

Escape

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

FREE GUIDE
WINTER 2017



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& CELLAR DOOR
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GOLF *plus*
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MELISSA PENFOLD'S
SHOPPING
GUIDE



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winter²⁰¹⁷

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IMAGE *Elise Hassey*

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

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IMAGE: ELISE HASSEY

Editor's welcome

Winter is a pretty special time in the Southern Highlands. Sure, nature shuts up shop for a few months, and it gets colder but the countryside outside our windows is perhaps more beautiful than ever. So this winter, resist the urge to hibernate, and let *Escape Southern Highlands* inspire you to try the body and soul warming things to do, people to meet and places to go outlined in these pages.

Destinations Southern Highlands kicks off its inaugural Pie Time this month, details page 20 and what fun. Seriously. Who doesn't love a pie? I am already thinking which of the nearly 20 local eatery's involved to take the kids to taste-test some signature Pie Time pies. At the moment, Burrawang General Store Cafe's duck with roasted fig pie sounds hard to beat, but no doubt there will be many other beauties, some

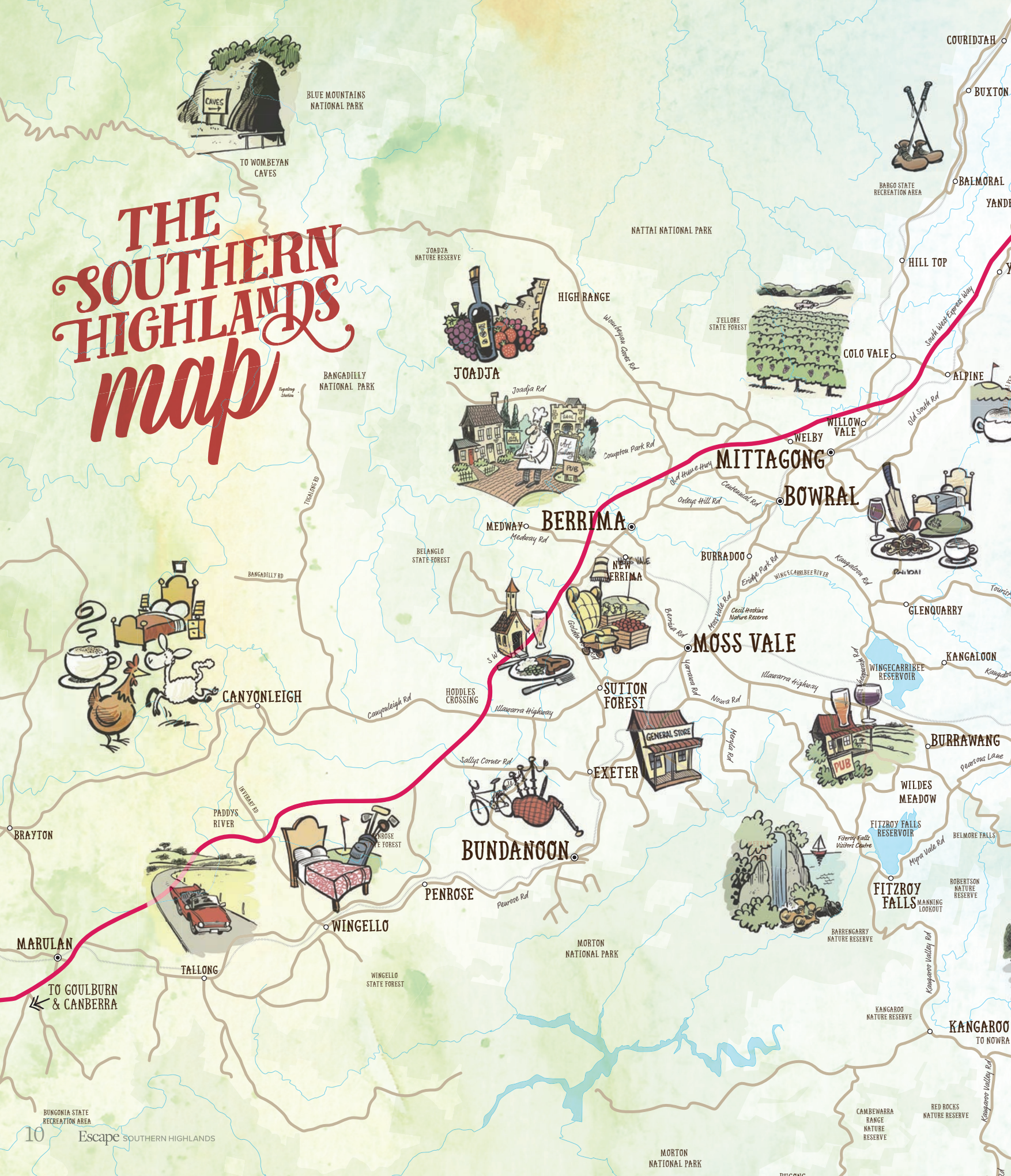
made from fine fresh produce grown on our doorsteps. Like beef by butchers and farmers John, Vicki and Mat Mauger, see our story page 42.

Actually, food is a common theme this issue because here at *Escape Southern Highlands* we love food. No more so than enjoying it in our beautiful surroundings with local, and visiting friends over a long, languid Sunday lunch, warmed by an open fire. Check out some of our favourite dining spots on page 94, including the charming Mount Ashby Estate, our cover shot location this issue.

And finally, on page 26 we take a look at The Robertson Hotel where new owners Con and Lisa Kotis are committed to waking it to its former glory days. Enjoy your *Escape Southern Highlands*. ■

Alex

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS map





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At a glance TOWNS & VILLAGES

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

BOWRAL

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

BERRIMA

This picturesque 1830s village has history (think the heritage Berrima Gaol, the iconic Berrima Court House, and National Trust-listed Harper's Mansion); nature (the Wingecarribee River runs through it); fantastic food (Eschalot, Josh's Cafe and Feast at Berrima, see our review on page 53), as well as excellent cafes and patisseries, and Australia's oldest continuously licensed inn, the Surveyor General. The Schoolyard Markets are held on the fourth Sunday of every month (Feb-Nov).

MOSS VALE

Centred around the impressive Victorian-era railway station, Moss Vale is known for its gardens, walks and down to earth country charm. The annual Agricultural Show, one of the biggest in NSW, is a wonderful old-style country fair. The main drag, Argyle Street, is undergoing a revival, with amazing homewares stores to tempt every taste. Fantastic cafes like The Vale, Highland Merchant, and Il Pranzo offer delicious eating options. Not far away is cosy Southern Highlands Wines and Mount Ashby Estate cellar door and restaurant. The town's indoor aquatic centre is open year-round.

MITTAGONG

Historic Mittagong has plenty to offer, from parks (try Lake Alexandra) to walks (such as the Box Vale Mine walking track with its incredible views of the Nattai Gorge), wineries including Marist Wines and Howards Lane Vineyard, Artemis Wines and Tractorless Vineyard Cellar Door @ McVitty Grove, and Tertini Wines (see our review on page 58). There's also the treasure trove that is the Mittagong Antiques Centre. A highlight for art-lovers is contemporary craft and design gallery Sturt. It's well worth a stroll along Main and Victoria Streets to see charming country homes, impressive gardens and to drop in on the cafes and speciality and vintage shops.

ROBERTSON

The small, character-filled town of Robertson combines a rolling pastoral setting (did you know the movie Babe was filmed here?) with fabulous fresh produce such as potatoes, truffles and pears; a famed cheese shop selling local dairy delights; and The Robertson Hotel (see our review on page 26) and the cosy Robertson Inn. The iconic Robertson Pie Shop, with its huge range of savoury and sweet pies is open every day of the year except Christmas and has long been an essential pit stop for locals, and those passing through.

BUNDANOON

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

CANYONLEIGH

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

FITZROY FALLS

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

JOADJA

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

EXETER

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

BURRAWANG

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

SUTTON FOREST

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

HILL TOP

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

LOCAL MOVERS AND SHAKERS

THE HIGHLANDS IS HOME TO A FABULOUS COMMUNITY OF GIFTED ARTISTS, MAKERS, CRAFTSPEOPLE, PRODUCERS AND PURVEYORS OF FOOD, WINE AND SPIRITS. AND, OF COURSE, WONDERFUL LOCALS. AS WINTER ARRIVES AND WE ALL BUNKER DOWN FOR OUR COLD NIGHTS, **COLOUR YOUR SHORTER DAYS WITH SOME WONDERFUL NEWCOMERS, AND OLD FAVOURITES...**



MADE BY OTHERS

There is always a forerunner and, in terms of contemporary art and design, Made by Others has been to Moss Vale what Alessi is to kitchen accessories. Opened in 2010 by Ursula Armstrong and Anna Byng, the store's location was chosen by the couple because 'Moss Vale had untapped potential and charm'. They were the first to bring Finnish super brand Marimekko and home-grown star Dinosaur Designs to the Highlands, and just back from their annual scouting/buying trip to the US and Europe, Anna and Ursula have an irresistible array of paintings, prints, textiles, jewellery, lighting and object design from national and international designers. They also make a mean coffee, perfect to go with a savoury or sweet bite – made by locals, of course. And if you want to hear what's going on around the Highlands, this is one place to come; these trendsetting creatives keep their ears to the ground. 'We feel so excited that the local Highlands community and further afield is increasingly embracing Moss Vale as a regional hub for independent stores with a unique character,' says Anna. 'We're pretty proud, too, that Made by Others has been part of this movement.'

Monday-Friday 9.30am-5pm; Saturday-Sunday 10am-4pm
2/366 Argyle Street, Moss Vale. madebyothers.com.au





the BARBER ROOM

Gone are the days when beardies were considered weirdies (and here we are thinking of Roald Dahl's revolting bewhiskered Mr Twit). Today the hirsute man is everywhere, and no more so than in the Highlands where rugged, outdoorsy, metrosexual, lumbersexual (yes it's a thing – look it up!) and bushy types abound. Timely, then, that Sensoria in Bowral has opened The Barber Room, where hairy ones can go to take care of all matters pertaining to shaving, grooming, trimming, barbering and straight blade shaves (otherwise known as 'a cut-throat'). Some services, such as



the 'special-occasion spruce-up' have a complimentary glass of whisky or cognac, while others – like the 'tutorial' – educate on beard-shaping and maintenance. Owner Jules Van De Sande, who also made the wigs for Chevalier College's recent production of the Mikado, opened Sensoria's intimate man-cave after seeing first-hand 'the movement in cutting-edge fashion of groomed facial hair' in Europe. 'Most men can wear a beard,' she says. 'It can enhance face shape and disguise weaknesses. A beard also creates an individual identity and statement.' So no more excuses for crumbs in beards, gents.

Tuesday-Thursday 8am-8pm Friday 8am-5pm Saturday 8am-4pm
44 Station Street, Bowral. sensoria.com.au

THE FIXED WHEEL

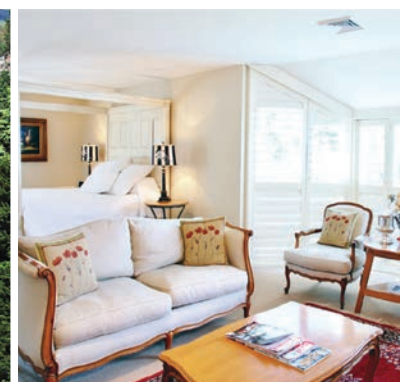
Bowral has been without an independent cycle shop for the past few years, although over in Moss Vale, Stuart and Marika at Cycliste have ably taken up the slack. Now, however Bowral once again has a cycling shop of its own with the recent opening of The Fixed Wheel. Not a moment too soon, either as we gear up for the Bowral Classic – a one-day road-cycling Gran Fondo Cyclo-Sportif. Events include the 160-km Maxi Classic, the 120-km Bowral Challenge, and a 45-km social multi-stop event. Held in October, last year's inaugural race attracted 3000 cyclists and raised more than \$100,000 for charity. Still time to get in some pedal practice!

