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Escape

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS **\$5.00**
SPRING 2018

ARTS &
GARDENS
EDITION

STAY, PLAY, EAT, DRINK & EXPLORE - SPRING 2018

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ART, DRIVES,
GOLF *plus*
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COVER IMAGE

Tony Sheffield

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Editor's welcome

Spring is in the air, renewal and rebirth is all around, and our Southern Highlands calendar is once again full of tempting arts, floral, foodie and cultural events to get your teeth into.

Our cover shot of the Tulip Time Festival, one of the largest celebrations of spring in the Highlands, was taken by photographer Tony Sheffield and captures the joy something as small yet perfect as a tulip can bring.

Spring profiles, features and things to do fill the pages of this arts and garden issue, as well as new places to explore, events to attend, and local people to be inspired by. It's been great fun as always bringing these gems of the Highlands to you. We hope we entice you to discover and experience them, then tell your friends and bring them along too.

In this issue we review Bendooley Estate's luxurious new cottage accommodation, and stay a night at the Burrawang Village Pub, where we chat to locals and enjoy some great pub grub. We eat a meal fit for a king at Bowral's Eccetera Trattoria Pizzeria, thanks to plucky owner and chef Jonatan Fontecchio, and we're not in the least surprised to learn Eccetera is a favourite of famed horse trainer Gai Waterhouse. Read what else Gai loves about the Highlands on page 103.

Our writer Jane O'Connell learns the art of long lunching in spring on page 46, and local award winning

honey producers Bulwarra Bees talk about bee keeping on page 48. Acclaimed local artist Ben Quilty shares something of his important and heartbreaking book HOME: Drawings by Syrian Children, and on page 90 we chat to some more talented Highlands artists who will open their studio doors during the Southern Highlands Arts Trail in November.

Local composer and loved ABC radio music host Andrew Ford tells us what makes him tick on page 112, and Wingecarribee Shire Council Environmental Projects Officer Joe Stammers shares his exciting news about the growing koala population in our own backyard.

All this as we also get ready to welcome thousands of visitors for the annual Bowral festivals: Tulip Time, The Home & Garden Show, and Southern Highlands Food & Wine Festival at its new home, Bradman Oval. See our What's On and Out & About pages for more information.

Here at Escape Southern Highlands we welcome spring with a new \$5 cover price, the launch of a new website coming soon and the chance to win a self-indulgent two night mini-break at Bendooley Estate for you and someone you love on page 116. Here's wishing you joie de vivre this spring. Enjoy your Escape Southern Highlands, Alex. 🍷

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS map





0 5km 10km

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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)).

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 Dining, Onesta Cucina, Cafe Rosso, Eccetera Trattoria Pizzeria, The Royal, Gumnut Patisserie 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 Bong Bong Picnic Races. And of course there is a plethora of award winning vineyards nearby, such as Centennial Vineyards, to visit as well.

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, Birch 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.

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 Artemis Vineyard and Winery and Tertini Wines). 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 as well as gem Twisting Vintage for preloved designer and couture clothing and the award winning café, The Shaggy Cow. Stop off at Destination Southern Highlands Welcome Centre on the way into Mittagong and get informed about what's on locally.



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. 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 is worth a look. The Exeter village markets are held on the first Saturday of each month in the grounds of the village oval.

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 don't miss the village's Easter markets, which are a highlight of the Highlands market calendar and attract more than 10,000 visitors.

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.

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.

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.

JOADJA

An area of farms and bushland on the periphery of the Southern Highlands, Joadja is steeped in history, once 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, has firmly put Joadja on the map.

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.

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 nice spot for refreshments as is the nearby Fitzroy Falls General Store.

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.

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. If you are overnighting or holidaying, stay and eat at the newly refurbished Bundanoon Guest House, or at tasty DeliLicious down the road. **E**





MOVERS & SHAKERS

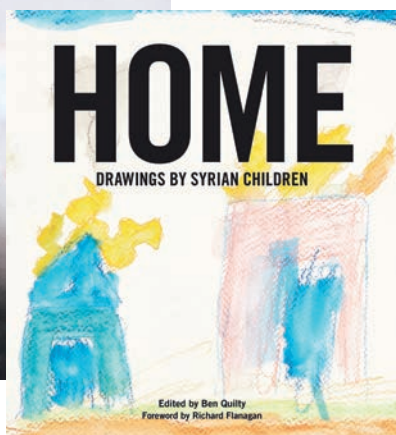
THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS IS HOME TO AN ECLECTIC AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY OF **ARTISTS, BUSINESSES, MAKERS, FARMERS, PRODUCERS, LONG TIME LOCALS AND PURVEYORS OF FOOD, WINE AND SPIRITS**, ALL WORKING AND LIVING COHESIVELY, AND ATTRACTING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF VISITORS AND NEW RESIDENTS TO OUR BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD. WITH SPRING IN THE WIND, AND THE BIRDS AND THE BEES BUSY, **ESCAPE CELEBRATES THE DIVERSE AND UNIQUE IN OUR COMMUNITY** AND WELCOMES SOME WARMER (AND HOPEFULLY WETTER) WEATHER.

THE ART OF GIVING

It's better to give than receive. That is the sentiment behind both Retford Park and artist Ben Quilty's latest projects. The Art of Giving is an exhibition from November 10 to 30 at the National Trust property, when reproductions of 19 important Australian paintings gifted by former owner James Fairfax to the National Gallery of Australia will return to the Bowral mansion for the public to enjoy. These include works by masters Fred Williams, Russell Drysdale and local John Olsen. See pages 97 & 110 for more information.

Robertson artist Ben Quilty is also giving this spring with the launch of HOME: Drawings by Syrian Children. Ben travelled with friend and Man Booker Prize winning author Richard Flanagan to Europe in 2016 to see first hand the desperate plight of families fleeing the murderous civil war

in Syria. They talked to traumatised adults and later, as Richard recorded some of their horror, Ben, a father of two, encouraged the children to draw. From refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Greece, the children who have lived through eight years of brutal fighting drew planes dropping bombs, men with guns, stick bodies with red smudges and severed stick limbs. HOME honours their voices, and the promise Ben Quilty made that 'every child knew you would eventually see their drawings and so you could hear their voice, feel their story'. All proceeds from the sale of



this book will directly support World Vision's Child Friendly Spaces early childhood and basic education projects in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. Ben will speak about HOME at Retford Park on Saturday November 25 during The Art of Giving, and beforehand In Conversation with Jennifer Byrne at Centennial Vineyard Restaurant on Sunday September 23 thanks to The Bookshop Bowral (get tickets from the bookshop or indies.com.au/bowral).

Retford Park, 1325 Old South Road, Bowral
Centennial Vineyards Restaurant, Centennial Road, Bowral
The Bookshop Bowral, 309 Bong Bong Street, Bowral



PRESS GANG

Local dynamo Alischa Herrmann continues to spread her wings as she takes her Highlands print and design business global.

The founder of Bespoke Letterpress, located at her flagship stationery shop and café, The Press Shop in Bowral, started her business in 2008 on vintage printing presses she was given and saved from the scrap heap. The clever businesswoman and mother of two has just returned from New York City's National Stationery Show, and recently opened another upmarket store in Sydney's The Strand. She is now the owner of five historic presses and two cutting guillotines, and Bespoke Letterpress stationery has 400 stockists around the world, including cult fashion and lifestyle label Anthropologie. At Bowral HQ's The Press Shop cafe, chef Nathan West continues to gather fans with his organic cooking and a pantry almost entirely supplied by our local producers.

'Nathan's cooking is very creative but fresh and healthy with a strong use of local farmers,' says Herrmann. 'It's a big undertaking but we are proud to be offering a fresher organic approach to Bowral cafe food and living the "eat local, support local" motto.'

With the launch of new Bespoke Letterpress product ranges, including a kids' range, as well as launching into David Jones later this year, these are busy days for Herrmann. 'Seems like there's no rest for the wicked,' she laughs. **The Press Shop, 391-397 Bong Bong Street, Bowral**
thepressshop.com.au; bespokeletterpress.com.au

Cheers to that

WINE LOVERS be aware that come September, the Southern Highlands will host the judging of the prestigious New South Wales Wine Awards for the first time. Expected to attract more than 800 entries from across New South Wales, the judging will take place at Cherry Tree Hill vineyard in Sutton Forest and will involve 10 judges and six associate judges from across Australia. It is a closed event but is a big win for our local industry, with our 25 local vineyards and 20 local wine brands. To make sure our industry can service the growing numbers of tourists visiting our vineyards and cellar doors (see our map on page

66), the Southern Highlands Food and Wine Association and TAFE NSW have introduced the Certificate II in Hospitality and Certificate III in Tourism – Wine and Events to equip graduates with skills in wine tourism, service, cellar door beverage tastings preparation and events planning. 'This partnership will answer the urgent call for qualified employees to work with local hospitality and events operators, cellar doors, visitor information centres, tourism attractions and any small businesses in the region,' said the association's president, Mark Bourne.

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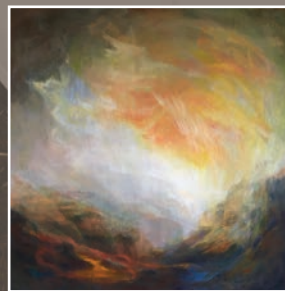
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FOUR, MOON, POST

Three recent very welcome additions to our foodie scene. In Mittagong, vegetarian, vegan and rawist Four Seasons Bistro is making waves with diners of every persuasion. Chef and owner Derek Hamlen (former executive chef at Milton Park) and wife Sue at front of house are vegans and vegetarians and responded to the needs of vegetarian, vegan and raw foodies in the Highlands. Open for breakfast, lunch, coffee and cake, and newly added occasional dinners (such as curry nights and Saturday bistro nights), Four Seasons invites you to drop by and try Derek's matcha and pecan mufflings with a spiced red velvet (beetroot) latte, or for the person with allergies in your life, order one of their vegan and raw celebration cakes.

Moonacres Kitchen in Robertson reopened recently after a flash reno with a bakery, a fabulous prosciutto and cured meats viewing window, and a knockout menu to match. With chef Stephen Santucci (formerly of Vini, Surry Hills) cooking creative, delicious food grown by farmer and owner Phil Lavers on his organic treasure trove, Moonacres Farm, this is an award winning combination you must visit.

Not to be outdone The Post Office Cafe in Moss Vale opened recently after a two month refurb, serving brekkie, lunch and coffee. According to local historian David Baxter, the heritage listed Victorian building originally opened its doors for business as a post office in December 1891 and served the Moss Vale community until the mid 1990s. New owners Elianne Noble and Sumeet Bhatnagar have played up the building's traditional postal elements, with a full sized wall mural of a moustached postie by artist Annette Barlow bearing a postal satchel from 19th century. The black and white image was sourced from the National Archives showing an original Australian letter carrier from 1905

Moonacres Kitchen, Shop 6/7, 79-81 Hoddle St (Illawarra Highway), Robertson

Four Seasons Bistro, 24 Bowral Road, Mittagong

The Post Cafe, 1/249 Argyle Street, Moss Vale

FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL AT BRADMAN

Southern Highlands Food & Wine Festival has hit a six with its new home at Bradman Oval this year. The Don grew up in Bowral and scored his first century at Bradman Oval at 11, and with some of our local producers doing so well and smashing it out of the ball park, it's a lovely fit. Organisers are expecting more than 10,000 will descend on the two day festival, which will include pop up restaurants, food and wine tastings, and stalls with more than 50 local producers, including Eden Brewery, The Original Smoke and Spice Company, Farm Fresh Strawberries, The Backyard Picklery and Pomologist Cider.

Adam Liaw is this year's celebrity chef, and will present two cooking demonstrations, using local produce of course, on each day of the festival. Liaw has published five Asian cuisine cookbooks and is host of SBS food and travel program Destination Flavour. In 2010 he became the nation's darling when he won the second series of MasterChef Australia, with more than 4 million (yes, 4 million!) people tuning in to watch. His victory remains THE most watched nonsporting event ever in Australian television history. We get the feeling Don Bradman would have approved! **Southern Highlands Food & Wine Festival, September 29 & 30, 10am-6pm Tickets \$12. Bradman Oval, St Jude Street, Bowral. southernhighlandsfoodandwine.com**



FARM HELP

It's always sobering to remember that even amongst the affluence of the Highlands, local folk can face hardship too. Hats off to local stalwarts Bowral Co-op, Ashcroft's SUPA IGA Moss Vale and all the businesses, schools and P&Cs holding sausage sizzles, mufti days and buy a bale drives to help drought stricken farmers. If you are a landowner, you may not be aware that Conservation Partners Grants are available from the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Designed to assist landowners actively protect the ecological value of their land, these grants of up to \$15,000 over three years are given to farmers who improve the ecological value of their properties. And if you're looking for ways to give back and help those who are struggling on or off the land, get in touch with our local charity organisations such as Volunteering Wingecarribee, who are always on the lookout for volunteers, or OzHarvest Southern Highlands, which distributes unused food from retailers like Woolworths and Harris Farm Markets to local agencies such as the Bowral Youth Refuge and the Wingecarribee Family Support Service. Giving is receiving. buyabale.com.au
Biodiversity Conservation Trust, bct.nsw.gov.au
Volunteering Wingecarribee, volwing.org.au
Oz Harvest Southern Highlands, ozharvest.org/southern-highlands/

LET'S BUILD A HOME TOGETHER

Meanwhile, over at Bendooley Estate, September 13 will see fundraising event Let's Build a Home Together, organised by Louise and Matt Jensen. Louise, one half of M.J. Bale clothing label with husband Matt, first heard of the plight of Caroline from Tororo in Uganda last December. Now an adult, Caroline was exploited as a child, which is why she is now caring for 12 orphaned children from the streets. Uganda has been devastated by AIDS, leaving a generation of children without



parents. Charity Global Care Africa is working with the Jensens to build a house for Caroline, her 12 kids and up to 50 more orphaned children desperate for a safe home. 'We thought about the bubble of privilege we live in and how lucky our kids are to have such a loving home, and I felt we just had to help Caroline and her children,' says Louise.

The Jensens are aiming to raise \$100,000 to help this brave African woman and they

need our help. The charity dinner at Bendooley Estate will include a long table banquet and music by band Simba Mushete and Echoes of Africa, with a live auction and prizes.

September 13, 6.30-11.30pm at Bendooley Estate, 3020 Old Hume Highway, Berrima. Tickets at bendooleyestate.com/events.

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WHAT'S ON Spring

SPRING IS A COLOURFUL AND FRAGRANT TIME IN THE HIGHLANDS, FULL OF THINGS TO SEE AND DO! WITH SO MUCH ON IN TERMS OF GARDENS AND EXHIBITIONS, WE'VE PICKED JUST A FEW OF OUR FAVOURITES TO SHARE. BUT BE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR UPDATES @ESCAPESOUTHERNHIGHLANDS AND AT [SOUTHERN-HIGHLANDS.COM.AU/EVENTS/WHATSON](https://southern-highlands.com.au/events/whats-on)

SEPT



BLOOM BLOOM BLOOM

The Highlands is home to a flourishing flower festival, and is awash with open garden events during spring. Leading the way, the granddaddy of them all, Tulip Time. The festival, which is one of Australia's oldest, happens in Bowral's Corbett Gardens from September 18 to October 1 and will include 75,000 tulips and 15,000 annuals. Another 40,000 are planted at Destination Southern Highlands Welcome Centre in Mittagong and Leighton Gardens in Moss Vale. Meanwhile, there are wonderful garden ramblings to be had at the National Trust's magnificent Retford Park in Bowral, Red Cow Farm in Sutton Forest, Robertson's Open Gardens and Spring Plant Fair, the Bundanoon Garden Ramble and so much more. And a warm welcome to the Australian Garden History Society and its hundreds of delegates, who will descend on the Highlands late October to visit significant local gardens including Retford Park, Greenbrier Park and Oldbury, as well as private gardens in Bowral, Burradoo, East Kangaloon and Wildes Meadow. Check out our extensive Open Garden run down on page 97 and enjoy the beauty. tuliptime.net.au



MORE ON THE SPRING CALENDAR BDAS CELEBRITY PORTRAIT REVEAL

PAINTINGS OF NOELINE BROWN, THIS YEAR'S TULIP TIME AMBASSADOR, BY ARTISTS JUSTIN PEARSON, NOEL THURGATE AND KERRY MCINNIS WILL BE REVEALED AT A THREE COURSE DINNER AT BENDOOLEY ESTATE, BERRIMA TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE BOWRAL & DISTRICT ART SOCIETY. **SEPTEMBER 6, 6PM TICKETS FROM [BENDOOLEYESTATE.COM.AU/EVENTS](https://bendooleyestate.com.au/events)**

TWO HEADS BETTER THAN ONE

Oxley College started life 35 years ago, and is now very much part of the social fabric of the Highlands, educating many of our children through their primary and secondary school years. Named after explorer John Oxley, who was gifted land where Bowral and Burradoo now exist, Oxley College was brought to life in 1983 by founding headmaster David Wright. On the eve of current principal Michael Parker's departure to Newington College in Sydney, and the arrival of incoming head Jenny Ethell (who will make history as Oxley's first female principal), Rhodes scholar David Wright will join Michael Parker to talk about his book *The End of Schooling*, and the always emotive issues of education.

**Thursday, September 20, Centennial Vineyards Restaurant
Tickets at The Bookshop Bowral or trybooking.com/WNZW**

ON WITH THE SHOW

The Home & Garden Show is at Bong Bong Racecourse this year with 150 exhibitors providing style and substance for home makers in the Highlands. So if you're in the market for new furniture, landscaping, home improvements, garden art, landscape supplies, plants or pet products, this is a one stop shop, with a swag of stylists available to assist. There will also be cooking demonstrations, sustainable building options, garden talks, a new landscape design competition, plant clinics and a dog show. Tickets available now from homeandgardenshow.com.au. Saturday & Sunday, September 15 & 16, Bong Bong Racecourse, 460 Kangaloon Road, Bowral. homeandgardenshow.com.au

MUNICH COMES TO MOSS VALE

Those feeling the urge to visit a Munich beer hall now don't have to leave home to experience it. Southern Highlands Brewing Company is holding its own Oktoberfest in Moss Vale!

Introducing several new beers, such as the Oktoberfest, a malty lagerbier that has been brewed for the change of seasons. And to welcome spring, owners Ben and Cammo will pair their most excellent ales with food that has a distinctly Germanic flavour, such as bratwurst and sauerkraut, schnitzel, apple strudel and pretzels. Lederhosen optional.

September 22-October 7, 490-494 Argyle Street, Moss Vale



MOSS VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL TURNS 150

Did you go to Moss Vale Public School? Started in 1868, the inclusive school with the equal biggest special education unit in NSW, turns 150 this month. The school will celebrate with two days of events including a Sesquicentenary assembly, a celebratory book and a dinner at Moss Vale Services Club for former students and friends.

September 21-22 mossvale-p.schools.news.edu.au



SOUTHERN HIGHLAND ARTS FESTIVAL AND ART STUDIO TRAIL

For two weekends more than 50 local artists fling open their studios to show their work, and their innermost world. We speak to six on page 90. Run by Jenny Kena, arts co-ordinator at Wingecarribee Shire Council, this is a terrific initiative that attracts many art loving visitors to the Highlands every year. Don't miss it.

shaf.com.au ►



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BIG BAND SWING SENSATIONS OF WORLD WAR 2

BOWRAL MEMORIAL HALL

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018 AT 2PM

TICKETS ADULT \$25, CHILD/STUDENT \$5

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DESTINATION SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, MAIN ST MITTAGONG 1300 657 559



What's On...

For all the latest information for 'What's On' in the
beautiful Southern Highlands, please go to the
Destination Southern Highlands website.

www.southern-highlands.com.au



Red Cow Farm, Sutton Forest



Image: Ray Joyce

Retford Park

Special Event - The Art of Giving

Throughout November, the late James Fairfax's home, Retford Park, will be rehung with 19 reproductions of iconic Australian paintings he donated to the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. Dinners, sunset tours, book events and satellite exhibitions will also be part of the event.

The gardens will also be open from 10am to 4pm on the first weekend of September and October.*

* If the first of the month falls on a Sunday then it is that weekend that the property will be open.



NATIONAL TRUST

(02) 4861 1933 | retfordpark@nationaltrust.com.au

www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/retford-park/

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Corner of Wilkinson Street and Old Hume Highway, Berrima

Tel: 02 4877 2071 Email: info@harpersmansion.com.au www.harpersmansion.com.au



'Study of a Possum', 1860 watercolour by Louisa Atkinson (1834–1872). Artist, journalist, botanist and author, Louisa was born at Oldbury Farm in Sutton Forest. On display at Harper's during Spring.

OCT

WHAT'S ON | Spring

WALK FOR CANCER

Too many of us know cancer first hand but research is the way forward. Relay For Life is a Highlands institution and a unique 24 hour overnight walking relay experience that raises vital funds for the Cancer Council's research, prevention, information and support services locally. It's also a chance for our community to celebrate and honour those loved ones we have lost to cancer, those fighting the battle today and the carers who help them. The goal this year is to raise \$200,000, so why not sign up with your own Relay for Life walking team. **21 & 22 October from 11am, Southern Highlands Relay for Life, Moss Vale Showground. relayforlife.org.au/southernhighlands or kelly.dinnerville@nswcc.org.au**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANYONLEIGH COMMUNITY HALL

Canyonleigh Hall, the hub of the Canyonleigh community, will kick up its heels to celebrate its 25th birthday in October with a dance and live music by band, Rusted Track. Built on land known as the Quigg Reserve, named in honour of one of Canyonleigh's founding families and zoned by Wingecarribee Shire Council for public recreation, the hall was officially opened on October 9, 1993. Constructed in a 19th century woolshed design to reflect the community's farming and wood cutting heritage, it was built in local hardwoods by a team of volunteers with sawn posts, boards and trusses and a no nails planking system. The hall is available for hire and has become a popular venue for weddings and receptions since the addition of an outside arbour, inside fairy lights on the ceiling and recently purchased wine barrels. The 25 year celebration dance is by ticket only and will include lucky door prizes and of course an anniversary cake.

\$25 a couple. BYO drinks. Saturday Oct 13, 7pm. janet.dalzell@bigpond.com 48789239

To lunch, to lunch

*Longer days are here, which means it must be time for the BDCU's fabulously popular long lunch. This year it's happening again at the terrific Centennial Vineyards Restaurant with talented chef Robin Murray at the helm. And once again it's a three course gourmet lunch with wine, and this year's ambassador, Goulburn artist and Archibald winner Cherry Hood, is in the hot judge's seat as local artists from the Bowral & District Art Society paint in situ, before their works are judged and auctioned off. All proceeds from the lunch and the painting sales go to the BDCU's Children Foundations local youth mental health project. And on that front, don't miss the BDCU Children's Foundation annual Parent/Community Forums. Join Dr Justin Coulson as he discusses managing mental health and fostering resilience in our younger kids or join in the BDCU's Community Youth Mental Health Forum, held in the Carrington Room of Moss Vale Services Club, in conjunction with the charity batyr and secondary school groups from the Highlands. Such an important cause. **BDCU Long Lunch, Sunday, October 14, book through Centennial Vineyards, 4861 8701 Mental Health Forum with Dr Justin Coulson, September 11 & 12, 7pm at Moss Vale Services Club for parents; for teachers, September 12, 4pm at BDCU Alliance Bank, 411 Bong Bong Street, Bowral***

Water of Life

If you are partial to a little dram now and then, and want to be part of a first to the Highlands, this one is for you. Spring Symphony is a whisky/concert with Scottish single malt The Balvenie and Danish classical musicians fittingly called Whisky Sound. Organised by whisky aficionado Matt Whisker of Whisky Uncovered, the Highlands event will be held at the very fabulous Joadja Distillery, who themselves are doing some pretty special things with malt, barley and a barrel. Guests at the Spring Symphony will feast on a degustation meal, curated and prepared from local produce by The Loch's Brigid Kennedy, and paired with Balvenie spirits. Each whisky course has music composed by Niels Dalum and Nikolaj Kynde. Sounds like an experience to savour. **Saturday, October 27, Joadja Distillery, Joadja Town whiskyuncovered.com.au**



NOV

ONE ENCHANTED EVENING @ DIRTY JANES BOWRAL

Don't miss this exhibition of precious couture dresses designed by some of the world's most famous fashion designers, curated from the world's largest collection of vintage pieces. See our story page 104.

Charity champagne supper, Friday, October 26, 7pm

Exhibition runs from October 27 to November 4.



