12 years. fitzroyinn.com.au **4872 3457**

GIBRALTAR HOTEL, Bowral

A Christmas buffet extravaganza served between midday and 3pm. Accompanied by an inclusive beverage package and live music with Geoff Harvey on the piano. \$189 pp; \$120 for children 13-17 years; \$70 for children 5-12 years; children under 4 years free. gibraltarbowlral.com.au **4862 8629**

PEPPERS MANOR HOUSE, Sutton Forest


A delicious indulgent buffet feast will be served in Katers Restaurant, where Christmas is all about tradition. The focus is on delighting the kids with Christmas trees, gifts and gingerbread houses, as well as the ever charming Mrs Christmas, Father Christmas and Little Elf. Includes a 2½ hour beverage package. \$179 ppp; \$85 for children 12-5 years; children under 5 years free. peppers.com.au/manor-house **4860 3102**

THE BOWRAL BRASSERIE, Bowral

French influences are reflected in this menu, available from noon to 3pm. Enjoy a glass of Champagne followed by a charcuterie share plate, lobster bisque, choice of three mains and then a traditional Christmas pudding with Rutherglen Muscat creme anglaise or a frozen buche de noel. \$115 pp. bowralbrasserie.com.au **4861 2277**

ESCO PAZZO, Mittagong

Under new ownership, this local stalwart is offering an Italian Christmas menu with dishes including stuffed squid, Campari and grapefruit sorbet with oysters, quail risotto, fish pie, rum baba and Roman donuts. Three choices of three courses set price menu. Lunch (noon-3pm) \$70 pp; dinner (5.30pm-8.30pm) \$110 pp. escopazzo.com.au **4872 2400**



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THE LOCH, Berrima

Celebrate Christmas at one of two lunches at the fabulous Loch on December 10 and 17, or both! \$60 pp. theloch.net.au 0411 511 244

LUDO, Bowral

Winner of the local 2017 business awards, Chef Carol Cawsey is offering a shared table three choice, three course modern Australian Christmas lunch on December 23 and 24. ludobowral.com 0499 900 645

BURRAWANG GENERAL STORE CAFE, Burrawang

Enjoy a dinner of three traditional Christmas courses in a fabulous village atmosphere on December 22 and 23 at this Burrawang beauty, recently awarded Trip Advisor's Certificate of Excellence. bgsc.com.au 4886 4496

*Season's
Greetings*

This time of year, every publication is trying to guide you through Christmas lunch. Turkey recipes, how to glaze and bake a ham, no fuss puddings, seafood alternatives. Every conceivable festive culinary nightmare is covered, often with step-by-step photos with a smiling supermodel showing the stages he or she never laid hands on. So, we will leave you to tackle the turkey on your own and concentrate on the morning of or the morning after the big Christmas feast. A simple, delicious breakfast or brunch that won't break the bank, and will sustain the family and house guests alike.

CHORIZO AND ONION SCRAMBLED EGGS, WITH WHITE PEPPER AND SWEET CHILLI SAUCE

WORDS + RECIPE GEOFF JANSZ

Let's be honest, even though everybody rates their own version of scrambled eggs as the best and despite cooking them alongside many a notable chef, there's no question that the following version along with its accompaniments outshines all other pretenders to the Crown. Predictable preamble? Well, I cooked this for Frank, man of action and long time international businessman (plenty of hotel scrambled eggs over his career and shirts). He went home and divorced Melissa, claiming her scrambled eggs amounted to fraud. They're seeing a counsellor and may pull through this, but such is the impact of the recipe to follow. Please, be warned... they're a game changer.

Ingredients

For 2 people (Frank and his new girlfriend, Julie)

5 eggs, preferably from chickens you have met
1 "Salumi Australia" chorizo (Harris Farm)
A touch of olive oil to barely wet the frypan
1/2 an onion diced
30g butter
200ml milk (the cows may remain anonymous)
30g butter diced
Salt and white pepper to taste
Find a sweet chilli sauce that is pure chilli...
no ginger or garlic overtones.
Best quality white bread for toasting
Proper butter

Method

If I hear another two bit, baby faced, pseudo food authority tell me or anyone else to use nothing but the best ingredients... God knows, I'll explode. However, for this recipe, please, use nothing but the best ingredients... No really, it's an outstanding dish. Only with the right ingredients and proper technique.

- In a non stick frypan very gently fry the slices of chorizo in a touch of olive oil... just brown on both sides and leave aside.
- Take the onions, and the first lot of butter along with a generous pinch of salt and about 3-4 tblsp of water and place into a small non stick pot on medium heat.

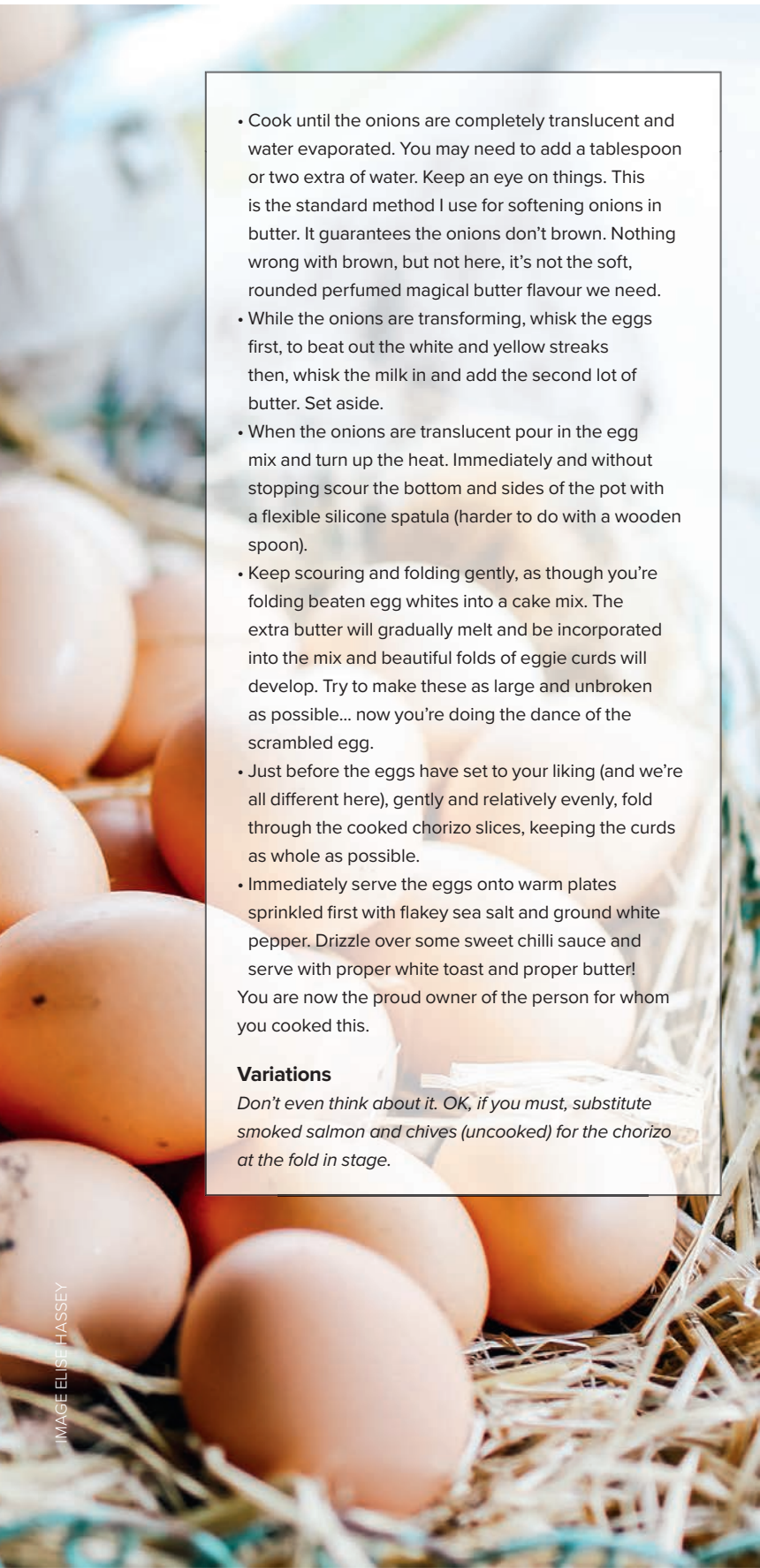


IMAGE ELISE HASSEY

- Cook until the onions are completely translucent and water evaporated. You may need to add a tablespoon or two extra of water. Keep an eye on things. This is the standard method I use for softening onions in butter. It guarantees the onions don't brown. Nothing wrong with brown, but not here, it's not the soft, rounded perfumed magical butter flavour we need.
 - While the onions are transforming, whisk the eggs first, to beat out the white and yellow streaks then, whisk the milk in and add the second lot of butter. Set aside.
 - When the onions are translucent pour in the egg mix and turn up the heat. Immediately and without stopping scour the bottom and sides of the pot with a flexible silicone spatula (harder to do with a wooden spoon).
 - Keep scouring and folding gently, as though you're folding beaten egg whites into a cake mix. The extra butter will gradually melt and be incorporated into the mix and beautiful folds of eggie curds will develop. Try to make these as large and unbroken as possible... now you're doing the dance of the scrambled egg.
 - Just before the eggs have set to your liking (and we're all different here), gently and relatively evenly, fold through the cooked chorizo slices, keeping the curds as whole as possible.
 - Immediately serve the eggs onto warm plates sprinkled first with flakey sea salt and ground white pepper. Drizzle over some sweet chilli sauce and serve with proper white toast and proper butter!
- You are now the proud owner of the person for whom you cooked this.

Variations

Don't even think about it. OK, if you must, substitute smoked salmon and chives (uncooked) for the chorizo at the fold in stage.

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The Loch, Berrima

Chef Brigid Kennedy is indefatigable. When she's not busy helping local growers find pulling power through the terrific Southern Highlands Food Clusters initiative, or cooking up a storm in her Sydney catering business, Brigid is at home at The Loch, Berrima. Part restaurant, part guesthouse, part farm, it's home to Brigid's incredible Sunday degustation long lunches. Definitely one for the bucket list. Or visit The Loch's farmgate on any Sunday from 10am to 4pm to pick up potted plants, freshly cut flowers grown onsite, jams and preserves, the Loch's range of herbs and spiced salts, fresh veg from the gardens, homegrown lamb or beef cuts, or some of hubby Kev's farm finished antiques. Lovely jubbly.

Sundays 10am-4pm, 381 Greenhills Road, Berrima;
theloch.net.au

Cuttaway Creek Raspberry Farm, Mittagong

Dave and Nicki Penn operate their farmgate between Mittagong and Berrima during berry picking season, from late January to April. Their raspberries and blackberries are in hot demand though, so give them a bell on 4871 1201 before you turn up and check what's on offer to avoid going home empty handed. See our profile of Nicki and Dave on page 44. They've gone from local growers to international suppliers. Great stuff! **2466 Old Hume Highway, Mittagong; cuttawaycreek.com.au**

Roadside Honesty

We love this true example of farm gate on Sheepwash Road, Fitzroy Falls. Everything seasonal as it grows, complete with old saucepan that doubles as a till. This seasons offerings included when we visited strawberries, broccoli, silver beet and lemons at 25 cents a piece.

Farm Shop at Farm Club Australia, Werai

No farmgate trip to the Highlands is complete without a visit to Applegate Produce growers Anna and Ben, who operate Farm Club Australia's terrific Produce Shop. Most of the food sold here is grown by them right there on the Werai property or within a 5 kilometre radius. It includes seasonal veg, bottled preserves, eggs from the free range chooks, milk and yoghurt, plants and coffee. Recently they've added their own hives so now there's honey too. Visit Sunday morning and the kids can wander off on the weekly 10am farm tour while you have a coffee in the Canteen. Or go on a Saturday and get the kids hair cut at Teddy Frazer Barber (bookings required and a free ice cream with every cut). **1 Werai Road, Werai; farmclubaustralia.com.au**

Your Farmer and Medway Farm

We are spoilt for choice in the Highlands with our butchers and the quality of their meat, including Maugers who even raise and sell their own. If you want to see exactly where your meat comes, check out two dynamic young families, Your Farmer at High Range, and Medway Farm at Berrima. Your Farmer's Melissa and David Saville breed hairy Herefords and sell their grass-fed beef via subscription and home delivery. And for those who want to see where the magic happens, they open their farm gate every second and fourth Sunday of every month from 11am to



2pm by appointment. Likewise, across the hills between Sutton Forest and Berrima, James and Belinda Galbraith at Medway Farm are busy growing prime grass fed beef and lamb for parcel pickup. 'We deliver, too, but we find many of our customers prefer to come out to the property, see where we grow and speak to James, the farmer,' says Belinda. Keeping it real in true paddock to plate style. **Your Farmer, Mount Mindaroo Lane, High Range; yourfarmer.com.au; medwayfarm.com.au**

Crop Swap, Robertson

Community farmgate happens every Saturday morning at the fabulous Crop Swap, the Robertson meet where local backyard growers exchange surplus produce for something their neighbour has in abundance. Always seasonal, good for the soul, money never part of the equation. Celebrating its third birthday recently, Crop Swap also moved to a new home at the Robertson Bowling Club. Grow some, bring some, swap some. 🌱



HUNT & GATHER

If you prefer your produce in one spot, don't miss market days in the Highlands (see our guide on page 107) where you will find everyone from organic vegetable grower Moonacres Farm to free range egg producers Taluca Park, grown by Frank and Annamaria Vigliante and their hens at Sally's Corner in Exeter. Our cafes, general stores and independents such as Exeter General Store, Highlands Merchant, Moss Vale, IGA Moss Vale and Robertson, The Robertson Cheese Factory, and of course Harris Farm, Bowral do a top job as providore, producing their own gourmet products and supporting locals doing likewise. And while of course we don't condone drink driving, visit one or all of our winemakers, distillers or craft beers brewer and take home a bottle of something Highlands made. So much choice... Check out our readymade tour on page 60. Happy hunting.