The Fixed Wheel, The Village of Bowral, Unit 15/63-69 Kirkham Road, Bowral. thefixedwheel.com.au bowralclassic.com.au



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Time for tea

Now winter is here, we do love a good tea... towel, particularly these Ink&Weave beauties by clever local designer Caroline Verity. Caroline hit on the idea of screenprinting her witty and droll messages onto 100 per cent linen in 2010, and now has 30 or so versions of tea-towels, and a bit of a cult following. 'It can be never-ending drudgery at the kitchen sink as we all know,' says Caroline, who often sells her wares at local markets as well as online. 'Everyone can do with a bit of dry wit and good design while they dry up, although these tea-towels can also be found on walls all over the world.'

inkandweave.com



BDCU CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION HELPS OUR YOUTHS' HEADSPACE

It is an alarming fact. According to Mission Australia's Youth Survey (2012-2016), one in four Australians aged 16-24 experienced a mental disorder in the previous 12 months. Even more worrying, there was a significant increase in the rates of probable serious

mental health in surveyed young people aged 15-19. Now, in a unique Highlands partnership, the BDCU Children's Foundation, funded by BDCU Alliance Bank and local residents, and Bowral and District Hospital are enlisting the help of batyr – an organisation that gives a voice 'to the elephant in the room' – to provide a series of mental health forums to educate our kids on help available. Batyr, named after the famed 'speaking' elephant of the former Soviet Union believed to use human speech, teaches early intervention and preventative education in the area of youth mental health, and helps children start a conversation on what can be a frightening topic. It will run a program of events for students at Moss Vale High, Oxley College,

Bowral High, Chevalier College and Frensham during August 21-25, and host a Parents and Community Forum with expert speakers. This week-long initiative will overlap with Civic2Surf, a fundraising 340 km relay run from Canberra to Bondi via the Southern Highlands, started by Australian National University students in 2011 to support batyr's efforts. Much-loved Moss Vale resident, and former Oxley College student, Harriet Nixon participated in the event in 2015, and was so inspired she took on the role of president in 2016. Harriet, 21, tragically lost her life in December. Civic2Surf organiser Joshua Dundas, a close friend of Harriet and her family said, 'Because of Harriet and her dedication to this initiative, and its objective to help young people talk about mental health, Civic2Surf can now call the Southern Highlands a home away from home.' Unlike many rural areas, the Highlands has a full-time specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Clinician, based at Bowral and District Hospital, thanks to BDCU fundraising's efforts.

Parents & Community Forum, Friday August 18, 6pm Bong Bong Racecourse (content not suitable for primary aged children). Enquiries bdcuchildrensfoundation.com.au



Vision for Botanic Gardens grows

Design competitions are par for the course in cities such as London, Paris and Sydney. So how exciting and urbane to learn the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens has launched a design competition for its new visitor centre. Five acclaimed architect firms; CHROFI, Fender Katsalidis Architects, HASSELL, John Wardle Architects and Tonkin Zulaikha Greer were selected to submit their designs for the visitor centre, and will present to the jury on June 23 in Bowral, with the winning design announced at the end of the month. Construction is set to begin 2018/2019, funds allowing. shbg.com.au

HIGHLANDS TIPPLES

It's all happening in the Highlands when it comes to one of our favourite subjects...

winter warmers that leave a lovely spirited heat in your throat. Harry's on Green Lane, Bowral is soon to be serving wine, with another new wine bar and merchant opening in Moss

Vale. A local whisky producer is making gin; a wine maker is set to make beer; a banker is crowdfunding to open a distillery, and a local loved wine making institution is leaving that chapter of its rich history behind. Cheers to openings, endings and innovations.



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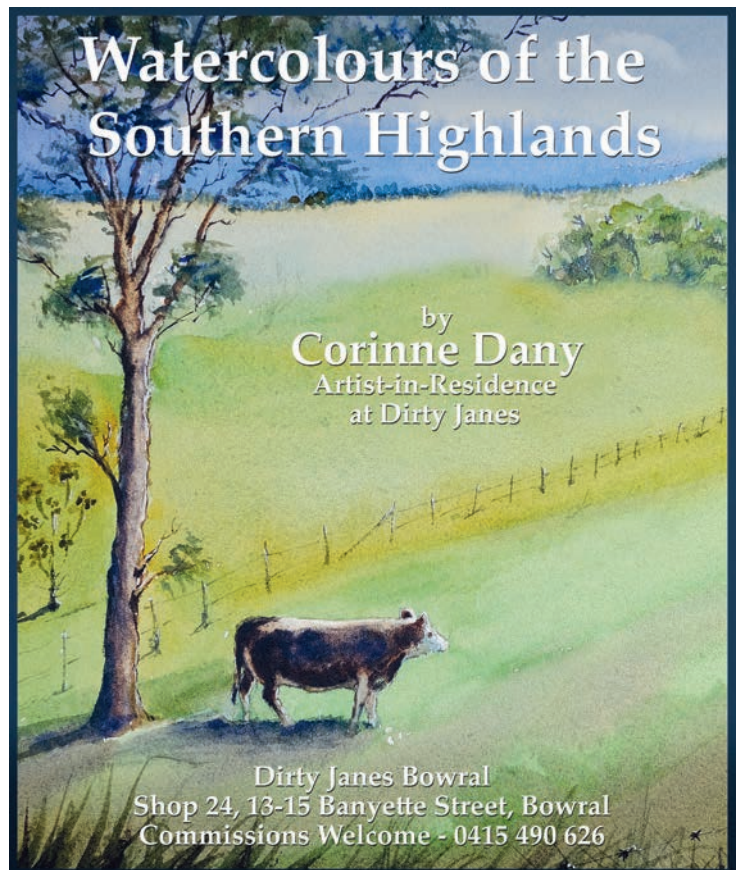
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— 6 david street, bowral —

WHAT'S ON

WINTER

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE HIGHLANDS WINTER HIGHLIGHTS TO LOOK OUT FOR OVER THE COMING MONTHS. BUT WITH SO MUCH ELSE ON OFFER, BE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES @ESCAPESOUTHERNHIGHLANDS AND CHECK **SOUTHERN-HIGHLANDS.COM.AU/EVENTS/WHATS-ON**

JUNE



Pie Time

There are few things more heartening than a pie, and many places in the Highlands make a mean beef, chicken, curry and potato variety. The Robertson Pie Shop alone bakes more than 25 types. Now, to delight tastebuds, comes the inaugural Pie Time – a big and meaty get-your-smackers-around-this type of festival created by Destination Southern Highlands and made up of loads of pie-themed events. Highlights include the Pie Trail, where you get your mitts on a map and sample pies made by more than 30 local cafes, pie shops, bakeries, farm shops and patisseries, and Dine with a Pie Night, in

which hotels, cafes and restaurants serve up a signature pie for the month. And of course there's our favourite, The Southern Highlands Best Pie Competition, where local bakers, pie-makers, chefs and home cooks try to outbake each other for the top gong in pie perfection. Winners qualify to compete in the 2017 Great Aussie Pie Competition in Sydney in September. Pie celebrations culminate at a two-day Pie Time Festival in Bowral's Corbett Gardens, with market stalls, food, wine, entertainment and, of course, pies aplenty.

Pie Time, June 1-30. Pie Time Festival, Saturday June 24-Sunday June 25.
pietime.com.au

FIRST & LAST BOWRAL INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

LAUGH YOUR SOCKS OFF AT THE FIRST & LAST BOWRAL INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL WITH MARK SWIVEL, THE COMEDIAN WHO HAS MADE A CAREER OUT OF MAKING DAD JOKES FUNNY. THIS ONE-DAY FESTIVAL OF FUN AND FOOLISHNESS IS PRESENTED BY BDCU ALLIANCE BANK TO RAISE FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY PARTNER AND LOCAL AFL FOOTY CLUB THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS HAWKS.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, CENTENNIAL VINEYARDS RESTAURANT, BOWRAL, \$30 PER HEAD. BOOKINGS 4861 8701



World Environment Week

It's World Environment Day on June 5, a global action day started by the United Nations more than 40 years ago. In the Highlands we are kicking off World Environment Week with a series of walks and talks organised by Wingecarribee Shire Council. Local guides will lead the way and cover most areas of our beautiful bushland on walks including Mansfield Reserve Bird Discovery with BirdLife Southern Highlands, The Gib Heritage Walk and Gibbergunyah Flora Walk with botanist Greg Stone. There will also be a Kids Ranger Day at Fitzroy Falls and a Backyard Safari Photo Exhibition at the Council Chambers in Moss Vale for the month. Bookings essential.
wsc.nsw.gov.au/world-enviro-week

TRUFFLE TIME

They call it black gold, and Robertson farmers and growers Ted and Barbara Smith of Yelverton Truffle Farm lay claim to uncovering the biggest truffle in Australia (all 1.172 kg of it) in 2014. Since unearthing this monster fungus, spots on the couple's truffle hunts have become as rare as hen's teeth, and are sold out this year, although keep an eye on their website for more possible dates. Luckily they supply to many of our leading restaurants, and will feature in The Loch Farm's seven-course Fungi Feast, at its seasonal foodie long lunch on Sunday August 13.

yelvertontruffles.com.au

theloch.net.au



JAZZ AT THE MILL CAFE, THE MITTAGONG HOTEL AND JOADJA ESTATE

There is something about winter that invites jazzzzz baby – and the smooth sexy sounds will have some of our fave Highlands joints jumping in the upcoming months. **Kick back with friends, eat something delicious and sip a winter warmer with Jazz at the Mittagong Hotel every second Saturday of each month.** Over in Bowral, catch the fabulous Mill Cafe All Stars & Celebrated Guests, featuring musicians Peter Locke, Ben Jones, John Blenkhorn and Andrew Robertson (who keeps it quiet but has performed with Boy George, Hugh Jackman and Michael Bublé) at Jazz Sundays at The Mill Cafe. Or if you fancy heading out of town, book the complimentary shuttle bus to Joadja Estate for Jazz in the Vines where you can chill out to the dulcet notes of Geoff Bull and the Finer Cuts. Wine, woodfire pizza and a sausage sizzle on offer too. The Mittagong Hotel, Saturday June 10 and second Saturday of every month, 2-5pm, mittagonghotel.com.au

The Mill Cafe All Stars & Celebrated Guests, June 11 and June 25, 3-6pm, \$10 pp, 4870 1293

Geoff Bull and the Finer Cuts, Joadja Estate, June 11, 1-4pm, 4878 5236, greatwine@joadjaestate.com.au



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JULY

Sturt Winter School and Weekend Courses

Take some me-time this winter, rug up and get creative. This year Australia's oldest craft centre Sturt has a schedule of 14 five day courses on offer, with accommodation also available at adjacent Frensham Boarding School. Courses include sculpture, weaving, woodworking, etching and champlevé enamelling, and non-toxic printmaking. If five days is a commitment too far, consider a weekend course in August. Make a set of three boxes in fine furniture-maker and designer Phoebe Everill's course, Introduction to Steam Bending.

Winter school July 3-7, weekend courses August 12-13
sturt.nsw.edu.au



2017 SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WRITERS' FESTIVAL

This hugely popular annual event for bookworms returns for its sixth year in a compacted one-day format on Saturday, July 15. Guest authors sure to titillate and inform in conversation about their new works include Andrew Ford, the host of the ABC's The Music Show and acclaimed local composer and journalist, and broadcaster Julia Baird. Meg Keneally will also discuss writing a series of historical crime novels with her acclaimed author father, Tom Keneally. Chef Stefano Manfredi will cook for this year's Literary Dinner at the Gibraltar Hotel in what promises to be a celebration of Italian food and theatre.

Tickets at The Bookshop Bowral in Bong Bong Street, Bowral or shwf.com.au

SAVE THE DATE

One of the biggest fundraising dates in the Highlands calendar, the 4K Ladies Lunch takes place at Southern Highlands Wines on Friday September 1, so get your hat and dress sorted. All funds to ASDESI which supports local children living with autism. **Tickets at trybooking.com.**

AUGUST

BRADMAN BIRTHDAY LONG LUNCH

COMMEMORATE THE BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF BOWRAL BOY AND CRICKETING LEGEND SIR DONALD BRADMAN AT THIS VERY SPECIAL LONG LUNCH, WHICH WILL UNVEIL UNSEEN MATCH FOOTAGE OF THE DON. GIDEON HAIGH, ACCLAIMED JOURNALIST AND WRITER WILL ALSO SPEAK AND RELAUNCH THE MUSEUM'S NEW OVERHAULED LIBRARY.
SUNDAY AUGUST 27 FROM 11AM
BRADMAN.COM.AU



5th CHAPTER DAFFODIL OPEN DAY

Avoca property and vineyard 5th Chapter Estate opens five hectares of beautifully manicured gardens to mark Daffodil Day this year.