BONG BONG PICNIC RACES

FROCK UP, GET YOUR BEST HAT ON AND HEAD TO BONG BONG RACECOURSE FOR A DAY AT THE GEE-GEES. ALWAYS LOADS OF FUN AND WELL WORTH A FLUTTER. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, BONG BONG TRACK, KANGALOO ROAD, BOWRAL BONGBONGPRC.COM.AU

TALKS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS, CLASSES, FORUMS & CARNIVALS



ARTY AS ANYTHING

THE ANNUAL ARTISAN CRAFT EXPO IS BEING HELD DURING TULIP TIME AND INCLUDES PAINTING, PHOTOGRAPHY, MOSAICS, SPINNING AND MILLINERY BY MANY LOCAL ARTISTS AND MAKERS. LOOK OUT FOR THE WORK OF DOLLHOUSE MAKERS DAVIDIA WILLIAMS AND ALISON KNIGHT, FINE FURNITURE MAKER TORQUIL FITCH AND WEAVER CAROL ARCHER. THERE WILL ALSO BE STALLS, AND DEVONSHIRE TEAS AND LIGHT LUNCHES AVAILABLE. ENTRY TO THE EXHIBITION IS BY GOLD COIN TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL RURAL BUSHFIRE SERVICE'S CANTEEN BRIGADES. **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21-MONDAY, OCTOBER 1 (EXCEPT SUNDAY 23 & 30), 9.30AM-3.30PM. BOWRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, 13 MERRIGANG STREET, BOWRAL. WV.DA.MERCHANT@GMAIL.COM OR 4861 5292**



DREAM WEAVING

Join talented textural weaver Natalie Miller for her small loom one day workshop at her Moss Vale studio in October. Or beat the crowds and book now for her Australia Day long weekend creative retreat of three nights and four creatively infused days that will include extreme weaving, basket weaving, hand dying, and punch needle and saori weaving. You will also learn from other makers such as weaver Harriet Goodall and Meri from Kyoto, owner of Japan's biggest contemporary yarn stores. The four day retreat in lovely Bundanoon includes accommodation and all meals. Or how about India Unravelling with Natalie Miller? 10 days exploring the delights of Jodhpur, Jaipur, Agra and Delhi, watching the magic of Rajasthan's artisans at work, exploring the history of textiles. Definitely one for the bucket list. **Small loom workshop, Saturday, October 20, Green Bridge Studio, Argyle Street, Moss Vale. India Unravelling, September 26-October 6, classicsafaricompany.com.au Highlands Creative, Friday-Monday, January 25-28, 2019 nataliemillerdesign.com**



LEARNING TO LOB

Got a budding Ashleigh Barty or Nick Kyrgios at your place? Sign them up for the Highlands Tennis Academy's Junior Tennis Camp or Performance Tennis Camp. The Junior Camp is for players aged seven and eight who are already taking regular tennis lessons and want to develop more skills and endurance. For the older players aged nine to 11, the Performance Camp will get them playing in a local competition before they know it. Wimbledon here they come! **Tuesday-Friday, October 2-12, 2-4pm for Junior Camp, 2.30-4.30pm for Performance Camp. info@highlandstenniscommunity.com**

CHEESE PLEASE

Join cheesemaker and local farmer Lucy Nias at her Mittagong farm and learn to make your own cheese, meet her friendly bovines and experience the small holding lifestyle for a day. Workshops include all equipment, ingredients and a light lunch. Private classes also available. **Saturdays (see below), 10am-4pm, \$150pp. September 15, Feta, yoghurt, fromage frais. October 13, Halloumi, sour cream, ricotta. November 10, Camembert, ricotta, mascarpone. facebook.com/artisancheesemakingclasses lucynias@hotmail.com**



PLATE IT UP

Want to know why that Maugers sausage or steak tastes so good? Join local butcher and farmer John Mauger on the Roberston property he grew up and learn what paddock to plate really means in practice. A great way to see the Highlands and learn some of the intricacies of making a living from it, as well as sampling some famous Maugers beef for lunch. These Saturday sessions include morning tea, a presentation, lunch and a boning demonstration. Cost is \$85pp and bookings are essential. **September 22, October 27, November 24. Laurel View, 5110 Illawarra Highway, Robertson maugers.com.au**

BOTANICAL BEAUTY

Join Bowral & District Art Society's spring botanical and nature art workshops, For the Love of Plants, as the sun shines and the flowers bloom. Choose from Macro Floral Painting, Graphite and Ink Drawing, Birds in Botanicals, The Art of the Sketch, Botanical Drawing and The Art of Coloured Pencils, all intimate workshops classes taught by local artists acclaimed in their field.

Saturday & Sunday, October 20 & 21, October 27 & 28, 10am-4pm bdasgallery.com

WINE MASTERCLASS

Join Jeff Aston, winemaker at Tractorless Vineyard, for an hour long journey through the many characters of his wine. This masterclass will be held over the Southern Highlands Food and Wine Festival at Bradman Oval and is for a maximum of 30 people, giving great access to taste and question.

September 29 & 30 southernhighlandsfoodandwine.com.au

TRIT TROT

Saddle up, riders. There's a new event in town. The inaugural Southern Highlands Christian School Equestrian Carnival, a five rings event, will take place in October, catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. Ribbons will be awarded up to sixth place in all Preliminary Classes. There will also be Champion and Reserve Champion Novice and Open Rider and Horse awarded in all rings. The Rider Classes will be categorised into 'Novice' and 'Open', meaning that the kids compete against riders of equal abilities. This event was the brainchild of Libby Sonter, Southern Highlands Christian School mum and keen rider. **nominat.com.au/EquestDn/Event.aspx?event=12205&eventlist=5 Saturday, October 13, 8:30am-3:30pm, Moss Vale Show Ground**

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Using the Ballet Barre, resistance bands, small weights and Pilates balls it incorporates standing pilates, cardio intervals, core work and functional exercises. This flowing class creates a total body workout which is fun and easy to follow.

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For more details call Liz on 0438 294813, visit www.simplyfitness.com.au or pop in and see us at 1/10 Clarence Street in Moss Vale, opposite IGA.

Currently available at:

9.45am Tuesday / 12.15pm & 5.30pm Wednesday

9.45am Friday / 9.35am Saturday



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PUB WITH GOOD CHEER

IF YOU'RE AFTER A GOOD DOSE OF CHARM AND ATMOSPHERE, A NIGHT OUT AND A SLEEP IN AT THE **BURRAWANG VILLAGE HOTEL** IS JUST THE TICKET.

WORDS **ALEX SPEED** IMAGES **ELISE HASSEY**

Part of my childhood was spent in sheep country in the central west of NSW. We lived in a one road village where Friday night at the pub was the highlight of the social calendar. Only problem was, with my dad being the local school's headmaster, the pub was strictly off limits for our family. So come Monday morning, as my classmates gleefully recounted Friday night's shenanigans, I was left to imagine what it was like at this mysterious place.

Which is probably why, more than a quarter of a century later, I feel an instant affection for the Burrawang Village Pub as I check in for a night. Located in the historic town of Burrawang, it's one of the few surviving pubs in the Highlands that hasn't been totally gentrified. Its first incarnation, the Prince Alfred, was built in 1866 just down Hoddle Street, and this newer version, an imposing two storey brick building, was built in the 1920s.

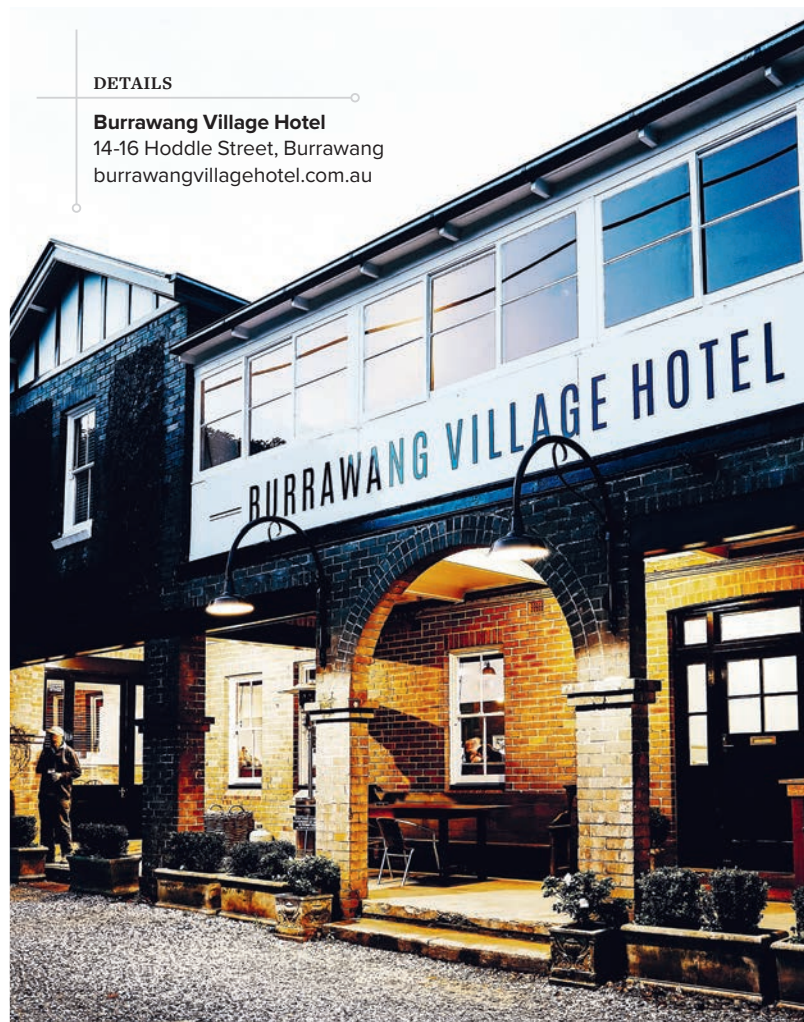
Its big wooden front door is heavy with history and as I go inside, the smell that greets me is warm and beery. For 25 years, the Burrawang Village Pub was owned by locals Ed and Julie Woolfrey but since last year it has been run by lessees Peter and Kate Dean, and Kate's father James Couche.

It's early evening and there are a few locals in the public bar enjoying a drink. Along the hall, Peter and Kate have put in a new kitchen and renovated the restaurant, which seats up to 40. Like the pub, it is open seven days for lunch and dinner, but for now I am shown to my room up the central wooden staircase.

'We haven't got to the accommodation renovations as yet,' Peter tells me. 'So the rooms are pretty much as they have always been.'

DETAILS

Burrawang Village Hotel
14-16 Hoddle Street, Burrawang
burrawangvillagehotel.com.au



Perfect. For me that's all part of the charm. Upstairs there are eight rooms, all with a queen bed and one a queen and a single. I'm in Room 2. It is small and spartan with whitewashed walls, and sits above the bar. There is no television, WiFi or pictures on the wall, although a window does look out onto some of Burrawang's high end property (the median property price in June was \$1.3 million).

There is fresh white linen on the bed, a small leather couch and two matching bed side tables with small lamps. It reminds me of a priest's cell, and I like it instantly. I take a wander around the floor and poke my nose into the unoccupied rooms. All are similarly spartan with beautifully made beds and white bath towels. Just how I imagined a country pub built nearly 100 years ago should be.

Two separate shared bathrooms with showers, basins and loos are a dash down the hall. I turn on my electric blanket and small radiator and go downstairs to mingle with the locals. The newly added open fireplace with armchairs are taken by fellow guests who look like they are bunking down for the night. I take a table near the wood burning stove with my gin and tonic. Local potato and cattle farmers catch up at the bar. There is a television at the far end of the bar but no pokie machines.



I chat to Mick, a Burrawang farmer, who comes here several times a week to chew the fat. We talk about the lack of recent rainfall and the menu. I am pleased to see local butchers Maugers gourmet pork and fennel sausages on the offing but I order a rump steak with chips and salad, and share the

fireplace with a couple of South American backpackers passing through.

By 8.30pm I am ready for bed. I return upstairs and make a dash along the corridor to the shared bathrooms, which are clean, with good water pressure and securely locking doors.

Slipping into my bed, toasty warm thanks to the electric blanket, I am vaguely aware of distant pub mumbling and the gentle clinking of glasses. I sleep deeply.

A continental breakfast at the nearby Burrawang General Store & Cafe is included in the cost of staying at the hotel, but I go for an egg and bacon roll and a coffee, which is excellent. It goes down a treat in the historic store, which celebrated its 150th birthday in November (see our story on General Stores on page 54). With the pub still waking up from the night before, it is a clever collaboration between two equally loved Burrawang businesses. I return to the hotel to collect my bag. I have enjoyed my stay here, and plan on coming back for a relaxed Sunday lunch in spring and summer, out in the lawn covered beer garden with its shady trees and views over the Highlands hills. Perfect spot for a garden party wedding or function.

I would definitely recommend this accommodation to groups of friends visiting for a wedding, or as a base for an affordable and comfortable few days in the Highlands. Or just to experience what a country pub used to be like, because nostalgia, even the imagined sort, is a powerful driver. **B**

SUIT: Prospective treechangers wanting to sample village life; big groups attending a wedding; nostalgia lovers who don't mind a night time dash to the bathroom

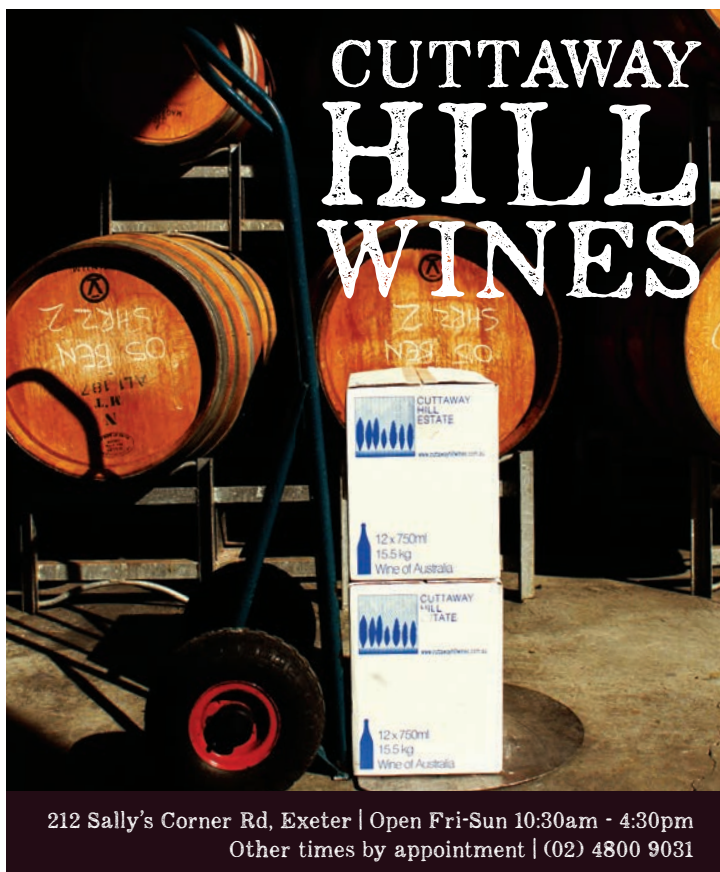
DON'T MISS: Breakfast at Burrawang General Store & Café bgsc.com.au Burrawang Easter Markets, burrawangeastermarket.com; Maugers Paddock to Plate Tour maugers.com.au

the dining room



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Yallambee

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yallambee.net.au | 02 4883 7787



Down a long driveway lined by apple trees, Luxstowe House, is nestled between Catavento Sculpture Studio and the paddocks. Rich in history, character and stories, and beautiful antiques and original artworks, Luxstowe House bridges qualities of the past and the present in a rural setting, yet only five minutes away from the pulse of things in the Southern Highlands, Bowral area. Luxstowe House accommodates four people.

Luxstowe House

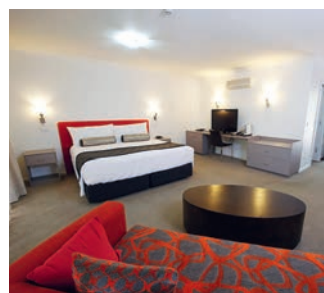
27 Eridge Park Road, Burradoo
0478 525 945 or 0407 611 349
luxstowehouse.com.au



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 comfortably. With an open fire, reverse cycle air conditioning and bathroom underfloor heating, a cosy stay is guaranteed. Morning coffee delivered and enjoy breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea at the store.

Bower Cottage

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BY THE BOOK

WHAT'S THE STORY? THE **BENDOOLEY ESTATE COTTAGES** ARE ALL ABOUT PEACE, QUIET AND SIMPLE LUXURY WITH A LITERARY EDGE IN A BEAUTIFUL NATURAL SETTING.

WORDS **JANE O'CONNELL**



SELF CONTAINED REVIEW | *Bendooley Estate Cottages*

Inspired by the eclectic and vibrant style of British designer Kit Kemp, the cottages ooze Highlands hospitality with timber floating floors of locally sourced oak and a striking mix of pattern and colour only an expert stylist could pull off. Mittagong designer Jennifer Gill creates drama with the upholstered bedheads and feature walls using fabrics from Christopher Farr Cloth (available at Ascraft in Australia). The Carnival Grass wallpaper in the Patrick White cottage has a sense of whimsy with giant green and blue flower pods offset by more restrained white tongue and groove panelling. A selection of artwork from the Berkelouw collection, including mid century hotel posters, ancient maps and agricultural drawings, has been thoughtfully put together to reflect the theme.

Outside, a tiled verandah with a pair of elegant cane chairs is the perfect vantage point to gaze out over the paddocks, watch ducks splashing in the stream and take in the rolling hills beyond. The cottages are positioned for privacy with just a glimpse of neighbouring rooftops nestled into surrounding hillocks. Landscaping is natural and barely there; a small garden with a thriving rosemary bush borders the terrace and, in time, native seedlings will grow to provide more buffer between the cottages.

The bathroom is generously sized, with heated tile floors deliciously warm underfoot and an irresistible bath with a handy side table for a book or cuppa. Continue exploring to discover the walk in rain shower with enough elbow room for the lankiest of guests.

A 'petite kitchenette' beside the comfy king sized bed has basic dining necessities, including glasses, cutlery, coffee cups (but no plates) plus a selection of T2 teas, a Nespresso machine and a bar fridge. Next morning's continental breakfast of crusty bread, jams, granola, pots of yoghurt and freshly squeezed juice arrived in a basket at dusk. Other dining options include the Bendooley Estate restaurant for lunch, or a room delivered light snack for dinner. For a more substantial evening meal it's a short drive to Berrima or a little further to Mittagong or Bowral for dine in or takeaway.

Nightly rates for the Bendooley Estate Cottages start at \$295 for the studios and \$595 for the three bedroom May Gibbs cottage, with discounts available for longer stays. The literature theme is an ideal showcase for the vast collection of book related memorabilia gathered by generations of the Berkelouw family, who generously share their passion and heritage to create a unique and charming Highlands getaway. ■

As a young border at Moss Vale's Tudor House in the 1920s, it would have taken quite an imagination for 10 year old Patrick White to foresee what life had in store for him... Nobel laureate, two times Miles Franklin Award recipient... and almost a century after his school years, the inspiration for a luxury guesthouse in the nearby village of Berrima.

Arriving at Bendooley Estate just on nightfall with the entry pin code at the ready, we were thankful for the smattering of discreet lighting guiding us to the Patrick White cottage, down a neat gravel driveway a short distance from the main building.

For lovers of literature, stepping inside one of the charming cottages is like turning the pages of a new book with a story waiting to be discovered. Each of the Grant McConnell designed hardwood timber huts, in configurations of studio, two or three bedrooms, is named after a legend of Australian literature, including Norman Lindsay, May Gibbs, Henry Lawson and Banjo Patterson. An information plaque inside our studio reveals more of the story, recounting Bendooley Estate owner Leo Berkelouw's meeting with Patrick White at their King Street Sydney bookstore. The writer paid Berkelouw £50 for a secondhand copy of his *The Ploughman, and other poems*, then ripped out the pages and binned what was left, wanting the collection of poetry out of circulation. The few copies that survived White's self imposed buy back scheme are now highly sought after by collectors.

DETAILS

Bendooley Estate Cottages
3020 Old Hume Highway,
Berrima NSW 2577
bendooleyestate.com.au

GREAT FOR: a private and peaceful getaway with a touch of luxury, and for bibliophiles. Bendooley's Book Barn will keep you browsing, and possibly buying for hours.

RECOMMEND: running the bath for a long soak in the heated bathroom with the Appelles Apothecary & Lab toiletries provided.



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ESCAPE'S SPRING SHOPPING FAVOURITES

Time to put away those muted winter woollies and welcome the new season with some vibrancy, colour and wonderful smells. Here are some local shopping lovelies we think are bloomin' marvellous.

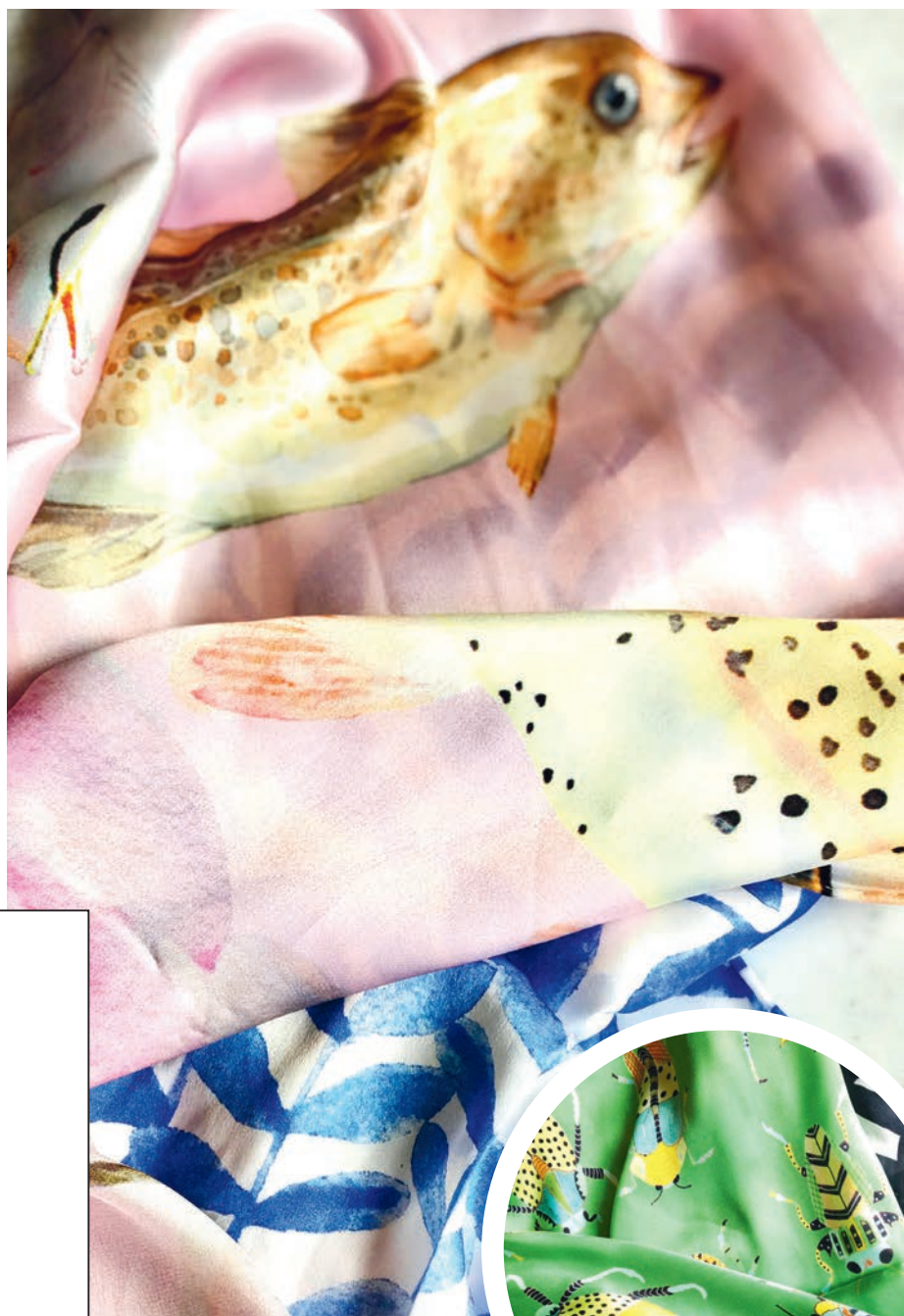
ESCAPE
LOVES



Floral freshness

Got to love a new spring fragrance, especially one by a leading Australian/French/Belgium parfumer! Escape Southern Highlands is already a massive fan of Dimitri Weber and his unisex Goldfield & Banks range, inspired by the rich scents of Australia. Now, to celebrate the arrival of spring and Weber's recent inclusion in iconic stores such as London's Fortnum & Mason, Goldfield & Banks is launching new floral fragrance, Southern Bloom, based on the beautifully fragrant boronia flower of Tasmania's Bruny Island. How heavenly. Available exclusively in the Highlands at Suzie Anderson Home.

Green Lane, Bowral & 409 Argyle Street, Moss Vale. suzieandersonhome.com



TIE ONE ON

WE ARE LOVING THESE RICHLY COLOURED SILK SCARVES BY CLEVER BERRIMA ARTISAN LOUISAROSE AND CO. LOUISA ROSE HAS A NEW FABULOUS COLLECTION OF BRIGHTLY COLOURED SCARFS TO WELCOME IN THE NEW SEASON, AND HELP YOU PUT ON YOUR BRIGHTEST FACE. SHE ALSO DOES RESIN EARRINGS AND BRACELETS, AS WELL AS HOLDING FREQUENT WORKSHOPS AT HER BERRIMA WORKSHOP, SO KEEP YOUR SHINY EYES PEELED. LOUSIAROSEANDCO.COM.AU



STYLISHLY SPRINGY

Online shopping is all very well but sometimes the hardest thing is actually finding a style that suits, and fits perfectly, which all the free delivery enticement in the world often can't achieve. Enter longtime Highlands retailer (and something of a style doyen herself) Sandy Short of Bowral fashion boutique Sandy Short Style, and talented local designer Michelle Donohoe. The enterprising pair have come up with a clever solution to those 'What the hell can I wear?' moments. Go in store, select a fabric and style you love from Sandy's fabulous range of blouses, dresses, and pants created by Michelle, and invest in a bespoke piece that Michele will whip up for you in her High Range studio. Classic, unique and oh so chic no matter what the season or occasion. Good bye clothing crisis! **Sandy Short Style, corner of Bong Bong & Banyette streets, Bowral. sandyshortstyle.com**



Brilliant beeswax

Bob Shaw has been keeping bees for nearly 25 years, and making his Bee Rancher Beeswax Furniture Polish for as long. Bob, who lives at Windellama, about an hour southwest from the Highlands as the crow flies, mixes wax from his bees with linseed oil, gum turpentine and lavender or eucalypt essential oil to make his furniture and wood polish. Available from the Good Yarn at Bundanoon, or by contacting Bob directly, this locally made natural product is gorgeous smelling and buffs furniture up beautifully. Just right for all that spring cleaning. beerancher@skymesh.com.au



FACE TIME

WELCOME SPRING WITH SOME FRESH FUN ART LIKE THIS ARTISTIC COLLABORATION BY ALI MCNABNEY-STEVENSON AND BRENT ROSENBERG, TITLED 'DAHLIA APPLETON'. PERFECT FOR THAT VIBEY HIGHLANDS HOME, IT'S SURE TO WAKE UP YOUR MOJO AFTER ITS WINTER HIBERNATION.