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Escape eats at... HARRY'S ON GREEN LANE

ESCAPE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS EATS AT **HARRY'S ON GREEN LANE** IN BOWRAL AND CHATS TO OWNERS **MAUREEN AND CHRIS GARDNER** ABOUT HOW FROM LITTLE THINGS, BIG THINGS GROW
WORDS **ALEX SPEED** IMAGES **ABBIE MELLE**

You know you are doing something right with your new restaurant and outdoor garden precinct when Collette Dinnigan comes in for the first time, and right away puts her finger on your original inspiration, which happens to be located on the other side of the globe.

'This concept had occupied my mind almost exactly as it is now ever since I first visited Petersham Nurseries in London about 10 years ago,' says Maureen, a former marketing and public relations consultant.

'Recently Collette came in, and we'd only just met and were chatting, and she said, "This place really reminds me of a favourite place of mine in London. Petersham Nurseries." Which was a very nice compliment from her.'

Green Lane is a leafy area that leads to The Potting Shed, which the Gardners opened last January. The place is bursting with fragrant plants, cumquat trees, vintage benches, gates, tables, arbours, bird baths, antique gates and mirrors. All is for sale or simply there to admire or sit on. Green Lane is also home to Harry's, a wine bar and bistro with indoor/outdoor seating, as well as takeaway food bar Green Lane Kitchen, The Orangery, which is full to the gunnels with plants, gifts and garden sculptures, an outdoor bar with a wood fired smoker, and the recently added Botanique, a botanical boutique inspired by a Parisian flower shop. Sandwiched between Dirty Janes Bowral and Suzie Anderson Home, Green Lane is accessed through original French chateau entrance gates. It's a bit like entering a fecund, hidden world in the heart of the Highlands.

Chris Gardner, a former Sydney hotelier, looks after the restaurant with head chef Jason Hughes, formerly of Bendooley Estate. Maureen's love is the garden centre, and sourcing vintage and antique pieces. Harry's on Green Lane takes its

name from Sir Harry Veitch, the famed Victorian horticulturist and founder of the Chelsea Flower Show, who sent a generation of plant hunters across the seas from London in search of exotic plants.

'There's a saying, there's no garden in England that wouldn't have a Harry Veitch plant in it,' says Maureen, 'and that story

ties back into the restaurant here too, because all the produce Jason uses may well have been originally sourced by Harry's 19th century plant hunters.'

Dining at Harry's on Green Lane is casually charming. There is sophistication, warmth and innate good taste here that no amount of styling can mimic. My dining companion and I sit outside, glass of Marlborough pinot gris in hand, and languidly watch the summer lunchtime foot traffic go by. Chef Jason Hughes puts much store in local seasonal produce, and his dishes are neither overworked or pretentious. I have the lamb loin salad with pearl cous cous, dates, pomegranate, mint and pistachio. The lamb is cooked beautifully, and I love the middle eastern influence. My companion goes for the antipasto inspired seafood piccolo misto with crisp fried vegetables and house tartare. We share the poached pears, mascarpone cream and macadamia crumble. It is delicious unfussy food with fresh ingredients that are allowed to shine in a perfectly delightful setting.

Harry's is open seven days from 10am for coffee and snacks, then lunch from midday with a bar and snack menu until 5pm. Dinner is served Fridays and Saturdays. It must be one of the prettiest al fresco settings in Bowral, and is open right up until Christmas Eve day. Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

'The village feel of the place and the alfresco dining were always very important to us,' says Chris. 'Our idea was to transport our guests with an experience that speaks to all their senses.'

'Yes,' agrees Maureen. 'It's like a village. The architecture creates a little enclave, and we've tried to capitalise on the feeling you get as you come into Green Lane. You could be anywhere in the world. Our dream is to say, 'Step off the street and we'll transport you to Lisbon, to Berlin, to London, to a cafe on a Parisian boulevard. You don't need to get on a plane.'

Sir Harry Veitch would undoubtedly approve. **B**



DETAILS

Harry's on Green Lane
The Arce, Bowral
4862 2983
harryswinebarbowral.com



Our menus are ever-changing, based on the local produce available and seasonal produce on offer. We aim to showcase the traditional European style of cooking we were brought up with, whilst exhibiting creativity and vibrance throughout. Open everyday from 4.30 pm. Closed on Tuesdays. Open for lunch Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

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bgsc.com.au



Feast at Berrima has recently opened in the historic township of Berrima. Feast offers modern Australian cuisine in a chic casual setting with a menu prepared by owner/ chef Anne Holloway, and a carefully crafted wine list specialising in the best of the local crop, with a fine selection from elsewhere in support. Featured is Ocean Trout Sashimi - pickled radish, avocado and micro herbs. Lunch Wed - Sun. Dinner Fri - Sat.

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feastatberrima.com.au



IMAGE ELISE HASSEY

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WORDS JANE O'CONNELL IMAGES ELISE HASSEY



It is often said necessity is the mother of invention. Just ask Jacob Newman who at the age of 18 was too young to buy beer in his home state of Texas, so he simply created his own brew.

Years later, that teenage entrepreneurial spirit travelled with him across the Pacific Ocean and emerged as Eden Brewery. And if Newman has his way, this is just the first of many independent brewers to carve out a new type of tasting trail in the Southern Highlands.

Despite an early start in the beer trade, Jacob worked as a paramedic in Dallas before moving to Townsville and then Papua New Guinea (where he met Eden cofounder and now wife, Deb) as a missionary and medic for local communities. After seven years of volunteer work around the world, the couple returned to Australia. Beer was their next calling.

'We began searching for a foodie region with strong paddock to plate culture,' Deb explains from behind the bar of Eden Brewery's Mittagong premises.

The couple chose the Highlands for its strong match to their criteria, plus the likelihood of customers with 'an expendable income looking for a better tasting, better quality beer'.

Eden Brewery opened for business in January 2017, in a well chosen and easy to spot location just off Bowral Road. Each of the home crafted beers on Eden's creative list is named after a tree, and customers who are interested can learn the story behind the names. One popular tale belongs to Eden's bestselling Phoenix D Kottbusser, a German style beer that came close to extinction when illegal ingredients forced it to be shelved in the 16th Century. The Phoenix D part of the name pays tribute to the Judean date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), extinct for centuries and resurrected after a 2000-year-old seed was discovered in the tomb of Herod the Great and successfully cultivated. Both the beer and the tree were brought back to life.





DETAILS

Eden Brewery
1/19 Cavendish St,
Mittagong,
4855 2696
edenbrewery.beer

The beer tasting approach at Eden Brewery is similar to a cellar door experience typical of wineries in the region. Visitors can choose a 'taster' for \$5, or a paddle of five smaller beers for \$20. The 150ml samplers are a whistle stop tour of Eden's brews, from the unexpected Peach Sour Berliner Weisse (yes, it's really a beer) to the popular and very drinkable Palm Pale, made from

Australian hops with a hit of passionfruit. If you're looking to pair it with food, the tasting notes suggest snags on the barbie. Birch Wit, another Eden favourite, was Jacob's first handcrafted brew and is inspired by the sunflower fields near his Texan home. Along with sunflower seeds, beer connoisseurs might also pick up the traditional Belgian wheat beer flavours of orange peel and coriander seed.

Food options are another creative element of the Eden experience. With no commercial kitchen on the premises, the Newmans encourage customers to bring their own hampers and set up picnic style at the timber tables with prime view of Eden's gleaming stainless steel fermenters. If that sounds like too much effort, pick up a beer inspired pie from the Gumnut Patisserie across the road or dial for pizza to be delivered.

Sunday brings the additional option of Mexican cuisine or hot dogs from gourmet food trucks parked out the front of the premises. Those wanting to take an Eden brew away with them can fill up a 1 or 2 litre 'growler' from the choice of beers on tap. The vacuum insulated thermos style containers will keep the beer nicely chilled for up to 24 hours, perfect for a summer picnic or camping trip.

The Newmans' charitable ethos continues with Eden Brewery donating 10 per cent of its profits to Oxfam. Having seen first hand the impact of unclean drinking water on developing communities, the couple continues to support humanitarian programs that drive positive change. Here's cheers to that!

**Eden Brewery is open Wednesday-Sunday,
12 noon-8pm. 🍺**

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8. Mount Ashby Estate
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11-5pm. 4869 4792

**9. Bendooley Estate
Cellar Door**
3020 Old Hume Hwy,
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10-5pm. 4877 2235

10. Cherry Tree Hill Wines
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**11. Tractorless Vineyard
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434 Wombeyan Caves Rd,
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12. Joadja Estate
110 Joadja Road, Berrima.
Open weekends 10-5pm.
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4878 5236

13. Eden Brewery
1/19 Cavendish St, Mittagong.
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4855 2696

14. Southern Highlands Wines
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15. Joadja Distillery
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IMAGE ELISE HASSEY

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WORDS JO CROWLEY

Bowral Golf Club

18 holes – par 69
Kangaloon Road, Bowral

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Professional: Kevin Kenny and Daryl Purchase

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

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

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

Toughest green: 16th.

Two bunkers and a right-to-left slope.

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

Contact: 4861 1042; bowralgolfclub.com.au

Gibraltar Country Club

18 holes – par 70
Boronia Street, Bowral

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

Professional: Tony White

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

Lessons: Groups and beginner clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

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

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

Contact: 4862 8615; gibraltarbowral.com.au

Mt Broughton Golf and Country Club

18 holes – par 72
Kater Road, Sutton Forest

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Professional: Larry Canning

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

Lessons: \$50 per hour.

Groups and clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Strictly no denim.

Hardest hole: 2nd – 227m, a long par 3 with lots of water.

Often plays into the wind.

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

Additional facilities: Full driving range, chipping and putting practice areas. Full club and bar facilities. Functions catered for by Southern Highland Wines.

Accommodation available at Peppers Manor House.

Contact: 4868 3200;

mtbroughton.com.au

Highlands Golf Club

18 holes – par 70
Old Hume Highway, Mittagong

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Professional: Tegan

& James Purcell

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

9 holes – par 32
Centennial Road, Bowral

Open to the public seven days.

Cost to play: \$15 for 9 holes.

Clubs available for hire.

Lessons: On request.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

Toughest green: 4th.

Needs a good approach.

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

Contact: 4862 8000;

peppers.com.au/craigieburn

Penrose Golf Club

9 holes – par 31
Kareela Road, Penrose

Open to the public seven days.

Cost to play: \$17 for 9 or 18 holes. Clubs and carts available for hire. Guests of Sylvan Glen play for free.

Lessons: Residential golf school.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

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

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

Contact: 4884 4306;

sylvanglen.com.au

Moss Vale Golf Club

18 holes – par 71
Arthur Street, Moss Vale

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

Professional: Steve McRae

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:

Clubhouse bistro serves lunch Tuesday-Sunday and newly revamped restaurant Shotz serves a French inspired brasserie menu Friday and Saturday nights by former Centennial chef Ben Riley.

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

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Out and about this summer

YOU MIGHT HAVE FRIENDS AND FAMILY STAYING, OR PERHAPS YOU'RE JUST POTTERING ABOUT AT HOME ENJOYING SOME TIME OFF IN THE SUN. WHY NOT **BECOME A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD THIS SUMMER...**

Have a gander at a garden or two

Beyond spring and into summer is still garden time in the Highlands, and there are plenty of wonderful places to explore.

Red Cow Farm is on the Illawarra Highway at Sutton Forest, and if you've never visited, you won't believe the garden's owners Ali and Wayne have created on their 2.5 hectares. A walled sanctuary, a monastery garden, beautiful flowering beds. An absolute must see. 10am-4pm (except Christmas Day). 7480 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest. redcowfarm.com.au

Perennial Hill in Mittagong has cool climate gardens on the side of Mount Gibraltar. It includes conifer gardens, a rockery, dry stone walls, a topiary garden, a French parterre and beautiful summer perennial borders.