Entry \$10 with proceeds to Garvan Institute. Friday, August 25, 10am-3.30pm fifthchapter.com.au

TALKS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

WOMBAT HOLLOW FORUM

With a growing number of noted literary, political and artistic figures making the trip to East Kangaloon, Wombat Hollow Forum is fast gaining in popularity and pulling power. Get along to the big shed on Michael and Susie Yabsley's property over winter, and listen to the guest speakers – author Nikki Gemmell and mining magnate Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest. Also don't miss Maunsell Wickes Gallery's show on Friday July 21- Sunday July 23 featuring Philip Drummond and local artist Richard Allen and his animal paintings and prints to raise money for Taronga Zoo's Conservation Society.



GREEN BRIDGE STUDIOS WORKSHOPS

LEARN CONTEMPORARY BASKETRY TECHNIQUES WITH ACCLAIMED SCULPTURAL WEAVER HARRIET GOODALL IN HER MOSS VALE STUDIO, OR GO NEXT DOOR AND TRY TAPESTRY WEAVING OR KNOT MACRAME WITH TEXTURAL WEAVER NATALIE MILLER. **RANDOM WOVEN PALM PODS SCULPTURE, SUNDAY 18 JUNE, 10AM-3PM** HARRIETGOODALL.BIGCARTEL.COM **LEARN TAPESTRY WEAVING, FRIDAY 21 JULY, 10AM-4PM. KNOT A WALL HANGING SATURDAY 22 JULY 10AM-3PM.** NATALIEMILLERDESIGN.COM



KLA SCULPTURE

Join sculptor Karen Alexander in this one-day introduction to soapstone carving, making organic shapes and forms with rasps and files. Reveal beautiful colours and patterns through hand-polishing. Day includes small soapstone, use of tools, dust mask and aprons, morning tea and organic light lunch on the verandah.

Saturday June 10 (then 2nd Saturday of each month) 10am-3.30pm. KLA Sculpture Studio, 2-4 Flora Street, Colo Vale. klalex@optusnet.com.au

BEA CINÉMATHEQUE AT THE CTC@ROBERTSON

If you're a cinema lover who adores international films, don't miss this curated selection from across the ages. Presented by local movie aficionado Bea Botvinik, films include works by masters Charlie Chaplin and Federico Fellini. Films are screened third Sunday of every month.

CTC@Robertson, 58-60 Hoddle Street, Robertson. robertsonctc.org.au

BIOTA WORKSHOPS

Calling all foodies. Spend a winter's morning in Bowral at two-hatted Biota with its four kitchen gardens and learn something new in a range of classes, such as the art of natural breadmaking. Workshops start at 10am, go for two hours and you eat or take home what you create. You can also choose a stay/eat/workshop option.

biotadining.com for dates & details

STYLING WORKSHOPS @ SUZIE ANDERSON HOME

Styling is the catch-phrase of the times. Personal style, wardrobe style, age-appropriate style. Join fashion blogger and stylist Jade Cosgrove at Suzie Anderson Home for a series of workshops designed to help you find the perfect look, and revel in who you are.

July 27, August 24, September 21, 6.30pm. Suzie Anderson Home, 409 Argyle Street, Moss Vale suzieandersonhome.com

THE SUMMERHOUSE STORE WORKSHOPS

BYO bedside table, chair or small table and learn techniques to transform it with paint. Try colour washing, ageing and stencils in the studio attached to this charming lifestyle store. Morning tea, lunch and champagne provided.

Friday June 16, Saturday June 24, Sunday July 23. 10.30am-2.30pm
2 Exeter Road, Exeter. 4883 4129.



QUEST FOR LIFE PROGRAMS

Petrea King and her team of professionals at Quest for Life in Bundanoon provide counselling and healing services to those in great need. Residential programs, and evening and weekend workshops provide educational and emotional tools to those with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), cancer, grief, depression, anxiety, chronic illness and loss. Visit to walk the meditative labyrinth in the grounds, a calming place to reflect and engage.

Moving Beyond Trauma June 5-9, July 10-14, August 7-11;
Healing Your Life June 15-19 and 26-30 June, 24-28 July,
14-18 August. questforlife.com.au

THE VALE STUDIO RETREATS

Mindfulness, the Oxford Dictionary tells us, is the 'state of being conscious or aware of something' and is increasingly used in therapy to treat stress, depression and anxiety. The Vale Studio's Mindfulness Day Retreats offer an introduction to mindfulness, and restorative yoga and meditation practices. Sunday Yoga Indulgence Days, held among 17 hectares of bushland, help find inner peace.

Mindfulness Day Retreat Sunday June 11.

Yoga Indulgence Days July 30 and August 27.

100 Grevillea Place, Colo Vale. thevalestudio.com

WALKING THROUGH GRIEF

Grief is an incredibly personal journey, and can be an intensely lonely one. The Bereavement Walking Group, started by the Southern Highlands Bereavement Care Service, is open to anyone in mourning. The group meets monthly outside Bowral Swimming Pool, and takes a gentle 45-minute stroll along Cherry Tree Walk, stopping for coffee and cake. It is free and open to all ages. **Next walk Wednesday June 14 at 10am.** shbcs.org.au

CALMBIRTH

The name may sound like an oxymoron, but according to parents who journey to the Highlands to take part in this childbirth education program, Calmbirth does what it says. Soothes anxieties, promotes positive thinking and equips soon-to-be mothers and fathers with the understanding that the female body has been giving birth for thousands of years. To help ensure an empowering, fear-free experience, Calmbirth Southern Highlands two-day courses are held over weekends by founder Peter Jackson and registered midwife and nurse Karen McClay.

1/19 Lyell Street, Mittagong. calmbirth.com.au

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02 4860 2083 **www.sturt.nsw.edu.au**

HOTEL REVIEW:

THE ROBERTSON HOTEL, ROBERTSON

WORDS ALEX SPEED IMAGES ELISE HASSEY



WHEN **HOTEL ROBERTSON** OPENED IN 1924 ON SIX HECTARES OF LAND LOOKING OUT OVER THE JAMBEROO ESCARPMENT, THE PRESS DEEMED IT **'ONE OF THE MOST LUXURIOUS IN THE COMMONWEALTH'**.

It was the time of the Charleston, women in flapper dresses, champagne cocktails, art deco design and decadence. Days when the well-heeled Sydney crowd escaped to the Highlands to partake of the fresh air and let their hair down. The hotel's golf course swept all the way to where the Robertson Pie Shop stands today. Golfers were issued with a whistle when venturing out to play, so a rescue team could locate them when the famous Robbo mists rolled in.

Known for many decades as Ranelagh House and now operating as The Robertson House, this Gatsby-esque establishment still has the power to impress. Hotelier Con Kotis fell for the hotel's charm the moment he visited in 2011. Owner of apartment accommodation in Sydney, Con's first thought was 'It's crying out for attention'. He and wife Lisa are committed to an ongoing multimillion-dollar renovation of the fully functional hotel, which will see 40 rooms become 60 guestrooms and suites.

'I guess I fell in love with the hotel's bones and its history but I could see it needed a lot of work,' says Con. 'It is still a work in progress but I feel every day we are getting closer to restoring it to its former glory.'

Escape Southern Highlands arrives at dusk at the grand front entrance. We are greeted gracefully by staff, and a roaring open fire that warms the vast hallway. A huge central staircase takes us to our rooms. My colleague is shown to the Grand Manor Suite, which is the bridal suite. Overlooking the main front lawn, where marriage ceremonies often occur, it has two bedrooms, a large bathroom and a sitting room plus a birdseye view of arriving guests. The hotel often attracts wedding parties, with many families taking over the entire premises for several days.

My room down the hall has a king-size bed with a goose feather duvet, in-period furniture decked with cosy throws and hydronic heating. The room is fetching in its simplicity. The ensuite bathroom has original fittings, with



**ESCAPE SOUTHERN
HIGHLANDS STAYS AT
A MAJESTIC HOTEL
BEING LOVINGLY
RESTORED TO A
NEW LIFE.**



tiles covering floor and walls and plumbing on the outside complemented by a huge rain shower head. Organic toiletries and fine cotton towels are most welcome. The one thing missing is a hairdryer.

We enjoy a pre-dinner drink in the bar area, handsome with art deco design. The dining room has been refurbished and is dressed with ceiling to floor drapery and white linen, perhaps harking back to the days when people ate more formally. Chef Michael White serves dinner on Friday and Saturday nights, and is holding Christmas in July dinners, with bookings also open to non-hotel guests (see On Your Plate page 44 for more details). Continuing in the decadent vein, we choose the a la carte menu – homemade duck liver pate followed by the beef fillet that is served with mash, asparagus, broccolini and red wine sauce. I finish with the cheese and fruit platter. The food is rich and delicious, with an emphasis on local producers and suppliers. At \$60 a head it strikes me as extremely good value.

In the morning, a lavish continental and hot breakfast is served in the grand ballroom. This room can hold 100 dancing guests with a DJ or band. Or the Australian World Orchestra, who played here in 2015.

‘Because of the high ceilings, I am told the acoustics here are fabulous,’ says Con. ‘We are delighted the World Orchestra are booked again to return in November.’

Con is keen to entice locals and visitors to enjoy the newly renovated hotel.

‘Everybody who stays or comes for a drink or a meal tells me they can feel the love that we have put into this building. To me it is a magic place with such an interesting history that is so much part of the Highlands.’ ■

DETAILS

The Robertson Hotel
1 Fountaindale Road,
Robertson
4885 1111
therobertsonhotel.com

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

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info@bundanoonguesthouse.com.au

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for more information on 0410 634 777
or mail to: ms.goose@sillygoosepark.com.au



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

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



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
0428 231 110 or 0407 611 349
luxstowehouse.com.au



In its own private valley, The Woolshed sits on 227 acres of picturesque country at Canyonleigh. Just 90 minutes from Sydney enjoy idyllic rural views, peace and quiet without a road in sight. Once a classic shearing shed, The Woolshed has been converted into stylish accommodation for up to 10 people. Featuring generous living areas, combustion fire, well-appointed modern kitchen and three spacious bedrooms. A perfect destination for all to enjoy.

The Woolshed Southern Highlands
4878 9469
thewoolshedsouthernhighlands.com.au



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

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



The Robertson Hotel



FRENCH CHIC IN THE HIGHLANDS

ESCAPE FOR A WELL-EARNED WINTER BREAK IN THIS CHARMING PROPERTY WITH ALL THE JOIE DE VIVRE OF A GETAWAY IN THE MAGNIFICENT FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE.

WORDS JANE O'CONNELL

It's right on dusk when I pull up outside the St Eloi Guesthouse and a wintery chill is in the air. With its rich terracotta-coloured walls and weathered timber shutters, the property exudes French farmhouse charm beyond the rustic front gates. A blue and white street sign, IMPASSE ST-ÉLOI, a lovely translation of 'no through road', directs me to the visitors' parking spot. This is one dead-end I am happy to discover.

St Eloi is just a few minutes' drive from the centre of Bowral, yet the moment I crunch over gravel through the parterre-styled courtyard, I feel transported to another world.

Stepping into the main living area, the first impression is one of homely comfort. Thoughtfully restored and furnished by locals Pete and Shelly Burrows, who also own Mittagong homewares and vintage furniture store, pete's shed & mrs, the guesthouse delights with its recycled furniture and vintage collectables.

The main living area is warmed to just the right temperature by hydronic heating and colourful rugs are scattered over the timber floors. There are two generous sofas and a long communal table, providing plenty of room for guests to relax without feeling crowded. Just off the dining area, a small but well-appointed Provencal-styled kitchen is close enough to feel part of the action when preparing meals. An outdoor table offers a pleasant al fresco dining option, perhaps more suited to balmy months, unless you're well rugged up.

The elegant master bedroom features a queen-size bed dressed in hues of pastel green with plump white pillows. Layers of muslin curtains, swept aside and caught with an iron hook, frame golden evening light. Walk through the master bedroom to a large private en suite – no bumping elbows in tight corners here – with a double sink over an antique wooden dresser, a shower big enough for two, and a hidden loo. Luxurious toiletries in delicate glass bottles add to the considered mix of contemporary design with an old-world finish.

Just as the mind begins to form a question (where's the bath?), a hand-written note looped over a door handle or tied to a basket, provides the answer (there's a second full bathroom). Charming bric-a-brac, miniature bouquets of dried flowers and bundled pages from old books tied with ribbon, suggest years of dedicated collecting.