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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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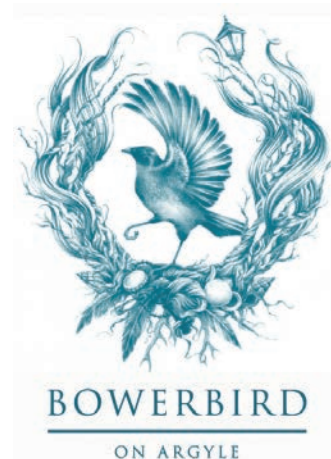
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The new face of Mrs Oldbucks



Continuing the 43 year history of jams and teas at Mrs Oldbuck's, Berrima, is new owner, Carol Brown. Carol is delighted to also be introducing some new culinary ranges – not only from the Southern Highlands, but from many other locations – even as far away as France.

Local product ranges to be found at Mrs. Oldbuck's include Kielty Irish sauces from Robertson, Sutton Forest Olives, Southern Highlands Coffee Roasters Coffee, Brushwood Oats, and more. The new French gold range includes sugars, mustards, peppers and salts and are "must haves" for every table. Carol proudly admits her passions are food, local produce and customer service and she looks forward to your visit.



Shop 4, 15-17 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima
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EXTENDED PLAY

THE LONG LUNCH. THIS JOIE DE VIVRE WAY OF **CELEBRATING THE PRODUCE, SEASONS, SETTINGS AND CULINARY TALENT** OF OUR SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY IS FIRING ITS POSITION AS **A HIGHLIGHT OF THE SPRING ITINERARY.** WORDS **JANE O'CONNELL**

The joy of sharing a meal with family and friends goes to the heart of our Australian lifestyle. Think relaxed backyard barbecues, Sunday roasts, shared plates on a picnic blanket on the ground. The newish kid on the block is the long lunch, starting at midday and lasting until sunset, often with seating around one long connected table adorned with the fruits of the season. And most importantly, al fresco.

Southern Highlanders and their guests have been quietly enjoying long lunches for years, even closing down busy Bong Bong Street for the Bowral Long Lunch fundraiser. More recently, a growing community of chefs, caterers, winemakers and creative event organisers have collaborated to spark a renaissance, transforming the long lunch into an unforgettable Highlands dining experience.

DETAILS

BDCU Bowral Long Lunch
October 14, Centennial Vineyards
Restaurant, book on 4861 8701
The Loch's Sparkling Spring
book at theloch.net.au
Wine Harvest Feast 2019
info at wildfoodadventures.com.au





Wine Harvest Feast

At the Wine Harvest Feast at Canyonleigh's Far Ago Hill vineyard, diners stepped through an Alice in Wonderland style door to an irresistible scene; a long row of rustic timber tables shaded by calico umbrellas and surrounded by vines ready for harvest. Platters appeared piled with food as guests sipped Far Ago Hill wines, grown in the earth beneath their feet. The quiet mingling on arrival was soon replaced with laughter and music as guests made new friends and fell further under the magic spell of the Highlands. Event organiser Amanda Fry from Wild Food Adventures is already planning next year's Wine Harvest Feast, with tickets on sale from mid October.

The Loch Berrima

The Loch Berrima has regular paddock to plate long lunches as well as special occasion events. Their King for A Day father's day feast offers a choice of shared 'royal' platters with local craft beer or a three course set meal. The Sparkling Spring lunch on Sunday September 23 is accompanied by a selection of local beverages (everything has a bubble), including wine, water, craft beer and cider. Chef and owner Brigid Kennedy believes it's the sense of community and genuine interest in sampling Highlands' produce that make their long lunches such a hit. 'A lot of locals come and make new friends, it's the joie de vivre, the enjoyment of loving where they live,' says Kennedy.



The Bowral Long Lunch

Hosted by the BDCU Children's Foundation, the Bowral Long Lunch is in its fifth year, with this year's event held at Centennial Vineyards Restaurant. Whilst still very much about a long leisurely meal, fundraising is front and centre. For the past four years, the proceeds have funded an adolescent mental health nurse at Bowral and District Hospital. With funding of that role now taken over by the state government, this year's proceeds will go towards an additional role. Restaurant chef and owner Robin Murray is in charge of the menu and as guests dine, a group of artists from the Bowral & District Art Society (BDAS) will paint in the restaurant's courtyard then donate their artworks to be auctioned to guests. Past Archibald Prize winner artist Cherry Hood is the 2018 Ambassador and will judge the artworks. If you love our fabulous kids, and art and great food, this is one not to be missed.

How to Long Lunch?

Some of the Highlands' lunch events are catered by local companies such as Rustic Table Catering, offering everything from the organisation and set up of furniture, linen and glasses to cooking and serving delicious shared plates of local produce.

Jo Pfahl (owner with Vanessa Legge of Rustic Table Catering) has seen trends come and go in hospitality. She believes the current mindset of embracing local food and keeping menus simple lends itself well to long lunches. Beyond the food, music and ambience, are key. Also doing as much preparation as possible ahead of time, and selecting dishes that work well warm or cold, such as rare roast beef, baked salmon and large sharing platters. Other great local caterers who can help cater for your own long lunch include Violets & Vinegar, Parties and Platters, and Chef in Your Kitchen. And if you're looking for one of those terrific table sized platters to serve your feast on check out Wildes Meadow makers, Mr and Mrs Munro who create batten sized platters. One of Escape's most favourite local things ever. See their platters and more of their beautiful handmade and basketry woven wares for sale at Shop 1, The Old Potato Shed, 74 Hoddle Street, Robertson or check out **1/74 Hoddle Street, Robertson. mrandmrsmunro.com**

LONG LUNCH ANYONE?

GREAT FOR:

Enjoying local food and wine, making new friends, enjoying al fresco dining.

RECOMMEND:

The Bowral Long Lunch to support a wonderful cause that keeps on giving

GO IT ALONE:

Of course you don't need an event, a caterer or even an excuse to host your own long lunch but you will need a long table. We love Rabbit Trap Timber of Moss Vale's recycled wood affairs or check out the sunny spring numbers from Mittagong company, Plank & Trestle.

rabbittraptimber.com.au
plankandtrestle.com.au

NO HEAD FOR COOKING?

Then book a long lunch table outside at The Briars, Moss Vale, Burrawang Village Hotel, Burrawang, Biota Dining, Bowral, Bendooley Estate, or Mount Ashby Estate, Moss Vale and let someone else do the cooking for you.

WEDDING PARTY?

Go for the shared table long lunch wedding vibe at beautiful East Kangaloon venue, Wombat Hollow which has just teamed up with Bowral's Grand Bistro to feed your special day guests just right. grandbistro-wombathollow.com.au

WATERING YOUR GUESTS?

Of course, one of the most important parts of hosting a long lunch is the wine list. Check out our map page 66 and buy up big from our local fabulous cellar doors, and breweries for your lunch. ■

Food AND Wine

FOOD
HERO

BULWARRA BEES PLEASE

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH RECENTLY POSTED A SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGE ENCOURAGING US ALL TO LOOK AFTER BEES. 'IF BEES WERE TO DISAPPEAR FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH, HUMANS WOULD HAVE JUST FOUR YEARS LEFT TO LIVE,' HE WROTE. **LOCAL APICULTURISTS DEB AND GREG MCLAUGHLIN OF BULWARRA BEES ARE BUSY DOING THEIR BIT, PRODUCING AWARD WINNING HONEY IN THE PROCESS.**

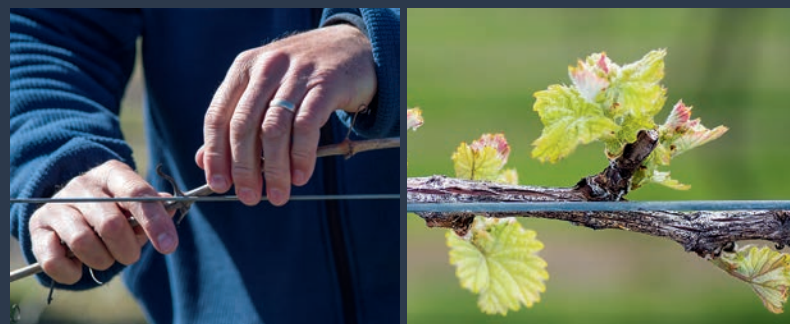


Why bees? We were inspired by watching the UK TV series River Cottage with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. Being self sufficient really appealed to us. **Did you grow up on the land?** No, we moved here from Newtown in 2011. The hives came shortly after, although we were told by a local permaculture consultant that bees wouldn't work in the Highlands as it was too cold. Nevertheless, we took a punt and started with three hives situated amongst the orchard. **How did you know your first batch of honey was any good, Deb?** I remember Greg trying the honey and saying, 'It's really good!' and me thinking, honey is honey, it all tastes the same. If you've been buying your honey from supermarkets all your life, it does, because they want consistency; amber in colour, mild flavoured. So I dipped my finger straight into our honeycomb and it was a serious 'Wow!' moment. **And then you won first prize at the Moss Vale Show?** In 2015 Greg was keen to enter our honey into the show. We won first prize and the \$2 prize money. A few months later Greg entered our honey into the Sydney Royal National Honey Show, and we were so excited to win second prize, it took a few days to realise we'd actually received a first prize for our dark honey in another category for small producers. **So how does it taste?** The Bowral Dark has more intensity than our Amber and Light varieties, but it works and is balanced out by other delicious qualities that resemble Christmas cake and maybe rum and raisins. **Why the name Bulwarra Bees, Greg?** It's named after the street where Deb grew up in Sydney. Bulwarra is an Aboriginal word meaning 'view from lofty height'. Our property is on the south side of Mt Gibraltar, where we have 'lofty' views to Moss Vale. **Is there a family history of farming or apiculture?** No, all our apiarist skills were developed through joining the local bee keeping club (Southern Highlands Apiarists Association) and you can't beat YouTube sometimes. **How many beekeepers in the Southern Highlands?** Highlanders love bees! Since joining the Southern Highlands Apiarists Association in 2013, memberships have increased exponentially. We now have more than 60 active members. **Tell us about bees.** They are fascinating, intelligent creatures. They may appear domesticated, but they are independent and tenacious beings with a clear set of roles for each. Bees do what they do with precision. If the moisture content of honey is too high it will eventually spoil and start to ferment. Bees instinctively know exactly the right proportions, so the honey will never spoil. How wild is that? **How big is your colony?** We have 40 hives, and a hive is at its peak in summer with numbers in excess of 50,000 bees. **What qualities do you need to be a successful beekeeper?** Obviously you don't want to be nervous around the bees; they're a bit like horses in that they sense your fear. Bees are unrelenting and they don't give up their pursuit. Multiple stings are commonplace, so a high pain threshold and a calm demeanour help. **Biggest challenges facing bees?** Airborne contaminants. We worry that mining and land clearance will potentially bring an end to the honey industry here. Our region is producing some of the best honey in the country, and we all need our bees to support agriculture. They are the world's pollinators. **Where can we buy Bulwarra Bees honey locally?** Bowral Markets on the second Saturday of each month, and Mrs Old Bucks Pantry in Berrima. We also do a dessert mead; Damsel which you can try at Bendooley Estate, and on tap at Southern Highlands Brewing & Taphouse, Moss Vale. We also make a Cough Serum and recently released our 2018 Creamed Honey. **What can we personally do to help bees thrive?** Look for alternatives to the herbicide glyphosate. Try to source a non-systemic herbicide based on pine oil, vinegar and clove oil. These are safe to bees. **Are bees busy Deb?** Spring is a time of rapid increase for bees, and heightened vigilance for beekeepers. We get several calls a week to capture swarms as people are increasingly aware spraying them isn't an option, an obvious win for the bees. **What finally what do they love in our gardens?** Purple flowering varieties are bee porn. They adore all varieties of lavender, salvia, stachys (lamb's ear), catmint, thyme and rosemary. bulwarrabees.com.au 🐝

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ON YOUR PLATE

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WORDS JILL DYSON



ABOVE Southern Highlands Brewing & Taphouse
RIGHT Moonacres Harvest Kitchen

BERNIE'S DINER, Moss Vale

Favourite American cum Australian diner in Moss Vale. Discounted Happy Hour prices from 3-5pm Monday to Friday: milkshakes \$5, small fries \$3, hot dogs \$5. What's not to love?

402-404 Argyle Street, Moss Vale, 4869 1502

BREWSTERS, Mittagong

Mittagong's oldest running café, with the best poster display in town, has a kids' menu including toasties, cheeseburgers, ice cream and soft drinks. Also throws in paper and pencils and free Wi-Fi to keep kids of all ages happy before and after eating. **18 Bowral Road, Mittagong, 4872 1466**

FIRE DRUM, Mittagong

Catch the new owners' springtime offering: a whole wood fired roast leg of lamb with spring vegetables and all the trimmings. Adults \$15, kids under 12 \$10, for a minimum four people. Delish. **79 Main Street, Mittagong, 4899 7000**

HUNGER THERAPY CASUAL DINING, Bowral

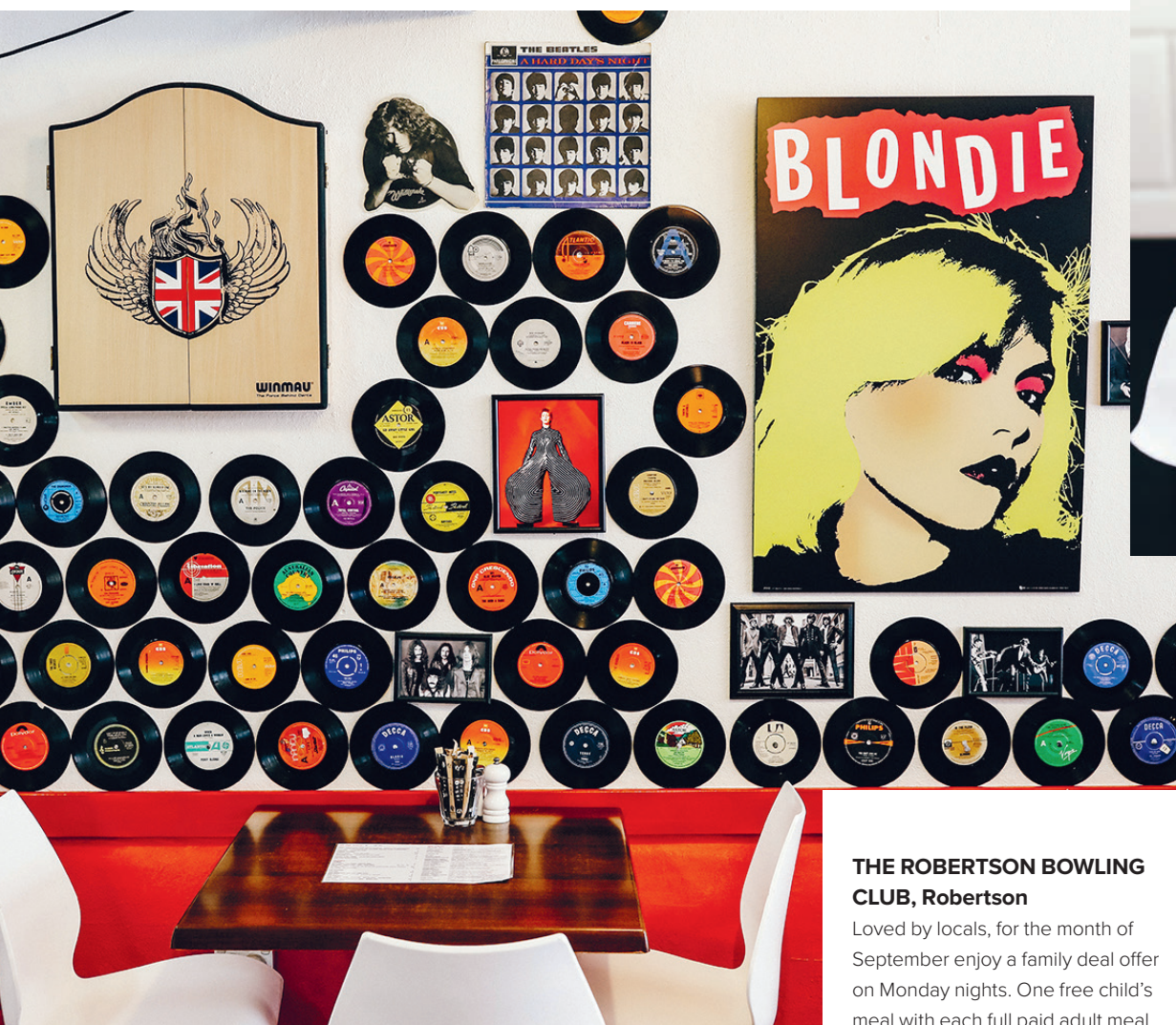
Complimentary ice cream with all \$10 kids' 'Meal & Drink Deals' during spring as well as \$1 off all coffees for accompanying adults when purchased with a meal. Nice.

325 Bong Bong Street, Bowral, 4861 2370

MOONACRES HARVEST KITCHEN, Robertson

Kids' \$10 specials offered on Thursday and Friday after school at 3.30-5.30pm at this newly renovated gem to help kids learn to enjoy food that is nutritious and locally made from organic farm fresh vegies. The menu includes a drink (maybe a handmade one from local fruit cordial) and a small meal such as handmade pasta and sauce or kid friendly soup and sourdough toast. With kids taken care of, parents can enjoy an early evening drink and bar snacks like the made in store charcuterie and cheese by chef Stephen Santucci, formerly of Vini in Surry Hills. **Shop 6-7, 79-81 Hoddle Street, Robertson, 4885 1788**





Bernie's Diner
LEFT Brewsters

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BREWING & TAPHOUSE, Moss Vale

The school holiday special from September 27 to October 14 gives you all kids' meals including a soft drink for \$10. Meanwhile you can sample some of the Taphouse's delicious food and on tap boutique beers and local vinos. **490-494 Argyle Street, Moss Vale, 4899 7100**

BISTRO OFFICINA, BOWRAL

With three tiny ones of their own, Alex and Nicola Coccia know how to cook for littluns. Their Italian kids menu including pasta al Burro (pasta with butter and parmigiana) and meatballs, served with organic juices and homemade milk icecream could tempt even the fussiest eaters so you can enjoy some of Nicola's more sophisticated fare.

Berida Manor, 6 David Street, Bowral bistroofficina.com.au

ECCETERA TRATTORIA PIZZERIA, Bowral

Want to eat out without factoring in alcohol costs which can push the bill up markedly? Go BYO at Eccetera Trattoria Pizzeria, Bowral (also fully licensed) with an authentic Italian pizza, or share some Sicilian antipasto dishes. Read our review page 56. **2/6 Boowley Street, Bowral** eccetera.com.au 📍

THE LOCH, BERRIMA

Go alfresco at The Loch every Sunday 10am-4pm and enjoy seasonal fare including delicious share tasting platters. Between courses, stock up on local produce and fresh flowers from the farm gate as kids enjoy the Nature Hunt over this lovely property bursting with more than 1000 flower bulbs in spring. **The Loch, 581 Greenhills Road, Berrima 0427 403 187**

THE BOWRAL HOTEL, Bowral

It's family friendly live jazz, baby, on the first Sunday of every month at 3-6pm with all day dining from midday to 8pm, including a kids' menu and Spring Sundays with a roast on offer for \$15 per person. **412 Bong Bong Street, Bowral, 4862 2646**

THE BURRAWANG GENERAL STORE CAFE, Burrawang

The BGSC has a great 'Under 12s and Over 65s' menu for those in your family who like smaller servings of terrific food without having to revert to a basic kids' menu. The Mac and Cheese Waffle sounds intriguing! **11 Hoddle Street, Burrawang, 4886 4496**

THE GLASS CAFE, Mittagong

This family friendly and roomy BYO cafe in a handy position is offering a 5% discount in spring for a family of five or more on all meals (not just cakes). **1/118 Main Street, Mittagong, 4872 2640**

THE ROBERTSON BOWLING CLUB, Robertson

Loved by locals, for the month of September enjoy a family deal offer on Monday nights. One free child's meal with each full paid adult meal at the Bowlo. **5 Yarranga Street, Robertson, 4885 1306**

THE ROBERTSON HOTEL, Roberston

Don't feel like cooking come Friday night? Never fear. The Robertson Hotel is offering a five course Friday night Spring tasting menu for \$60pp (minimum two people) or a gourmet burger and boutique beer option for \$18pp. Also kids under 12 eat free on Friday nights in spring. **1 Fountaindale Road, Robertson, 4885 1111**

ROYAL HOTEL, Bowral

Kids eat free Monday to Friday if you order before 6pm when accompanying parents order a main course. That'll put a spring in your step. **255 Bong Bong Street, Bowral, 4861 6686**



SPRING IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

WINTER IS GREAT. FIRESIDE CHATS, HEARTY COMFORT FOOD AND LAYERS OF SNUGGLY CLOTHES TO COVER UP THE EXTRA KILO'S. IT'S BEEN FUN, BUT FRANKLY I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING. WORDS **GEOFF JANSZ**

Ah. Spring. The season where, according to Greek mythology, beautiful Persephone emerges from Hades to walk the warmer months with her pining mother. As she walks, new life springs forth around her. Spring is also the season in which the deciduous trees regain foliage after, according to Cherokee folklore, being punished into winter nudity for refusing to shelter a lost sparrow.

Then there's the ancient Hindu Spring festival of Holi in which everyone drenches anyone within reach ... rich, poor, known or unknown... in brightly coloured powders and water to celebrate with love, frolic and laughter the coming of the life-giving season.

However spiritually one approaches Spring, there are some undeniable improvements in the air. Arctic

temperatures are gone, there's more daylight, birds, flowers and young animals appear everywhere, new budding leaves come back to remove carbon dioxide and provide oxygen, and to my main point, all the exciting fresh produce starts to appear.

In the great Asian, spiritual tradition of Ayurveda, the holistic approach to optimal health is to base one's diet on the produce of the season. The claim is our bodies move as one with nature and therefore require only what nature provides during the season.

The following salmon and salad is so simple, it hardly deserves a recipe. It simply gathers what is currently springing up in rivers around Australia and in my garden, washing and drying before dressing with one of my favourite vinaigrettes.



SPRING SALMON

Ingredients

- 4 pieces of salmon, skin on
- 1 tbsp Extra Virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp salt (don't worry we wash it off)
- Slight dusting of rice flour or corn flour - this is a great technique to keep your salmon moist and intact and have the option of eating a crispy (healthy) skin

Method

- On a plate scatter all pieces of salmon with the salt, gently rubbing onto all surfaces.
- Cover and leave at room temperature for 30 minutes. Wash off each piece under cold running water and pat dry (thoroughly).
- Smear the olive oil evenly over the heavy based non-stick fry pan that fits all 4 pieces.
- Lightly dust the salmon skin only and lay skin side down onto the cold, oil covered pan and turn to low medium heat.
- The salmon will gradually start to sizzle... approximately 4-7 minutes.
- Keep cooking on this setting until the salmon looks 3/4 cooked looking at it sideways.
- Turn it over... the skin should be golden brown and crispy.
- Pop into a pre heated 180c oven to finish cooking, 2-3 minutes or finish cooking on gently heat in the fry pan for 2 minutes.
- Serve with the salad.

Fresh spring leaves with Rosemary Balsamic dressing

- 4 huge handfuls of young spring leaves... I have rocket, baby spinach and lots of mixed lettuce growing right now.
- 1 cup of tender young herbs, picked very young and 'picked' as whole leaves.

For the dressing

- Reduce 200ml balsamic vinegar with 100g brown sugar and 2 sprigs of rosemary on low heat stirring occasionally for 10-20 minutes until slightly syrupy. Not too much as it thickens as it cools. Strain off the rosemary and cool.
- Put 4 tbsp best quality extra virgin olive oil, salt and pepper to taste into a large mixing bowl, gently toss the greens in a lift, twist and drop motion so everything is lightly coated.
- Pile high onto a serving bowl or platter and drizzle over some of the balsamic reduction. Scatter over grated or shaved parmesan.



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ESCAPE SH TIPS ITS HAT TO FOUR OF OUR GENERAL STORES AND THEIR OWNERS DOING GREAT THINGS.

Burrawang General Store Cafe

OWNER ERICA LEEMING

How long have you been in Burrawang? Three years, via Boston, USA

How did you find yourself here? We love old buildings and believe that when a building has a purpose, it has a future. **Was it a tree change or have you always lived in the area?** We had been living overseas for a long time and our daughters finished their schooling boarding at Frensham here in the Southern Highlands so it seemed like time to move back to Australia. **Was your store operating when you bought it?** Yes, as a cafe, but on a part time basis. **What role did it play in the community then?** It was purpose built as a general store in 1867 and operated as one until the early 1990s. We love hearing from customers who have seen it in its many roles over the years.