Summer weekends, 10am-4pm. 1 Nero Street, Mittagong. perennialhill.com.au

Gardenalia is an eclectic garden established on more than 2 hectares in Robertson. You'll find 500 pots of rare and unusual plants among the water gardens, 40-year-old wisteria, weeping Japanese maples, espaliers, flowers, vegetables and hedges. Last weekend of the summer months, 10am-4pm. 5 May Street, Robertson. gardenalia.com.au

THIS PAGE
Red Cow Farm

OPPOSITE FROM LEFT
*Southern Highlands
Brewing Company,
Harper's Mansion,
Artemis Vineyard*



Harper's Mansion

This Georgian National Trust property was once the home of James Harper, the first publican of Berrima, and his family. Today it is surrounded by beautiful gardens, which include an extensive collection of heirloom roses and a fabulous maze everyone will love. **Open weekends and public holidays, 10.30am-4pm. Wilkinson Street, Berrima. harpersmansion.com.au**

Craft brew bonanza

There are now two craft brewers in the Highlands making their own beers and ales, and doing a very fine job of it. If you haven't visited Deb and Jacob at Eden Brewery, Mittagong (see our story page 58), do it. Or go meet Cammo and Ben of Southern Highlands Brewing Company over in Moss Vale, where you'll find them pulling pints behind the bar of their fabulous new Taphouse. Both breweries deserve a place on your summer bucket list. You won't be disappointed. edenbrewery.beer southernhighlandsbrewing.com.au

Wine, song and stretching (not in that order!)

Gone are the days our vineyards simply served wine. There are so many other things going on at any one of our 14 local vineyards and wineries. These include music in the vines at Joadja Estate, yoga in the vines at Artemis, a cellar door set in a vintage dairy farm at St Maur, even artisan cheese making classes at Eling Forest Vineyard and Winery. Check out our map on page 60, and make a date to visit a few or all of them. A great way to get your wine list sorted for summer.



Day trippers

Want to explore but not sure where to start? Highland Trike Tours can give you a whirlwind wind in your hair tour you'll remember. Or take a gourmet food and wine tour with A Grand Day Out, and visit local producers, vineyards and hotels. All tours depart from Bowral.

Doorstep delights

This summer, why not wander out to old Joadja town and learn about the single malt whisky Valero and Elisa have laid down at their distillery. Or visit Wombeyan Caves, walk in the treetops at the Illawarra Fly, or along the Box Vale Track. Hike in Morton National Park or ride from one end of the Bong Bong bike track to the other. There is so much on our doorstep, sometimes we tend to overlook the best.

Seek and you shall find

Those in the know say auctioneer Kev Danzey's bimonthly Bush Auctions are among the best. If you are into vintage, retro or antique stuff, or what Kev calls 'country junkie and exotic trashish', keep an eye out for these auctions on Sundays at Moss Vale Showground from 10am. Strictly no viewing until 9am on the morning of the bimonthly auctions. blacksheepauctions.com.au

Highlands on four legs

Got a pooch? If you want to see your dog in its element, socialising with other dogs, get along to the fabulous Seymour Park, aka Moss Vale Dog Park, in Spencer Street. Hectares of land for dogs to run, play, meet other dogs and, well, be dogs. Or if you're thinking of adding a four-legged friend to the family, the Wingecarribee Animal Shelter is a great place to give a homeless pooch its forever home. wsc.nsw.gov.au

Super seniors

If you are a senior Highlander, check out the Wingecarribee's new Seniors Directory. Positive Ageing is packed with local information, contact numbers and things to do. wsc.nsw.gov.au/seniors-directory 📖



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CORPORATE EVENT PLANNING

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THE INCREDIBLE LIGHTNESS OF THEMING!

WHEN YOU ARE TASKED WITH ORGANISING A CONFERENCE, ONE OF YOUR PRIORITIES IS TO MAKE IT **MEMORABLE FOR YOUR DELEGATES**, AND THE SAME GOES FOR A CORPORATE PARTY OR EVENT.

The Southern Highlands boasts an abundance of stunning venues and backdrops for corporate events, each with their own unique characteristics and charm. From rustic to industrial, laid back to ultra luxurious, all can be enhanced by clever styling and attractive themes.

Whether it's a Christmas party, fundraising luncheon, networking event or a chance to entertain your clients trackside at a local race meet, there is a long list of possibilities when it comes to tailoring a venue to your needs.

Your Event Solution (YES Events), based in Braemar, is a local business that knows only too well the demand for themed events and semi permanent structures. They have built their business over the past 40 years providing wonderful props, themes, furniture and fabulous lighting to clients across a variety of different events.

A great example of their work in the corporate sector is the annual Bong Bong Picnic Races where they supply an assortment of marquees, beautifully themed and designed, to provide a wonderful day of entertainment tailored to every client's requirements. Country cottage, hipster bar, fine dining, ultra modern... the list goes on!

Your Event Solution General Manager Karin Johnson has been working on this event (a favourite with corporate clients) for over 15 years. 'There have been some amazing marquees at Bong Bong,' she says. 'It's such a great opportunity for businesses to go the extra mile and create an enjoyable atmosphere for their staff and clients.

'The best theme of all time would have to be the marquee that was transformed into a frozen ice cave. It really turned some heads!'

Continuing the marquee theme, there is something quite glamorous about these structures, which is why president of the Southern Highlands Ladies 4K committee Lynda Alexander chose to utilise one for their annual fundraising event this year. Supporting children on the autism spectrum, she chose a grand Pavilion marquee for 200 people set on the grounds of the very beautiful Southern Highlands Winery. With views of the surrounding vines and rolling hills, the scene was well set for a delightful ladies' luncheon. The event began with pre luncheon drinks in the

*Southern Highlands Ladies
4K fundraising event*

LEFT AND BELOW
*Bong Bong Picnic Races
corporate marquees.
Images courtesy of
Your Event Solution.*



rustic Barrel Room of the winery. Then guests were escorted to the marquee, where they were met by plentiful floral decorations on each table and elegant furniture. They dined on a menu of blue swimmer crab, three cheese tart, lemon myrtle lamb, panfried ocean trout, fruit and cheese platters, and delicious Southern Highlands Wines.

'It was a very successful day, where we raised \$40K,' says Lynda. 'It was the perfect setting for a ladies' lunch, being feminine, pretty and comfortable. All of our needs were accommodated, enabling us to continue to raise awareness of the history and importance of our charity. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event.'

Juan Corradi of Southern Highlands Winery says they were delighted to host this year's 4K ladies' lunch. 'We were more than happy to be flexible with utilising two spaces for this event, as we were able to showcase more of the facility.' ►



ABOVE
'Rule Britannia'
and Sporting theme
event design and
styling, prop and
linen hire by Form
Over Function.

Professional styling plays a vital role in perfecting the ambience of an event and the sky is the limit when it comes to getting creative! As the Managing and Creative Director of event management company Form Over Function, Alicia Larriera is no stranger to interpreting the imagination of her clients via theming, and has done so many times at venues throughout the Southern Highlands.

'At this time of year we are busy with Christmas parties,' says Alicia. 'The companies we work for want to celebrate Christmas and the end of the year with their team, and above all they want to make it fun!'

One company who enlisted Alicia's help saw her and her team create a 'Rule Britannia' theme. Tables were dressed in navy, with Union Jack napkins at each place (of course!), and a mini London created at the centre of each table using iconic double decker London buses, Union Jack suitcases, English newspapers and more.

'The event didn't just stop at the styling, though,' says Alicia. 'The guests were thrown the challenge of dressing up as their favourite English character. So we had everyone from Teletubbies and Posh Spice, to Mary Quant and Mary Poppins, chimney sweeps, rugby halfbacks and Devo all mingling together over cocktails!'



It seems evident, then, that at Christmas time you can spread the joy and release your inner child without a reindeer, tree or bauble in sight.

Networking lunches or dinners are also events that can be transformed into something far more enjoyable by clever theming and organisation. Alicia and her team were once tasked with transporting guests away from their offices to a lunch where they would be inspired by not only their surroundings but the company they shared as well.

'The theme for one of our signature networking luncheons is sport. Everything is vivid green and fresh whites, and includes a miniature pitch in the middle of the table. In addition, guests are treated to some great company, including Olympians and international rugby and cricket representatives! What's not to love?!' ►

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CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Wombat Hollow
events styled by
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Bendooley Estate's
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Similarly, but on a smaller scale, the Highlands Private Concierge prides itself on offering that personal touch to each and every event like it was their own. The brainchild of Teresa Dunn, with a wealth of local resources, this company can do as much or as little as is needed when it comes to the creation and installation of a desired theme. 'We know the theme can make or break an event!' says Teresa. 'That's why we can provide local catering, staff, styling and entertainment, all with the goal of making the event memorable for our client and a great success.'

Teresa has been known to transform spaces into intimate rustic dining venues, autumnal wonderlands and vintage picnic scenes, all reflecting the charm of the Southern Highlands, its produce and services.



If you are simply looking for a unique venue, there are many that spring to mind. Secret gardens, grand estates, exclusive use homesteads and even equestrian centres are all on offer here, but perhaps the most revered is Bendooley Estate's Book Barn.

The stunning centrepiece of this Berrima winery estate was built early last century and has been recently transformed. It features exposed timber beams, cathedral ceilings, huge rustic iron pendant lights and an enormous stone fireplace.

This multifunctional space operates as Berkelouw Books by day, as well as housing the winery's restaurant and bar. For special events, the dozens of bookshelves are rolled away to the end of the Book Barn, turning it into an enchanting book-lined space. Think old school academia, vintage chic and literary treasure trove.

It is clear that when it comes to themed events, celebrations, corporate entertaining or a purely unforgettable offsite experience, the Southern Highlands can certainly deliver. As well as endless wonderful venues, there are all the resources you could possibly need to make your event as successful and memorable as possible. After all, who doesn't love a good party?!



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LEFT Milton Park, Bowral
ABOVE Berida Hotel, Bowral

VENUES WITH ACCOMMODATION		CONFERENCE CAPACITIES						
	Accommodation (no. of rooms)	Boardroom	U shape	Classroom	Theatre	Cabaret	Banquet	Cocktail
Berida Hotel, Bowral	42	26	22	60	100	30	60	120
Briars, Bowral	32	40	30	80	120	80	150	180
Bundanoon Country Inn Motel	21	24	36	60	60	60	60	60
Bundanoon Guest House	16	34	30	25	60	20	40	60
Dormie House, Moss Vale	32	40	30	60	120	45	90	140
Gibraltar Hotel Bowral	76	75	75	180	300	200	280	400
Killarney House, Bundanoon	15	16	25	30	60	25	40	70
Links House, Bowral	17	X	25	30	40	X	40	60
Milton Park, Bowral	46	45	75	150	300	130	200	250
Mittagong RSL	71	80	80	200	450	200	350	500
Peppers Craigieburn	72	50	60	120	200	130	180	200
Peppers Manor House, Sutton Forest	43	40	38	80	120	40	60	140
Sylvan Glen, Penrose	20	40	45	60	50	60	100	100

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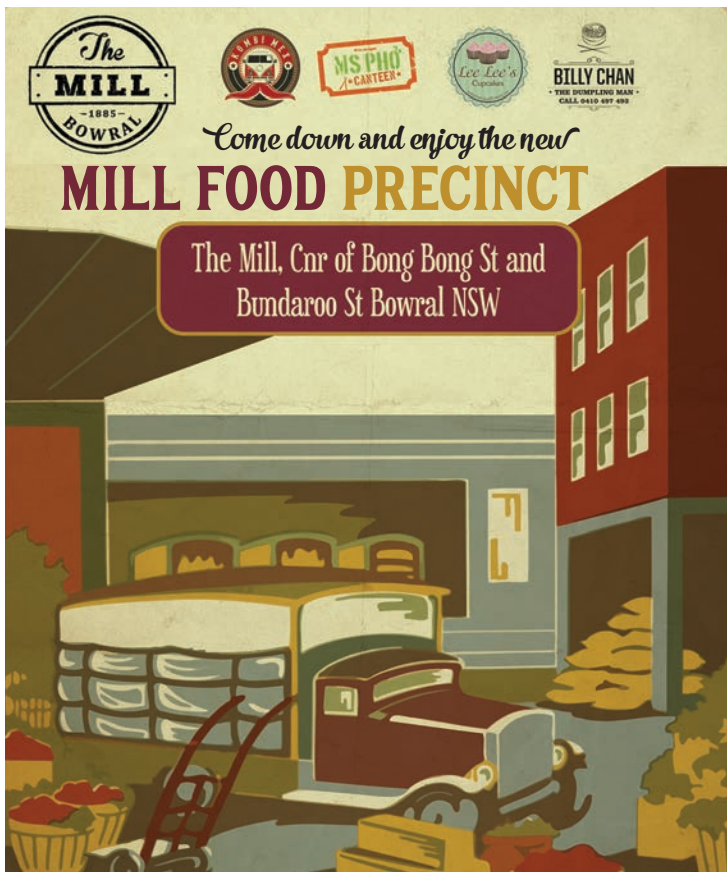
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Love shaken not stirred



JULIUS MONI AND DR NATASHA WAN YU LUK MAY LOOK LIKE YOUR AVERAGE PETROLEUM ENGINEER AND OBSTETRICIAN/GYNAECOLOGIST POWER DUO, BUT TAKE A LOOK AT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THIS URBANE COUPLE ON THEIR WEDDING DAY, AND SEE GLIMPSES OF A **DEBONAIR JAMES BOND LOVING PAIR**, LICENSED TO THRILL. ►

Not many have the panache to pull off a wedding with lashings of inspiration borrowed from MI6 superspy James Bond. But Julius Moni and Natasha Wan Yu Luk are not your ordinary newlyweds. For one thing, the couple had a rabbit as best man, with many aspects of their spring wedding at Summerlees in Sutton Forest (recently renamed Somerley House) inspired by the super sexy secret agent.