With three additional bedrooms, two offering queen-size beds, the third with two single beds, there is ample sleeping space and privacy for up to eight guests. Elegant wrought-iron clothes racks are an authentic and practical inclusion.

The floor-to-ceiling shelving in the main living area is stocked with crockery, glassware, cutlery, and a decent selection of books. Choose a novel or a board game, play some French inspired tunes on the CD player, and settle in. Dimmed lighting and tea light candles add to the ambience.

If further relaxation is called for, take up the owners' suggestion to run a warm bath in the beautifully renovated main bathroom, and drop in a scented grenade (another charming translation) from the box of Côte Noir crystals.

A basic but delicious breakfast basket is provided, with a fresh half-baguette, small tubs of creamy butter and fruity jam, plus a dozen or so eggs collected from the St Eloi chooks. A selection of complimentary herbal and breakfast teas, coffee, and a carton of long-life milk in the fridge means even the less organised traveller, like me, is well catered for.

The St Eloi experience is so well put together, it's sure to please even the most discerning guests – you really could be bunkered down in the south of France. It took an early morning burst from the local kookaburras, my wake-up call, to remind me this little slice of heaven is much closer to home. Add St Eloi Guesthouse to your list of home-stay gems, perfect for a winter break in the Southern Highlands. ■



DETAILS

St Eloi Guesthouse
Burradoo
peteshedandmrs.com
stayz.com.au



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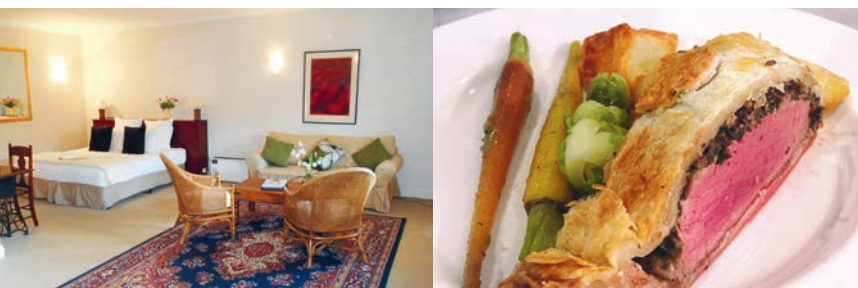
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Please contact Craig McIntosh today for a one on one appraisal of your property. Call 0455 544 228 or email craig@holidayscollection.com.au

Melissa Penfold's WINTER SHOPPING GUIDE



STYLE QUEEN MELISSA PENFOLD HONED HER IMPECCABLE TASTE AND ABILITY TO SET FASHION TRENDS DURING HER TIME AS **INTERIORS EDITOR AT BELLE MAGAZINE**, AND LATER AS **SHOPPING GURU AT THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD**. DIVIDING HER TIME BETWEEN SYDNEY AND THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, MELISSA IS CONSTANTLY ON THE LOOKOUT FOR BEAUTIFUL PIECES AND BRANDS. HERE SHE SHARES HER HINTS AND BEST WINTER PICKS IN THE HIGHLANDS. FOR MORE GREAT DESIGN AND SHOPPING ADVICE, VISIT **MELISSAPENFOLD.COM** AND FOLLOW HER ON INSTAGRAM **@MELISSA_PENFOLD**.

ROUNDAABOUT THE HOUSE

This place sells those half-barrel planters that would look at home in Architectural Digest gardens and flanking entries to big houses. The kind of thing you see lined up in rows in the world's most inspired gardens. Fantastic prices. Just add citrus trees or topiary.
96-98 Bowral Road, Mittagong. 4872 2866. hayters.com.au



COOKSHOP PLUS

A great round-up of kitchen looks and designs, local and international (think Le Cueset teapots, casserole dishes and sauté pans, and Scanpan products). Have a civilised browse and choose from a huge selection of brands (from classic to edgy), Zyliss knives, Maxwell Williams, even pretty wardrobe sachets and protectors in lavender or lemongrass scents, and delicious pancake and waffle mixes. Plus, a good discount selection of glassware.

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

SUZIE ANDERSON

Head to the Moss Vale store – five rooms filled with classic hostess gifts to Hamptons-style furniture – where you will find 40 per cent off Bamboka bath towels, bedheads and slipcover dining chairs until 15 June. There's 30 per cent off display sofas, and 20 per cent off all dining tables. And at Suzie's store at Dirty Janes in Bowral, there's 30 per cent off display lighting until 30 June.

409-411 Argyle Street, Moss Vale and 13-15 Banyette Street, Bowral. 4868 2662
suzieandersonhome.com



HUNTERS & COLLECTORS ANTIQUES

A GOOD HUNTING GROUND FOR ANTIQUES, CLOCKS, WATCHES, PAINTINGS, ANTIQUE WEAPONS (18TH-CENTURY PISTOLS, SWORDS, DAGGERS AND BLUNDERBUSSES), RELIGIOUS ICONS AND COPPER BOWLS. ALSO NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS LIKE TAXIDERMIC HEADS (DEER, BULLS, STAG, PHEASANT, WALRUS, BLACK BEAR, WILDEBEEST, DUCK, RAM). PLUS, ENGLISH LIBRARY STEPLADDERS, BRONZES, MINIATURE CHESTS AND OAK BARREL JUGS. SO MUCH TO CHOOSE FROM.

8 BOWRAL ROAD, MITTAGONG. 4872 1661.
HUNTERSANDCOLLECTORS
ANTIQUES.COM.AU



LYDIE DU BRAY ANTIQUES

One of the best for 18th and 19th-century French, Belgium and Scandinavian tables and chairs, commodes, chandeliers, bookcases, desks, mirrors, oil paintings, lanterns, and tapestries. The kind of hero pieces that will work well anywhere. Think old fireplace mantels, vintage basketware, Louis stools, even old French champagne buckets that make great vases. Plus, beautiful French garden furniture in stone and metal. 117 Old Hume Highway, Braemar. 4872 2844. lydiedubrayantiques.com.au

THE ORANGERY ON GREEN LANE

A white, soaring, conservatory-style space with leafy green ferns, orchids galore, silver birch, topiary, unusually beautiful planters, pots and that new IT plant – the phlebodium (blue star fern). Also chandeliers, candles, willow obelisks, hurricane shades, mirrors, consoles, birdcages and the most darling twig trays (big and small, \$10-\$55). Plus, vintage white ceramic lamps, affordable stoneware pitchers in green and ochre, wicker wreaths, and the kind of conservatory furniture we're told the style set is buying in London. Owner Maureen Gardener has a very easy style with the kind of plants that feel very relevant to today's interiors. 13-15 Banyette Street, Bowral. 0419 154 860.

PROVINCIAL FABRICS

Discount fabric heaven. One of the best-known upholsterers in the Highlands, Carlos Rodrigues sells a huge range of discounted fabrics from tickings to brocades, chenilles, linens and cottons. Expect lots of designs, patterns and colours by reputable brands. Textural finishes running the gamut from rough to smooth, and many coming with a stain-resistant finish. So much choice from \$25 a metre.

1 Currockbilly St, Welby. 4871 3446.
provincialpholstery.com

Winton House

Make a diary note to visit the wholesaler's first-ever one-day sale on 10 June for up to 80 per cent off the American brand of Dash & Albert rug samples, seconds, and discontinued and damaged lines. Start with a doormat, and keep on going with cotton, wool and jute rugs, as well as poly outdoor rugs that are almost indestructible and great for high-traffic areas. The rugs have been a monster hit in America and with some of Australia's leading retailers. Grab discontinued striped cotton rugs for \$495 (were \$895). Big to small sizes, below wholesale prices. Unit 8, 8 Davy Street, Mittagong. 4861 3389. wintonhouse.com.au



Three Wise Monkeys

Presents are easier than you think, here. Find a quirky take on just about everything – from Robert Gordon's Winter 2017 Flux tableware to great books, framed butterflies, floral plates, linen cushions, porcelain mugs, goat's milk soap and much more.

High Street Arcade, 21/312 Bong Bong Street, Bowral. 4861 5566. threewisemonkeys.net.au

Cotswold Furniture

The big names in design and architecture shop here for smart, strong teak garden staples and smart casual furniture in woven fibres. Many are copies of original drawings by renowned architects like Sir Edwin Lutyens and Arne Jacobsen, including iconic designs used in the world's best gardens such as Lutyens, and Classic benches. Also timeless tables like Pembroke and Hamptons. Repeat clients include the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, Royal Botanic Gardens, Huka Lodge and Thomas Hamel. Take your garden to the next level.

221 Hume Highway, Mittagong. 1800 677 047.
cotswoldfurniture.com.au



TONY SHEFFIELD'S GALLERY AT THE BROWN BOOKSHOP

Tony Sheffield, who is well known to readers of Highlife, has made his mark on the international scene working for everyone from Architectural Digest, the Sultan of Brunei, Canon and Christies. Now with his best-selling livestock photographic canvas and limited edition series, he has developed a cult following globally since launching in 2011. The series of 10 livestock photographs is available on canvas, framed or mounted, and can be custom ordered to any size. They sell in Australia, America, United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy and Kenya. Silver Highlander, pictured, launched back in 2011 and outsells almost everything, while its siblings – Rhona, Anastasia, Callia and Alexandria – also do brisk business. Apparently it's all about the cow's expression.

Silver Highlander canvas, 1m x 66cm is \$690; 1.7m x 1m is \$1250.

Limited edition framed photographs, 56cm x 45.5cm is \$340 or mounted only is \$250. tonysheffield.com/shop

DIRTY JANES BOWRAL

More than 75 dealers plus a new shipment of old furniture, sofas, French salon chairs, occasional chairs, desks, bookcases, tables, oil paintings and lighting fresh from Europe. Everything from Austrian Riess heritage enamelware kitchen staples, as well as old sideboards, kitchen island benches, armchairs, chests of drawers, iron garden furniture, vintage baskets, studio glass and old-fashioned quills. Plus, a full range of Sibella Court's hardware.

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

FLOWERS ON ARGYLE

This is consistently one of our fave sources of plants. The focus is on succulents of all kinds, especially the green ones you see in lifestyle magazines, interiors and on Instagram. Also go for the orchids, areca palms, fishbone ferns, aloe vera and dracaena, as well as great baskets. **328 Argyle Street, Moss Vale. 4869 1544. flowersonargyle.com.au**

PETIT FLEUR PATISSERIE

A pastry shop as you might find in Paris, with an astonishing array of pastries, pies and quiches. They do some things better than the rest, such as the rich, flaky mille feuille (custard tart), as well as fruit tarts (citron, strawberry, raspberry), and quiches with soft crumbs and thin, golden crusts. All piled up in glass and plastic window shelves. Get there early as everything sells out fast.

72 Hoddle Lane, Robertson.

Made By Others

Step up your entertaining game with great pieces sold here, including Aussie original tableware by resin guru Dinosaur Design. Their stuff is so snazzy, it's worth displaying when you're not using it. Dinosaur, who has sold homewares to Jerry Seinfeld for his US Hamptons house, is renowned not just for its quality, but also its playful humour that pushes our expectations. We love it all. **2/366 Argyle Street, Moss Vale. 4868 2026. madebyothers.com.au**



IMAGE: ELISE HASSEY

masuk store

Lifestyle for Baby / Kids / Mum
@masukistore



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Mossy Store
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0409 223 277
mossystore.com.au



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auberjean.com.au



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Superb Design
108 Main St, Mittagong
4871 2044
superbdesign.com.au



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

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



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

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YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD OR YOUNG TO **TRY YOUR HAND AT SOMETHING CREATIVE**, AND WE ARE SPOILT FOR CHOICE WITH SO MANY TALENTED ARTISTS LIVING AND TEACHING IN THE HIGHLANDS. ALEX SPEED SPENDS THREE CATHARTIC HOURS WITH **WEAVER BROOKE MUNRO**, LEARNING THE BASICS OF **THE ANCIENT CRAFT OF BASKET-MAKING**.

The trick about going along to a workshop and learning something new is not to be hard on yourself. Place the bar too high by expecting to walk away with a gallery-worthy piece, and you might be setting yourself up for disappointment. Go along with the express purpose of enjoying yourself and learning what you can, and you'll have a fabulous morning.

That is my approach, anyway, as I prepare for my first ever workshop experience; a three-hour affair with weaver Brooke Munro, 'Basket-making using hidden core coiling technique'. Brooke is one-half of creative duo Mr & Mrs Munro. Husband Colin is the second, and together they create beautiful raw pieces of furniture, sculptural basketry, and objects from wood and pieces uncovered on their Wildes Meadow property.