Would you call it a cornerstone of your community? Yes, locals catch up

here, we have a Knit and Natter group, and we provide school lunches for the public school across the road.

We just want to operate a successful business that serves the needs of the community and, of course, visitors to the area. I'm also on the Burrawang Community Association committee.

What do you sell and serve? Good food. All day. Every day. We are open 8am to 4pm seven days. Also newspapers, eggs, milk, homemade products, great coffee. We basically make everything on site except the bread we sell. We also have a great upstairs area where we can do afternoon teas, private dinners and groups, as well as garden lunches.

How do you feel about your general store? It's an iconic building that deserved a future and grounds this picturesque village. **What would you say to people who have never visited you?** You'll experience great food, stellar service and local wine in a 150 year old building that is enjoying a new start.

BGSC 11 Hoddle Street, Burrawang



Wingello Village Store

OWNERS DAVID AND LANA BRUGGEMAN, AND THEIR EIGHT CHILDREN.

David, how did you find yourself village store owners?

Our eldest daughter was working for the previous owner, and we were looking for a way of providing our children with business experience. With eight kids, this looked like a good investment from

a vocational training and community involvement perspective. Ariel (pictured) is the oldest. She was manager of the store's post office at 17 when we first took over. **Was it a tree change or have you always lived in the area?** We've lived in Wingello since 2000 and really enjoy the village lifestyle. There is less stress, and everyone nods and waves. **Was your store operating when you bought it?** The store has been operating as a licensed post office for more than 100 years, and had a general store and basic cafe. **What roles do you fulfil as general store owners?** Post office, general store, café, restaurant and newsagency. We provide fuel and gas refills, banking, local produce, business college training for many of the young people in the village. We are a local employer, a local news source via our newsletter and noticeboard, a free lending library and local centre of information (not gossip). **Do you see yourself as a cornerstone of your community?** Definitely. We open every day and provide essential services. During the last bushfire emergency, when the Hume Highway was cut off and all traffic was diverted past us, we remained open until the crisis passed. Without the Wingello Village Store, there would be a core missing from the community. Being a post office and newsagency where people need to visit, it is inevitable that locals will interact. **What do you sell and serve?** All our staff are barista trained and we concentrate on simply good food. If you want a breakfast made from local bacon, bread and free range eggs, where everything is fresh, preservative free, tasty and simply done right, that is what we do. We try to source our produce locally. The meat for our patties is sourced from Wingello farms through Marulan Meats, eggs are free range, bacon and other meat is all real (not processed) from Marulan Meats, great bread and pies from Goulburn's Bryant's Bakery, vegetables from Bowral suppliers. Staff are all local, too.

What would you say to people who have never visited you? Wingello is like a blast from the past with friendly service, comfy facilities and honest food, coupled with modern systems and features. Our store really is different to many others. We are a bit of an everything store.

Wingello VS, 67 Railway Parade, Wingello





Berrima General Store & Cafe

OWNER DIEGO ARATA

How long have you been at your general store? A year and a half. **Was it a tree change?** Yes, I lived in Sydney for two years and then Canberra for four years after moving to Australia from Modena, Italy. But I've always loved Berrima. **Was your store operating when you bought it?** Yes, but it opened and closed a few times in the five years before I arrived. Now I feel I have a strong relationships with the local Highlanders. **What roles do you and your store fulfil?** Chef, trouble solver, trouble maker, and all that. **What do you sell and serve?** Local produce, take away meals, all day menu breakfast and lunch. **What are your best sellers?** Shakshuka (baked eggs with capsicum, tomato, cumin, coriander and sauce, finishing with goat's cheese, dukkha and smoked paprika) is our menu best seller. Our lasagne, porchetta and tiramisu are also loved by locals. **Favourite local producers?** Rush Roasting Co, Taluca Park free range eggs, Living Earth Farm, Angela Dunollie Rare & Heritage Poultry, The Good Garlic Guy, Cuttaway Creek Jams, Currawong Creek extra virgin olives oils. Everyone has been very supportive since my first day. **What do you hope you bring to the community?** I can't really hope for much more to be honest. I am very happy already. I feel I have great relationships with local businesses, my customers and suppliers. I see great support between us, which I think is the key to growing a small town like Berrima. **What do you say to people who have never visited your general store?** Berrima has a great energy and if I've cooked a 25kg porchetta from Frank at Taluca Park overnight, it's your lucky day. We serve it with homemade focaccia and you don't want to miss it. **BGSC 13 Old Hume Highway, Berrima**



Exeter General Store

OWNERS LAUREN AND CRAIG JOHNSON

How long have you been at your general store? 10 years. **How did you become owners?** In 2007 we married in Exeter at Lauren's parents' property. The store was for sale and on our honeymoon we decided now was the time to become small business owners. We moved from Canberra, bought the Exeter General Store and were pregnant with our first son, Hamish, all in six months. **What role does the store play in your community?** The store's been central to our village's life for over a century. We have sought to maintain its heritage and evolution with the cafe, which has become a food and coffee destination for visitors and locals. The store is very much a hub. Lots of regulars come in daily to collect their mail and, with an older population, particularly in a rural area, helping give people a place and a reason to connect is something we enjoy immensely. **What roles do you fulfil as general store owners?** Back when we started, we were on the cafe floor all day, every day from open until close. As the business and team has grown (we now employ 22) our roles have inevitably changed to focus more on supporting and training our people, and to provide a consistently good experience for our guests. We are still very much hands on. Living and working in Exeter has also allowed us the flexibility to be involved as kids' soccer coaches, and involved in the P&C and the Exeter Fire Brigade.

What do you sell and serve? Coffee is our biggest seller, and we serve breakfast and lunch seven days a week, from traditional favourites like pasta, pies and burgers, to recent additions like bowl foods and modern salads. We have walls lined with secondhand books for browsing and sale, along with plenty of gourmet food products and local produce. We also stock daily essentials such as milk and bread. Our post office provides banking facilities and mail services. **What are some of the specialities or special events you offer?** In winter, customers love our whisky porridge with chai poached pears. Our bowl food has proven to be very popular also. As are our fresh daily scones with beautiful mixed berry jam. **Please share some of your favourite suppliers...** Exeter locals Taluca Park free range eggs, Morphy's Provisions condiments, Country Valley milk, Bougies de Luxe candles, Sutton Forest Olives, Alpine Berry Farm and Highland Apiaries honey. We also support Exeter Public School through the distribution of their cookbook, Our Village Table. **What would you say to locals and visitors who have never visited?** We love living in Exeter. For us it is a throwback to how people used to live before life got too busy. The drive out to Exeter is a beautiful one, and once here you can experience a small part of true 'village life' at our store. **EGS 1 Exeter Road, Exeter** 📍





BOWRAL'S LITTLE SICILY

ESCAPE SH SAMPLES IMPRESSIVE CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN CUISINE
CREATED WITH PASSION AND FLAIR. WORDS **ALEX SPEED**

At 34 Jonatan Fontecchio, head chef and owner of Eccetera Trattoria Pizzeria in Bowral, is a young man with retirement already in his sights.

'I started at cooking school at 15, got my own restaurant when I was 28, and always said to myself that when I am 40 I will stop,' he says. 'Running your own restaurant is very hard work but you need to do that in this game to see the money.'

The mention of money has him rubbing together his forefingers and thumb in the classic Italian way.

'One day, though, I want to have a life, too.'

It's plain to see that Eccetera, a charming little bolthole in the middle of Bowral that often does up to 80 covers a night, takes up all of Jonatan's time. It's 7pm on a midweek night and the joint is pumping. There are people waiting to collect their woodfire takeaway pizzas cooked by fellow Italian chef Marco, and at a table near the front door three mothers and their five young kids tuck into pasta. Inside, every table, covered in butchers paper, is full. Young and old, families and friends, lovers, and strangers, it is alive with chatting and eating. Like the best Italian feast.

An attentive young waiter seats us with a cheery Buona sera! (good evening), a delicious glass of chilled Italian prosecco and a plate of olives, bread and balsamic oil. We look around. On the counter, jars of Eccetera's homemade orange and apple jam, and bottles of its chilli oil and balsamic vinegar sit for sale. A large map of Sicily hangs on the far wall.

Jonatan was born and grew up in Palermo, the island's southwest capital and port city, founded in 734 BC. It was once part of the Roman Empire, and then the Byzantine Empire for more than 1000 years. Rich in history, culture, art and music, Palermo also has its own distinct gastronomy, with Italian, Spanish, French and Arab culinary influences. The city is also famous for its ancient open air fish market, La Vucciria. Eccetera's menu, set out in the Italian courses of antipasti, primi, secondi, contorni and dolce, is inspired by Palermo, and Jonatan sources many ingredients from Sicily.

'We cook traditional Sicilian dishes that we want to be as authentic as possible,' says Jonatan. 'The pizza flour comes from Naples, the prosciutto from Parma, all our cheeses, tomatoes, sea salts and cured meats are from Italy.'

We are seated among terracotta coloured walls hung with baskets and chalkboards displaying the specials, and start with antipasti fritto misto cooked by sous chef Cicco. Calamari, prawns and zucchini dusted in flour, deep fried and served with homemade aioli and lemon. It is deliciously light and flavoursome. We also try sardines marinated in vinegar and then fried sardines Sicilian style. Like the carpaccio on the menu, they are a Palermo speciality. Super flavoursome, not fishy, and no bones because they melt away during cooking.

Jonatan grew up in a home where cooking was everything. His mother, Maria, was always the cook. Along with Jonatan's father, Mario, Maria spends six months helping Jonatan in the restaurant and visiting his sister Irma in Melbourne, and six months in Palermo.

'She gave me the bug, and the love of food,' says Jonatan. 'She was the starting point for me.'

The other inspiration was Giorgio Locatelli. Jonatan began working for the Michelin starred Italian chef in his London restaurant Locanda Locatelli in 2004. But after two years, Australia beckoned.

'I worked with a dream to come to Australia to have my own restaurant,' says Jonatan, 'because I knew this is a country that loves Italian food and welcomes young chefs, and where if you work hard you can achieve.'

Jonatan arrived in Bowral in 2007 and worked with the restaurant's former owners, Carmen and Antonio Esposito, originally from Naples. He bought and took over the running of the business in 2013. Jonatan added the pizza oven, got an alcohol license (although Eccetera is also BYO) and started making his own name.

'I was here for many years helping them out before they decided to retire,' explains Jonatan. 'They thought of me as their son because they don't have one, and they were happy to sell their business to me.'

Our primi dish, gnocchi al tartufo e funghi e crema di finocchio, proves the Espositos made a great decision. Truffle and mushroom gnocchi with a fennel puree and parmesan, it is a knockout. The punchy flavours of the truffles and mushrooms are balanced by the subtlety of the fennel puree, and the gnocchi melt in the mouth. We follow this star dish with ravioli of slow cooked braised beef, red wine, sage, hazelnuts and parmesan, which is beyond good. Then we finish with the classic Italian dessert, tiramisu.

It is a meal fit for a Sicilian king and queen, and is crowned beautifully with a chilled glass of limoncello, a lemon liqueur native to Southern Italy, zinging with bite. A local Highlands winemaker produces it exclusively for Jonatan, but he is not giving away any trade secrets. Which is a shame, because it is delicious. Happy and replete we thank Jonatan for his fabulous food and service, won over by the authenticity of Eccetera's food.

Jonatan's final words stay with me: 'I still miss home. The smells, the flavours, the daily markets of Palermo. But Bowral gave me the opportunity as a young Italian chef to help change the way Italian cuisine exists in Australia. Many restaurants here base their ideas of Italian cooking on 1980s Italian food. We still do fine dining here but every day we are trying to make it contemporary, too, for a new generation.'

Cin Cin to that. ■



DETAILS

Eccetera Trattoria Pizzeria

6 Boolwey Street, Bowral
eccetera.com.au

Lunch Thursday-Saturday, 12.30-2.30pm

Dinner Tuesday-Saturday, 5.30-9.30pm;

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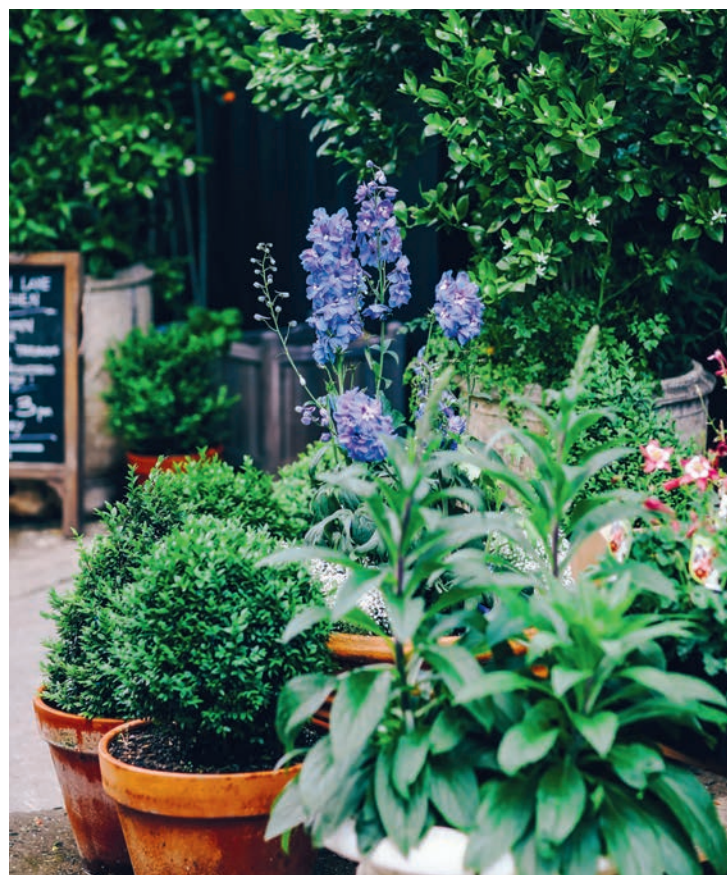
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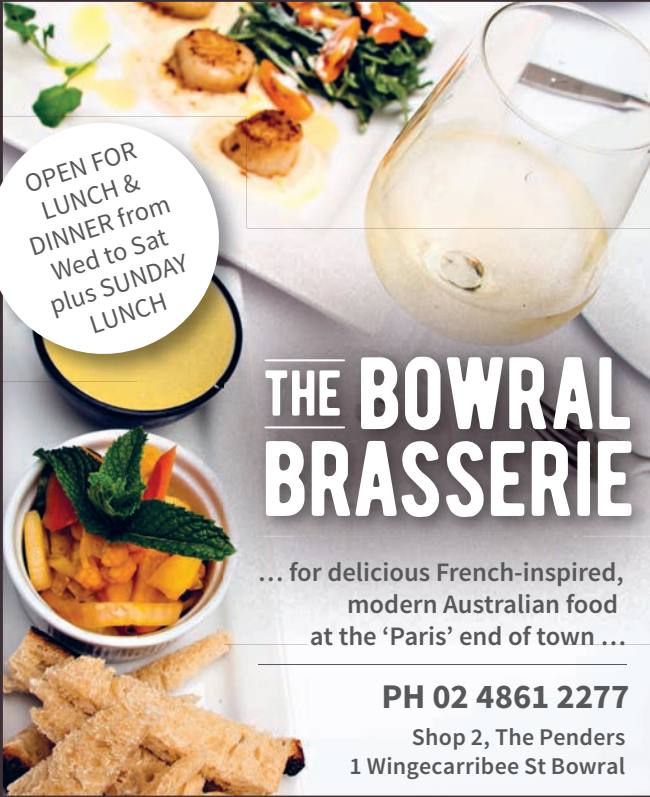
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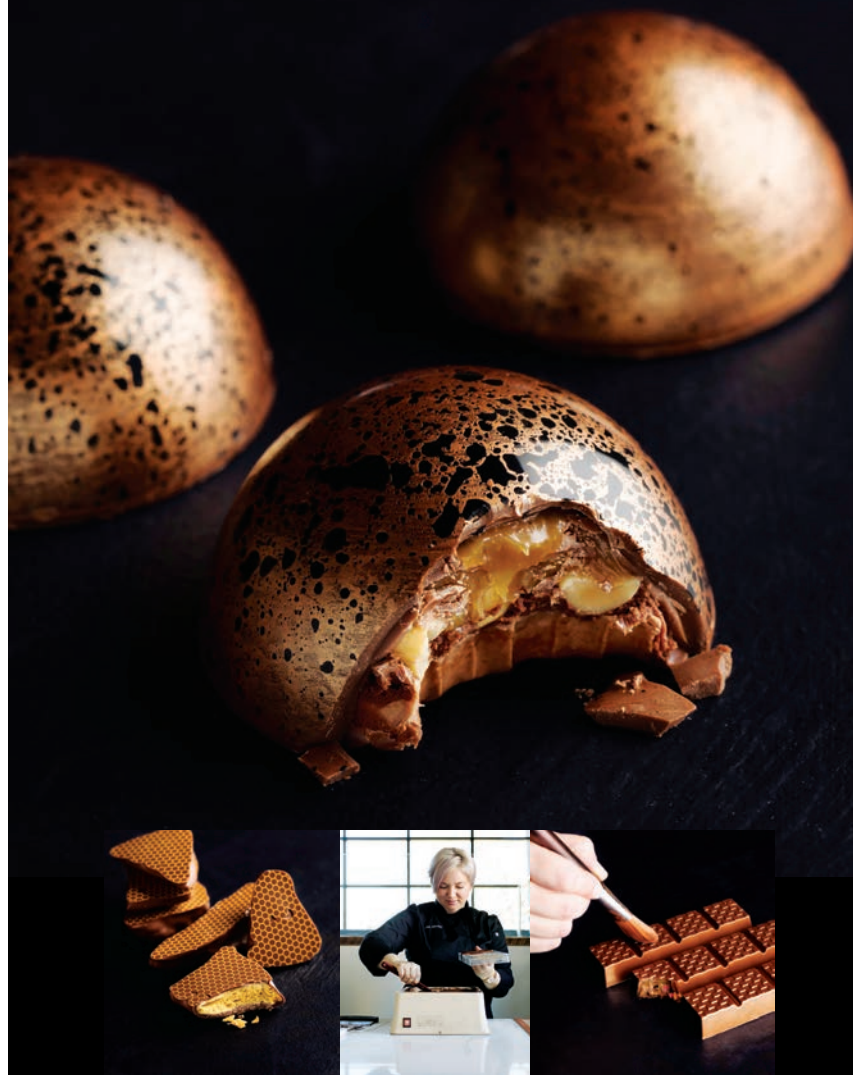
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RECOMMEND: the Oldbury Reserve 2016 Pinots, a very drinkable rosé style

Salute!

CLOSE YOUR EYES AS YOU SIP THE LOVELY WINE AND SAVOUR THE TASTY FOOD AT **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WINERY**, AND BE TRANSPORTED TO A VERY ITALIAN STATE OF MIND. WORDS **JANE O'CONNELL**

The beautifully restored red Moto Guzzi on display at Southern Highlands Winery is a nod to the Italian heritage of this Sutton Forest vineyard estate, and chief winemaker Eddy Rossi's eyes light up when we ask about it. The post WWII classic motorbike from a friend's collection is the same type ridden by Italian farmers in their vineyards in the 1950s and '60s, and makes a perfect conversation starter for visitors to the cellar door.

Winemaking is in Rossi's northern Italian blood. His family emigrated to Griffith, NSW from the Tuscany and Veneto regions in the 1950s, and Rossi has fond memories from frequent trips back of watching his grandfather make wine near Venice.

'Walking through the vines during harvest, there was a particular aroma of fresh leaves and fragrant fruit,' he says. 'I loved watching my Nonno (grandfather) crushing grapes into his concrete tanks, preparing for fermentation. The best part of all of this was sitting down for lunch with all the family laughing, and after a few vinos, breaking out with Italian folk songs.'

Rossi's original career plan was to study engineering, but after working in a winery lab after school and with childhood memories at the fore, he soon changed his mind.

'I would see these winemakers every day, always laughing and having a good time, and I thought, that's what I want to do.'

Owned by the Rossi and Corradi families, who come from the same area of northern Italy, the Southern Highlands Winery



land was purchased in 1998. It has 30 acres of vines that were planted in 2002, which are all under cultivation today. Rossi clearly remembers the early days when they were excited to have a single visitor come through the cellar door. These days it's a very different story. 'Saturday is wine day,' he says. 'The number of people tasting wine is incredible. They flock in.'

The recently introduced five dollar charge for tasting is unusual in Australian wineries, but tasting fees are de rigueur in other parts of the world. With the cost deducted from any subsequent wine sales, Rossi considers it a reasonable business transaction that genuine buyers are happy to pay. Escape SH's tasting took us through the full suite of Oldbury Reserve wines, described as Southern Highlands Winery's pinnacle series.

'It's all estate grown, and we only select the best fruit,' says Rossi. 'We put a lot of time and effort into getting the best of the best.'


Their sauvignon blanc has long been considered a signature wine, but fashion plays a part and the trend now leans towards pinot gris, with the light to medium bodied 2017 vintage somewhat similar to the sauvignon blanc, but softer.

One variety that stands out for its point of difference is the 2016 Oldbury Reserve Pinots. A blend of pinot noir and pinot gris, it was created by Rossi to be rosé in style but using different grapes to a standard rosé. The result is light and fresh with lovely fruit flavours. Ideal for warmer months, but our group agreed it could easily be enjoyed year round. The pinot noir was a firm favourite in our tasting, described as having a 'graceful curvy ending' and a true sense of the Southern Highlands terroir. It's delicious.

Both Oldbury Reserve and SHW wines are made on site. Rossi also collaborates with other local wineries, making wines for both St Maur and Sutton Forest Estate with their own grapes.

Beyond wine tasting, Southern Highlands Winery has plenty to offer. The restaurant (Italian, naturally), under the supervision of head chef (and Rossi's cousin) Marco Salvestrin, serves up mouthwatering dishes including rabbit ragu with homemade gnocchi, paired with the Oldbury Reserve Pinot Noir, and zuppa di cozze (steamed mussels with chilli and garlic), a great match for their Oldbury Reserve Riesling. For insider tips, cooking classes are offered once a month with Salvestrin instructing in the kitchen and Rossi showcasing wines, and they're consistently booked out.

Another drawcard is their wedding offering, with a choice of indoor and outdoor venues including the Tuscan style courtyard, depending on the time of year and size of the party. Some happy couples travel from as far as Asia and Europe to celebrate their big day with the vineyard as a stunning backdrop. The marquee outside seats more than 100.

If you want to get your hands on a bottle of SHW wine, you can buy online or visit in person (the cellar door is open seven days). Rossi's wines are also exported to Asia. China is their biggest market with a strong interest in premium wine and Hong Kong is a 'good little niche market', making this winery a truly multicultural Southern Highlands success story. 

DETAILS

Southern Highlands Winery

Cnr Oldbury Road & Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest

southernhighlandswinery.com.au

Cellar door open 7 days: 10.30am-4.30pm

Restaurant serves lunch Thursday-Monday, 12-3pm and dinner Friday & Saturday, 6-9pm.



JOADJA

Joadja Rd

Wineries, Breweries & Distilleries

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STATE FOREST

MEDWAY

Medway Rd

BERRIMA

NEW
BERRIMA

BURRADOO

Berrima Rd

MOSS VALE

SUTTON
FOREST

Nowra Rd

Illawarra Highway

GLENQUARRY

KANGALOON

WINGECARRIBEE
RESERVOIR

BURRAWANG

BUNDANOON

PENROSE

Penrose Rd

Follow the trail.

1. Eden Brewery
1/19 Cavendish St, Mittagong.
Open Wed-Sun 12-8pm.
4855 2696

2. Artemis Wine
46 Sir Charles Moses Ln,
Mittagong. Open Wed-Sun
& P.Hols from 10am.
0498 842 654

3. Tertini Wines
Lot 5 Kells Creek Rd,
Mittagong. Open 7 days
10-5pm. 4878 5213

4. Joadja Estate
110 Joadja Road, Berrima.
Open weekends 10-5pm.
Thur, Fri & Mon 12-5pm.
4878 5236

5. Joadja Distillery
1760 Joadja Rd Joadja.
Open for private group tours
& bookings. 4878 5129

**6. Bendooley Estate
Cellar Door**
3020 Old Hume Hwy,
Berrima. Open 7 days
10-5pm. 4877 2235

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

**8. Southern Highlands
Brewing Company Kitchen
& Taphouse**
490 Argyle Street, Moss Vale

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

**10. Southern Highlands
Wines**
Cnr Oldbury Rd & Illawarra
Hwy, Sutton Forest. Open
7 days 10-5pm. 4868 2300

**11. St Maur Southern
Highlands Estate**
Old Argyle Rd, Exeter.
Open Thurs-Mon 10.30-
4.30pm. 4883 4401

12. Sallys Corner Wines
257 Sallys Corner Rd, Exeter.
Open Sat-Sun & P.Hols
10.30-4.30pm. 4883 4999

13. Cuttaway Hill Wines
212 Sally's Corner Rd, Exeter.
Open Fri-Sun 10:30am - 4:30pm.
Other times by appointment
0409 902 982

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

**15. Eling Forest Winery
& Cellar Door**
12587 Hume Hwy, Sutton Forest.
Open 7 days 10.30-
4.30pm. 4858 1788

16. Cherry Tree Hill Wines
12324 Hume Hwy, Sutton Forest.
Open 7 days. Thur-Mon 10am-
5pm. Tues & Wed 12noon-4pm

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For some years sauv/blanc was popular and people preferred it to chardonnay but now the people are returning to chardonnay in large numbers. Chardonnay is, without doubt, the king of the white wines. Merlot is probably the most food compatible of all red wines but it also lost support as people turned to pinot noir. Those people are now returning to merlot and record numbers of merlot are being planted to satisfy the increased demand. We specialise in both chardonnay and merlot and merlot blends and we give generous discounts for multiple purchases of both wines. Our wines are excellent value so come and have a free taste.