‘I am an Alfa Romeo lover and a huge James Bond fan,’ says Julius, ‘so we included as many Bond aspects as possible in our wedding day.’

‘We had wedding photos taken with one of our cars, an Alfa 159, which is a model used in *Quantum of Solace*. We played various theme songs from the films throughout the day, one of which was *Nobody Does It Better* for our entrance to the reception. I wore a bespoke suit, as Bond only wore bespoke suits in the film, and we drank Bollinger, as does Bond.’

Julius and Tash, who live at Little Bay in Sydney, met and fell in love while living in a share house while at university.

‘Tash says that I came across as kind and romantic,’ says Julius. ‘For me it was a funny feeling I got when Tash was around, which she had at the same time. Her personality and spontaneity also attracted me.’

When it came to getting married, the two had very definite ideas, perhaps unsurprising given their affection for Queen and Country’s most uncompromising hero.

‘We wanted a garden wedding, no churches or temples,’ says Julius. ‘We also wanted to get our guests out of the big smoke, and to have the wedding and the reception at the same venue so people could enjoy themselves more. We spent a huge amount of time visiting various venues all over the Sydney region before we came down to the Highlands, and we quickly found the Highlands, and Summerlees, fulfilled our criteria. It had heart and soul. Old buildings, tall trees, lovely hosts.’

When it came to additional wedding party players, none were required. Apart from the rabbit, Mr Kennedy Moni, that is.

‘We decided not to have bridesmaids or groomsmen because we really wanted the day to be all about us, but my rabbit Mr Kennedy had two big roles in our romance,’ says Julius.

‘He held the ring in his paws and gave it to Tash when I proposed to her, and he was also my best man on the wedding day. He did need some help from my brother, who carried him at the wedding. Our rings were kept on his collar.’



Other personal touches included the wedding arch made by Julius from the timber of a house the couple were demolishing at the time. It was decorated with bougainvilleas taken from the fence of Long Bay prison, home to Her Majesty’s guests, near where the couple live. Tables were decorated with plants not flowers, some of which were edible. With Hungarian and Chinese heritage, the wedding party of 60 was a glamorous multicultural affair with guests sure to feel at home on any international film set.

‘The enjoyment, comfort and entertainment of our guests were foremost to us,’ says Julius. ‘Everything at the wedding had to have purpose and meaning. Heart, soul and personality were all very important.’

And how do aficionados of such a celluloid icon top off a wedding like that?

With the hoo7neymoon of course.

‘Northern Italy for three weeks. Venice (Bond was there in *Moon Raker* and *Casino Royale*), Milan (the Alfa Romeo Museum is there), Tuscany (*Quantum of Solace*), Rome (*Spectre*), Cinque Terre, Pisa, Lake Garda (Bond chase sequence from *Quantum of Solace*).’ ■

DETAILS

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After more than 25 years in the industry, Nida and Renee have joined forces to open their dream salon in Moss Vale - **Hair by Nida and Renee**.

At Hair by Nida & Renee, we use Kemon, an Italian luxury colour. Kemon is coconut oil based and very gentle on your scalp. In December we will also have the organic Yo colour System. Look for our colour Bundles for the budget conscious. We are a family salon and cater for everyone; ladies, men and kids. We specialise in cutting and colouring but we like to do perm too. We offer 10% pensioner discount for all salon services.

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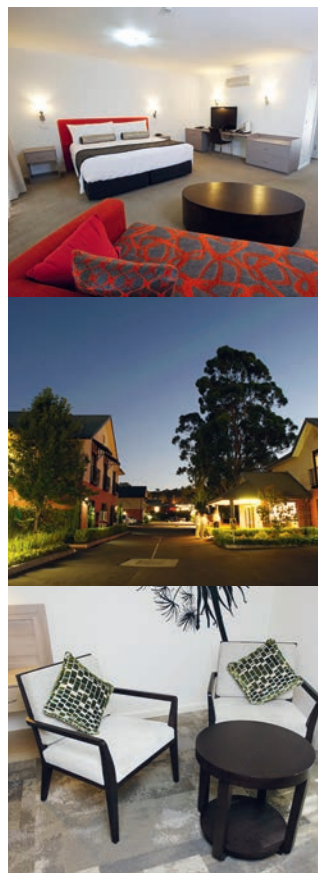
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IMAGE ELISE HASSEY

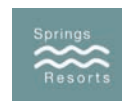
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Elizabeth Burton "Treasure from Arcidosso" - mixed media - float framed canvas - 70 x 105cm



HIGHLAND HARVEST FEASTS

We move in harmony with the seasons

Our events are authentic adventures that connect you with the wild and as self-confessed contemporary country dwellers we bring to life adventures that also include nature based seasonal customs. These are a twist on past Pagan, Saxon, Nordic and Celtic banquets as well as crafting a few of our own new customs.

Our Midsummer Feast is the official launch of the Highland Harvest Feast Series and is to raise funds for Higher Ground Raptors and Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc. It is a collaboration of local producers and this event will be based in a rural setting in Fitzroy Falls with Redleaf Farm's produce taking centre stage - Our feast centre piece will be award winning lamb proudly roasted by Katrina & Sam Sparke and expect some solstice surprises. Dress up welcomed in your pagan festive best!

Tickets - \$145 per person for 3 courses including wine and entertainment. Numbers are limited so get in fast we expect a sell-out event. We will release venue details 24 hours prior to the event based on weather conditions. For info go to wildfoodadventures.com.au

Midsummer Feast

7pm Friday 22nd December 2017

Our Summer Solstice Event, this feast celebrates the power of the sun, honouring the space between earth and the heavens with a 3-course rural dinner. On the longest day of the year, fairies are afoot so rejoice with us the balance between water and fire in our billabong setting. Join our mailing list on the contact page to stay up to date as we announce more events in the series. Cost \$145 per person.

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wildfoodadventures.com.au

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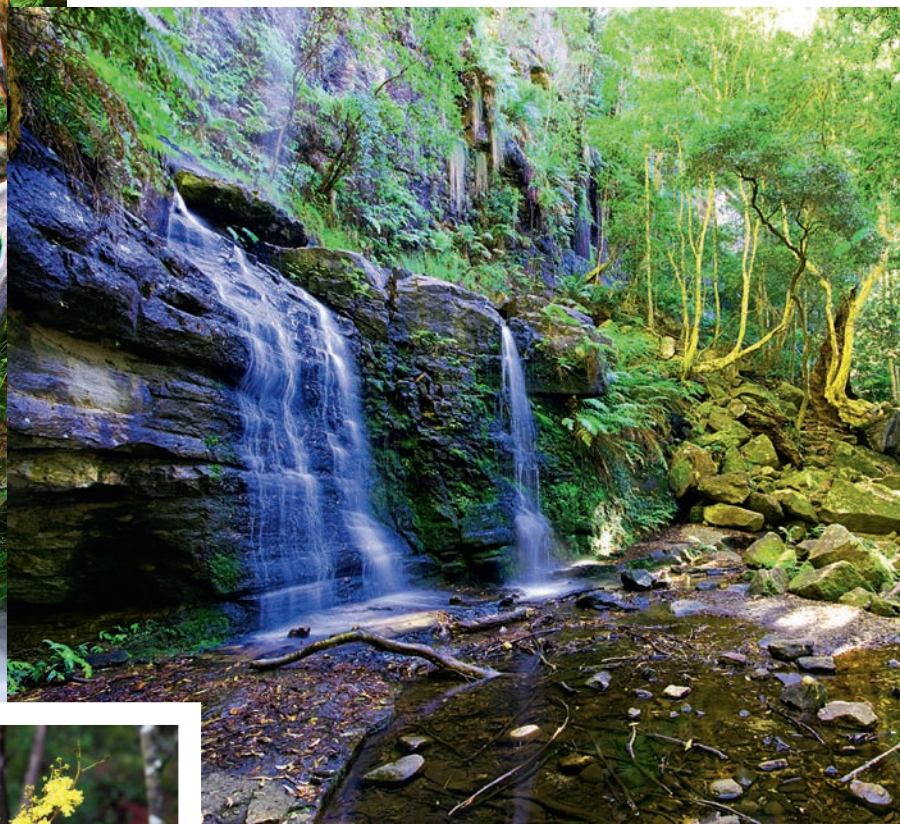
MAGAZINE

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everyone who lives in the
Southern Highlands
– and everyone who
wishes they did.

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Summer of Discovery

'TIS THE SEASON TO GET BACK TO NATURE. SO GRAB YOUR DAY PACK, YOUR SWIMMING COSSIE, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR BINOCULARS AND YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE, AND **EXPLORE SOME OF THE BEST SPOTS FOR A WALK AND A DIP IN THE HIGHLANDS THIS SUMMER.** ONCE YOU'VE HAD YOUR FIRST OUTDOORS DIP, YOU'LL NEVER FORGET IT.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
 Nellies Glen; Flora at
 Carrington Falls; Fairy
 Bower Falls; Coalmine
 Falls; Flora at Belmore
 Falls; Fairy Bower
 Track; Fitzroy Falls

Bundanoon Creek Trail, Bundanoon

Take a trek down to Bundanoon Creek through the stunning scenery of Morton National Park and, joy of joys, a swimming hole at the base in which to cool off, rainfall dependent. **Tip:** It's steep. Get cardio-fit first.

Fairy Bower Falls, Bundanoon

Travel down Bundanoon Creek Track through rainforest scenery and take the left turn along Nicholas Pass to these magical falls. Depending on water levels, you can stand Blue Lagoon style under the falls, and swim, paddle or at the very least get your feet wet. **Tip:** Take care. The rocks are mossy and moss equals slippery.

Erith Coal Mine, Bundanoon

Also in Morton National Park, this walk leads to an old coal mine that was operational from the 1860s to 1915. A track downhill to steep metal stairwells goes past the old mine to the waterfall below. Paddle and frolic in the shallows of the waterfalls. **Tip:** It's a steep descent from the mine to the base of the waterfall. Wear good walking shoes and be prepared to scramble through vegetation at some points.

Nellies Glen and Blue Pool, Budderoo National Park, Robertson

If you can catch this place after good rain and there's no one else around, it's charming. Put your swimming towel on one of the surrounding rocks and swim up to the waterfall.

Tip: The water here is not deep so don't jump from the waterfall. Nearby Blue Pool is good for littlies.

Berrima River Walk, Berrima

Take this delightful walk along the Wingecarribee River and read about the German internees who lived there during World War I. Recent reports of possible water contamination may have deterred some swimmers, so check with local authorities or launch a kayak instead. Or head over to Moss Vale and set off downstream from the weir at Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve. **Tip:** Keep your eyes peeled for resident bird and wildlife such as water dragons, platypuses and joe blakes (snakes).

Gunrock Creek Falls, Meryla State Forest, Moss Vale

A favourite haunt of longtime locals. You'll have to seek out this beauty on Meryla Road, one kilometre up a fire trail. But this swimming hole, complete with waterfall and escarpment, make it well worth the effort.

Tip: The rough terrain in this State Forest makes it a favourite for 4WDs and motorbike enthusiasts.



Goodmans Ford, Wollondilly Nature Reserve, Wollondilly

This fabulous spot on the way to the Wombeyan Caves takes a little tenacity to reach. Whether you camp at the nearby private campsite, or visit for the day, the brackish water of the Wollondilly River is deep, and slow moving. Perfect for summer days. **Hint:** Don't forget paddle boards, lilos, canoes and life jackets.

Mares Forest Creek, Wombeyan Caves

A short walk from Wombeyan Caves takes you to this free cave where you can explore and then take a cooling dip.

Tip: Winter or summer, the water here is icy. Your swim will probably be a quickie.

Forty Foot Falls, Mittagong

This seven kilometre walk from Lake Alexandra requires grit and good fitness as there are many steep steps and flights of stairs. But just when you think you'll never come out of the lush forest, navigate rocks downhill to reach the waterfall. Lots of options for wild swimming in deep pools. **Tip:** Ensure you and your companions are up for a challenge and take plenty of water and snacks. It's a long way back.