The session is at the fabulous Dirty Janes in Bowral, which has an ongoing schedule of such workshops. I arrive happy and relaxed with no presumptions of uncovering any hidden artistic talent, but determined to take what I can from the morning. Dirty Janes is home to the largest vintage markets in the Southern Highlands, with more than 75 dealers. It sells all manner of treasures from furniture to collectables to jewellery, and if you are keen on shopping or pottering about, this is a wonderful place to come. Wonderful but a bit dangerous. Especially as it incorporates Maureen and Chris Gardners' new Green Lane precinct, and Suzie Anderson Home. Dirty Janes is to shopping fiends what chocolate peanuts are to chocolate peanut lovers. Irresistibly moreish.

Workshops are held upstairs in the Magpie Room and are intimate, warmed by the morning sun, and furnished with morning tea by the fabulous Tea Salon downstairs. Brooke was taught by the late Virginia Kaiser, one of Australia's best known basket-makers, and she soon has the nine participants, some local like me, others from further-away Kiama and the Blue Mountains, weaving with a traditional 'long and short' stitch. Wrap, wrap, wrap, stitch.

Basket-weaving has experienced a renaissance of late in the move to sustainable products and people's desire to get back to Nature. Brooke is a skilled and patient tutor with a warm and engaging manner that inspires confidence. Three hours magically disappear into the ether as the hand-dyed raffia she supplies begins to metamorphose into the beginnings of a basket. Well, for most participants, that is. Looking up from my weaving efforts, I feel alarm as my creation resembles neither the woman's on my left nor the one on my right. That is until a very welcome comment comes from the front of the class.

'I like what you are doing with that, Alex. It looks very organic. It'd look great as a wall-hanging.'

Talent, kindness and diplomacy. Now that's my kind of artistic teacher.

mrandsmrsmunro.com
dirtyjanes.com 

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Food & wine

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Q: Which came first John: the butcher stores or the raising your own cattle on the farm?

A: My dad Joe Mauger bought the first farm near Robertson in the 1940s, which he paid for with produce grown on a 10 acre cabbage patch in 12 months. Over the next 30 years he bought and sold local farms to increase his commercial cattle business.

Q: How long has there been a Maugers at Burrawang, and what was the impetus behind opening in Moss Vale?

A: Dad opened Maugers at Burrawang in 1972 when cattle prices slumped. I started there in 1976 as a 16-year-old and became manager in 1978 when Dad had a heart attack and could no longer work in the shop but he continued to work on the farm over another 25 years. We opened the shop in Moss Vale in 2014 to take over from the only remaining butcher in Moss Vale, which was closing down, and to ensure locals could continue to buy our locally grown grass fed meat.

Q: Does all Maugers meat come from stock you raise?

A: We buy quality cattle and lambs from local sales and grow and fatten them on grass at our two family farms. We also sell free range pork and chicken. I control the farm process myself. I drench for worms and lice, handle stock using passive techniques, and rotate stock from paddock to paddock weekly. I select the finished animals and deliver them personally to abattoirs. I'm not a one breed person. I believe many breeds can have good meat. I do favour Angus, Hereford and Murray Grey. Once back from the abattoirs, our procedures are different from most. I can't tell you all our secrets but suffice to say 'ageing' the meat is one significant part.

Q: Tell me a bit about your paddock to plate philosophy. Feel free to drop in any chefs or restaurants you supply to...

A: We are third generation butchers as our son Mat now controls the butcher shops. We have more than 40 years experience of farming, processing and butchery. My wife Vicki and I also ran a catering business for 30 years. We have much regard for the 'low and slow' process of cooking. I've never been much of a name dropper but we supply to seven hotels in the area and restaurants in all our towns and villages, as well as Nowra and Wollongong.

Q: With Mat now running the shops are there occasions that old bull/young bull scenario arises?

A: No. Mat came to the shop after completing a refrigeration/air con apprenticeship and we worked together for five years until Vicki and I thought he was ready. I was physically worn out and mentally strained so the time was definitely right. Since Mat came on board we've doubled our output. We are a fair size small business, employing 14 people from the local area, so we try to share the load and help each other out when needed.

Q: What is the most underrated cut of beef you sell?


A: Blade. It can be cooked in any way. It was once popular, not so much now though.

Q: Do you get fed up with people mispronouncing your name?

A: We pronounce Mauger as Major. We come from Jersey, part of the British Isles and during the war our name sounded very German, hence the change.

Q: And finally please finish this sentence... 'butchers have a reputation of having a bit of twinkle in their eye because...

A: They know quality when they see it.

maugers.com.au 

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ON YOUR PLATE

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





CLOCKWISE FROM
LEFT *The Loch*. *Exeter
General Store*.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Ever popular in the Highlands, Christmas in July is happening courtesy of the Robertson Hotel and Artemis Wines this year. At Robbo, chef Michael White will serve a feast every Saturday night in July with roast turkey, Christmas pud and port, and there will be a lucky door prize from none other than Santa each evening. While over in Berrima, Artemis Wines joins forces with The Loch guesthouse for a festive table of locally grown and made produce and wine. Bookings essential for both events.

therobertsonhotel.com
wineclub@artemiswines.com.au

NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES IN BERRIMA

Owner Richard Kemp welcomed new chef Nick Gardner to the fold of Berrima stalwart Eschalot recently. Anne Holloway and Philip Martin introduce their new business, Feast at Berrima, to the historic village. See our review on page 53. **eschalot.com.au, feastatberrima.com.au**

LOUNGE FOOD AT BIOTA

James Viles and his team at Biota have introduced a lounge menu which, he says, 'like all food, is best shared among family and friends.' Braised oxtail and cheese toastie, mini cheeseburgers, whole baby chicken cooked over coal with lemon and tarragon. That's one night's dinner sorted. Yum. **biotadining.com**

RAILWAY STREET FRESH FOOD AND PRODUCE MARKET

This weekly community initiative in Moss Vale has become such a fixture of Highlands life, it's hard to believe it only celebrated its first birthday recently. Established by not-for-profit organisation On the Grow Southern Highlands, its aim is to encourage consumption of ethically produced food in the area and to provide an alternative to large supermarkets. This winter there will also be fire-pit roasted potatoes every Thursday, and a winter Solstice event on 22 June.

Every Thursday 3-5.30pm during winter. Railway St, Moss Vale. 0468 331 738.

COCKTAILS AT PIZZAS IN THE MIST

Nothing screams winter decadence as much as an elegant cocktail designed to enjoy when temperatures fall. The much loved Pizzas in the Mist has 14 cocktail varieties on offer when you feel in need of a stiff one. Our favourite? The Espresso Martini. Shaken not stirred, of course. Kahlua, vodka, Galliano, Frangelico and a double shot espresso. Why stop at just one?

Pizzas in the Mist, 42 Hoddle Street, Robertson. 4885 1799.

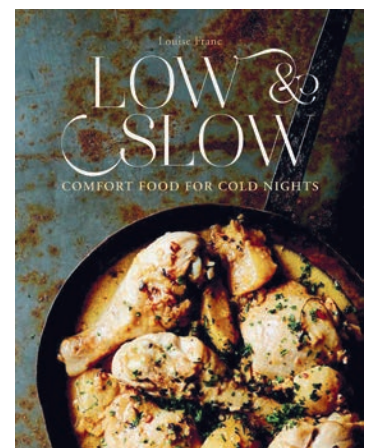
EXETER GENERAL STORE

A shout out to one of our long-time favourites, Exeter General Store, where you'll find a happy balance of excellent food and friendly village-like ambience. The hub of the community, here locals rub shoulders with visiting foodies and local farmers, and Craig and Lauren use and sell whatever is seasonal from round about. Other fans tell us that the breakfast boards and the whisky porridge are just right, too.

1 Exeter Road, Exeter. 4883 4289.

GO LOW & SLOW

Looking for some inspiration to get some comfort food for cold nights happening? New cookbook *Low & Slow* by Louise Franc has all those winter warmers that set the sense for a long lunch or dinner so beautifully. Duck and pork sausage cassoulet, sticky five-spice beef ribs, slow-baked spice quinces. I feel a long, languid dinner party or two coming on. **📖**





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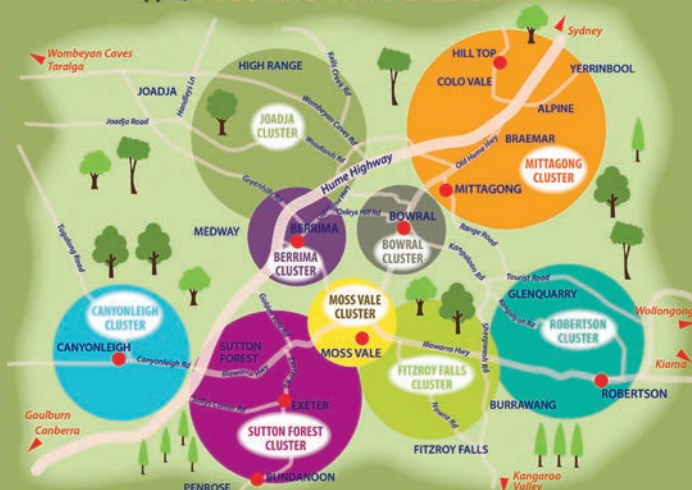


Experience
**The Southern Highlands Food
 and Wine Clusters**

Fitzroy Falls Cluster to launch Friday, July 28



**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS
 Food and Wine Clusters**



Relax to the sounds of the falls and bird song in Fitzroy Falls, offering a spectacular national park experience. Work up an appetite wandering through the rainforest and then indulge yourself with the delicious produce and wine that Fitzroy cluster offers. Pick up some award-winning lamb from Redleaf Farm or flavoursome, straight from the farm potatoes from Highland Gourmet Potatoes. After enjoying the outdoors, you can settle back and relish a glass of 5th Chapter Estate set in their stunningly manicured gardens. Please see the website for further details and launch bookings.

www.southernhighlandsfoodandwineclusters.com.au

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Come in from the cold

CELEBRITY CHEF AND LOCAL GEOFF JANSZ LOVES NOTHING BETTER THAN PREPARING A **HEARTY WINTER MEAL** FOR HIS FAMILY, **MADE WITH LOVE AND LOCAL PRODUCE** UNIQUE TO THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS.

The Southern Highlands has its unique microclimate... small, elevated, reliable rainfall, wonderful soil and clearly defined seasons. Here, farms and vineyards have an opportunity to take advantage of the 'terroir' by selecting the livestock, grapes and fresh produce that thrive. In an age where every recipe, and winemaking technique, can be found and copied, our regional fingerprint (our individual character and style) I think will be experienced as much through our primary produce as how it's prepared.

Despite having plenty of good eateries, Southern Highlanders love to entertain at home and the season for this is winter. It's when we get to live the cliché, 'Come in from the cold, the fire's lit, there's slow-braised beef and aged red wine ahead of us.' City friends can't resist and invariably swing past a real estate agent on their way home. I think it's the slow-braised beef that gets them.

Ask any cow where best to graze, and the well-informed will mention the Highlands. Lush, green and uncrowded, the local pastures are to die for. And they do. Mercifully, skilfully and thankfully in accordance with the wishes and direction of experienced butchers. Yup, that's right. We still have butchers here.