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Open Friday-Sunday,
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21 Black Horse Lane, Sutton Forest
(next to northbound McDonalds)
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Joadja Estate Vineyards Cnr Greenhills and Joadja Roads, Berrima
For more information, visit www.joadjaestate.com.au or call 4878 5236



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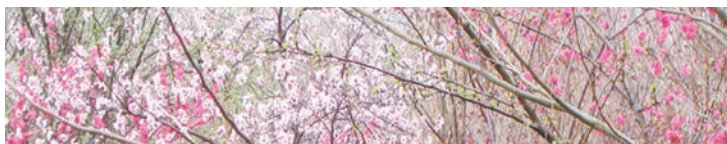
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SPRING TRIPPING IN THE HIGHLANDS

Visiting the Highlands to see friends? Here contemplating making that rat race to relaxed tree change? Or local and wanting something new to do? These bloomin' pursuits are full of the joys of spring.

BREAK OUT IN HIVES

Hill Top's John Scott, firefighter and local tour operator at Highlands Wine & Food Tours, is holding beekeeping workshops for beginners. As well as the theory stuff, there will be loads of chances to don the white suit and have a go. Suits provided, as well as lunch and morning tea, a course workbook and a one on one training session later. Workshop takes place at Cuttaway Hill Cellar Door, 212 Sally's Corner Road, Exeter. **Sunday September 9, October 14, November 4, December 9 \$260pp.** For more details eezybeez.com.au/beginner-beekeeping-workshop

VINE-L MUSIC

Nothing lovelier than kicking back with some mates, a glass or two of local vino and some tunes. Join Phat Brass and their energetic brand of pop and jazz at Music in the Vines at the Joadja Estate Winery. Free wine tastings throughout the afternoon, and pizza, cheese plates and wine by the glass available to purchase. Playground for the kids, but please leave the four legged canine variety at home. Bookings not taken so bring a picnic rug and your own chairs. **Saturday, September 29, 1-4pm. Joadja Estate Winery, cnr Greenhills & Joadja Roads, Berrima** joadjawinery.com.au

WALKING IN THE AIR

Welsh singer and one-time chorister Aled Jones will perform in Bowral this month to kick off his tour of Australia. In 1985 as a young boy he had the Christmas hit I'm Walking in the Air, and now Jones is travelling and performing with his 12-year-old son, Lucas. One of the BBC's Songs of Praise presenters, Aled Jones will sing a collection of spiritual classics including An Australian Blessing, composed by Richard Mills. **September 15, St Jude's Church, Bowral. Bookings** AledJonesAustralia.com **1300 303 103. No tickets at the door.**

FAMILY ZEN

Head out to Zen Oasis's Family Fun Festival at Berrima. Held over three weekends within Zen's lovely contemplative gardens with lots of sculptures which surround a large dam, (which many will remember as the old Parmy's Woolshed) this event will include making activities for the kids including face painting and how to make their own Zen garden, and performances by Berrima Public School. There will be food stalls and Zen's vegetarian restaurant will also be open. **September 29-30, Oct 6-7 & Oct 13-14 10am-4pm. 30 Medway Rd, Berrima** zen-oasis.com



HORSES FOR COURSES

Bowral Dressage Club is holding its championships at Bong Bong racecourse. With young riders, amateur owner riders and professionals, come and see why this discipline is an Olympic event. There will be stalls with all things equestrian, as well as food and coffee for our spectators. Entry is by a gold coin donation to support our local Rural Fire Brigade. All welcome. **September 30, 8.30am-4pm, Bong Bong Racecourse, 480 Kangaloon Road, Bowral.** bowraldressage.com.au

BERRIMA HORSE TRIALS & WALLABY HILL THREE DAY EVENT

Keeping with the horsey theme, the Berrima Horse Trials is on again at local property Araluen. More than 350 horses and their riders aged 11 to 80 are expected to attend, with many using it as a warm up meet for the OTTO Sport CCI International three day event at Wallaby Hill Equestrian Centre, Robertson the following week. Horse trials involve a three phase competition, like the equestrian version of the triathlon, with a dressage test, showjumping and cross country. **Berrima Horse Trials, November 10 & 11, Araluen, Kardinia Lane, Sutton Forest; berrimahorsetrials.com.au. OTTO Sport CCI, November 30-December 2, 122 Wallaby Hill Road, Robertson; wallabyhill.com.au**

STEEL STRINGS

Be transported for a few hours by the joyous Arafura Dances Concerto for Guitar and Strings by Ross Edwards, one of Australia's greatest composers, played by Steel City Strings, and the foot tapping Fandango for Guitar and Strings performed by guitar virtuoso Alexandr Tsiboulski. **September 23, 2pm, Mittagong Playhouse, 114/116 Main Street, Mittagong.** Tickets from steelcitystrings.com.au or 0467 869 478

ARTIST ROGER BEALE AT WOMBAT HOLLOW

Roger Beale, former economist, and government policy adviser began to paint and draw full time after he hung up his briefcase as a civil servant in 2004. Beale will exhibit a series of flower portraits set in landscapes at Wombat Hollow in partnership with Sydney gallery Maunsell Wickes. **12-14 October, Wombat Hollow, 300 Kirkland Road, East Kangaloon** maunsellwickes.com; wombathollow.net.au

BOWRAL BOWLO BELTS IT OUT

Remember that young buck James Blundell from his Way Out West duet with James Reyne in the '90s? Well no longer so young (who is?) Blundell, billed as the 'original urban cowboy', brings his music to Bowral Bowling Club where he will be joined by Steve Cheers, local country artist and talented owner of Powerpoint Music in Bowral. **September 21, doors 6pm, Steve Cheers 7pm, James Blundell 8.30pm. Tickets from Bowral Bowling Club, 40 Shepherd Street, Bowral.** bowralbowlingclub.com.au

CELLO JEWEL

Continuing in the musical vein, cellist Catherine Barnett will be the featured artist in the upcoming Southern Highlands Symphony Orchestra Concert Series. She will play Schumann's Symphony No. 4 and Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major among other pieces. **September 15, 7:30pm; September 16, 2:30pm, Memorial Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral. Tickets from** trybooking.com/WDZK, shso.org.au and Powerpoint Music, 409 Bong Bong Street, Bowral ▶





Leather on Willow

If you're a cricket lover, there can be nothing better than watching a match on Don Bradman's eponymously named ground. Bradman Oval is the home ground for The Australian Armed Forces so take a seat in the historic grandstand or around the whitewashed ground, pack a late spring picnic and enjoy a bit of true spectator leather on willow. **Parliament Match, Sun Oct 14; Australian Army vs NZ Army, Tues Nov 6; NSW Country Cricket Final, Sun Nov 25; England vs NZ (over 50s World Cup) Tues Nov 29. Bradman Oval, St. Jude's Street, Bowral bradman.com.au**

OUT OF TOWN Catch three of our most talented emerging artists as they exhibit in important Sydney Shows. Next month Zoe Young and Clara Adolfs will show work with gallery Edwina Corlette Gallery at Sydney Contemporary, one of Australia's largest international art fairs, while fellow Archibald finalist Vanessa Stockard will exhibit in Project 3.33 Clayton Utz alongside the acclaimed Euan McLeod. **Sydney Contemporary, September 13-16, Carriage works, 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh. Vanessa Stockard, Clayton Utz Project 3.33, October 23, Levels 14 & 15, 1 Bligh Street, Sydney**

TASTE TESTERS

SPRING IN THE HIGHLANDS is not complete without a little taste of this and a little taste of that at one of our fabulous local vineyards and cellar doors. Check out our map on page 66 but to help with the task we asked writer Jane O'Connell to recommend her favourite local tipples:

Lost Flock 2013 from Tractorless Vineyard at Eling Forest, 12587 Hume Highway, Sutton Forest

Firkin Heles, Naked Harvest and Tighthead Ales from Southern Highlands Brewing Company Kitchen & Taphouse, 490-494 Argyle Street, Moss Vale

2015 Private Cellar Collection Pinot Noir from Tertini Wines, Lot 5 Kells Creek Road (off Wombeyan Caves Road), Mittagong

Blanc de Blancs Sparkling from Centennial Vineyards, Centennial Road, Bowral (the winery recently retained its 5 Red Star Rating in James Halliday's 2019 Wine Companion)

Palm Pale or Birch Wit Ales from Eden Brewery, 1/19 Cavendish Street, Mittagong

2015 Chardonnay from St Maur Southern Highlands Estate Wines, 238 Old Argyle Road, Exeter.

HONK IF YOU'RE HUMANE

*It's the annual Trucks across the Highlands convoy, and time for our truckies to get a bit horn happy. Started by Moss Vale's Rodney South in 2013, the truckathon has raised \$80,000 to date with this year's proceeds going to the BDCU Children's Foundation's Local Youth Mental Health project. This event is quite something to behold and hear! Trucks leave Bunnings Mittagong after 7am for Moss Vale where they loop back via Willow Drive and Mann Crescent to the Moss Vale Showground where there will be live music, vehicle displays, rides for the kids and lots of trucks! Get your roadside position ready and toot, toot to all our hardworking truckies for their continued support of such a great cause. **Saturday, September 22 departing from Bunnings Mittagong at 7am @trucksacrosshighlands***



SPRING FLINGING

Getting along to a local school's fete will give you a real feel for Highlands life, and you'll also be helping our schools and local charities. Chevalier College's multicultural themed Community Fair is a joyous, colourful celebration of food and music to raise money for Chev's sister school in Micronesian island nation, Kiribati. Over at Hill Top, the village's Bounce Day Spring Fair is a partnership between Hill Top Public School and the Hill Top Progress Association. Held with the further support of the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, NSW Police and Wingecarribee Shire Council, this fair includes a host of Joylands amusements and is open to all. Activities will include giant slippery dips, a Ferris wheel and jumping castles. Meanwhile, Moss Vale Public School celebrates its 150th Sesquicentenary birthday with its biggest Country Fair yet with mechanical and inflatable rides, a petting zoo, sheep shearing, raffles, food and goods stalls, and performances from local groups such as gymnastics, dance and flamenco.

Chevalier College Community Fair, Chevalier College, 11 Charlotte Street, Burradoo, Wednesday September 5, 6.30-9pm. Hill Top Community Fete, Hill Top Public School, Linda Street, Hill Top, Friday October 19, 3-7pm. Moss Vale Public School 150th Birthday Country Fair, Browley & Argyle Street entrances, Moss Vale, Friday November 2, 4-7pm



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www.riverisland.com.au

PARADISE FOR PROS AND PUTTERS

YOUR HANDY GUIDE TO THE MANY FANTASTIC GOLF COURSES OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGION.

BOWRAL GOLF CLUB

18 holes – par 69

Kangaloon Road, Bowral

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

Professional: Kevin Kenny

Cost to play: Visitor 18 holes

\$45. Visitor \$50, twilight

\$28.50. Clubs and carts

available to hire.

Lessons: \$50 individual. Groups

and beginner clinics catered for.

Lessons on demand.

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.

Available for weddings.

Contact: 4861 1042;

bowralgolfclub.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 Highlands Winery.

Accommodation available at Peppers Manor House, and a la carte food at Katers restaurant. See website for membership specials.

Contact: 4868 3200;

mtbroughton.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 \$60

& weekend \$70 includes

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

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 7th – par 4.

Difficult driving hole with narrow fairway that 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. See website for Stay and Play packages.

Contact: 4465 0200;

kangaroovalleygolf.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: \$45 for 18 holes.

\$25 for 9 holes. Clubs and carts available for hire.

Lessons: From \$60. Groups and clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 18th – 378m, par 4.

Dog leg hole turning left around a large gum tree 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 Sholz dinner

Friday and Saturday or all week next door at Dormie House.

Available for weddings and functions.

Contact: golf reservations

4868 1503 or 4868 1811

mossvalegolfclub.com.au

STAY &
PLAY

GOLF PASS

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS NSW GOLF PASS INCLUDES 6 ROUNDS X 9 HOLES OF GOLF TOTALLING 54 HOLES THAT CAN BE PLAYED AT ANY SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE PLUS KANGAROO VALLEY GOLF AND COUNTRY RESORT. THE PASS COSTS \$89 AND IS VALID SUNDAY TO FRIDAY UNTIL DECEMBER 2019. PURCHASE THE STAY & PLAY GOLF PASS FROM THE DESTINATION SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WELCOME CENTRE IN MITTAGONG SOUTHERN-HIGHLANDS.COM.AU

GIBRALTAR COUNTRY CLUB

18 holes – par 70

Boronia Street, Bowral

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Bookings essential.

Cost to play: Weekday \$35 for 9 holes or \$45 for 18 holes with a cart; weekend \$45 or \$55

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 including children's menu at San Fior restaurant. Driving range and aqua range facilities available. Functions catered for. Available for weddings.
Contact: 4862 8645;
gibraltarbowl.com.au

PEPPERS CRAIGIEBURN

9 holes – par 32

Centennial Road, Bowral

Open to the public seven days.

Cost to play: \$15 for 9 holes. \$15 for club 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. Weddings, functions and conferences catered for. Luxury accommodation available at Peppers Craigieburn.
Contact: 4862 8000;
peppers.com.au/craigieburn

HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB

18 holes – par 70

Old Hume Highway, Mittagong

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Professionals: Tegan and James Purcell

Cost to play: Weekday \$29.50 for 18 holes, weekend \$35.

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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
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Links House, Bowral	17	X	25	30	40	X	40	60
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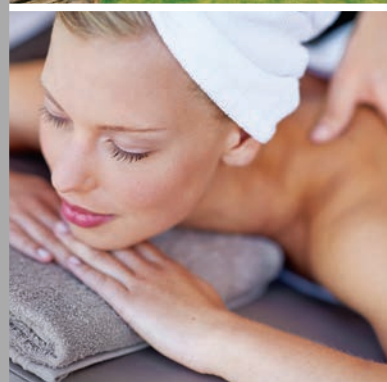
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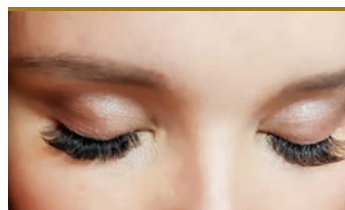
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Love is all you need

IT WAS A WHIRLWIND LOVE AFFAIR. RACHEL AND BRADLEY MET AND FELL FOR EACH OTHER AT WORK, THEN MARRIED A YEAR LATER AT BRIARS COUNTRY LODGE & HISTORIC INN. ON THIS HAPPIEST OF DAYS, MR AND MRS MUNRO ALSO ANNOUNCED TWO WAS SOON TO BECOME THREE. PHOTOGRAPHER MATT ROBERTSON OF WOLF + THISTLE CAPTURED THEIR DOUBLE JOY.

Like the poles of a magnet, opposites attract. This was certainly the case when government employees Rachel and Bradley Munro met. 'My favourite thing about Brad is he doesn't care about what other people say and think,' says Rachel. 'Being someone who cares a lot about what people say and think, I loved his don't care attitude towards people, and he taught me how to not hold onto things. Having said that, we are also very similar in many ways and share many of the same interests.'

Brad concurs, and showing the wicked sense of humour that first drew Rachel to him, says it also helped that his now wife was a rugby league supporter.

'Well, until I found out what team she supported,' laughs Brad. 'But, hey, healthy competition is good in a relationship.'

'Seriously, though, the first thing I noticed about Rachel was how gorgeous she was. And then when I actually met her, spoke to her and got to know her, well I realised how amazing she is.'

Brad and Rachel, who both grew up in Sydney, became engaged on a trip to Europe.

'I finally convinced Brad to leave Australia for his first overseas trip,' recalls Rachel. 'I had been overseas a number of times and I wanted to show him the amazing sights of the world. We travelled through England, France, Italy, Croatia, Poland, Germany and Dubai, and then he proposed in Italy on my birthday, in September 2016, on the banks of the Grand Canal in Venice, which was very romantic.'

The couple, who call the northern village of Hill Top in the Southern Highlands home, decided to marry at Briars Country Lodge & Historic Inn on the outskirts of Moss Vale.

'I hate the hustle and bustle of the city,' explains Rachel, 'and I wanted to get married somewhere amazing that wasn't going to break the bank.'

'We wanted to get married somewhere that had the ceremony and reception in one place and accommodation close by. Also, we wanted great food and to marry in a garden that offered photo locations. Briars had it all. Amazing ceremony location, gorgeous reception room, on site accommodation, great space for the outside ceremony. The list continues.' ►



DETAILS

LOCATION, CATERING AND WEDDING CAKE

Briars Country Lodge &
Historic Inn, briars.com.au

BRIDE'S, BRIDESMAIDS' AND FLOWER GIRLS' DRESSES

Luv Bridal, luvbridal.com.au

GROOM'S SUIT

Roger David
rogerdavid.com.au

CELEBRANT

Kerry Gregory
kerrygregory.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Matt Robertson of Wolf +
Thistle, wolfandthistle.com.au

FLORIST

Libs Little Studio
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HAIR AND MAKEUP

Beautified by Hayley
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The wedding took place in October last year, with 75 friends and family present in the lovely Briars gardens. A string quartet played as Rachel was given away by her brother Mathew, their father having sadly lost his battle with cancer 11 years ago. Brad had his brother, brother in law and best friend as groomsmen, and Rachel's cousin, sister in law and best friend were her bridesmaids, and while her overseas family in England weren't able to attend, one aunty lived streamed via Skype during the sit down reception. Now a happily married woman, Rachel says one of the things that stays in her mind is how carefree the organisation of their special day was thanks to Briars' wedding coordinator Rhonda Matheson.

'Rhonda and the team at Briars made it a stress-free wedding for me. Everything was set up at the venue, and although Rhonda said I didn't need to check anything, I'm a control freak and wanted to ensure all was going to plan. Rhonda also made sure that everything I requested was there and alternatives were available. Everything a girl could want on her wedding day.'

As she and Brad were on a budget and she also has a diploma in event management, Rachel took care of a lot of the pre wedding day arrangements herself, which meant she could personalise their special day with a lot of little DIY touches.

'I made the seating chart, the bonbonnières and the wedding invites. I also created the centerpieces in conjunction with the florist, and lots more. By doing this, Brad and I had control over the wedding and we could make sure everything was all about us.'

Wood was a theme, including the table centrepieces and a beautiful wooden ring box. Rachel also upcycled the enormous LOVE sign that she used as a centrepiece.

'The LOVE sign was made by my maid of honour's partner and had been used at another wedding,' says Rachel. 'I loved it and asked if I could use it at our wedding. I wanted something fun that guests could take photos of.'

And there was one element of the wedding Rachel and Bradley kept completely secret until the day.

'We had a chalkboard that announced: 'Our humans are getting us a human. Baby Munro due May 2018.'

'This was very exciting for all our guests, as no one else knew I was pregnant until that moment.'

The Munros were also intent on using local businesses and vendors for their wedding.

'I wanted to make sure that my money was going into supporting local small business. For us that made the whole day even more personal,' says Rachel. 'They weren't big businesses, and they were always in contact with me to ensure everything was on track. They were always there if I wanted to ask a question. I can't speak highly enough of them.'

The couple honeymooned in Thailand and Baby Munro was born in May on Mother's Day. She is now keeping her parents busy and sleep deprived. But, says Rachel, who is still on maternity leave, she and Bradley could not have hoped for a better way to begin their lives together.

'I think the most important thing for us was that our guests were happy. That they were fed and had enough to drink and enjoyed themselves. It was also important that all family members were included or felt included during the planning and the lead up to the day.'

All in all, Rachel and Bradley say it was a perfect day: 'Everything pretty much went according to plan. Seeing people smiling and sharing little tears of happiness was a favourite. To share our love story with close family and friends was just a joy.' ■





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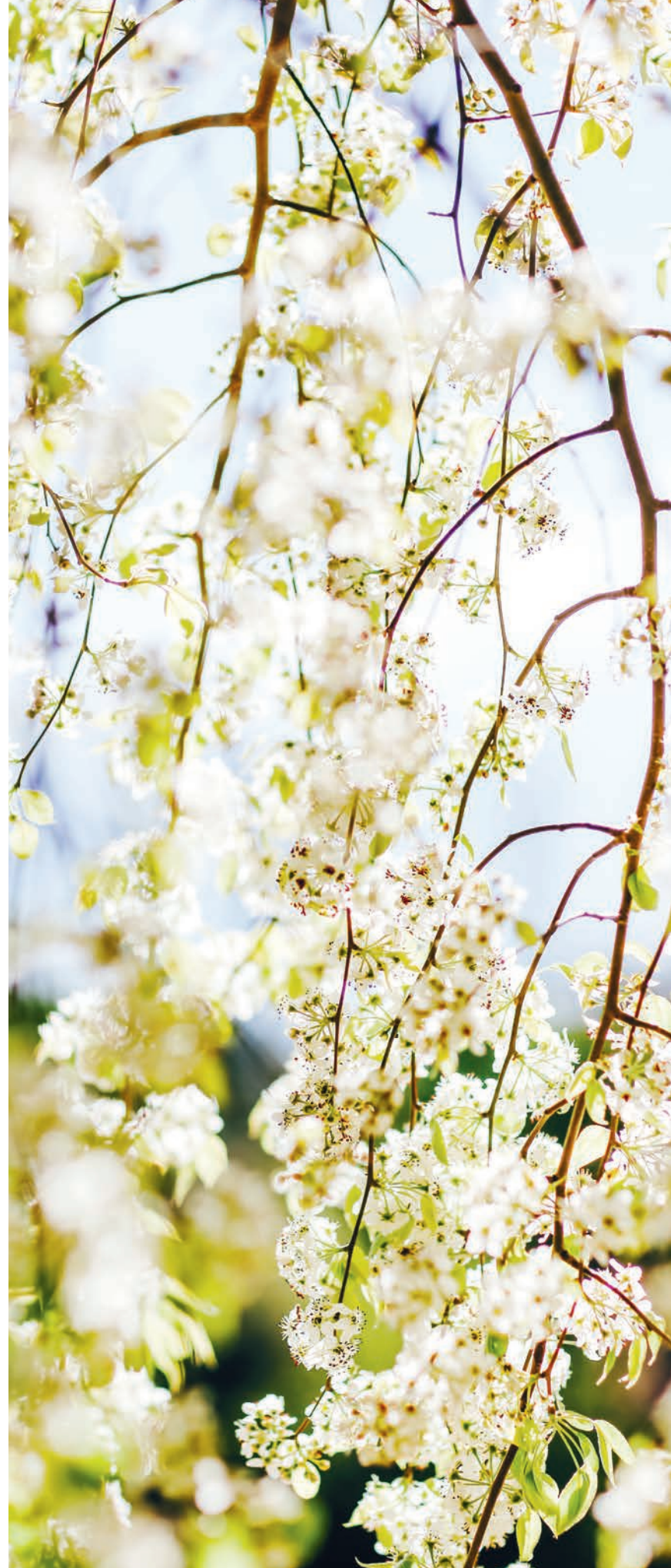
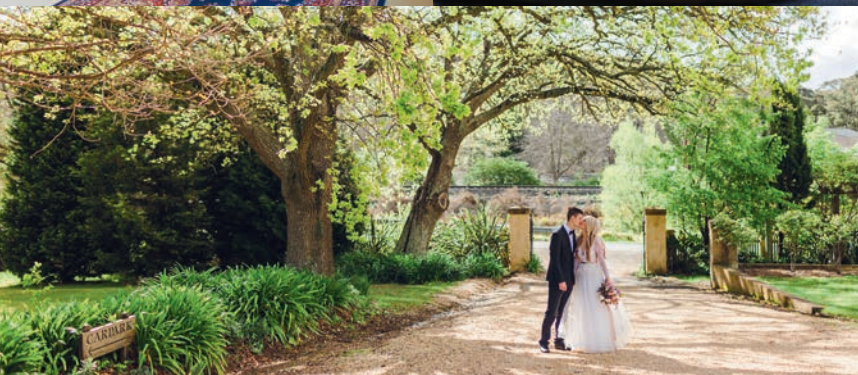
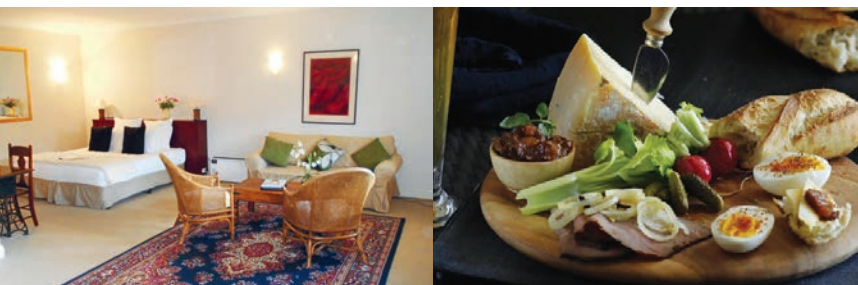
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BLAZING A *trail*

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS IS ALIVE WITH CREATIVITY AND CONNECTIVITY THANKS TO ITS RICH ARTISTIC LANDSCAPE, PARTICULARLY DURING **NOVEMBER WHEN LOCAL ARTISTS OPEN THEIR WORKPLACES DURING THE ANNUAL ART STUDIO TRAIL**. ESCAPE SH TALKS WITH SEVERAL ABOUT THEIR PRACTICE, AND WHY NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED ART IN THE WORLD.