Bangadilly National Park, Joadja

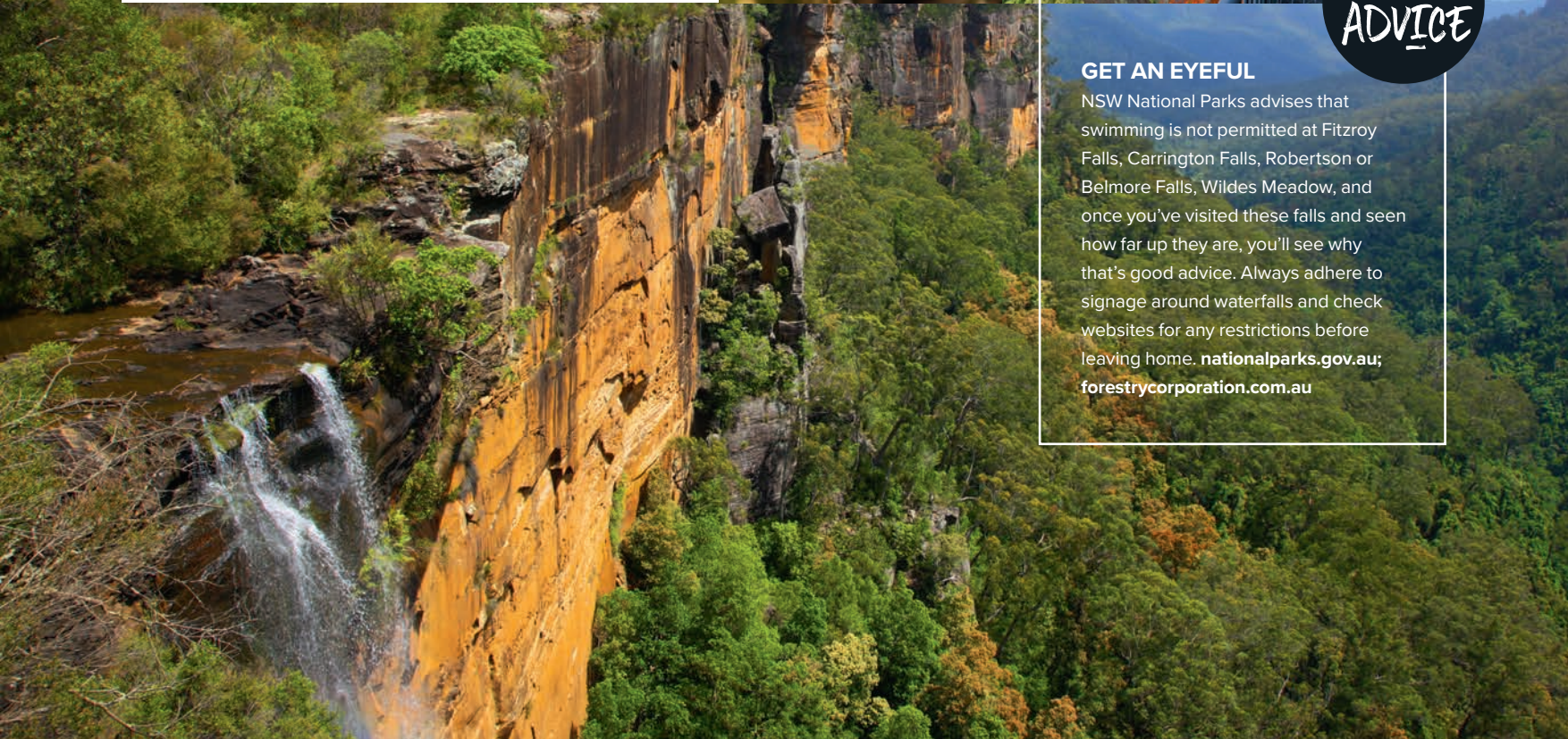
A little visited treasure on our doorstep. Bangadilly National Park has the four Ws: wilderness, wildlife, walks and the Wingecarribee. **Tip:** Look up. Koalas are found here. 📍



GOOD
ADVICE

GET AN EYEFUL

NSW National Parks advises that swimming is not permitted at Fitzroy Falls, Carrington Falls, Robertson or Belmore Falls, Wildes Meadow, and once you've visited these falls and seen how far up they are, you'll see why that's good advice. Always adhere to signage around waterfalls and check websites for any restrictions before leaving home. nationalparks.gov.au; forestrycorporation.com.au



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The Bowral Brasserie serves delicious French-inspired food. Enjoy a sumptuous dinner, quick business lunch or traditional long Sunday lunch, all in chic and classy surroundings.

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Fashion Fades, Style is Eternal

Classic and Chic - one of the Southern Highlands best kept secrets - is a boutique store, specialising in high-quality vintage clothing, fashion accessories and antique French furniture. The pieces, which are all privately sourced in Europe, are unique, one-of-a-kind fashion statements, hand-picked for quality, style and affordability. Classic and Chic will take you back to an era of sophisticated elegance with items ranging from glamorous haute couture, to dazzling wardrobe essentials. The store also features fabulous antique French furniture and decorator items that are bound to grace a traditional or contemporary home. New stock arrives weekly, so pop in and let the friendly staff help you find that 'breathtaking something' you simply cannot live without.

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DOWN ON THE FARM

WORDS ALEX SPEED

Top of the wish list for many visitors is to experience life on a farm. Particularly children, and understandably so. A recent survey found one third of children struggled to identify fruit and vegetables, and were confused about where produce came from. Taking the bull by the horns, more local farmers are turning to agri tourism as a new revenue stream, and (hopefully) to better educate our kids. We look at some of our best farm stays.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Willowview Farmstay,
Brayton; Fairway Farm,
Wildes Meadow; Morvern
Valley Farm Cottages,
Bundanoon; The Woolshed,
Canyonleigh; Laurel View,
Burrawang; Farm Club
Australia, Weraí

The Woolshed, Canyonleigh

This converted shearing shed sits on the 91 hectare cattle property of Greg and Deb Hook, near Canyonleigh. The Hooks opened their farmstay in 2013, and have been busy ever since. Sleeping up to 10, The Woolshed is air conditioned, and terrifically decked out with a pool table, and has a full sized tennis court. And it has space (lots of it) and animals galore including cattle, hens and horses. Guests are welcome to join the Hooks as they go about their working life, bring their bicycles, bushwalk, or just chill out on the wide verandahs ... without another soul in sight. thewoolshedsouthernhighlands.com.au

Farm Club Australia, Weraí

Hugh Clarke and Alice Le Cras opened their farmstay in 2014. About 400 hectares, Farm Club has three different houses, with accommodation for up to 40, and is emerging as an outdoor adventure specialist through collaborations with local guides. A beef, lamb, free range pork and eggs producer, it sells its produce, and other foods grown within five kilometres, from its excellent Farm Shop. The cafe serves food all day. Catch the Brazilian barbeque on selected weekends, and the farm walkabout every Sunday morning. Local adventures on offer include canoe trips, 4WD wildlife spotting tours. Fly fishing classes are coming. 'Most guests want an interactive experience to show their kids where food really comes from,' says Hugh. 'Farmers collaborating to develop agri tourism and farm gate experiences is vital if food production in the Highlands is to be truly sustainable.' farmclubaustralia.com.au

Morvern Valley Farm Cottages, Bundanoon

Morvern Valley sits down a rainforest lane on 10 hectares of bush and cleared farming land. There has been a guesthouse here since 1896, and owner Julie Peacock says staying here is 'like returning to Grandma's farm of yesteryear'. There's a host of animals including alpacas, horses, ponies, sheep, donkeys, peacocks, ducks, chickens, geese, giant rabbits, foals, lambs, chicks and ducklings. The three self-contained cottages sleep eight people each, and tyre swings, barbecues and hen houses for egg collecting complete the farm feel. Guests can watch seasonal jobs such as shearing, and horse shoeing. A complimentary breakfast basket is provided. Bundanoon is five minutes' stroll away; Morton National Park is 500 metres the other direction. morvern-valley.com



Fairway Farm, Wildes Meadow

Dairy farmers Judith and Don Warner have been welcoming guests to their Wildes Meadow 50 hectare farmstay for 20 years. Accommodation is a self-contained unit with private entrance off the main house, but it's the location and resident cows that keep families returning every year. Guests are welcome to get involved, from getting up early to watch the milking to bottle feeding the poddy calves. 'Our biggest draw card is we are a working dairy farm, so children can see milk does not come from a bottle.' There are also chooks, lambs, ducks and peacocks, paddocks to explore and dirt laneways to bike on. A complimentary country breakfast basket containing cereal, farm fresh eggs, fruit and juices, croissants, freshly baked bread, preserves and tea and coffee included for your first morning. highlandsnsw.com.au/fairwayfarm

Laurel View, Burrawang

John and Vicki Mauger know a thing or two about cows. The owners of Maugers Meats Burrawang and Moss Vale, the Maugers raise their cattle and sheep on this 120 hectares, the location of their farmstay Laurel View. In the family since the 1950s, this period decorated property has lovely gardens, sumptuous furnishings and 360 degree views. Breakfast goodies juice, bread, milk, eggs and of course Maugers bacon and sausages are provided on the first morning. Only five minutes' drive from Robertson and Burrawang, Laurel View is a busy working farm and guests are free to wander about the paddocks, and can join the Maugers' recently launched Paddock to Plate which includes a farm tour, history, meat tasting and boning demonstration. laurelview.net.au



Willowview Farmstay, Brayton

On the border of the Highlands and Tablelands on the beautiful Wollondilly River, this 52 hectares property is a great place to get your family away from it all. There are two choices of accommodation; the homestead which sleeps up to 10 and a smaller cottage that can take six. But it's the location and tranquility of Willowview that are the real knockouts. Take the provided canoes out for a spot of fishing, go river swimming or take a hike in the beautiful countryside. Guests are free to spend time at the onsite animal shelter with its donkeys, horses, turkeys, chickens, sheep, alpacas and chooks that owner Jan Scali started 20 years ago or have a horse riding lesson, go on a trail ride or an ATV ride. Or simply spend time meditating in Willowview's authentic Lakota tee pee. willowviewfarmstay.com.au 📍

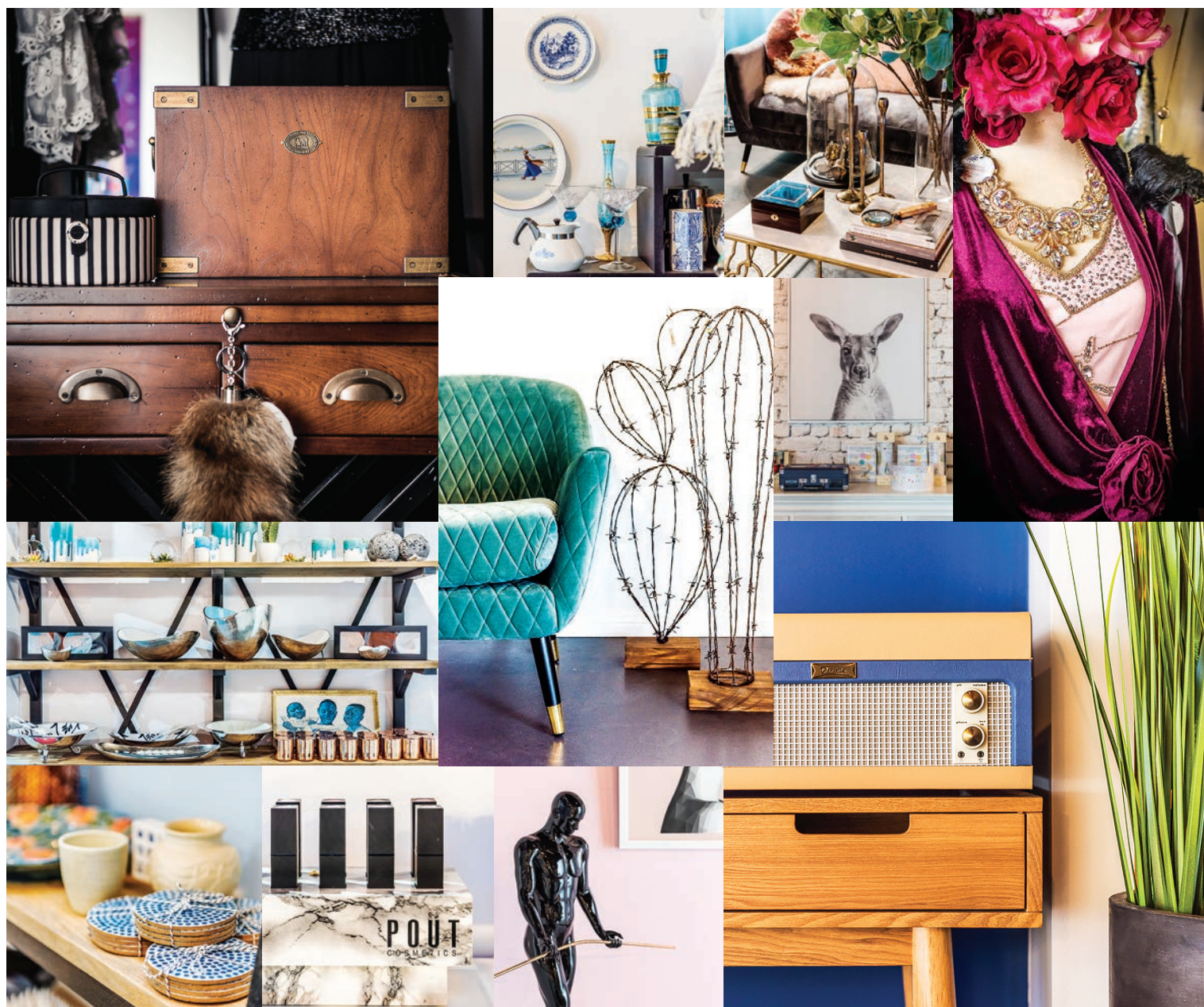
WE ALSO LOVE

The Loch, Berrima

Five star accommodation in converted stables on chef Brigid Kennedy's farm – feed the chooks, enjoy an amazing local produce long lunch, there's even a nature hunt for the kids. theloch.net.au

The Eco-Olive Farmstay, Cayonleigh

Up the road from Willowview Farm, this working farm has sheep, alpacas, cows, and kids will love the swimming pool. stayz.com.au



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ASK A
LOCAL**AUCTIONEER JIM HINDMARSH'S** DULCET

TONES ARE PART OF SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS LIVESTOCK LORE. FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS THIS FAST TALKER WITH HIS DISTINCTIVE AUCTION CHANT HAS CAJOLED CATTLE BUYERS AT SALE YARDS FROM GOULBURN TO PICTON. A FORMER WALLABY FULLBACK WHO PLAYED NINE INTERNATIONAL CAPS FOR AUSTRALIA IN THE 1970S, JIM NOW SPLITS HIS TIME BETWEEN MOSS VALE AND KIAMA, WHERE HE AND WIFE ROBBIE PLAN TO RETIRE ONE DAY.