Good, down-to-earth, experienced country butchers. (Quite unlike the best city butchers who are incredibly high-end, selling meat that is so specialised, it wages war with caviar and truffle for pride of place on the table, as well as the credit card.) Our guys cut from carcass and charge for well-grown, well-handled prime beef. So next time you're up for an adventure, come down our way and stock up on wine, antiques and a locally grown beef brisket. I'll even tell you how to cook it. ■

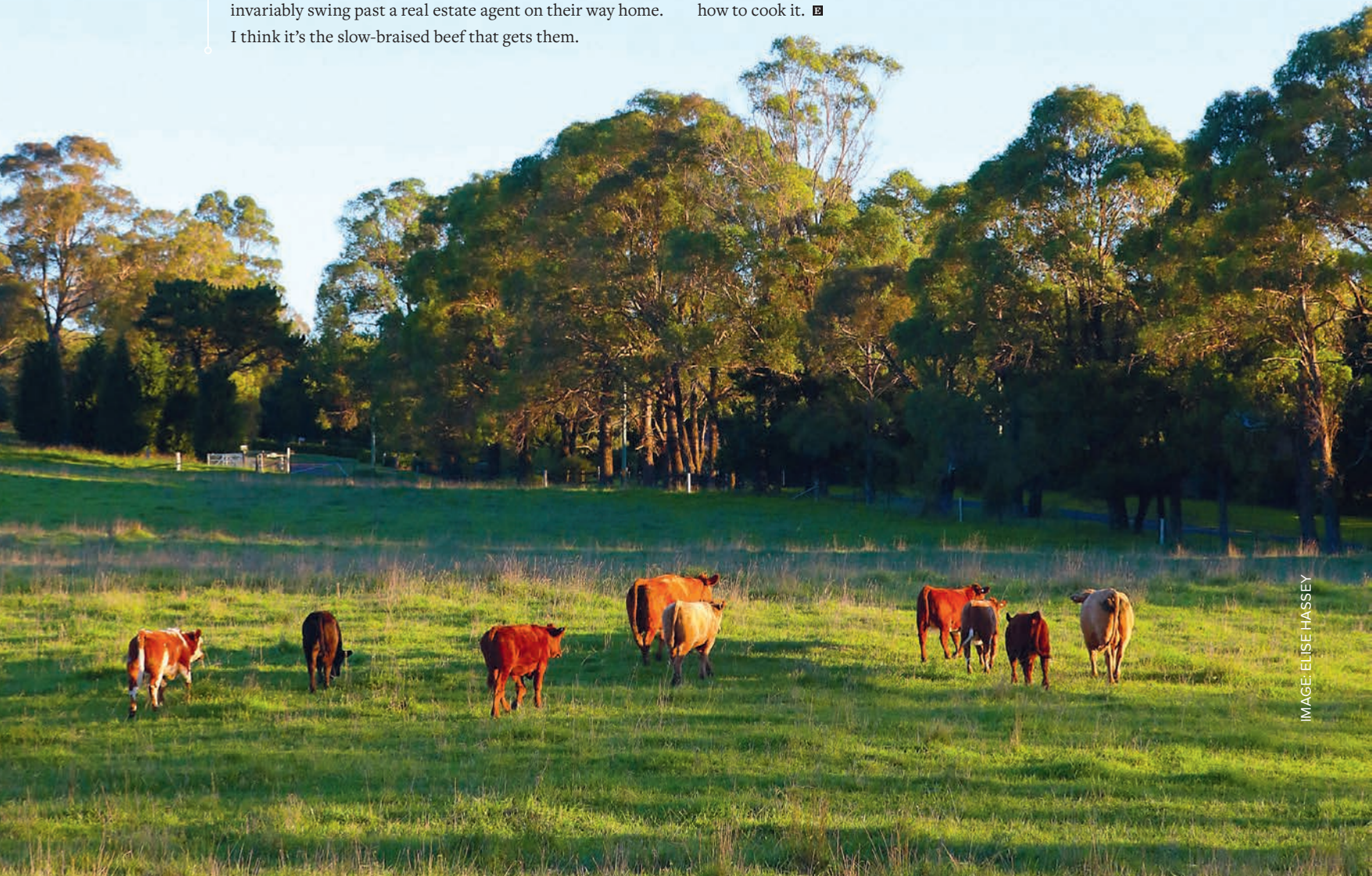


IMAGE: ELISE HASSEY



SLOW-BRAISED SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BEEF BRISKET

SERVES 6-8

- | | |
|---|---|
| Olive oil | 1 cinnamon quill <i>(optional)</i> |
| 3kg whole trimmed brisket | 2 pieces of mace <i>(optional)</i> |
| 6 cups roughly diced carrots, celery and onions | 2 pieces of orange peel <i>(optional)</i> |
| 1 whole leek, washed and roughly diced | 250ml port |
| 1 head of garlic, cut in half crossways | ½ bottle of red wine <i>(I like to use shiraz)</i> |
| 2 very ripe tomatoes, cut in half | 4 cups chicken stock or 2 cups chicken stock and 2 cups water |
| 4 bay leaves | 1 onion, sliced |
| 1 bunch of thyme | 1 cup mushrooms of choice, sliced if necessary <i>(I like Li-Sun Exotic Mushrooms from Mittagong)</i> |
| 1 tbsp whole peppercorns | Creamy mashed potato, to serve |

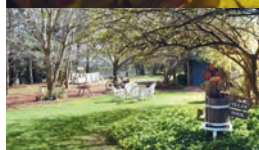
Method

- Preheat the oven to 165°C.
- Rub the brisket all over liberally with salt, pepper and oil. Heat your largest, heaviest and deepest baking pan over very high heat, add the brisket and sear both sides. Remove the meat and set aside.
- Reduce the heat to medium-high. Add the carrot, celery and onion mixture to the baking pan with a splash of oil and cook, stirring, for 15 minutes or until the vegetables are collapsed and slightly browned.
- Add the leek, garlic, tomatoes, bay leaves, thyme and peppercorns, and cinnamon, mace and orange peel, if using. Cook, stirring, for a further 5 minutes.
- Add the port and bring to the boil, then boil heavily for 2 minutes. Add the red wine and bring to the boil, then boil heavily for 3 minutes. Finally, add the stock or stock and water combination and bring to the simmer.
- Return the meat to the baking pan. Cover the pan contents with baking paper, then cover the baking pan tightly with foil. Cook in the preheated oven for 3 ½ hours.
- Remove the baking pan from the oven and set aside to rest, covered, for 10 minutes.
- Meanwhile, sauté the sliced onion and mushrooms in a little oil until just soft. Set aside. Prepare the mashed potato (I like to add a little mustard for flavour).
- Remove the beef from the pan and set aside, keeping it warm. Strain the remaining liquid, skim off the fat and reduce to a sauce over medium-high heat. Add the sautéed onion and mushrooms to the sauce.
- Slice the brisket (reheating it if needed) and serve with the mash and sauce. You could also add slices of the beef to the simmering sauce to reheat it. Enjoy!

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS OLDEST VINEYARD AND WINERY.

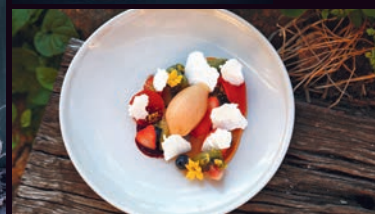
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What are The Southern Highlands Food & Wine Clusters?

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



CANYONLEIGH CULTIVATED

Weather in the Highlands, especially in winter, can be as band Crowded House so famously immortalised 'like four seasons in one day'. So can the landscape. The rolling English-like countryside of Exeter and Sutton Forest quickly gives way to flatter, drier land as you drive out to outlying areas such as Canyonleigh. According to the excellent Berrima and District Historical Society, the area was established in the 1880s by Jane Murray, whose property – 'Canyan Leigh' – was near the junction of Paddy's River and the Wollondilly. She opened a post office and made land available for a school. Jane later moved to a property established by one of her eight sons, located on a well-used stock route. Other early farming families also included the Carters. Edward Carter is acknowledged as discovering the shale oil deposits at nearby Joadja. As well as grazing and farming, Canyonleigh was also historically home to a number of coal mines and timber

mills. Local farmer and acclaimed international wood chopper George Quigg grew up on a timber farm in the area. Canyonleigh is today also home to a growing band of food producers and winemakers, many of whom joined forces earlier this year to form the Canyonleigh Cluster. If you haven't visited Canyonleigh before, make a day trip of it and explore.

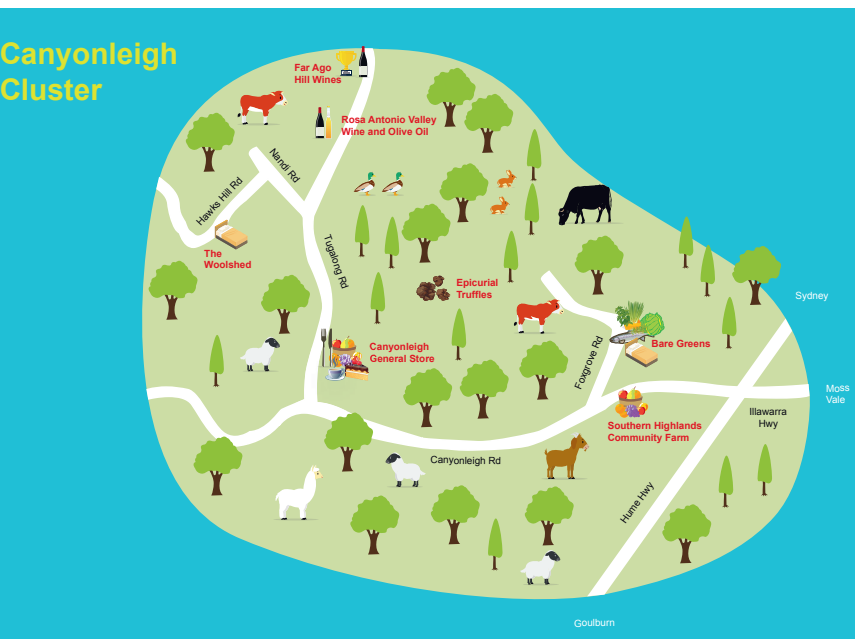
Food and Produce

Canyonleigh General Store is at the centre of the widely spaced-out rural neighbourhood. It encompasses the post office, a bottle shop and a Wi-Fi cafe which, by all accounts, serves great woodfire pizza and regularly holds community curry nights, karaoke nights and the Canyonleigh Night Markets, as well as fundraising events like its recent Biggest Morning Tea. It also stocks a range of locally grown produce alongside those everyday bits and pieces like bread, milk and newspapers. Local

business Bare Greens was started by Sylvie Chaumont and Frank Maly in 2015, and uses aquaponics towers to grow herbs and leafy greens upwards and outwards – and with not a plastic bag in sight. Now that's fresh food. Also, don't miss two acclaimed Canyonleigh vineyards nearby. Far Ago Hill, the Southern Highlands home of Sydney interior designer Katrina Hill, produces acclaimed Pinot Gris, made by James Halliday-ranked winemaker Nick O'Leary. Meanwhile, Rosa Antonio Valley Wine and Olive Oil brings a little taste of Italy to the Highlands. Giovanni Pugliese, whose family has been making wines in Southern Italy for generations, continues the tradition, with each vintage limited to 100 cases. Spend a few hours at the tasting room and buy some of the fresh olive oil from the grove while there. If you feel like doing a bit of farming work while visiting, get in touch with the Southern Highlands Community Farm. Run by the Shanti Mission, the community farm is on 57 acres and has 5000 established fruit and nut trees. Or, if you simply feel like kicking back and relaxing at a lovely local base for a day or two, The Woolshed, set on 230 acres, sleeps up to 12 guests with sweeping views and heaps of animals, including the native variety, for the kids to see. A great place to chill out, see some of the local sights and properly catch up with friends.

Be part of the Fitzroy Falls Food Cluster launch on Friday July 28 at 5th Chapter Estate. Producers include the acclaimed Redleaf Farm and Highland Gourmet Potatoes. Book now to enjoy some delicious local produce, and a glass of something delicious from 5th Chapter Estate.

southernhighlandsfoodandwineclusters.com.au 📱



Proud winner of Australian Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine 'Star Cellar Door', Southern Highlands

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With an ambience of rustic Australian elegance, the Artemis Cellar Door is the perfect environment to enjoy a tasting of premium cool climate wines, Sunshack Ciders, Beemead and beer.

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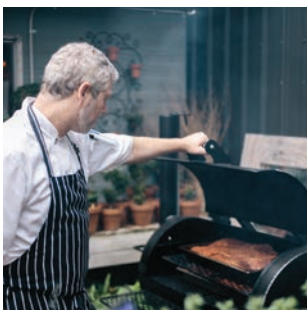
46 Sir Charles Moses Lane, Mittagong 2575
5 minutes from Mittagong - 8 minutes from Bowral
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www.artemiswines.com.au



EST 2017

GREEN LANE

BOWRAL



MEET YOU AT GREEN LANE

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Open from 10am daily, with lunch from noon and now dinner and wine bar.