Susan Heslin, Painter, Berrima

In a sentence, please tell us about your work. My style is contemporary realism. My work is inspired by others in theatre, writing and music, as well as those mark-making in pencil and paint. We are born with a creative spirit that demands to be used, and it is up to each of us to use whatever talents we have to explore our own creativity. **Who or what inspires you?** Many, many artists. The great masters of the past, Raphael, Johannes Vermeer and John Singer Sargent being particular favourites. Also Jude Rae, Chris Browne, Francis Giacco, Euan Uglow and Diarmuid Kelley, a young Irish painter. **You can choose to have any piece of art in the world. What would it be?** I have a print of a painting by the American Milton Avery that I have carried from home to home and have never tired of. **Why do we need art in our world today?** If the number of people taking up painting today is any indication, the relevance of art to our daily lives has never been more important. Art provides many of us with a respite from the chaos we observe 'out there'. **What does the Studio Art Trail bring to the Southern Highlands?** The Southern Highlands has many people and friends who live their lives engaged in art. There is a great feeling of community amongst us all and that is important for everyone involved in art on a daily basis. Opening our studios and welcoming friends and strangers gives artists a time each year to engage with and listen to the comments of our visitors, who get a look into our private working spaces and seem to enjoy the experience immensely. **The French post impressionist painter Georges Seurat said 'art is harmony'. What is art to you?** A life lived well.



Philip Turton and Susan Heslin



Philip Turton, Painter, Berrima

How do you describe your style? My style is known as tonal impressionism as taught at Julian Ashton Art School under Phillip Ashton. **When did you decide to make art your life's work?** You cannot 'decide' to make art your life's work any more than you can decide to be a rock 'n' roll star. It's in your life or it's not. **What have you still to achieve?** A painting I'm satisfied with, and can truly say, 'It's finished.' **Who inspires you?** Nigel Thomson taught me at Julian Ashton and I am still inspired by the way he taught. I also find Max Meldrum inspiring in his tonal control, and Robert Hannaford is to be admired for his great brushwork. **You can choose to have any piece of art in the world. What would it be?** Head of Capri Girl by John Singer Sargent. I'd hang it in my studio. **Why do we need art in our world?** I'm not sure why we need art but to imagine a world without art seems very bleak and dark. Art is all about light, perhaps for that very reason. **What does the local artistic community mean to you?** The Southern Highlands has a strong artistic enclave and it gives me great pleasure to be accepted as a part of it. Comfort and inspiration can be had from belonging to a peer group. **The French post-impressionist painter Georges Seurat said 'art is harmony'. Do you relate to that?** There may be harmony in art sometimes but there's also a lot of cacophony.

Del Cooley, Painter, Bundanoon

How do you describe your style? Expressive brushwork and paint application to create dynamic use of colour, texture, movement and atmosphere. **What inspires your art?** The Highlands' skies throughout the seasons are a continual source of inspiration, and also coastal and rural landscapes. Abstract expressionism and Turner, too. **When did you decide to make art your life's work?** At a very young age I loved creating art and then went on to art school in Melbourne, graduating in Fine Arts. **You can choose to have any piece of art in the world. What would it be?** To say one work would exclude so many others. I'd like a collection, as in a gallery, and to bring out different works at different times and places. I could happily live in an art gallery, say the National Gallery of Australia. **Why is art needed in our world?** Art is a nonverbal form of communication. It allows the audience to connect through their senses and feelings rather than being bombarded with constant written and oral information. It provides an opportunity for greater self-reflection and deeper personal insights. **Is opening your studio to the public confronting?** I'm quite comfortable doing it. Some people engage in conversation, others simply enjoy the experience of looking at the paintings. It's just a nice thing to do. **What does the Art Trail bring to the Southern Highlands?** It provides an amazing variety of artistic expression; a smorgasbord of creativity the public can choose to explore over two weekends while enjoying the natural beauty of the Highlands. ►

THE ARTS STUDIO TRAIL

Part of the Southern Highlands Arts Festival, the Arts Studio Trail was initiated and has been run by the Wingecarribee Shire Council for the past 12 years. This year the event, which runs for the first two weekends in November and crosses the Highlands from rural villages to larger communities, involves 40 painters, printmakers, jewellers, woodturners, sculptors, potters, bookbinders, textile artists, ceramicists and photographers, and more than 30 open studios. Jenny Kena, cultural officer with Wingecarribee Shire Council, said last year more than 6500 studio visits were made by locals and visitors, who spent \$46,000 acquiring works. Pick up your free map detailing all participating studios at Destination Southern Highlands Welcome Centre in Mittagong, the Wingecarribee Shire Council, Civic Centre, 68 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale or visit shaf.com.au.



Del Cooley





Diana Kirkpatrick and Neil Boughton

Neil Boughton, Ceramist, Robertson

How do you describe your style? Style is not something that I closely consider as I work intuitively borrowing ideas from many sources including Japanese and Western Neo-classical traditions. **What inspires your art?** Looking at the sky on a clear moonless night, seeing the stars and knowing that we are made of the same stuff. The improbability of my existence in that same universe empowers me to want to capture the beauty of that seeming paradox (even in a small way!) **When did you decide to make art your life's work?** As a 19-year-old in 1978. I was in the Art Gallery of NSW standing in front of a beautiful stoneware blossom vase made by Peter Rushforth. I was already working in a commercial ceramics studio but that vase convinced me. **What is art to you?** All art is communication. Successful art asks the questions at the right time rather than preach. **How important is the Highlands artistic community to you?** I came to live in Robertson in 1984 and was pleasantly surprised to meet some of the local practitioners. In recent years there seems to be so many more which can only be good. There are so many opportunities to share and be challenged by new ideas. **You can choose any piece of art in the world to hang on your wall. What would it be?** Jackson Pollock's "Blue Poles". I often use poured glazes on my vase forms and I have some appreciation of his technical skill. Although, I would need to build a modernist house with five metre ceilings to fit it in. **And finally, what does the Art Trail bring to the Highlands?** Many arts-oriented people from outside come to share a little of the lifestyle of this area. It's a chance to share an authentic experience of making.

Diana Kirkpatrick, Milliner, Robertson

What's your style? I don't follow any style. Rather I love to use found objects that then give me ideas. **Who inspires you?** My grandmother Freda Boughton. She was a milliner and lecturer at TAFE teaching millinery in the 1950 & 60s. Also a close family friend, Nonie McFarlane who excelled and was a master of making corn dollies using wheat. **When did you decide to make it your life's work?** Only now am I making it my life's work. But I would have loved to have done it in the 1990's when I first studied millinery after inheriting my Grandmother's hat blocks, portfolio and lecture notes. **What do you strive to achieve?** To create beautiful hats everyone wants to wear. **What is art to you?** Art to me is telling a story. When people create something it is usually from the heart. Whether you like it or not it is telling you something. **Who inspires you artistically?** My grandmother and her words "your hands should never be idle". Art keeps the mind active. **Do you agree The Southern Highlands has an artistic enclave that is alive and well?** Definitely. Robertson and our surrounding areas are full of talented people.

A FEW MORE STUDIOS NOT TO MISS...

Hillside Pottery, Alpine: master potter Peter Schmid works on a fire brick kiln

Joadja Distillery Studio, Joadja: painters Wendy Hill, Rod Smart & Marlene Murray show work in this historic spot

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Old School House, East Kangaloon: home & studio of Wynne Prize winner Max Miller and partner and fellow artist Janie Miller

Duck Pond Cottage, Burradoo: see work by textile artist & felt maker Margaret Connor

Savanna Caravan, Robertson: a souk of ancient jewellery collected by photojournalist Susan Storm

For details of all participating artists visit shaf.com.au

Thomas Bucich, Sculptor, Colo Vale

How do you describe your style? It's a mix of raw mark-making and textures within the context of bold forms. Both abstract and figurative. **What inspires your art?** Unconventional beauty. Inspired souls. Natural unspoiled environments. **When did you decide to make art your life's work?** It was never a decision, really. More of a realisation that I've always had the need to make things ever since I can remember. **Living or dead, who inspires you artistically?** Michelangelo, Moore, Giacometti. My holy trinity. **You can choose to have any piece of art in the world. What would it be?** The portraits my children made by me when they were tiny. They're all in my studio. **How is the Southern Highlands' artistic enclave important to you?** It's a place where artists are more united than competitive, and we're blessed with an enthusiastic audience and community where even the local council goes to great efforts to support the arts. We're also so lucky to have the inspiring power of nature within arms' reach of a great cappuccino. **Why do we need art in our world?** Art connects people to source. As artists we connect to our source, and something beyond us takes over when we're creating. This magic gets passed on to the viewer, and the experience of the creative process, and hopefully some form of beauty, is shared. **What does the Studio Art Trail bring to the Southern Highlands?** It exposes the spirit of creativity that exists in the Highlands to the public. Art sales are of course a great by-product of the event, but even more important is the ability to showcase art in a very casual, uncommercial way for all to enjoy. 📍



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Retford Park
RIGHT Perennial Hill



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IT'S SPRINGTIME IN THE HIGHLANDS AND LITTLE COULD BE AS FETCHING. FROM TULIP TIME TO OPEN GARDENS, **COME VISIT SOME OF OUR BEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDENS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.** IF YOU LOVE GARDENING AND ALL THINGS GREEN, STRIKING DESIGN AND TRUE OWNER DEDICATION, IT'S THE SEASON TO **GRAB A FELLOW ENTHUSIAST, OR TWO AND GET RAMBLING.**

Tulip Time

'A tulip for every resident of Amsterdam' was the motto of Holland's famous Tulip Festival back in April, and would be a rather lovely maxim for our famous Tulip Time too. One of the oldest floral festivals in Australia, the Highlands Tulip Time started thanks to the efforts of the late Ada Corbett who first pushed the local council for some empty land in Bowral to be turned into a public park in 1910. This year's Tulip Time Festival will see the blooming of more than 75,000 tulips and 15,000 annuals in Bowral's Corbett Gardens. The biggest floral display in NSW, and nudging at the heels of Canberra's Floriade, the 2018 festival is in support of charity partners Wingecarribee Adult Day Care Centre and Dementia Australia, with much loved local Noeline Brown the ambassador. Organisers expect the sweet smelling event will attract more than 65,000 visitors to the Highlands over the two week festival, and more than 35,000 to Corbett Gardens alone. The festival, which began in 1951, will also include 40,000 tulips planted at Destination

Southern Highlands Welcome Centre in Mittagong and Leighton Gardens in Moss Vale. In its 58th year, the festival will include a street parade and other family events (no dogs please). **Tulip Time Festival entry: adults \$12 (concession \$7); children 13-17 \$7. September 18-October 1, Corbett Gardens, Bowral tuliptime.net.au**

Milton Park Country House Hotel Annual Spring Open Gardens

She's one of the Highlands' grand old dames, and Milton Park opens her cool climate gardens to the public during Tulip Time to fundraise for the Bowral & District Hospital Auxiliary Club. Built in 1911 by Anthony Hordern, 'one of the dashing Hordern boys' (as the Sydney press christened him and brothers Sam of Retford Park and Lebbeus of Hopewood House), Milton Park's gardens were designed and developed largely by Anthony's second wife, Mary Bullmore (great aunt of casino magnate James Packer)

with a nod to the English School of Landscape, which swept away strict geometric construct. The gardens are home to octogenarian elms and weeping beeches, 400 rose bushes, 2000 metres of hedges and a bluebell wood. There are also traditional elements such as a sunken garden, Japanese style ponds and wisteria. Devonshire teas are available in the Conservatory Restaurant for \$16.50 per person, and there's lunch in the Orangerie, and self-guided and guided garden tours with Milton Park's head gardener Peter Buerckner. Bookings essential for lunch and guided tours on 4861 8100.

September 18-October 1, 9.30am-4pm. 200 Horderns Road, Bowral miltonpark.com.au

Retford Park: The Art of Giving

When arts patron and philanthropist James Fairfax passed away last year, he gifted his magnificent Bowral home and property Retford Park to the nation through the guardianship of the National Trust. Next month, the Trust will hold The Art of Giving exhibition, which will see 19 reproductions gifted by Fairfax and painted by Fred Williams and Russell Drysdale among others, returned to their former home from the National Gallery of Australia. Highlands artist Ben Quilty will also launch HOME: Drawings by Syrian Children. The stunning gardens will be open during these events, so be sure to book early.

Nov 10-Dec 2, Wednesday-Sunday. Retford Park, 1325 Old South Road, Bowral. nationaltrust.org.au/places/retford-park/ retfordpark@nationaltrust.org.au ►

5th Chapter Estate

The gardens at boutique winery 5th Chapter Estate were established in 1988, a collaboration between owners Roy and Cindy Manassen and designer/gardener Peter Hastings. The inspiration for this seven acre garden set on the 100 acre property comes from pioneer Australian designer Edna Walling, who in turn was influenced by British garden designer Gertrude Jekyll. The extensive gardens are now tended by horticulturists

John and Karen Deer, and are divided into a French garden, Japanese garden, rhododendron walk, central pond and winery garden, linked by a cherry blossom walk. Three fulltime gardeners are employed to tend the hundreds of plant varieties.

September 8-November 11, Saturdays and Sundays plus some Mondays and Fridays (see fifthchapter.com.au/open-dates-for-specific-dates), 10am-3pm. To confirm open garden times and for private viewings, call John on 0435 107 456. Entry

\$10 pp (all funds donated to the Garvan Institute of Medical Research). The cellar door will also be open for wine tastings. No dogs please. 217 Walkers Lane, Avoca. garden@fifthchapter.com.au

Bundanoon Garden Ramble

Now in its 22nd year, the Bundanoon Garden Ramble is a much loved spring event run by the Bundanoon Community Association in the historic, community minded town. This year it will showcase eight gardens, four that have never before been open. Stroll around quaint and quirky Bundanoon to visit this diverse selection of gardens, each unique in design, size and plantings, and talk to the owners about their story and motivation. Or hop on and off the complimentary shuttle bus, which will take you from garden to garden. Also enjoy markets stalls in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall at Bundanoon, or lunch at one of the great local eateries (we love DeliLicious or on Sundays from midday, The Bundanoon Guest House). And keep an eye out for front yard entrants in the local Lions Club's annual scarecrow competition. Tickets will be on sale at the Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall and entry price to all eight gardens is \$20 per person, or \$5 per single entry, useable all weekend. All proceeds go to community projects such as Bundanoon Public School. Kids under 16 free. For group bookings email info@bundanoongardenramble.org.au. **Saturday October 27 & Sunday October 28, 9.30am-4.30pm.**

Greenbrier Park, Mittagong

With views to the Nattai Valley and Blue Mountains, the award winning Greenbrier Park is an English styled garden set in an old eucalypt woodland with perennial borders, lawns, streams and ponds, fountains, beautiful vistas and a large variety of shrubs and natives. **Open by advanced booking to groups of 20 or more. robcon@sctelco.net.au**



Robertson Open Gardens and Spring Plant Fair

Robbo green thumbs open their cool climate gardens this weekend, including five village gardens and two larger country gardens. You'll have access to Prittlewood, one of the Highlands' splendid perennial gardens, with a Japanese garden and reflective lake; Lynwood Farm, a former dairy farm; and Deidre's Garden, a formal garden planned and designed by the former owner, a horticulturalist at Wollongong Botanical Gardens. After you've explored these outdoor beauties rarely open to the public, visit the Spring Plant Fair at the Community Technology Centre in Hoddle Street, and buy up big from 2000 perennials, rare perennials and succulents potted by the Robertson Garden Club. **Saturday October 13 & Sunday 14, 10am-4pm. Entry \$5 per garden or \$20 for seven; for enquiries call Margaret on 0477 213 1441. robertsonopengardens.weebly.com/gardens**

Chinoiserie, Mittagong

This one and a half acre garden was established from a bare paddock by owners Dominic Wong and Chris Styles in 1999 in chinoiserie style, a fusion of European and Chinese elements. As such, the garden is separated into areas, including an English style cottage garden, a Chinese garden, as well as a potager garden and alpine garden. With a nod to the national flower of China, the tree peony, Chinoiserie has more than 120 varieties of peonies which flower in spring, and 1000 varieties of perennials, shrubs, and fruit and ornamental trees. **September 18-November 18, 10am-4.30pm, or by appointment. Entry \$7pp. 23 Webb Street, Mittagong. chinoiserie.com.au, cstyles@ozemail.com.au**

La Kaya, Wildes Meadow

Renowned horticulturist Les Musgrave and his acclaimed botanical artist wife Elaine Musgrave open their beautiful La Kaya for a weekend in support of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. The day will also include a plant sale.

October 20-21, 10am-4pm. Entry \$10pp (all proceeds to the building of the SHBC centre and gardens in Bowral). 68 Clearys Lane, Wildes Meadow. shbg.com.au

Perennial Hill, Mittagong

This one acre garden was established in 2001 by horticulturists Craig and Julie Hulbert, who were inspired by visits to UK gardens Great Dixter in East Sussex, Bressingham Gardens in Norfolk and Bluebell Cottage Gardens in Cheshire. Made up of collections of conifers, dappled woodland areas and summer borders brimming with perennials, the garden is also home to some rare plant species. **September 18-October 1 (check website for other dates). Entry \$10 with proceeds to Challenge Southern Highlands (see below) and the costs of the garden. Tickets available at Welby Garden Centre or garden gates. 1 Nero Street, Mittagong. perennialhill.com.au**

Challenge Southern Highlands, Welby Garden Centre: Open Gardens Fundraiser

Operating from Welby Garden Centre, Challenge Southern Highlands provides training and employment opportunities to adults with disabilities and special needs. (And did you know you can recycle your aluminium coffee pods and any donated cans and bottles there too?) In support of this great local charity, Highlands gardens Perennial Hill (see above) and Bangala will open their garden gates to the public. Bangala will have plants and refreshments available. Tickets available at Welby Garden Centre or garden gates. **Multi ticket \$15 or \$10 per garden. Saturday October 6-Sunday October 7, 10am-4pm. Perennial Hill, 1 Nero Street, Mittagong. Bangala, contact Welby Garden Centre for details. welbygardencentre.com.au**

Red Cow Farm, Sutton Forest

This most charming of gardens and busiest (it gets about 10,000 visitors every year) is the home and work of Ali Mentesh and Wayne Morrissey. Set out on five acres within a structure of secret 'rooms' and spaces, including a monastery and abbess's garden, a woodland and beech walk, a lake, rose garden, bog kitchen, orchard and kitchen garden, Red Cow also has a nursery that sells rare self propagated plants and a shop that stocks local produce, gifts and framed prints of the gardens. It is also home to three very welcoming and friendly border collies (no other dogs allowed). **Entry \$10 for adults. Open daily from September-May, 10am-4pm. 7480 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest. redcowfarm.com.au**

Moidart, Burradoo

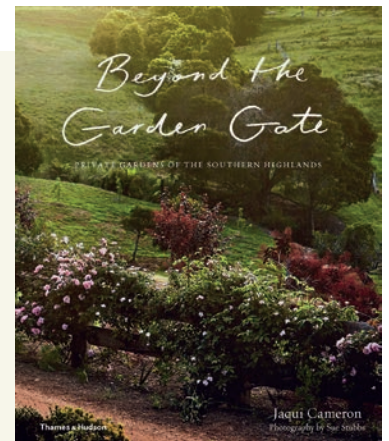
Five acres of rare and specimen plants in a classically planted garden that was started in the 1930s and remains true to its art deco roots. It consists of magnificent trees, including giant sequoia, red oaks, golden elms, chestnuts, London plane trees and copper beech, and has a sunken rose garden and a woodland garden. Moidart operates a rare and collectable nursery not open to the public, however there is a sales stall in the carpark for visitors. **Entry \$7. Open September 11-October 2, 10am-4pm, in spring. Special opening November 11-12 for peony, rose and hydrangea weekend. 19-21 Eridge Park Road, Burradoo. highlandsnsw.com.au**



Beyond the Garden Gate

There are many exquisite gardens created for their owners' eyes only in the Southern Highlands. Which is what makes Jaqui Cameron, writer and owner with husband John of Winter Hill Tree Nursery at Canyonleigh, one lucky duck. Author of recently launched coffee table tome Beyond the Garden Gate, Jaqui takes readers, well, beyond the garden gate to 20 Highlands gardens rarely, if ever seen, by outside eyes, with beautiful photos by Sue Stubbs. Jaqui found her subjects through a mixture of sleuthing and recommendation, and covers a range from the Italian garden, to the courtyard garden, to the native garden. 'There is incredible diversity in the Highlands,' says Jaqui, whose book was launched by style doyen and Highlands resident Colette Dinnigan, part of The Bookshop Bowral's excellent literary forum at Centennial Vineyards Restaurant. 'Some are clipped and designed while others incredibly loose and informal. What I loved the most was learning the story of each garden, because each was unique. But the one similarity was the dedication, commitment and love of the owners.'

Beyond the Garden Gate (Thames & Hudson) is available at The Bookshop Bowral, 313-317 Bong Bong Street, Bowral.





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Wingecarribee Adult Day Centres are a local, not for profit organisation that provides social opportunities within a group environment for people 65 years and older living in the Community and have been running this service for over 30 years. We are a registered charitable organisation and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Your donations will be used to enhance the services we provide to our clients and are very gratefully received.

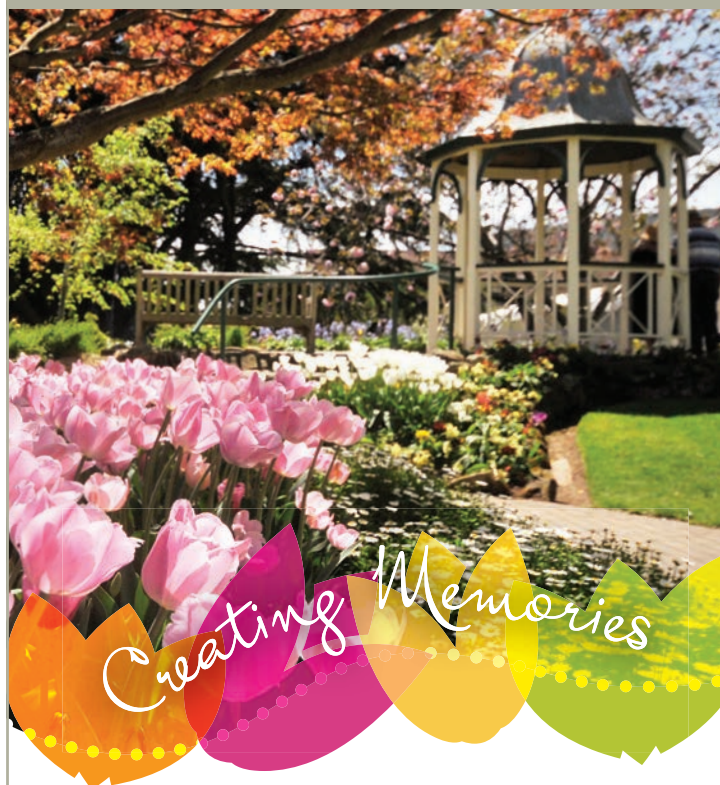


If you or if you know someone who would benefit from joining one of our Groups or would like further information please ring us on 4862 1174.

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My name is GAI WATERHOUSE

My life in five words is... Fulfilling, happy, challenging, family orientated, exciting. **I spend my time between Sydney and the Southern Highlands because...** We have a small homestead here and our family loves to share it with us. **I love the Highlands because...** we adore the lifestyle, the people we have met. It has changed our life dramatically for the better. We entertain more in the Highlands than in Sydney. It is a great escape. **I have been coming to the Highlands for...** 4 years. **My favourite thing to do in the Southern Highlands is...** enjoy the farm with family and friends. **Followers on Instagram see...** images of horses and family. **When it comes to horses, this is one truth I know...** They need lots of attention. **I have been training horses for...** all my life. **You will never see me at the racetrack without...** my lipstick. **In a sentence, my horse training philosophy is...** attention to detail. **My top tip for those looking to become a successful racehorse trainer is...** go and work with the best. **The most precious piece of advice Dad gave me was...** when you go to the sales, look for a champion, don't just buy a horse. **Qualities that have helped make me a top horse trainer are...** I'm very focused, a secure marriage, love and passion for what I do. **The qualities a horse needs to become a champion include...** athleticism, natural



Gai Waterhouse was born into a life of horse racing. Her father, TJ Smith, was one of the country's best loved and most successful trainers, and since taking the reins at Tulloch Lodge 26 years ago, his only child Gai has gone on to emulate his success with more than 138 Group 1 Winners under her belt. When not trackside, training champion thoroughbreds, working with racing manager Adrian Bott (pictured right), or spending time with her children and grandchildren, Gai retires to her Highlands hideaway with husband Robbie for a few days grace before heading back into the fray. Escape SH catches up with Gai as the Australian calendar of spring racing events arrives. 📍

 @gai_waterhouse

ability and the will to win. **When in the Highlands I always take visitors to...** the Shaggy Cow, the Station Coffee House and Toshi's Japanese Restaurant in Mittagong, and Eccetera Trattoria Pizzeria for great pizza in Bowral. **My favourite place in the Highlands is...** Lydie du Bray Antiques, Braemar. **I never leave the Highlands without...** forgetting something. **In terms of racehorses, the Highlands is...** a leading breeding group of mostly boutique studs. A great climate for horses' development. **My sweetest tasting career victory came...** when I won the Melbourne Cup in 2013 with Fiorenze. **The lessons I hope my children learn from me are...** to be good parents (which they are) and to work hard in their chosen careers (which they do). **If I hadn't spent a lifetime with horses, I might have...** Not sure. Haven't really thought about it. **The biggest win I still hope to achieve is...** to win at Ascot with the girls only syndicate Global Glamour. And I'd love to win the Breeders' Cup in America. **One day I hope people will remember me...** with fond memories.