What do you love about the Southern Highlands? The winters, the atmosphere and the accessibility. **Are you a born and bred local?** Yes, born and bred in Mittagong. I'm fifth generation local. **How many years do you need to live here to be considered part of the furniture?** No time limit. It depends more on getting involved in local activities, not years spent here. **This is still very much a farming region – what are the biggest challenges facing farmers?** The cost of maintaining and improving pasture. **What is the future of farming in the Southern Highlands?** There will always be farms with livestock here, but only dairy farmers and potato farmers will be able to truly 'live off the land'. **As an auctioneer you have spent your life using your voice to sell. What's key?** Knowing the values of your livestock and achieving them. And knowing who your buyers will be. **The rural outlook of the Highlands has changed markedly in the past decade. What worries you?** Properties not being managed properly, and owners not putting anything back into their farms. **Your son Ben has now taken on some of the family business. What's the best piece of advice you can give him?** Honesty is paramount. **What's the best advice you've ever received?** Know your values and achieve them. **What do you love about your life?** Family. Being close to Kiama. And work. **What's your biggest gripe?** Running late. **What advice would you give your younger self?** Keep looking until you find a career you enjoy. Make sure it is something you would be happy doing for the rest of your life. **What's your favourite place to go in the area and why?** The family farm on Range Road in Mittagong, where I grew up, and Kiama, where I plan to retire one day. **You have 11 grandchildren. Your advice to them?** Develop a good work ethic. Always respect your elders. **And, finally, you spend your working life talking. Out of hours are you verbose or a man of few words?** I still like a chat but after doing so much talking for work, I tend to switch off out of hours if I don't find the conversation interesting. ■

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SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS markets

The regular markets held in villages and towns across the Highlands are a wonderful way to gain real insight into the creative side of the region. Come see what our artisans are making and our producers are growing. If you love unearthing locally made delights, then look no further. You'll find fabulous fresh produce, arts and crafts, jams, cakes, preserves, food, fashion, plants and much more. Happy wanderings! For further information and details, see southern-highlands.com.au

FRI-YAY STREET FEAST

THIRD FRIDAY 3.30-8.30PM.

THE MILL, CNR BONG BONG AND BUNDAROO STREETS, BOWRAL
A FUN FILLED COLLECTIVE OF FINE LOCAL, ARTISANAL AND FRESH FARM PRODUCERS PROVIDING A FABULOUS TASTE AND SENSORY EXPERIENCE, WITH FABULOUS FOODIE STALLS, ENTERTAINERS AND LATE NIGHT SHOPPING.

MITTAGONG MARKETS

THIRD AND FIFTH SATURDAY 8AM-2PM ALTHOUGH NOT 5TH SATURDAY IN DECEMBER. CNR ALBERT AND ALICE STREETS, MITTAGONG

HELD IN THE GROUNDS OF THE UNITING CHURCH, THIS MARKET FEATURES PLANTS, COLLECTABLES, FRESH PRODUCE, CHILDREN'S TOYS AND CLOTHING, AS WELL AS HAND-CRAFTED GOODS, JEWELLERY, AND ITEMS FOR THE MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT.

Bowral Public SCHOOL MARKETS

Second Saturday 8am-1pm (except January) and a special Christmas Twilight Market December 21 3pm-7pm. Bendooley Street, Bowra

A lively and eclectic market with local produce and plants, handcrafted toys and children's clothing alongside fabulous food stalls to suit every taste.

BUNDANOON MAKERS MARKET

First and Third Sunday 8.30am-2pm (except January)
Special Giving Tree over December with all gifts donated to needy in our community. Bundanoon Memorial Hall, Railway Parade, Bundanoon

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

Exeter Village Markets

First Saturday 9am-2pm

Exeter Village Hall, Exeter Road, Exeter

One of the most picturesque markets, it is held at the local hall beside the community oval in Exeter. Features local producers, artisans, foodies and craftspeople, and there's a fabulous playground for the kids within the oval picket fences.

ROBERTSON MARKETS

SECOND SUNDAY 9AM-2PM (EXCEPT JANUARY) HODDLE STREET, ROBERTSON

A variety of stalls, food and refreshments at the School of Arts in the busy community of Robertson. Great trash and treasure finds and, of course, lots of local produce, including famed Robbo potatoes.

Moss Vale Night Market

Fourth Saturday of every month (kicks off when day markets finish) 4.30pm-8.30pm (except December & January) Moss Vale Showground, Illawarra Highway, Moss Vale

This new market, which runs from October to March, takes off in the evening with many more foodie stalls offering local produce. Plus, there's an outdoor cinema.

RAILWAY STREET FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays 3pm-6pm Last 2017 market December 21. Reopens

January 18. Old Bowling Club Green, Railway Street, Moss Vale

This popular produce market recently celebrated its first birthday and 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.

MOSS VALE FARMER'S & FLEA MARKET

FOURTH SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH 9AM-2PM (EXCEPT DECEMBER & JANUARY)

MOSS VALE SHOWGROUND, ILLAWARRA HIGHWAY, MOSS VALE

FARMERS, ARTISANS, FOOD PRODUCERS AND GROWERS SELL THEIR WARES, WHILE DEALERS AND PRIVATE SELLERS SET UP STALLS WITH TRASH AND TREASURES INCLUDING HOMEWARES, BOOKS, RECORDS, CLOTHES AND FURNITURE. PERFECT FOR TREASURE HUNTERS AND THOSE LOOKING TO UNEARTH A BARGAIN.

Crop-Swap

Saturday 9.30am-10.30am Robertson Bowling Club, Robertson

Local producers and backyard growers gather to swap any excess seasonal produce from the back of a flatbed Ford truck, and catch up and check in with friends and neighbours. A wonderful community initiative that continues to thrive.

Canyonleigh Makers Market

Second Sunday 9am-2pm, only Sunday 28th for January not 21st
Tugalong Road, Canyonleigh

The General Store at Canyonleigh is the venue for this great new Highlands market, which sells purely locally grown produce and handmade products, including jams, chutneys, woodwork and swimwear. Plus, fabulous artwork by emerging local artist Ebony Barnes (who is opening her studio for this year's Art Studio Trail, see page 23).

COLO VALE COMMUNITY MARKETS

FIRST SATURDAY 9AM-2PM (EXCEPT JANUARY)

COLO VALE HALL, RAILWAY AVENUE, COLO VALE

WITH LOTS OF NEW STALLHOLDERS, AND OLDER ONES INCLUDING HANDICRAFTS, HANDMADE GOODS, JAMS, FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE, AS WELL AS A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ON HAND TO HELP LOCALS OUT WITH LEGAL MATTERS, THIS CORNERSTONE OF THE COMMUNITY IS THRIVING. ■

Berrima SCHOOLYARD MARKET

FOURTH SUNDAY 9AM-2PM

(EXCEPT JANUARY) AND SECOND

SUNDAY IN DECEMBER

OXLEY STREET, BERRIMA - LAST

2017 MARKET ON DECEMBER 10

MORE THAN 50 STALLS WITH

EVERYTHING FROM FRESH

LOCAL PRODUCE TO ARTISANAL

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Celebrate **Australia Day** in Historic Berrima

FRIDAY JANUARY 26TH 2018 | 9.30AM OPENING CEREMONY | 12PM GRAND PARADE

The Australia Day Celebrations in historic Berrima over the last 20 years have grown to be one of the Southern Highlands premier tourist events. Visitor numbers are in the thousands every year and on the increase. What's the attraction? Probably the location, no other village in the Southern Highlands can claim to have a more historic and picturesque backdrop in which to celebrate this day in our nations calendar of public holidays. With over 50-market stalls local and interstate and entertainment for all the family grand parades vintage cars, fire engine displays, fresh produce markets, face painting there is something for everyone.

This year Colin Gelling said the variety and quality of the stalls is the best he has booked for many years. Amazing bargains especially in spices and speciality clothing not seen here before. The atmosphere is one of a real Aussie family day out with a bit of patriotism and pride in our country thrown in for good measure. The official part of the day starts at the Historic Berrima Court House Museum at 9.30 am where young citizen and citizen of the year awards are given by the mayor of the shire. This is followed by an address by the Australia day ambassador. After the awards ceremony its then off to enjoy the rest of the day to hunt for that allusive piece of craft either in the market square in the more traditional shops in Berrima.

Mums and dads don't forget to stroll over to the area known as Kids Corner. Old Hume Hwy and Jellore St. Jeff Patterson amusements will have his jumping castles and other fun rides. Another great favourite in kid's corner is farmyard nursery where

children can actually go into the compound pat the animals and get photos taken by mum or dad or even the grandparents. Kid's corner also has swings and slippery dips and provides shade for all, as the family takes a little rest from their hectic and exiting Australia day celebrations. Kids' corner is also the area that displays some of the best vintage cars to be seen in the southern highlands along with the guys from the vintage steam engine displays and the tractor museum. The grand parade on Australia day 2018 of course is open to all who wish to enter however individuals or organisations must register. From a float to a billy cart all are welcome.

For details contact Colin Gelling the manager for the Australia Day event at the Berrima courthouse 4877 1505.



Australia Day

OVER 50 STALLS | JUMPING CASTLES | MERRY-GO-ROUNDS | FACE PAINTING | FREE BUS

ARTS FOR ALL

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

The buzz about the Highlands arts scene this summer leads to the cultural hive that is Sturt Gallery in Mittagong. It kicks off with a special evening on December 7, and you're all invited. The Artisans Night Market, complete with food and live music, will be held in the gardens from 5pm, while the exhibition 'In These Hands' (Mara nyangangka), Ernabella Arts – 70 years of Indigenous Art and Design, opens in the gallery at 6pm. This exhibition celebrates the long term collaboration between Sturt and Ernabella Arts, a renowned Indigenous art centre in far north west of South Australia. It showcases past and contemporary paintings, ceramics, textiles and basket weaving produced at Ernabella, and runs until February. A must see. It is followed by Chatoyance – Studio Woodworkers Australia, an exhibition of collaborations and mentorships between emerging furniture makers and designers and master makers. February 18-April 8.

Since opening in 1941 with one room and eight students, Sturt has filled the creative cup of artists and art lovers, craft teachers and students, hosting regular exhibitions, workshops and residencies, nurturing talent and operating a busy gallery, shop and cafe. Over the years, Sturt has built a loyal community and a nationally significant collection of more than 1000 contemporary objects, including glass, photographs, textiles, woodwork, ceramics, fibre work and metalwork, that tell the story of the Australian craft movement since World War II. A unique feature of this permanent collection is that every item has been made on site by local and international artists and guest tutors. Head of Sturt, Mark Viner, says, 'Everyone of significance in the Australian craft scene has at some time come through Sturt.' Treasures from the permanent collection can be viewed in Sturt's new Archive Gallery.