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

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

Maureen and Chris Gardner

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

P.S. Be sure to also visit our Moss Vale shop, '*The Green House*' at 247 Argyle Street, Moss Vale (right next to Peugeot), for more vintage garden and home wares.

www.thegreenhousemossvale.com



Escape eats at... Feast at Berrima

ESCAPE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ENJOYS **AN EVENING OF FINE DINING AT FEAST AT BERRIMA**, AND QUICKLY APPRECIATES WHY LOCALS AND REGULARS ARE SO HAPPY TO WELCOME BACK **CHEF ANNIE HOLLOWAY AND HER PARTNER, FRONT OF HOUSE, PHILIP MARTIN.**

Building a reputation in the restaurant game is a slow burn. It takes talent and hard work and creativity to entice locals and visitors to come, and years to build up a loyal client list. Which was exactly what Annie Holloway and Philip Martin achieved with their previous restaurant **FEAST @ McVitty**. Opened in 2010 at local vineyard McVitty Grove near Mittagong, by the time 2015 rolled around the couple had established a burgeoning reputation. Good Food visited in 2013 and said 'quality ingredients shine' and Annie's food 'completes the sense of relaxed and friendly elegance'. And then, as can happen in business, the bottom fell out of their venture when the lease went elsewhere.

Coming out of the kitchen at the couple's new business, **FEAST at BERRIMA**, formerly the Australian Alpaca Centre (the pen that housed the once-resident alpacas now the herb garden), Annie admits losing **Feast @ McVitty** was heartbreaking.

'I cried for three weeks because we worked so hard to build up that place. But then you pick yourself up, don't you, and start again.'

FEAST at BERRIMA opened in December and came about, says Philip, through the support of local businesswoman Judith Street, mother of mining magnate Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest. Mrs Street and her late husband, pastoralist Philip Street of the distinguished legal family, were among the first to import alpacas to Australia.

'Our new landlords, the Forrest family, offered us this section of their Australian Alpaca Centre building when they heard we were looking for a new home,' says Philip, also an architect and the owner of local vineyard Pulpit Rock Estate.

'It definitely feels good to be back in the game,' says Annie. 'Berrima is such a pedestrian-orientated village where everyone walks around with their dogs, and so many of our friends have been popping in to say hello and welcome back.'

FEAST at BERRIMA is an intimate but well-lit space with an impressive wine list featuring many local wines. Customers can expect the same elegant dining Annie built her reputation on. Cooking with an Asian influence and an emphasis on local produce, her goal, she says, is 'always to cook the food I know my clients love and want'.

'Our customers are discerning people who appreciate a dish with all the condiments on one plate – a delicious finished product, if you like, all in one,' she says.

Looking at the dinner menu, there are many things that appeal to this hungry customer. I choose the seared scallops with shiitake, cauliflower, rocket and herbed sourdough crumbs, followed by the slow-cooked duck in orange and port with beans, creamed potatoes and fresh figs. My dining companion, who is Scottish and has a penchant for game, goes for the chargrilled boned quail with green papaya salad, and lime and pepper berry dressing, followed by the crisp pork belly with roasted pear, spinach, and caramel cashew and chilli glaze. My meal is a delight, with the duck falling off the bone effortlessly. The quail is moist and rich, and the pork likewise rich as well as sticky and with a decided kick. We finish by sharing a Valrhona chocolate ganache tart with praline and coffee anglaise ice cream.

Dining at **FEAST at BERRIMA** is akin to wrapping yourself in a cashmere blanket. The quality of the food and the beautifully understated service speaks for itself. Just as Annie and Philip set out to achieve again in the new setting.

FEAST at BERRIMA is open for a la carte and light lunches Wednesday to Sunday, and for dinner Friday and Saturday. Annie also has plans to launch a cooking school soon. ■

IMAGES: ELISE HASSEY

DETAILS

FEAST at BERRIMA

1 Market Place,
The Alpaca Centre
Old Hume Highway,
Berrima. 4870 1268
feastatberrima.com.au



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

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enquiries@bistroofficina.com.au
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4885 1889



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Burrawang General Store Cafe
11 Hoddle St, Burrawang 2577
4886 4496
bgsc.com.au



Feast at Berrima has recently opened in the historic township of Berrima. Feast offers modern Australian cuisine in a chic casual setting with a menu prepared by owner/ chef Anne Holloway, and a carefully crafted wine list specialising in the best of the local crop, with a fine selection from elsewhere in support. Featured, is the Crisp seared "Cone Bay" barramundi, with kumara, asparagus spears and lemon aioli. Lunch Wed - Sun. Dinner Fri - Sat.

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



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ludobowral.com



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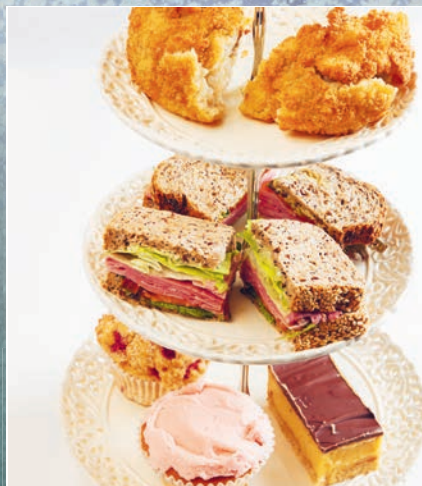
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bakersdelight.com.au



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PHONE: 4862 2222 • 302 BONG BONG STREET BOWRAL
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PLAYING IT COOL

ESCAPE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS VISITS A LOCAL
SUCCESS STORY HAPPY TO LET ITS AWARDING WINNING
WINES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

WORDS JANE O'CONNELL



DETAILS

Tertini Wines Cellar Door

Open 7 days 10am-5pm

4878 5213

tertiniwines.com.au

Getting there

Lot 5 Kells Creek Road,
Mittagong
(off Wombeyan Caves Road)

If winning awards is anything to go by, the team at Tertini Wines set the bar high from the first release. Their 2006 Riesling picked up a gold medal and, 10 years later, the same wine earned an enviable 97 points on wine guru James Halliday's 100-point quality scale, this time as an aged Riesling.

Since those first vines were planted back in 2000, the Mittagong based vineyard has produced a long list of award winning wines, notably Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, in addition to their popular Riesling.

The drive along Kells Creek Road to this Highlands success story meanders through the picture-perfect landscape for which the area is famous. But don't expect undue fanfare from this vineyard. The subtle sign-posting under a towering eucalypt reflects Tertini's humble approach to self-promotion. Whilst they're proud of their five-star Halliday rating (awarded to winemakers with two or more 95+ ranked wines), they prefer to focus on producing premium wines, supporting the local community and taking care of their cellar-door customers.

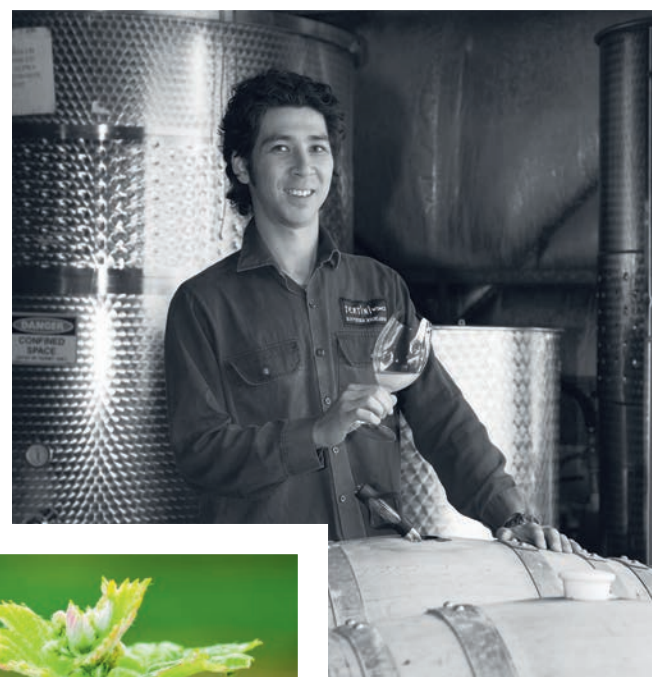
Winemaker Jonathan Holgate is the reluctant star behind Tertini's success, a fairy tale that almost wasn't. Holgate initially studied engineering at university before a stint of work experience in the Hunter Valley convinced him to switch courses to wine science. Today, he is passionate about the benefits of producing wine in a region he considers to be one of Australia's true cool-climate areas.

'With a stretched-out growing season, it helps produce fruit with better character and higher natural acidity, an added benefit for one of the factors for ageing wine,' Holgate explains.

Tertini's commitment to producing premium wine means careful control of the crop load. Vines are hand-pruned and fruit is hand-picked under the keen eye of in-house viticulturist Mark Skenfield. It's all about being kind to the vines, too much fruit creates stress that can affect the quality.

Beyond the advantages of a cool climate, Tertini Wines, like other vineyards located in the region, benefits from a steady flow of tourists from Sydney, something Holgate believes other wine regions 'would die for'. The cellar door set-up is a relaxed affair and takes place around a handful of barrel tables, both indoors and out. On a sunny winter's day, choose the outdoor option under the pergola.

According to wine-tasting staff, the word about Tertini Wines is out, and most visitors arrive with at least some knowledge of what to expect. A selection of red and white



varieties is offered for sampling, along with small plates of cheese and biscuits. The emphasis seems to be on enjoyment rather than hard selling, although free shipping nationwide for case orders is a tempting incentive.

It may be like asking parents to nominate a favourite child, but Holgate doesn't hesitate when asked which wine he most enjoys.

'It's always fun working with the Pinot Noir,' he says. 'That variety is generally considered the holy grail of wine with most winemakers.'

Perhaps having fun is Holgate's secret sauce, as the Pinot Noir has consistently excelled, winning medals in Australia and internationally for the 2009 Reserve Pinot Noir, the 2014 and 2015 Pinot Noir, and the 2015 Private Cellar Collection Pinot Noir.

The day I visit, the 2017 Pinot Noir was being poured into barrels where it will spend around a year before bottling, ready for a 2019 release. And because in a regular work day Holgate is involved in the winemaking process from start to finish, he's a little twitchy in his seat as the pouring takes place. After explaining a little of how he makes his magic, he quickly disappears through the cellar door. No doubt to check the barrels of his next award-winner. ■

JELLORE
STATE FOREST

COLO VALE

ALPINE

JOADJA

Joadja Rd

Wombeyan Caves Rd

Compton Park Rd

Old Hume Hwy

Orleys Hill Rd

Centennial Rd

Eridge Pak Rd

WINGECARRIBEE RIVER

Kangaloon Rd

Ranger Rd

BELANGLO
STATE FOREST

MEDWAY

Medway Rd

BERRIMA

NEW
BERRIMA

BURRADOO

Berrima Rd

Cecil Hoskins
Nature Reserve

MOSS VALE

SUTTON
FOREST

Yarramara Rd

Nowra Rd

Merriella Rd

Illawarra Highway

WINGECARRIBEE
RESERVOIR

GLENQUARRY

KANGALOON

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Wineries, Breweries & Distilleries



1. Marist Wines

Cnr Old South & Bong
Bong Rds, Mittagong.
Open Sat-Sun 11-4pm.
4872 1911

2. Artemis Wine

46 Sir Charles Moses Ln,
Mittagong. Open Wed-Sun
& P.Hols from 10am.
4872 1311

3. Tertini Wines

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

4. Centennial Vineyards

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

5. Cuttaway Hill Wines

@ Eling Forest
12587 Hume Hwy, Sutton
Forest. Open 7 days 10.30-
4.30pm. 4858 1788

6. Sutton Forest

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

7. St Maur Southern

Highlands Estate
Old Argyle Rd, Exeter.
Open Thurs-Mon 10.30-
4.30pm. 4883 4401

8. Southern Highlands Wines

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

9. Mount Ashby Estate

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

10. Bendooley Estate

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

11. Cherry Tree Hill Wines

12324 Hume Hwy, Sutton
Forest. Open Thur-Mon
10-5pm. 0414 366 000

12. Tractorless Vineyard

@ McVitty Grove
434 Wombeyan Caves Rd,
Mittagong. Open Wed-Sun
10-4pm. 4878 5522

13. Joadja Estate

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

14. Eden Brewery

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

15. Sallys Corner Wines

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

16. Joadja Distillery

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

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e: sallyscornerwines@bigpond.com
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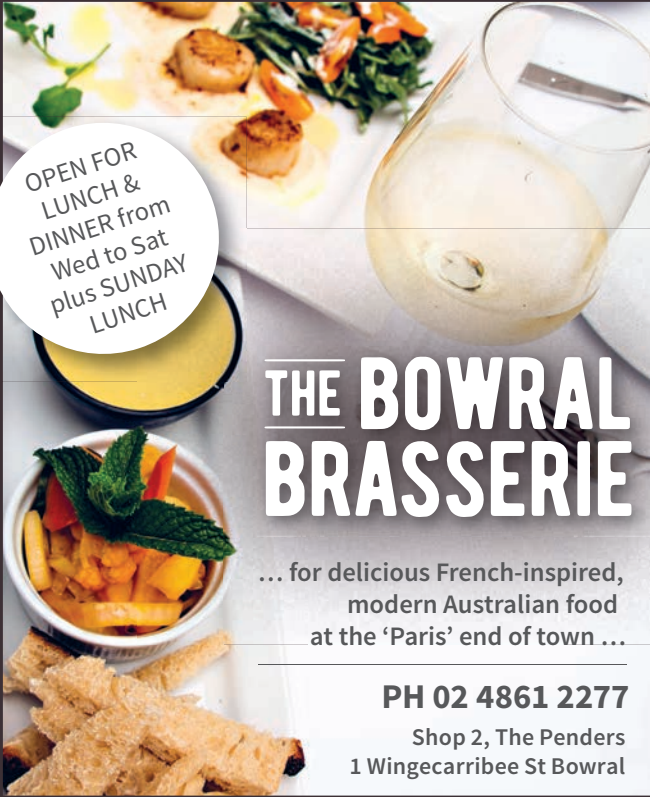
Take a long, deep breath of the clean, crisp air and gaze across endless rolling green hills, then look forward to a romantic night ahead, in front of a roaring log fire, sipping your favourite cool climate red and wondering why you didn't escape to the Highlands sooner and visit Southern Highlands Winery.