Visionary VINTAGE

IT SEEMS A NATURAL FIT. BOWRAL VINTAGE AND ANTIQUE EMPORIUM DIRTY JANES WILL HOLD AN **EXHIBITION OF COUTURE DRESSES** BY SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS DESIGNERS. **CHARLOTTE SMITH, OWNER OF THE EPONYMOUSLY NAMED FASHION COLLECTION**, EXPLAINS HOW SHE CAME TO INHERIT ONE OF THE LARGEST VINTAGE WARDROBES IN THE WORLD, AND **HOW AN OUTFIT CAN DEFINE A WOMAN.**

Charlotte Smith had little interest in other people's clothing before her godmother Doris Darnell bequeathed her vast collection of 3000 vintage haute couture and demi couture dresses 15 years ago.

'I didn't know anything about fashion history but I did love fashion and had an incredible wardrobe of my own,' recalls Charlotte (pictured right). 'Initially, though, it was the stories behind the dresses which showcase 300 years of fashion that peaked my interest.'

The important collection includes hats, hat pins, shoes and jewellery as well as demi couture and couture party dresses, cocktail dresses and furs from the 1800s up to the 21st century. There are garments from the Georgian and Victorian periods as well as from pioneers of modern fashion such as Christian Dior, Coco Chanel, Hubert de Givenchy and Oscar de la Renta. And Lucile, Lady Duff-Gordon, a 1900s British couturier who survived the sinking of the Titanic. The collection was accumulated over 70 years by Doris Darnell, an American.

'She was Quaker and the whole collection began when she began dressing up from a box in the attic of her Pennsylvania family home,' explains Charlotte.





'It was the 1930s and as she started wearing some of these outfits out socially, people began to comment. Back then, if you were wearing other peoples' clothing it generally meant you couldn't afford your own. But Doris was always a maverick and she enjoyed wearing them, and telling the story about the woman whose dress, hat or handbag it was. Her reputation grew and as she accumulated more, people gave her more.'

The 10 day exhibition at Dirty Janes Bowral is called One Enchanted Evening and will showcase 20 of Charlotte's couture dresses by iconic designers including Dior, Oscar de la Renta

and Leonard of Paris. The exhibition's title is a nod to Charlotte's third book, and illustrator Grant Cowan will be with her at the opening night charity champagne supper, with some original illustrations for sale.

'Just like the pioneer designers of the late 1800s and early 1900s who didn't use photographs or have catwalk plates, Grant has picked up on all the original features of couture by illustrating each dress in incredible detail. I think people will enjoy seeing the real thing and Grant's illustration.'

Over the past 15 years Charlotte has added extensively to her collection, which now numbers 9000 pieces. She keeps the priceless social history capsule in a climate controlled storage facility in Sydney.

'I have always loved the idea that what you wear can transform and empower you, and can change an evening, a moment or a lifetime.' 📸



DETAILS

One Enchanted Evening charity opening night champagne supper from 7pm Friday October 26. Charlotte will talk about the collection and sign books.

Dirty Janes Bowral, 13-15 Banyette Street, Bowral

The exhibition runs from October 27 to November 4, 2018. Funds raised will go to Dr Catherine Hamlin's work at the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. Bookings essential through dirtyjanes.com



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Limited tickets available to the Opening Night champagne supper and talk by Charlotte Smith.

Visit www.dirtyjanes.com for tickets.

Exhibition opens daily 10-5 by donation. Proceeds benefit the Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation.

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SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS markets

Love unearthing locally made delights? Look no further. The regular markets held in villages and towns across the Highlands are a great way to gain real insight into the creative side of the region. Come see what our artisans are making and our producers are growing. 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

BUNDANOON MAKERS MARKET

First and Third Sunday of the month 8.30am-2pm (except January). Bundanoon Memorial Hall, Railway Parade, Bundanoon

Sewers, knitters, woodworkers, photographers; leatherwork and silver jewellery; fresh fruit and vegetables, freshly baked bread, Lebanese take home meals, hot Indian dishes, Japanese pancakes, honey and eggs, cakes, pies and melting moments all make this market well worth the scenic drive to Bundanoon. Details 0411 297 963

EXETER VILLAGE MARKETS

**FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 9AM-2PM
EXETER VILLAGE OVAL, 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. DETAILS 0409 152 022

Crop-Swap

Saturday 9.30am-10.30am

Robertson Bowling Club, Hoddle Street, Robertson

Bring your excess veg, fruit, magazines, empty or full jam jars, egg, egg cartons, or plants and swap with other local green thumbs for whatever it is on offer and or in season. All welcome but please be aware excess produce is swapped. No money exchanges hands. Buy a egg bacon and sausage bun/tea/coffee if you fancy one.

FRI-YAY Street Feast

Third Friday of the month 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. @themillbowral

MOSS VALE FARMERS & FLEA MARKET

**FOURTH SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
8AM-1PM (EXCEPT JANUARY)**

**MOSS VALE SHOWGROUND,
ILLAWARRA HIGHWAY, MOSS VALE**

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. MARKETS@MOSSVALESHOW.COM.AU

RAILWAY STREET FARMERS MARKET

**Thursdays 3.30pm-5pm
(3pm-6pm during Daylight
saving after October 1)**

**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.

Details 0468 331 738

Berrima SCHOOLYARD MARKET

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 9AM-2.30PM (EXCEPT JANUARY)
AND SECOND SUNDAY IN DECEMBER. OXLEY STREET, BERRIMA**

MORE THAN 50 STALLS WITH EVERYTHING FROM FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE TO ARTISANAL WARES, GOURMET GOODIES FOR THE PANTRY OR AS A GREAT GIFT. PLUS PLENTY TO KEEP THE KIDS ENTERTAINED, INCLUDING A JUMPING CASTLE AND ART CLASSES, AND THE FABULOUS STEPHANIE ALEXANDER CAFE RUN BY THE SCHOOL. DETAILS 0488 004 421

ROBERTSON MARKETS

**SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
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. Details 0408 238 575

Colo Vale Community Markets

First Saturday of the month 9am-2pm (except January)

Colo Vale Village 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 and is a great market often with worthy themes. Details 4889 4129

BOWRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL MARKETS

**SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 8AM-1PM
(EXCEPT JANUARY). BENDOOLEY STREET, BOWRAL**

A LIVELY AND ECLECTIC MARKET WITH LOCAL PRODUCE AND PLANTS, HANDCRAFTED TOYS AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING ALONGSIDE FABULOUS FOOD STALLS TO SUIT EVERY TASTE. DETAILS ENQUIRE@BOWRALPSMARKET.COM

MITTAGONG MARKETS

THIRD AND FIFTH SATURDAY 8AM-2PM

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ARTS FOR ALL

IN ITS PERPETUAL STATE OF BLOSSOMING GROWTH, THE HIGHLANDS CONTINUES TO ATTRACT CREATIVE SOULS AND ARTISTIC ENTREPRENEURS WHO INJECT FRESH FLAVOUR AND EXCITEMENT INTO OUR CULTURAL MELANGE. THIS SPRING WE ARE DELIGHTED TO **WELCOME TWO NEW GALLERIES TO OUR ARTS SCENE, THE POCKET SIZED DARLING MILLS GALLERY IN MITTAGONG, AND MABÛ GALLERY IN BERRIMA**, STOCKED WITH WELL TRAVELLED ART AND ARTEFACTS. ELSEWHERE, THERE'S PLENTY TO FEED THE SENSES, INCLUDING THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ARTS TRAIL AND A SPECTACULAR EXHIBITION OF AUSTRALIAN MASTERPIECE REPRODUCTIONS AT NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) PROPERTY RETFORD PARK, AS WELL AS OTHER FABULOUS EXHIBITIONS AT THE MILK FACTORY GALLERY IN BOWRAL AND STURT GALLERY IN MITTAGONG.

WORDS **AMANDA MACKEVICIUS**



TuckedAway, Rachel Moodie

Darling Mills Studio Gallery

Enveloped within a vintage caravan, nestled inside Just A Smidge design store in Mittagong, Darling Mills is the creative love child of digital artist and author Rachel Moodie. Although tiny, step inside this sweet space and it unfolds to reveal diverse and joyous work from a vibrant collection of contemporary female artists. Spring exhibitions include Just a Square, which features small square works in mixed media (until September 18) and Spring Tea Party with wild works befitting a mad tea party from September 22 to October 23.

16A Bowral Road, Mittagong
darlingmillsstudio.com

Retford Park

As mentioned upfront, during November don't miss an exhibition of life size prints of iconic Australian paintings bequeathed to the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra by the late James Fairfax AC, longtime owner of Retford Park in Bowral.

Works by Eugne von Guérard, John Olsen, Fred Williams, Sidney Nolan, Russell Drysdale, Charles Blackman and others will return to their former home, the Victorian Italianate mansion Retford Park, gifted by Mr Fairfax to the National Trust in 2016 for historic conservation and the enjoyment of the community. Also part of this event is the inaugural exhibition by 'Artists of the Round Yard', a group of 25 artists based at Retford Park. Themed 'Giving', in tribute to the philanthropic endeavours that make this exhibition possible, it will be held in the property's outbuildings. The magnificent gardens will also be open to the public throughout the exhibitions. **Nov 10–Dec 2, Retford Park, 1325 Old South Road, Bowral. All details and bookings at nationaltrust.org.au/places/retford-park/**



'Sunburst' Oil on Board, 30x30cms by David Welch

Sturt Gallery

Uniting a creative trio deeply connected to nature, Visual feast - Two Artists and a Chef presents work inspired by the culinary artistry of Biota Dining's chef James Viles, landscape painter Juliet Holmes à Court and textile artist Ruth Levine. The two inspired artists will interpret Viles' recipes into shape, colour and texture, reforming the frothy whites and the flaming reds of fish roe into landscapes and objects of wonder.

September 23-November 12, Sturt Gallery, cnr Range Road and Waverley Parade, Mittagong
sturt.nsw.edu.au

The Milk Factory Gallery and Exhibition Space

An exhibition of wonderfully textural New & Recent Works in oils by Felicia Aroney runs from September 8-30. Aroney's love of Australian flora and indigenous art influences her landscape, abstract and joyous works of spring. David Welch's exquisite landscapes will be on display in The Highlands, a Celebration, alongside works from Ros Goody inspired by her travels. **Nov 3-Dec 3, 33 Station Street, Bowral. milkfactory.com.au**

Bowral Art Gallery & BDAS (Bowral District Art Society)

There's a flurry of nine exhibitions at BDAS this spring, including the annual Copes Portrait Prize from September 21 to October 1, this year with much loved Highlander Noeline Brown as the subject. The popular Kids on Show exhibition runs from November 23 to December 2 and features work by local primary school students. Visit the website for full exhibition details and entry forms. **10am-4pm daily, 1 Short Street, Bowral. bdasgallery.com**

MABÛ Gallery and shop

Having recently moved to the Highlands after 12 years based in Paris and Barcelona, photographer and printmaker Mary Anne Brophy has been producing works with a European theme and flavour. Think famous monuments, the natural beauty of a Tuscan olive grove or a burst of spring blossom by the Seine. Mary Anne employs an unusual photographic technique that gives her images a fluid movement and luminous quality. You'll also find exotic handmade and authentic art and crafts in the gallery shop. **Thursday-Monday 10am-5pm, 17 Old Hume Highway, Berrima maryannebrophy.com**



Darling Mills Studio Gallery

KANGAROO VALLEY ART PRIZE 2018

EXHIBITION & ART SALE
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CURATOR ALLAN BAPTIST OAM
JUDGES NATALIA BRADSHAW &
THERESE KENYON



artsinthevalley.net.au/visual-arts



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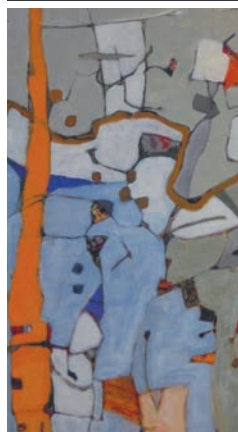


1 Short Street
Bowral NSW 2576

Phone 02 4861 4093

Email
office@bdasgallery.com

Website:
bdasgallery.com





ASK A
LOCAL

THE MELODIOUS TONES OF **ANDREW FORD**

ARE LOVED BY **ABC RADIO NATIONAL** LISTENERS AUSTRALIA WIDE WHO KNOW HIM AS THE LONGTIME **HOST OF THE MUSIC SHOW ON SATURDAY MORNINGS. THE ROBERTSON LOCAL**, WHO IS ALSO **A WRITER AND AN ACCLAIMED COMPOSER**, HAS HAD HIS WORKS COMMISSIONED AND PERFORMED BY SOME OF THE MOST ESTEEMED SINGERS, ORCHESTRAS, ENSEMBLES AND QUARTETS AROUND THE GLOBE. RECENTLY HE SHARED HIS THOUGHTS WITH ESCAPE ON **PIANO PRACTICE, INSPIRATION AND HIS NEXT BIG PIECE.**

What do you like about living here? Anything not to like? I like the weather, especially in winter. But I wish the trains were faster. **How did a boy from Liverpool end up in Robertson via Wollongong?** Actually it wasn't just via Wollongong, it was via South-East London and Lancaster and Bradford and Wollongong and Sydney. We moved here in 2000.

You grew up in the UK during the time of The Beatles and other Sixties' pop groups. Did you ever imagine music would become your career? I expected to be a primary school teacher (which, by the way, I consider the most important job in the world). I stumbled into music. I still think 'career' is an odd word for what I do. **What was it about formal composition that attracted you?** I was seduced by the orchestra. It's a world of sound. I like writing orchestral music more than anything else. If 80 plus people are going to play together, they can't just make it up. Someone needs to plan the thing. That's the composer's job. **Are people surprised to learn you never really learnt to play the piano?** I tinker at the piano, but I imagine music in my head and then work it out on paper (I still use a pencil and paper). It's hard to explain. You'd have to watch me at work, and even then you'd probably just think I was a bit odd.

Composing, writing, broadcasting. Do you love all three parts of your life equally? Composing is the hardest and so the most fulfilling. But I do enjoy both the other things. **How do you become a composer?** You have to work very hard and write and write. Then you need luck. Of course you can't teach that! But you must have both thin skin (for the creative bit) and thick skin (for the disappointments). And it's not about self promotion and great websites. You might talk your way into a first performance, but if your music's no good, there won't be any more. **How many pieces have you written. Do you have a favourite?** More than a hundred, I expect. Favourites? My next piece is going to be brilliant! **You've interviewed hundreds of musicians. Who are you still to meet?** Keith Jarrett, though he can be very grumpy. Joni Mitchell, ditto. Kate Bush. **The highpoint of your career?** Did I mention my next piece? **When you are working on a piece, does it take on a life of its own?** If it's going well, yes.

It's a wonderful feeling being bossed around by a piece of music. **Do your compositions have a common thread running through them?** I suppose I'm their common thread. **Who or what inspires your music?** It's quite hard to say. I mentioned that music is my job, so that's a kind of inspiration. A lot of people feel that music is about other things, like birth, death, falling in love, landscapes. But really it's about itself. **What's the best piece of advice you have ever received?** Do your piano practice. Pity I didn't take it. **What or who are the loves of your life?** My wife and eight-year-old daughter. I don't really like leaving them, so it's good that I work at home as much as I do. **What's your favourite place to go in the Highlands and why?** The Robertson graveyard. It has a beautiful view and a very special atmosphere. **Where do you always take friends who come to visit the Highlands?** See above. I always take visitors there. **The Sea and the Mirror** has its world premiere in Canberra on **September 22. Do you ever premiere works in the Highlands?** The biggest piece I've composed for a local premiere was *A Singing Quilt* in 2008. That was for seven local choirs (formed up into one big choir) in Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall. **You and your friend and neighbour artist Ben Quilty are collaborating together on a project. What is it?** It's fluid. But I'll keep you posted! **And, finally, please finish this sentence: Old composers never die, they just ...** repeat themselves. ■

See the Southern Highlands
from the seat of a bike



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ON YER BIKE!

FEELING A LITTLE DUSTY AFTER WINTER? NEED TO GET THE BLOOD PUMPING AND THE HEART RACING? WELL YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE. **THE BOWRAL CLASSIC, ONE OF NSW'S LEADING GRAN FONDO CYCLING EVENTS**, TAKES PLACE NEXT MONTH WITH COURSES FOR PROS AND NOVICES ALIKE. SO GET YOUR TRUSTY PUSHY OUT OF THE GARAGE AND GET LYCRA READY.

You've heard of the popular walk and wine type of Southern Highlands tourism? Walk to the cellar door and try the wine. Well, the Bowral Classic Cycling event is offering something similar when it returns for the third year. Only for those who prefer to ride, not walk.

The 35km Social Classic event is for those with lots of time on their hands, and not a great deal of fuel in their pegs. Competitors will be given tokens to use at local cafes along the way on the day, which all sounds very civilised. So if coffee and a bit of leisurely biking is your thing, book into this event and let the more serious sorts get on with the competitive stuff out front.

Starting from Eridge Park Velodrome on Sunday October 21, this year's Bowral Classic includes the new 175km Maxi Classic for serious road racers who relish the challenge of a 2097m ascent. Beginning uphill on Oxley Hill, the race will pass through some spectacular Highlands scenery. If 175km is pushing it, sign up instead for the 120km Challenge Classic, with an ascent of 1492m, that will loop

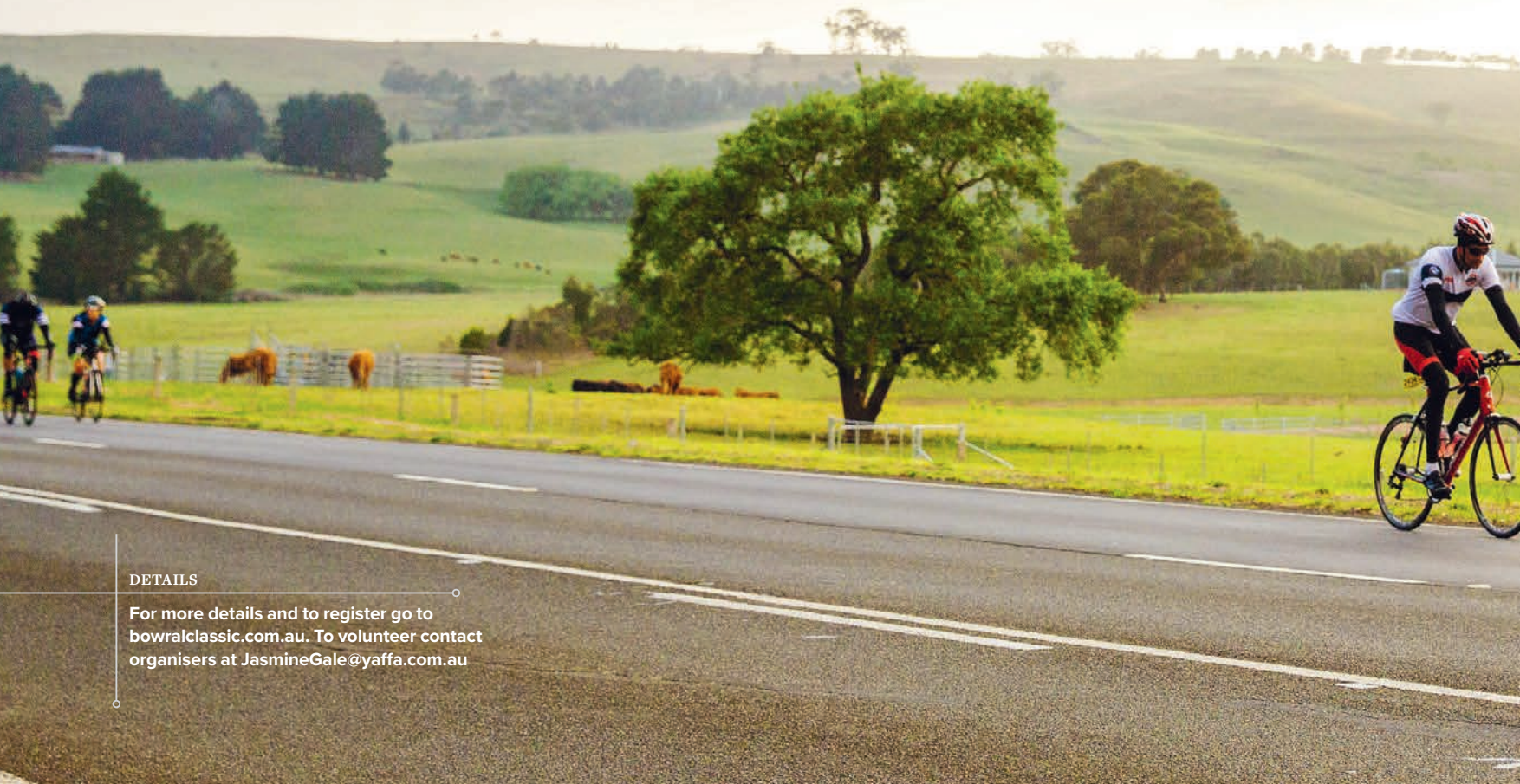
riders through Berrima, Moss Vale and Bundanoon. Or the 90km Rouleurs Classic, which is like the 120km version only missing out Bundanoon.

Budding Brad McGees aged 12-16 are eligible to sign up for the Maxi, Challenge or Rouleurs events if they have a Cycling Australia Race Licence. Children over the age of 10 are accepted to ride in the Social Classic, although all kids under the age of 16 need to be accompanied by an adult (and presumably a tyre pump).

Lame jokes aside, this is a big deal for the Highlands. Last year's Bowral Classic attracted 3000 riders and raised more than \$250,000 for charity as nominated by each rider. And it's a pretty cool way to get the lay of the land too, as cyclists transverse the Highlands riding through Bowral, Berrima, Moss Vale, Mittagong, Exeter, Bundanoon, Fitzroy Falls, Robertson and Kangaloon. This year's event is expected to be even bigger with 4000 overnight visitors expected to inject an estimated \$1.5 million into our economy over the weekend. Better get pedalling.

DETAILS

For more details and to register go to bowralclassic.com.au. To volunteer contact organisers at JasmineGale@yaffa.com.au



OF COURSE YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SEASONED CYCLIST TO ENJOY SOME GREAT BIKING IN THE HIGHLANDS. HERE ARE A FEW OTHER TWO WHEELED IDEAS TO GET YOUR SELF-PROPELLED MOTOR RUNNING.

LOCAL LEGENDS

The Southern Highlands punches above its weight when it comes to producing world class cyclists. Moss Vale's Caleb Ewan, now 23, is one of the hottest young Australian riders on the European tour at the moment, despite the recent decision by Australian team Mitchelton-Scott not to give him his debut in the Tour de France.

At home, three times gold medal Olympic cycle champion Brad McGee continues to support the local scene alongside wife Sharni and race organiser Zac Hulm, by hosting the Twin Falls Cottages Rare Cancers Australia Mountain Bike Challenge on their private seven kilometre Fitzroy Fall track in May. If you want to take a turn or two around the track, best book to stay at the McGee's Twin Falls Bush Cottages, which back onto the glorious Morton National Park at Fitzroy Falls.

Also, biking accolades must go to the Southern Highlands Cycling Club, which continues to inspire and provide opportunity for our seasoned and improving mountain bike riders. One of the only clubs in NSW to operate across road, mountain and track disciplines, visit them at Welby if you want to get yourself or your kids more serious about riding. Or check out their website for a full winter program of events as well as weekday and weekend social rides.

twinfallsbushcottages.com

southernhighlandsccl.com.au

MAP IT OUT

Makes sense that one of the biggest supporters of biking in the Highlands, The Fixed Wheel, is also producer of a series of handy maps for mountain bikers, road cyclists and their families. Sponsor of the Willo Enduro Mountain Bike, The Fixed Wheel race team, the SHCC, consists of owner John McGill and manager Peter Dowse, who is also coach of wife Meaghan Stanton, Australian national mountain bike champion. Their detailed maps give routes from Wingello State Forest through to Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale. Each offers advice on required fitness levels, distance, altitude and time to ride. Grab your free copies at The Fixed Wheel or Destination Southern Highlands, Mittagong.

Unit 15/63-69 Kirkham Road, Bowral
thefixedwheel.com.au

PICNIC PEDAL POWER

If your idea of biking is finding a nice picnic spot and kicking back, then preorder a picnic at two hatted Biota Dining in Bowral and go exploring on one of the house bikes. A bike with helmet and lock plus picnic lunch is \$85pp for three hours. Lunch includes Biota goodies of the day. Bookings limited.

biotadining.com

FAMILY FUN RIDE, BONG BONG COMMON, BURRADOO

We're not sure if the name of this ride to celebrate NSW Bike Week is a trick question because in our experience zillions of little people on bikes generally leads to one thing. Pandemonium! But we like the sentiment of this community minded 9km event that starts at 10am from the Burradoo end of the Bong Bong track. The day will also feature face painting, a treasure hunt for kids and a gold coin donation sausage sizzle with all proceeds going to the fabulous local charity, Bicycles for Change. A fun morning out even with the prospect of flat tyres and skinned knees. **Sunday September 23, Bong Bong Common, Burradoo. Register at wsc.nsw.gov.au**

SWOOPING ASSASSINS

There is no getting away from the fact that spring equals swooping magpies. But forewarned is forearmed, so join the Magpie Alert online community, and find out where attacks are taking place. Alternately, attach sticks/sharp spikes to your helmet and ride on Macduff. magpiealert.com



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WILD AT HOME

SPRING IS THE TIME FOR REBIRTH AND RENEWAL. THE TIME TO **PUT YOURSELF OUT THERE, TRY NEW THINGS AND DISCOVER NEW CORNERS OF OUR PART OF THE WORLD YOU'VE NEVER VISITED.** CHECK OUT THESE GREAT EXPERIENCES AND **REBOOT YOUR ZEST FOR LIFE LOCALLY.**

FURTHER AFIELD

If you love music and folk who love music, Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival is on again this spring with local, national and international acts, including Benji and the Saltwater Sound System, Berlin cabaret band The Beez, Black Joak Morris and many more. **October 19-21, kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au**

WILDFEST WILDERNESS FESTIVAL

The perfect outdoor experience platform to help you and yours become explorers in your own neighbourhood, WILDFest launched last year in the Southern Highlands for all those who love food, nature and adventure. This year's schedule of events is bigger and better and includes glamping retreats, wilderness camps, outdoor feasts, creative classes and family events. Running from September 29 to October 7, there is something for every adventurer, and everyone else who wishes they were. Here are a few of Escape's favourites:

WILDERNESS WALKS

With the plethora of walks around, it can be hard to find the best ones. This guided tour takes you off track on either a rainforest hike through Morton National park to Gerringong Falls, or from Belmore to Mushroom Falls.