Ernabella Arts

Sturt Summer School

Like moths to the flame, over 200 adult art students of various abilities will gather in January for Sturt's ever popular summer school. Celebrating its 20th year, the carefully curated program of 23 courses includes painting, drawing, printmaking, weaving, wood work, sculpture, ceramics, photography and mosaic making. You can even learn Viking knitting! Sturt Summer school runs from January 3-7 and includes social gatherings, a talks program and demonstrations, with meal and accommodation packages available. Tutors are talented and experienced, the botanic garden like setting as picturesque and romantic as any Jane Austin inspired movie. **Cnr Range Road and Waverley Parade, Mittagong; sturt.nsw.edu.au**

Bowral District Art Society (BDAS)

Elsewhere in the Highlands, the Bowral Art Gallery hosts 'Christmas Clay', an exhibition of work by Sturt's ceramic group, from December 7-17. Then the BDAS Members Exhibition runs from January 19-February 11. **1 Short Street, Bowral; bdasgallery.com**

The Milk Factory Gallery and Exhibition Space

The Milk Factory Gallery's Summer Exhibition takes up its annual residence from December until February. It features the work of more than a dozen artists in a variety of mediums, sourced from the Gallery stockroom and artist exhibitions held throughout 2017. **33 Station Street, Bowral; milkfactorygallery.com.au**

Ten Thousand Paces

A selection of graphic portraits, landscape paintings and works on paper by AF Fulgence opens November 18 and runs until December 1. After three years, more than 60 exhibitions and many bottles of fine local wine, Ten Thousand Paces founding director Hamish Ta-me is looking to pass the baton on to a fellow lover of great art and wine, someone prepared to continue his vision of providing a dedicated space for local artists and artisan producers. Interested? Contact Hamish on 0428 294 569. **Springett's Arcade, Bong Bong Street, Bowral; tenthousandpaces.com**



Ivan Goodacre
'after the harvest'
oil on wood



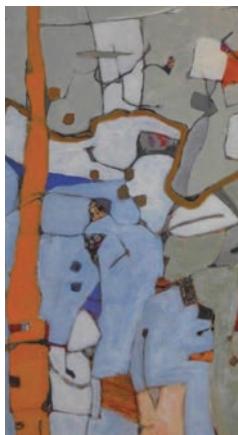
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Website:
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Christmas Wreaths 2017

December 16th and 17th
10.00 to 2.30

Learn how to make your own beautiful freshly decorated wreath with gorgeous greenery and baubles.

BYO Furniture Chalk Paint Class

January 14th and February 25th
10.00 - 2.30

We use the gorgeous Blake and Taylor chalk furniture paints made in Australia.

Easter food styling workshop

March 10th

Guest teacher Sydney based food stylist and caterer coming to give us quick tips and tricks for a spectacular Easter feast. Limited numbers.

Roses or Hydrangeas still life canvas

March 16th and 17th - 2 sessions daily

The wonderful Melbourne based artist Carolyn Hallums is coming to help us create her signature rosy posy or hydrangeas in this fun workshop. Beginners welcome. Completed canvas taken home.



2 Exeter Rd, Exeter NSW 2579 (Opp the Exeter General Store)

02 4883 4129 | e: appletonagencies@live.com.au

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FASHION | ACCESSORIES | HOMEWARES | CHALK PAINT | CANDLES | WORKSHOPS

INSTA
STAR

My name is ZOE YOUNG

I live in... Bowral surrounded by craftsmen, sculptors and others doing interesting things in warehouses. **My life in five words is...** Family, studio, mountain, love and maze. (My dad built the largest maze in the southern hemisphere in Crackenback, where I grew up.) **We moved here because...** It sits between the surf and the snow. **My favourite things in the Highlands are...** Harry's on Green Lane, Dirty Janes, Highlands Merchant and the seasons. I don't often admit this, but I do just get in the car and drive around for the sake of it. There are so many wonderful landscapes and they vary so much depending on the weather. I never tire of driving up Oxley Hill to Berrima. **Followers on Instagram see...** The life behind the work. **When it comes to style...** Mine is in the tradition of the modernists with an infusion of contemporary life. **I often get asked...** If I realise I have paint on my face. **People who come to my exhibitions see...** A complete body of work. The paintings bounce off one another and form some sort of narrative. **I always take friends who come to stay to...** Lydie du Bray Antiques in Mittagong. It's more a museum than a store. Followed by sandwiches from Park Road Corner Store in Bowral chucked into a hamper for a picnic by the river. **My special place here is...** Tudor House. It was the first place I ever visited in the Highlands as a kid. It was so mossy and green, like something out of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. I am now the artist in residence at the school, which I'm excited about. **You shouldn't leave the Highlands without...** Pinot and a pizza under John Olsen's 'Sun' in the Cellar Door at Bendooley Estate as well as stocking up your art book collection. **The Southern Highlands is such a special place because of...** The quaint country roads, gardens, mist and weatherboards. I can't live without the espresso coffee and espresso martinis I get here. Basically, I'm at ease being pseudo-rural at this stage in my life. **Being a parent and an artist is...** A rollercoaster. Wine helps. Reg is a great dad and my parents have a big role in our lives, so I'm fortunate. I constantly have one foot in my imagination and the other wherever I'm meant to be, which my kids are starting to cotton on to. Sometimes I realise they've been calling my name for a while before I answer, which isn't the worst thing but I'm certainly not a stereotypical mum, and they still seem to grow. **I paint...** Everything that I love about the world, including the drama of it. Life is brief. I'm going to paint what I love, and I'm going to paint it the best I can. I've got to leave a memory before I die. That I was here and I adored this time.



Zoe Young is a painter making a big name for herself. A two times Archibald finalist for her portraits of snowboarder Torah Bright and model Samantha Harris, Zoe lives in Bowral with partner Reg Iremonger and children Wilbur and Lucy. In February she has her first London show, 'Glimpses of notes, like a catch of a song', a collection of works portraying everyday moments. 'The opportunity to exhibit in London has brought my attention to the Englishness of my work, which is really a Highlands thing. We have a great selection of top tier artists in the Highlands, like John Olsen, Tim Storrier and Ben Quilty, all of whom have been really supportive, not just of my painting but of the state of the arts in the Highlands. The area is full of creatives and I think art starts at home. If you're surrounded by art and artists, it's going to rub off.' 📍

 Zoe Young @zoeoliviayoung | zoeyoung.com.au



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24 HOURS IN... BOWRAL

THE EPICENTRE OF THE HIGHLANDS, BOWRAL AND ITS COMMUNITY HAS FOUGHT TO RETAIN ITS UNIQUE CHARACTER REFUSING TO SUCCUMB TO A RETAIL STREETScape DOMINATED BY NATIONAL CHAIN STORES. WHICH IS MUSIC TO THE EARS OF LOCALS AND VISITORS ATTRACTED BY **BOWRAL'S ECLECTIC BUNCH OF INDEPENDENT SHOPS, AND CAFES AND RESTAURANTS.**



9am: Coffee and brekkie time

Arrived in Bowral just in time for brekkie? Escape Southern Highlands food writer Jill Dyson swears by Damien Monley's Baghdad Eggs at Grand Bistro, while Bowral local and our Instagram star (page 112) Zoe Young likes 2 Park Street Cafe. Other local favourites include the Hospital Shop Cafe, Elephant Boy, ludo, Janeks Cafe, Coffee Culture, Palate Pleasure, Stumps Cafe, Raw & Wild Market & Café, and Flour Water Salt.



CLOCKWISE
Three Wise Monkeys,
Dirty Janes, Nina
Leon, Masuki.

10.30am: Shop, shop, shop

Type 'Things to do in Bowral' into any search engine and up will come Dirty Janes, top of the list. And indeed this treasure trove is a Bowral beauty and a much loved local institution. An antique and vintage market to end all others (which includes the fabulous Your Vintage Occasion tearoom for high teas to die for), this fabulous place has a new neighbour in the shape of the Green Lane and charming restaurant Harry's on Green Lane (see our review page 53), and Suzie Anderson Home next door. Bowral is also awash with other fabulous independent retailers. For kids we love Masuki with their OTS (global organic textiles standard) certified clothes, and toys and books. For women's clothes and shoes you can't go past Babilonia, Mic Mac, Lin & Barrett, Nina Leon, Quirkee Birds, Cloth & General, Carousel, Sandy Short Style, Creative & Co (recently opened by Michaela Bolzan, founder of the Southern Highlands Writers' Festival), as well as Classic & Chic for vintage and Three Wise Monkeys for those also into eclectic homewares, or Country Accent for timely Chrissie decorations. Deck your man out in some new country clothes from the Countryman or the uber smart Harry & Paul. Now you're looking the part.



Midday: *Pre-lunch saunter*

Take a saunter off the main drag down Station Street. Stop at the Milk Factory Gallery to admire the Summer Exhibition and perhaps procure a new work for your walls. Or find something new for the home from Interiors for You next door. Other local homewares gems not to miss include the Bronte Tram, Few and Far, and Coast to Country Custom Furniture. Drop into The Press Shop and pick up some beautiful letterpress stationery and wrapping paper.



1pm: *Lunch*

Now you have goodies to take home, it's lunch time. If you're looking for fine dining you are spoilt for choice with Biota Dining, Bistro Officina, Onesta Cucina, Harry's on Green Lane or Centennial Vineyards Restaurant just up the road. Or if you're after something more casual, pick up a bike and hamper from Biota and explore on two wheels. The Mill offers a great choice of lunch options with the Mill Cafe to Ms Pho's to Billy Chan the Dumpling Man, as well as chocolatier Ms Peacock. And you can't go past Raw & Wild Market & Cafe for their 100 per cent organic foods and delicious meals. The fabulous Bowral Public School Markets happen the second Saturday of the month from 8am and are chock full of local produce, goodies and food.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Raw & Wild Market & Cafe, Country Accent, Few and Far, Leura Books.

3pm: *Afternoon sojourn with a book*

Check into any number of lovely local accommodation options. We love Berida Hotel (see our review on page 26), or the stay and dine options at Biota close by, Milton Park or Peppers Craigieburn. Self catering options include The Sebel Heritage Park, The Hidden Door (see our review on page 29), The Rift estate, or soon to open onsite accommodation at Bendooley Estate up the road. Pick up a new book to read at The Bookshop Bowral or The Brown Bookshop, or a preloved tome from Leura Books or The Good Reader in Bong Bong Street. ►



BOWRAL

JEWELLERS & WATCHMAKERS



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Harry's Bistro
RIGHT Bistro Officina



4pm: *Time to move*

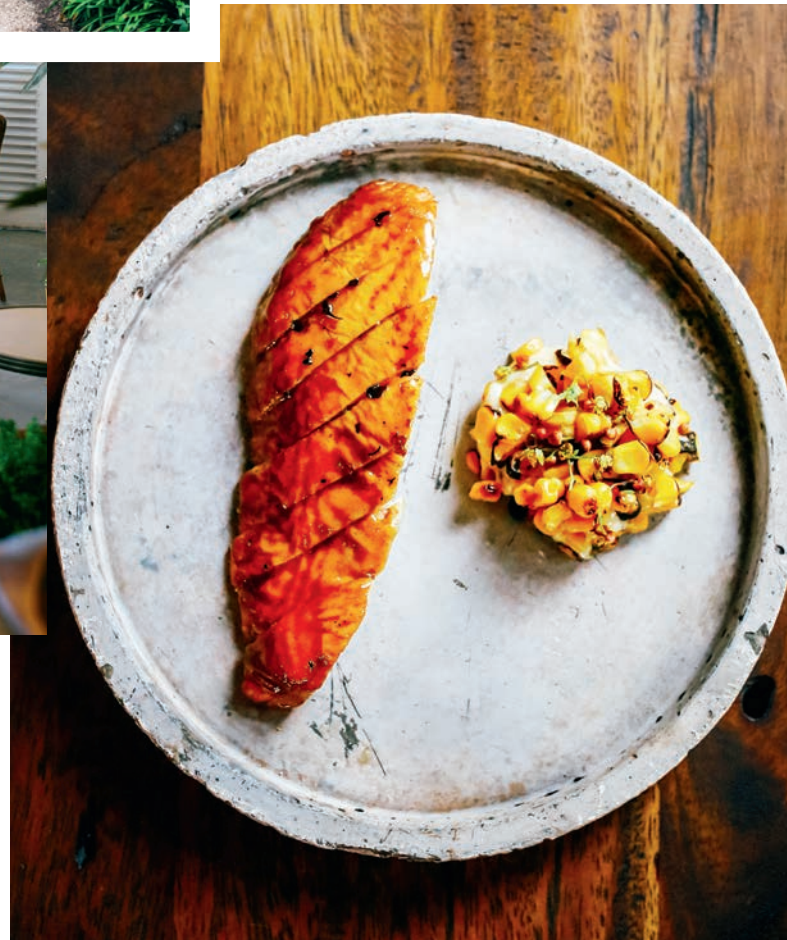
Go for a dip at the Bowral Memorial Pool with its lovely grounds, or if a stroll is more your thing, Cherry Tree Walk past the swimming pool is a charming alternative. Prearrange a tour at 52 Shepherd Street, Don Bradman's childhood home (see our review on page 42), or continue along the walk to the Bradman Museum & International Cricket Hall of Fame. And if you are in town the third Friday of the month, catch the FRI-YAY Street Feast at The Mill from 3.30pm.

5.30pm: *Drinkies*

Head back to Green Lane and enjoy a glass of wine or bubbles in the al fresco wine garden and outdoor Garden Bar or at Harry's On Green Lane. Or head over to the Gibraltar Hotel's Harvey's Bar and see if you can catch Geoff Harvey playing there.

7pm: *Dinner*

If you're in town with kids or just love Italian inspired food, BD's Woodfired Pizza & Pasta is a local favourite, and Home No. 9 has an excellent Thai eat in and takeaway menu. Akira Sushi is another child friendly favourite. Again, if in doubt, book at Biota, Bistro Officina, Centennial Vineyards Restaurant or Onesta Cucina and you can't go wrong. Check individual websites before visiting to avoid disappointment.



7am: *Rise and Shine*

If you're cardio fit, there's no better way to see Bowral than from the Mount Gibraltar Lookout. Head past the swimming pool on Oxley Drive, and hike the steep steps to 'the Gib' to experience the Highlands spread out before you (on a clear day). It's a view you won't forget. Do a circuit back down, allowing up to 1 1/2 hours to get there and back. ■



Summer Holiday =FUN=

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FUN FOR KIDS

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BRADMAN FOUNDATION SUMMER CLINIC PROGRAM

As Australia battles to regain The Ashes against England and cricket fever hits the country, book your little cricketers into these skills workshops held by Steve Waugh Cricket. For girls and boys aged six to 16 years, these coaching clinics include full T20 matches as well as skills development, strategy and tactic discussions, along with nutrition advice and fitness development. The clinics will be held on Bradman Oval and include admission to the Bradman Museum.

December 20-21 (2 day clinic \$269);

Jan 16-19 (3 day clinic \$369)

info@stevebaughcricket.com.au;

Simon Gould 0404 865 109

EATING AL FRESCO

Summer time is picnic time, and kids love eating outside. Berrima General Store & Cafe's new owners, Diego and Martine Arata, are turning heads with their Italian food, and offer custom made picnics from a sandwich pack with fresh juices and complimentary sweets included, to a feast package including pies, quiches, salads, and even lasagne and eggplant parmigiana, all made in their kitchen. In Moss Vale, the fabulous Highlands Merchant has picnic blankets and fold up chairs available to use next door in Leighton Gardens for customers free of charge. They deliver any orders placed in the cafe to the park and even supply the necessary take away cutlery, etc. On offer is any of their 'dine in' menu takeaway options, as well as a great range of fresh sandwiches, salads, wraps, sweets and ice blocks. Speaking of which, the Little Hand Stirred Jam Shop in Berrima serves fabulous ice cream, as does newcomer You + Me Ice Creamery. And if you're in Robertson, The Old Cheese Factory makes some of the best gelato this side of Jamberoo.

CHRISTMAS IN THE COMMUNITY

Lots going on in the run up to Christmas to get the kids enthused (as if they need any encouragement!). Check out our Christmas Carols rundown (What's On, pages 20-23), get organised with the kids and some friends and make an evening of it. It's a great way to feel the community love. And as for outstanding Christmas light and decoration displays, it used to be the houses of Elizabeth Street in Moss Vale that were renowned for going all out, but these days the mantle has definitely passed to East Bowral and Old Bowral, with Retford Street and Roycroft Street deserving particular mention. So come the week before Christmas or, even better, Christmas Eve, pack the kids in the car in their PJs and head out when it's dark. They'll remember it for years to come.

LET THEM CHOOSE A TREE

Fake Christmas trees may be easier to maintain and clean up but in our opinion, you can't beat the real thing. Especially when we have locals such as Ron and Kim Geddes growing them for us all year. Kim, owner of womenswear shop Highland Lady, and hubby Ron have about 20 acres under cultivation with Christmas trees, and have been supplying the Highlands for the past five years fulltime, with Kim's dad doing the same before since the 1960s. Ron cuts the trees each morning for his business, Grampy's Christmas Trees, bringing 1.2 metre (4 foot) to 2 metre (7 foot) trees to sell in Moss Vale. Anything bigger needs to be ordered but he can do up to 3 metres (10 foot). 'The best trees are fresh, busy and of good colour,' says Ron. 'And if you want them to last well, cut a centimetre off the stalk before you put it in a bucket with water, and keep it away from direct sunlight.' Christmas trees start at \$50 and will be available for selection and collection from December 2. If Ron doesn't have a tree to your liking, you can order a tree through Farm Club Australia at Werai or another terrific local business, The Christmas Tree Man at Paddy's River, who supplies trees to the Highlands, Sydney, even internationally. They even welcome locals on Sundays to select their own. Choosing and decorating the family's Christmas tree with the kids has never been so much fun. Start a family tradition this year. **Grampy's Christmas**

Trees, 22 Waites Street, Moss Vale, 0427 829 253; The Christmas Tree Man 4884 1302

GET THEM OUTSIDE

With increasing evidence our kids are not getting enough free play, The Outdoor Connections is providing nature play activities for those aged from five to 14 years. Locations include Bonaira Reserve in Kiama, Werri Beach in Gerringong and Seven Mile Beach National Park in Gerroa, with nature crafts, shelter building, scavenger hunt walks and sand sculpting, plus raft building and navigation for the more adventurous. The Outdoor Connections educators are trained nature play professionals with backgrounds in teaching, outdoor education and art. **Go to outdoorconnections.com.au for summer dates.**



IMAGE LANA HALL

JUST KEEP SWIMMING

There's nothing better as a kid than spending a summer's day at the local pool with mates, and money for hot chips. You'll find outdoor pools in Bundanoon and Bowral, and there's indoor swimming at Moss Vale Aquatic Centre (the Mittagong pool remains out of action). **Check out wsc.nsw.gov.au/services/swimming-pools for opening times and details of facilities.**

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 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral 4862 9299

Moss Vale Police Station New station currently under construction – please contact Bowral station instead 4862 9299

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 58 Bowral Road, 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 Street, Bowral 4861 1444

Mittagong Vet Hospital 109 Main St, Mittagong 4872 2028

Southern Highlands Vet Centre 48 Berrima Rd, Moss Vale 4868 1310

AUSTRALIA POST:

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

Wingecarribee 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

Wingecarribee Animal Shelter Berrima Road, Moss Vale 4868 1520

WIRES 13000 94737



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Fitzroy Lake

IMAGE TONY SHEPHERD



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In my backyard

Harriet Turnnidge tells Escape Southern Highlands how a childhood on the land set her on a course to create aedel, a botanical handmade soap range, made from the milk of her East Friesian sheep.

I grew up on farms around the Southern Highlands and Goulburn Tablelands, so I've always felt a real connection to the land. Admittedly, my first love was horses. I've owned and ridden horses since I was ten years old, and my love for them maintained my connection to a rural lifestyle, and my interest in the natural environment, organic foods and natural body products. After leaving school I moved to Melbourne to study textile design, but my connection to the land remained strong.

After studies, I began working at Small Cow Farm in Robertson, and it was here I got my first lambs. Then I heard about a soap making course in Sydney, went along,

and came home and started making soap with my ewes' milk. I love that I am my own boss, and can creatively combine my connection and love for animals, with the seasons and natural products. At present I have ten sheep including this year's lambs, and the ram I got from Pecora Dairy, Robertson. I hand milk my girls twice a day now lambing is finished, and probably get between five and eight litres of milk. Summer is a busy season as the ewes require extra time and care, and production generally increases with Christmas. A locally produced natural soap wrapped by hand makes a lovely versatile gift. For soap production in winter, I freeze the milk to use when needed.



I make soap most mornings. I work in a little shed I call, the soap shed, and use the cold process of soap making, which includes about two litres of sheep milk per batch. I use pure essential oils with a botanical base such as olive and sweet almond, and never use synthetic ingredients or palm oil. Aedel is derived from the German word, edel which means 'precious, noble'. Historically East Friesians have ties to the Friesland region of northern Germany, and I wanted a name for the soaps that would symbolise our soaps, made from pure natural ingredients with traditional processes.

There are six soaps in aedel's range. The rose milk is our most popular variety but I love the lavender milk as an everyday soap. Recently I have been also working with some other beautiful essential oils to add a few new varieties, including a lovely woody, herbal scented bar to the range, to be released soon. I've also been collaborating with local potter Peter Schmid to develop a series of ceramic soap dishes. Peter has years of experience and creates the most beautiful wood fired ceramics, so I am very excited. I now have

18 stockists around Australia, and locally you can find aedel at Highlands Merchant, Moss Vale, Flower Flower, Mittagong, and the recently opened seasonal garden shop at the Red Cow Farm, Sutton Forest.

Contrary to popular belief, sheep make lovely pets and aren't as stupid as commonly perceived. Having only a small flock, and living on five acres in an area that is becoming increasingly urban, I don't really feel as though I'm 'in sheep' but I would like to be able to call myself a farmer one day. I think what I really love about this life is the rhythm of what I do, and caring for my sheep. You have to be a keen observer and love the outdoors, no matter what the weather. And they reward you. Having meat grown under your care, and milk from which to make cheese, yoghurt and of course, soap gives a great deal of satisfaction. For me, it brings the value of all things into perspective.'

aedel.com.au @aedel.soap

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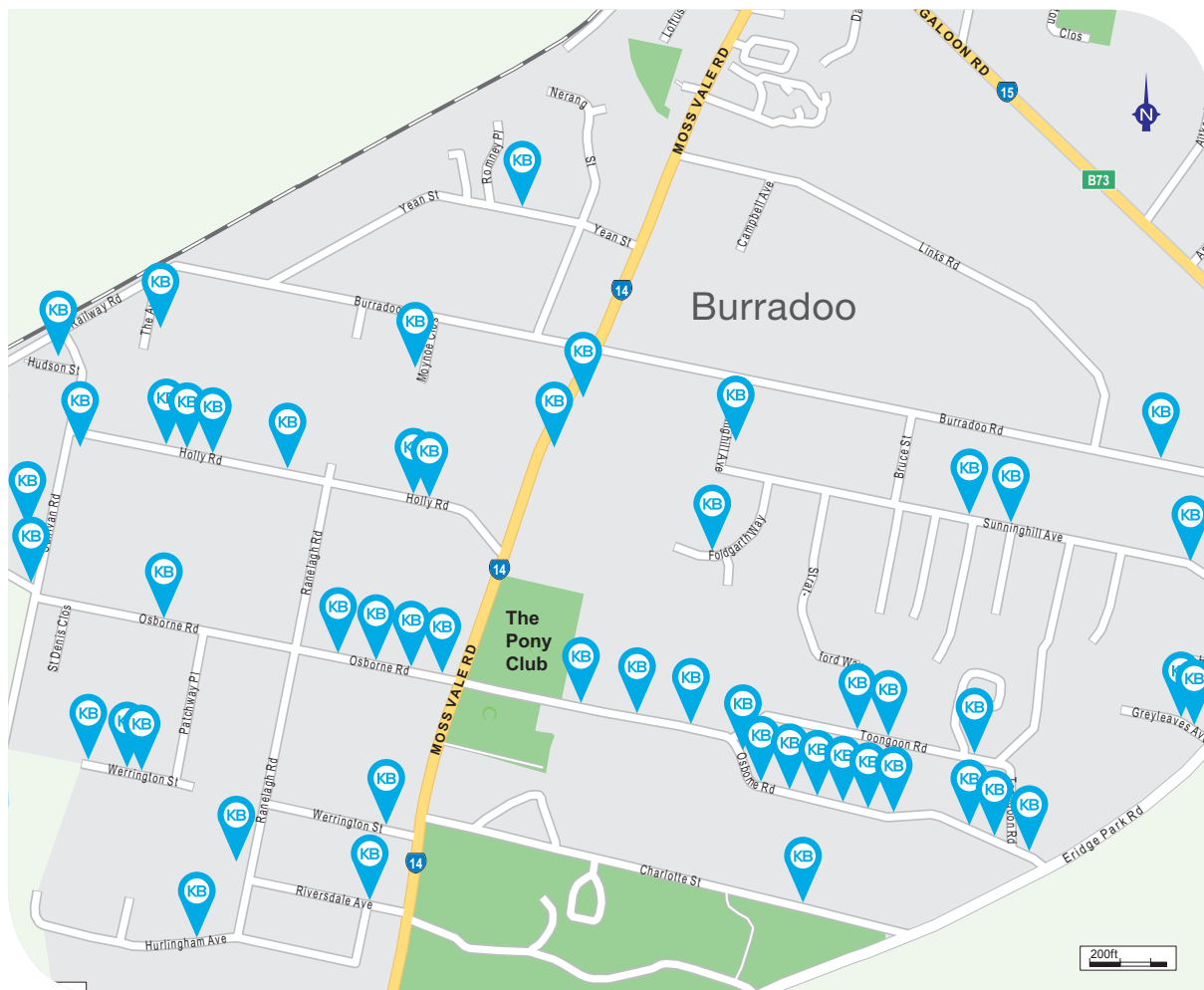
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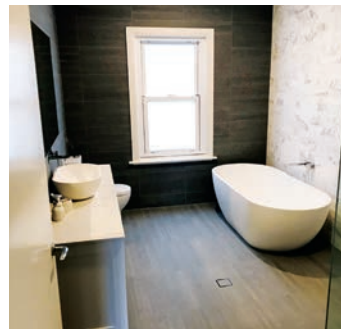


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