September 29 or October 1.
Guided hike \$95 and BYO lunch or \$120 with lunch included.

FOREST BATHING

Don't panic. This experience is not about getting your kit off in the bush, although that might appeal to some. Forest bathing is not a hike or even a walk, but a learned technique that shows you how to use your five senses on a sensory journey in nature.

October 2 or 6, \$40 pp.

WILD SPIRIT CHALLENGE

Hands on camping and canoe experience over a three day and two night guided canoe trip with Travis Frenay of Paddle & Portage Canoes from Tallowa Dam, Kangaroo Valley. See places only accessible by water and camp overnight in stunning national parks. **October 2-4,**

\$950pp with equipment, food, canoes and guides included.

Only 12 places available.

Or try these...

Wildly Creative, a one day random weave basketry workshop with Catriona Pollard, Rewilding Mini Breaks and Fire Cooking Classes. For more highlights and details, go to wildfest.com.au.

FAB FARMSTAYS

Redleaf Farm

In the farming game, diversification has long been a buzz word. That is, not putting all your farming eggs in one basket, and ensuring off farm

income where possible. There are many hardworking farmers doing just that locally today, including the gang at Redleaf Farm at Fitzroy Falls. Awarded a gold medal last month by delicious magazine for their free range suckling pig, this farming family also offers luxurious and unique on farm accommodation in the form of two beautifully renovated train carriages, one in a glorious silver gum setting with outdoor bathtub, and sleeping up to four guests each carriage. Stays can be customised with meals, farm tours, bushwalks and swags for additional guests (the kids!) who may like to camp out. Wake to the sounds of the farm animals and give your family a real life farm experience. **For more details**

go to redleaf-farm.com

Or try these...

Exeter Farm Stay, Exeter, exeterfarmstay.com.au
Fairway Farm, Wildes Meadow, fairwayfarm@bigpond.com
Willowview Farmstay, Brayton, willowviewfarmstay.com.au
Laurel View Farm Stay, Robertson, laurelview.net.au
Morvern Valley Farm Cottages, Bundanoon, morvern-valley.com
Farm Club Australia, Werai, farmclubaustralia.com.au

FOOD AND FLYERS

If you are a mobile aircraft enthusiast

there's something for you too. NOSHtrekker, another experience provider, has introduced full day fly and dine adventures. Enjoy a morning private flying session on a private property with open paddocks in Mittagong, Burrawang or Canyonleigh before enjoying a paddock to plate tour & BBQ lunch; a home cooked sensorial lunch or a lunch in a rustic local cafe, or a winery tour and chef's table at a cold climate winery.

Wed Oct 3 & Thurs Oct 4.

noshtrekker.com

GO IT ALONE

If you prefer to stride out under your own steam, do your homework first. National Parks & Wildlife have a terrific website that lists local walks and campsites, many of which are free. Or pick up some maps and advice from Destination Southern Highlands Welcome Centre in Mittagong. We love the Bong Bong track, Moss Vale; Gibbergunyah Reserve, Bowral; Box Vale Track, Mittagong (see if you can spot any koalas see our story page 138) and Morton National Park. And as the weather warms up, check out @WildSwimmingInAustralia and find some beautiful waterholes for some springy dipping. Sure to blow the winter cobwebs away. **📍**



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KIDS WHAT'S ON

WITH WARMER WEATHER HERE, THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THE KIDS TO ARGUE IT'S TOO COLD TO GO OUTSIDE. SO GET THEM OFF THOSE GAMING DEVICES AND SCREENS AND OUT INTO THE GREAT BLUE YONDER. **HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS TO HELP.**

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

It's great to see Anna Phillips at The Cook's Cooking School offering family and young cooks classes, like her Family Tacos & Churros Class in October. You could also try any of the mouthwatering sounding lessons yourself, like Inside the French Kitchen with local Babette Hayes OAM, Brioche to Terrine with Jonathan Trouillet of Bistro Moncur in Mosman, or Inside the Vietnamese Kitchen with Peter Nguyen. Get the kids booked in and you could be having Taco Tuesday like we do every Tuesday at our place. **Young Cook's Classes, Thursday October 4, 5.30-8.30pm & Wednesday October 10, 10.30am-1.30pm. 15-17 Kirkham Road, Bowral** thecookscookingschool.com.au



ASHTON PARK SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

If day activities are more your kids' speed, Ashton Park at Moss Vale, owned by former politician turned enterprising farmer Peta Seaton, is holding its creative holiday workshops again. For children aged nine and above, classes include mosaic, block printing and sculpture. And you can go back yourself in late November and learn to make Christmas cocktails with Noble Spirits. Sounds rather fetching. **School holiday creative workshops, Tuesday-Friday October 2-5, 10am-3pm, \$110pp each or \$480pp for all. Christmas cocktails with Noble Spirits, Saturday November 24, 4-6pm, \$70pp or \$130 for two. @ashtonparkmossvale**

WALKIES

Grab the kids and the dog and head out to Robertson for the Robertson Heritage Railway Station and Friends of Wingecarribee Animal Shelter Railway (FOWAS) Waratah Walk. The fun walk starts from Robertson Station and continues for 800m, or a gentle 2.2kms about the town. All dogs must be on a leash at all times, and healthy and friendly. The same goes for the owners without the leash bit. You can walk with a real dog, or a toy one apparently and walkers and canines are encouraged to wear something red, presumably for the Waratah bit. Held before Walktober and Dogtober but after Be Kind to Animals Week (all worthwhile), all monies raised will help continue to maintain Robertson's heritage station and grounds. **Sunday October 14, 1pm. Starts at Robertson Railway Station. Cost \$5 per dog family. accn@bigpond.com**

RIVERCARE

Ask a Millennial what they most worry about and the majority will tell you the 'about the environment'. And quite right too. So here's your chance to spend time outside with your kids, be community minded and help the environment. Win, win, win. The Wingecarribee Rivercare Group – Burradoo is holding its inaugural working bee this month to improve the river environment and they're looking for volunteers. The Wingecarribee River flows through the heart of the Highlands, starting its journey in the east near Robertson and finishing where it joins the Wollondilly River on the western boundary of the Shire in Bullio. Along its 80km journey, it passes through extensive rural landscapes in the east, and more rugged landscapes to the west. The river itself is a Crown Waterway, meaning it is owned and managed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (see link below). Rivercare is all about improving habitats, biodiversity and functioning of our waterways. Which brings me to the platypus and council's Platypus Conservation Project (read about its fellow local marsupial, the koala, on page 138). Cleaning up our waterways will help encourage more platypuses to move into the Highlands, but if you're on the hunt to see one, here are some of the best places to look: Wingecarribee River, Berrima; Black Bob's Creek, Exeter; Burrawang Creek, Burrawang; Cecil Hoskins Reserve, Moss Vale; Paddy's River, Canyonleigh; Stonequarry Creek, Werrai; Long Swamp Creek, Sutton Forest. **Rivercare Working Bee, Burradoo end of the Bong Bong Bike Track, Friday September 21, 9.30am (then every third Friday after). Children need to be accompanied by an adult. To report any platypus sightings, contact citizen.science@wsc.nsw.gov.au**



GET ACTIVE

TALLONG HOLIDAY PROGRAM

As a kid I always thought school holiday camps sounded good. As a working parent I think they sound even better. Sydney girls' school Santa Sabina has an outdoor education and retreat centre in the Southern Highlands at Tallong, just past Penrose, that it opens to other young people in the school holidays. The next school holiday camp is a five day bush adventure for kids aged seven to 14 that includes self defence, mountain biking, archery, high ropes, flying fox, cooking, and arts and crafts. The cost includes four nights' accommodation, all meals and equipment. There's a day only package available too. **Tallong Holiday Program, October 8-12, \$415 per child. For more information, contact tallong@ssc.nsw.edu.au**

KAPUT!

'Break a leg' is an old stage idiom used in theatre to wish performers good luck. Acclaimed acrobatic clown Tom Flanagan took it a bit literally on his last visit to the Highlands for the debut of his one man show, KAPUT. He ended up in hospital. Now recovered, Tom is returning to finish his run here, and to show audiences why his slapstick aerobic comedy has won acclaim at festivals such as the Edinburgh Fringe. **Saturday October 13, 3pm & 7pm, The Highlands School of Performing Arts. 73 Kirkham Road, Bowral** thspa.com.au

HIGHLANDS ESSENTIALS

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

EMERGENCY:

Fire / Ambulance / Police 000

Bowral Fire Station 16 Merrigang St, Bowral, 4862 1446

Mittagong Fire Station 10 Bowral Road, Mittagong 4871 1002

Moss Vale Fire Station Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1288

Bowral Police Station 53 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral 4869 7899

(stations only open Saturday 8am-4.30pm)

Southern Highlands Police Centre, newly opened Hume Police District area control. Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale 4862 7899 Open 24 Hours.

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

Highland Chauffeured Hire Cars 4872 3038 or 0400 921 239 **Call And Back** 0408 211267

Transport Info Line (Trains) 13 15 00

Railway Stations: **Bowral** Station St; **Mittagong** Regents St; **Moss Vale** Argyle St

Berrima Bus Lines 90 Old Bowral Rd, Mittagong 4871 3211

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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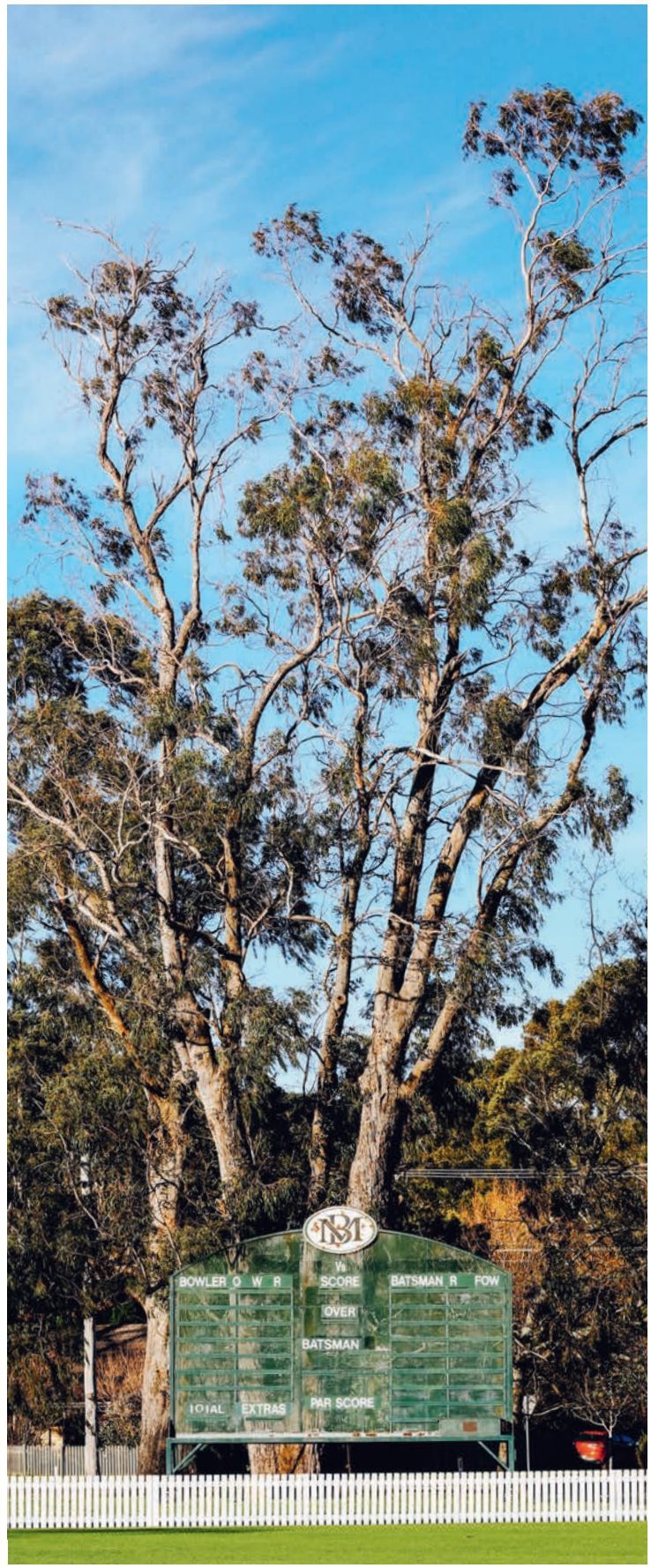
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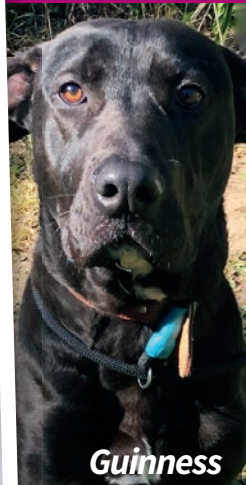
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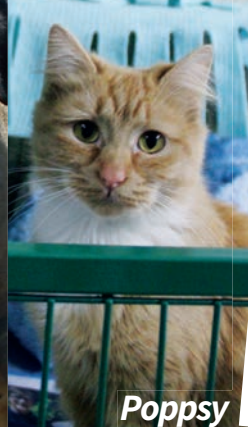
Charlie



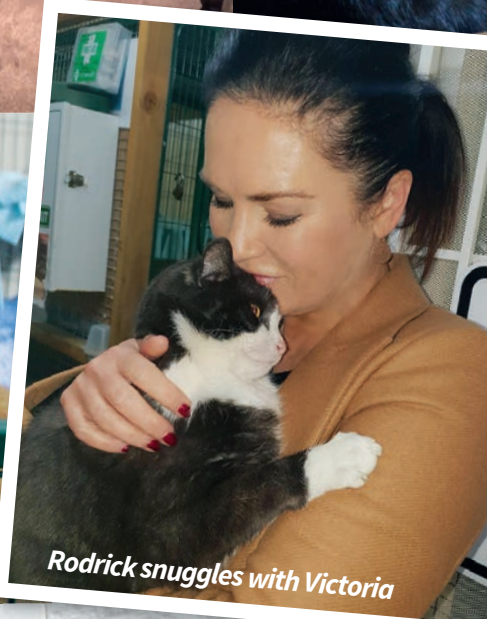
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To support the Wingecarabee Animal Shelter directly we have started a Collection Point for dog/puppy, cat/kitten food wet/dry, treats and toys at jacksonwall 'The Acre' Bowral and jacksonwall Argyle Street, Moss Vale.

For more information about the animals listed call Wingecarabee Animal Shelter on PH: 4868 1520.

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IN MY BACKYARD

THEY ARE ONE OF **AUSTRALIA'S MOST LOVED NATIVE ANIMALS**, BUT HOW MANY OF US HAVE EVER ACTUALLY SEEN ONE IN THE WILD? WELL LOOK UP! A TEAM OF RESEARCHERS AND ECOLOGISTS HAS DISCOVERED THERE IS **A WORLD OF KOALAS LIVING ABOVE OUR HEADS**, AND NOW IT'S WORKING TO DOCUMENT AND PROTECT THIS SPECIAL TREETOP POPULATION, AND BRING **CONSERVATION TOURISM TO THE HIGHLANDS**.

Joe Stammers vividly remembers the first time he saw a koala jump. It was during the release of two injured animals last year. One had been hit by a vehicle on the Hume Highway; the other was thought to have fallen from his tree.

'The koalas were released with a WIRES carer into the Box Vale Walking Track area which was further than where they were found but safer,' says Stammers, an environmental projects officer with Wingecarribee Shire Council.

'This particular koala who had been hit by a car was in a very bad way. He'd had metal plates in his head and had been rehabilitated over 12 months. We released him out of the metal box and he shimmied straight up the nearest tree and started doing a bear call, which is like a pig's grunt and bellow. Then he moved to the top of the tree and jumped to another, which I guesstimate was three to four metres away. It was just fabulous and surprising to see, because people often have the impression koalas are docile stupid creatures. They aren't.'

Stammers is something of an authority on koalas. Since initiating and beginning work on the Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project (SHKCP) in 2014, he and his team have collected and correlated baseline data that estimates there is a population of more than 3000 koalas living across the Wingecarribee.

'The shire is about 2700 square kilometres in size, with 60% of that area being remnant bushland. Our research shows we have the biggest koala population in southern NSW and 10% of the estimated population in the whole of NSW. We have calculated that overall there is likely to be just one koala for every 50 hectares of bushland. If you want to maximise your chances of finding a koala, look east of the Hume Highway as it is significantly easier to find a koala in the fertile basalt-soil eucalypt forests in the east, than in the dry, sandstone country in the west.'

The SHKCP came about after a pilot study following the Balmoral and Bargo bushfires of 2013.



KOALA SPOTTING

Grab your binoculars and camera and look up! 'Koalas tend to be more active at night, so if you have access to good quality head-torches then spotlighting is probably the best method, however it is not uncommon to see koalas during the day,' says Joe.

HERE ARE FIVE PLACES LOCAL KOALAS ARE KNOWN TO HANG OUT:

- + Mansfield Reserve, East Bowral
- + Tourist Oval, Tourist Road, East Kangaloon
- + Bangadilly National Park, Canyonleigh
- + Box Vale Walking Track, Welby
- + Mount Alexandra Reserve, Mittagong & Welby

'We started getting a lot of anecdotal evidence from people calling Council and saying, "I've got a koala in my backyard," says Joe.

'I grew up in Appin and koalas have had a long presence there, but people I spoke to locally kept saying, "No, we don't see koalas about here."

Joe's theory is that the fire, which destroyed homes and burnt out many hectares, pushed surviving koalas further south.

'Koalas are very territorial, so those moving south to escape the fire would have had a knock on effect, in turn pushing others south and bringing them into closer contact with humans.'

Koalas are classified as a threatened species. This is significant when it comes to local government planning because they have their own piece of legislation. State Environmental Planning Policy 44 protects koalas as well as their preferred habitat, which includes 65 species of eucalypt throughout the Southern Highlands.

With local knowledge sketchy at best, Joe's team set out to ascertain the koala population here. Working with students and researchers from the University of Sydney, wildlife ecologists and volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia, they fitted collars to 20 koalas. They also spent 12 months surveying more than 700 sites all over the Highlands in an widespread monitoring program that involved spotlighting koalas at night.

Their efforts, which were locally funded as well as through the State government, uncovered an extensive koala network running throughout the Highlands.

Joe says that thanks to the study we now know over the course of a year koalas are most active during breeding season which runs from August through to February,, that the males work hard to protect their home range, and that they certainly are not stupid creatures.

'They have evolved in a very unique way, with an innate ability to choose the right tree. If it's cold, they'll choose trees on a ridge top to keep warm, even if it's not a eucalypt but is in a better spot,' says Stammers. 'We've seen them in banksias warming themselves.'

He believes the research, which is ongoing, is beneficial not just for the resident koala population but for the Southern Highlands community.

'Conservation tourism is a huge growth area,' he says, 'but I can't see it's been very developed here at all yet. Port Macquarie, which has a koala hospital, does a great job treating sick and injured koalas and gets more than 200,000 visitors a year.

'Many people would love to see koalas in their own habitat in the Highlands, and maybe get involved in conservation activities like helping with the ongoing monitoring program, and doing something meaningful.'

And a final word of warning if you do come across one of these wild natives.

'Do NOT attempt to pat a koala,' says Joe. They may look cuddly but koalas have sharp claws and can be aggressive if threatened. Stay a safe distance away to take photos.'

*Report your koala sightings to the WSC's koala hotline on 4868 0888 or email citizen.science@wsc.nsw.gov.au

For injured or sick native wildlife call Wildlife Rescue South Coast 0418 427 214 or WIRES 4862 1788 ■

A lush garden scene with purple flowers, green foliage, and a wooden table with a potted plant in the background.

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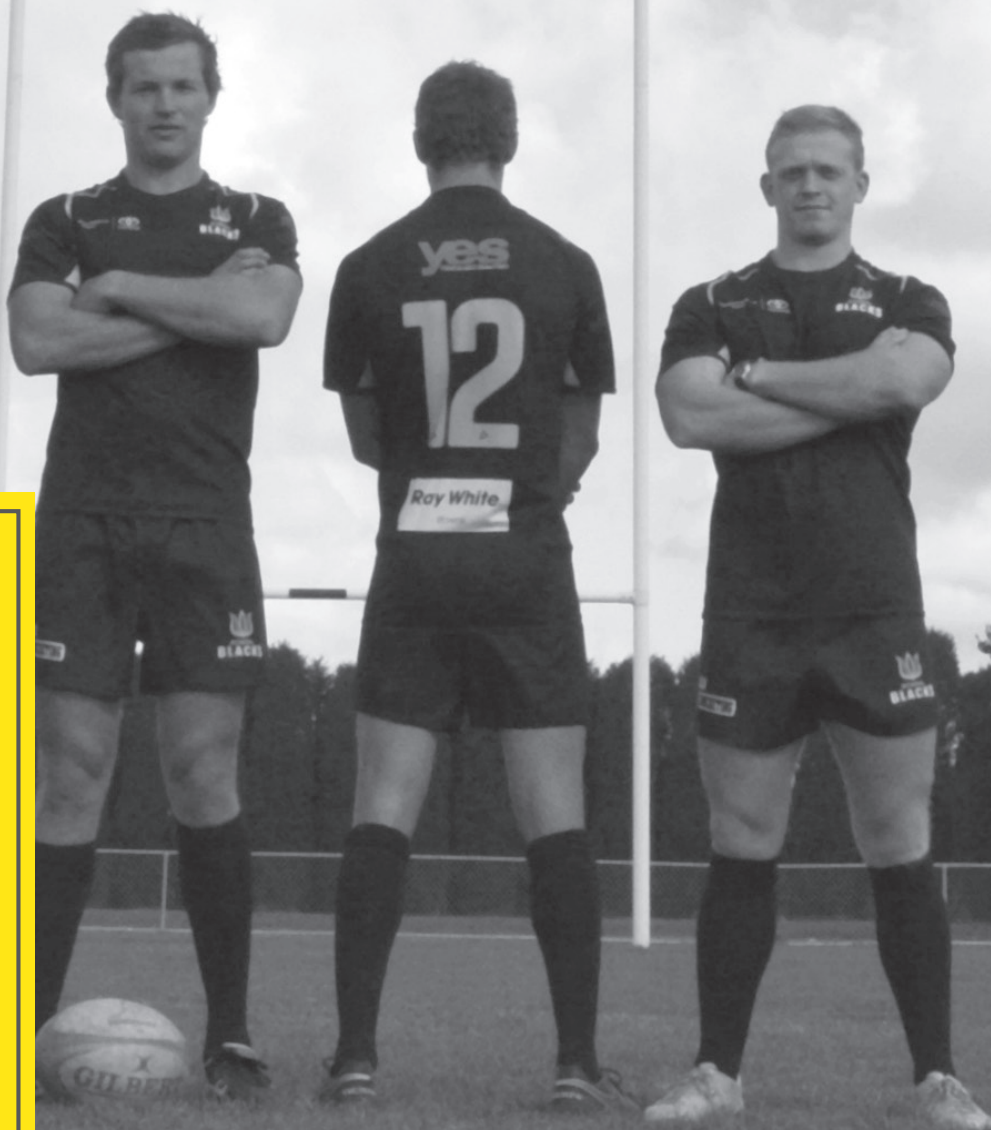
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Courtney Ripphausen - Agent, Ranee Monaghan - Agent

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Prepare to drool and think wishfully as you turn the pages of this new book, packed with reveals of some of the most enviable properties in the Highlands.

If there is one thing you very quickly realise upon arriving in the Southern Highlands, it's that there are dream homes located on every corner and down every country lane. Whether hidden from view by a beautiful garden or an exquisite handmade gate, or within plain sight, living or visiting here is enough to make you become a lottery ticket junkie. But never fear! Escape SH's sister publication, Highlife, has done the hard yards for all those coveting their own dream home with the release of the opulent SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS HOMES II early October.

A beautiful addition to any library or coffee table, this book gets you up close and personal access into 18 of the Highlands'

most exciting and beautiful renovations, restorations and new builds, including four homes that have never been published before. Written by Highlife editor Deborah McIntosh and shot by renowned photographer Tony Sheffield, properties include a wide variety of Highlands architecture from Georgian coach house to classic country to passive solar. Opulent, spectacular and fabulous (especially for the inquisitive and the aspirational), this book really is a joy to behold for those who love design, interiors, country living and, well, dream homes.

Check Highlife magazine for stockists. highlifemagazine.com.au ■

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