We have created a winery that is fresh, modern and spacious, where you can experience award winning cool climate Southern Highlands wines and delicious southern highlands food. Sample our selection of flavoursome wines, tour through the winery, learn about wine making, relax with a glass of wine and enjoy the tantalising selection of produce.



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GOLFERS' PARADISE

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

WORDS JO CROWLEY

Bowral Golf Club

18 holes – par 69
Kangaloon Road, Bowral

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

Professional: Kevin Kenny and Daryl Purchase

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

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

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

Toughest green: 16th.

Two bunkers and a right-to-left slope.

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

Functions catered for.

Contact: 4861 1042;
bowralgolfclub.com.au

Gibraltar Country Club

18 holes – par 70
Boronia Street, Bowral

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Bookings essential.

Professional: Tony White

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

Lessons: Groups and beginner clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

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

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

Contact: 4862 8615;
gibraltarbowral.com.au

Mt Broughton Golf And Country Club

18 holes – par 72
Kater Road, Sutton Forest

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Professional: Larry Canning

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

Lessons: \$50 per hour.

Groups and clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Strictly no denim.

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

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

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

Accommodation available at Peppers Manor House.

Contact: 4868 3200;
mtbroughton.com.au

Highlands Golf Club

18 holes – par 70
Old Hume Highway, Mittagong

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Professional: Scott Martyn

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

Lessons: \$55 per half hour.

Groups and clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

Toughest green: 14th.

Features treacherous slopes to the left and right.

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

Functions catered for.

Contact: 4871 3274;
highlandsgolfclub.com.au

Peppers Craigieburn

9 holes – par 32
Centennial Road, Bowral

Open to the public seven days.

Cost to play: \$15 for 9 holes.

Clubs available for hire.

Lessons: On request.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

Toughest green: 4th.

Needs a good approach.

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

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

Penrose Golf Club

9 holes – par 31
Kareela Road, Penrose

Open to the public seven days.

Cost to play: \$17 for 9 or 18 holes. Clubs and carts available for hire.

Guests of Sylvan Glen play for free.

Lessons: Residential golf school.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

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

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

Contact: 4884 4306;
sylvanglen.com.au

Moss Vale Golf Club

18 holes – par 71
Arthur Street, Moss Vale

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

Professional: Davyd Reeves

Cost to play: 18 holes

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

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

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

Toughest green: 14th.

Very undulating with a bunker to the left.

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

Contact: 4868 1503;
mossvalegolfclub.com.au

Kangaroo Valley Golf And Country Resort

18 holes – par 71
Mt Scanzi Road,
Kangaroo Valley

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

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

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

Lessons: On request.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 7th – par 4.

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

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

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

Full club and bar facilities.

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


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

Memberships available.



BOWRAL GOLF CLUB

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

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

TOURIST DRIVE 17

MITTAGONG TO MOSS VALE VIA BERRIMA

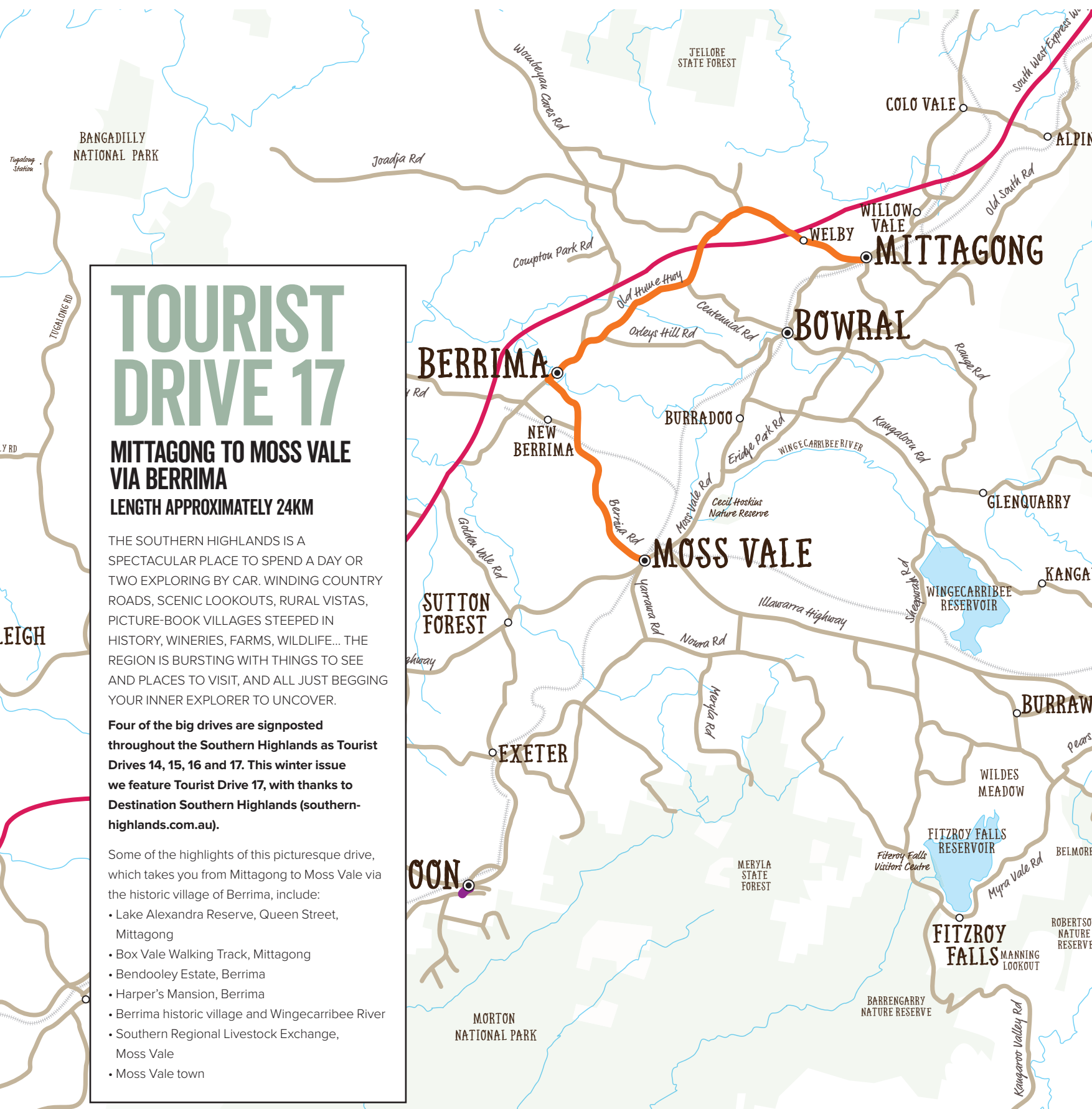
LENGTH APPROXIMATELY 24KM

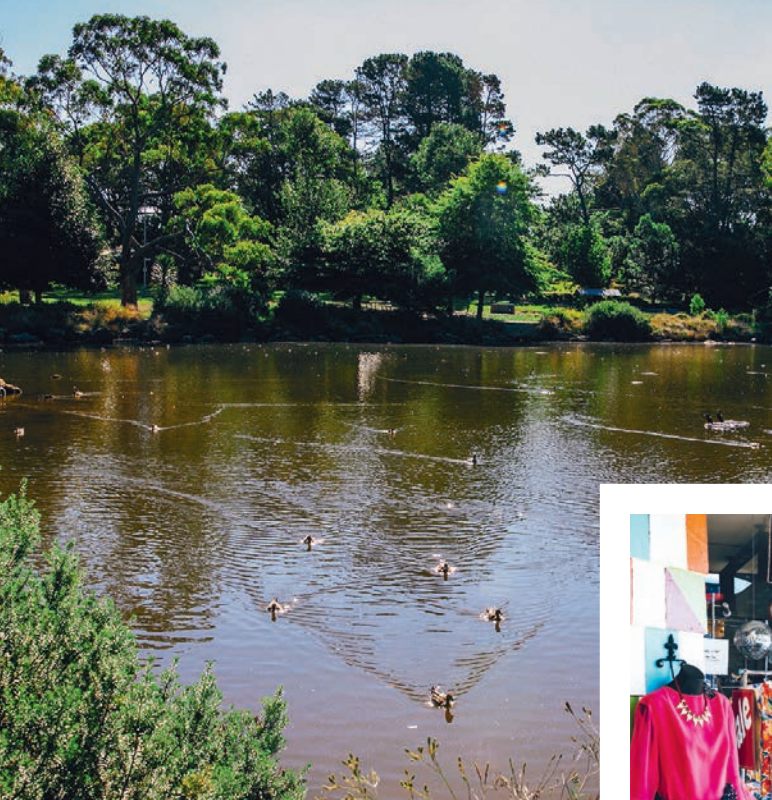
THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS IS A SPECTACULAR PLACE TO SPEND A DAY OR TWO EXPLORING BY CAR. WINDING COUNTRY ROADS, SCENIC LOOKOUTS, RURAL VISTAS, PICTURE-BOOK VILLAGES STEEPED IN HISTORY, WINERIES, FARMS, WILDLIFE... THE REGION IS BURSTING WITH THINGS TO SEE AND PLACES TO VISIT, AND ALL JUST BEGGING YOUR INNER EXPLORER TO UNCOVER.

Four of the big drives are signposted throughout the Southern Highlands as Tourist Drives 14, 15, 16 and 17. This winter issue we feature Tourist Drive 17, with thanks to Destination Southern Highlands (southern-highlands.com.au).

Some of the highlights of this picturesque drive, which takes you from Mittagong to Moss Vale via the historic village of Berrima, include:

- Lake Alexandra Reserve, Queen Street, Mittagong
- Box Vale Walking Track, Mittagong
- Bendooley Estate, Berrima
- Harper's Mansion, Berrima
- Berrima historic village and Wingecarribee River
- Southern Regional Livestock Exchange, Moss Vale
- Moss Vale town





ABOVE FROM TOP
Lake Alexandra
Reserve, Twisting
Vintage, Bendooley
Estate, Berrima
General Store,
Surveyor General
Inn, RIGHT Stones
Patisserie, Berrima.

THE DRIVE

TOURIST DRIVE 17 begins in Mittagong. Home of the Southern Highlands Welcome Centre, so be sure to stop in on your left off the Hume Highway, and chat to the well-versed experts who will give you the lowdown on where to go and what to see in the Highlands. Pick up some handy maps and brochures, and some local produce to take home, before starting your adventure.

Just done the road on the left, past the Mittagong Charcoal Chicken where you can get great takeaway, is Winifred West Park with a playground and loos.

Browse the fabulous antique shops and vintage treasures like Twisting Vintage, and the many local cafés and restaurants. Mittagong RSL has good-value food and a great indoor play area for kids. If the kids need a run around, detour right off the old Hume Highway at Queen Street and head for Lake Alexandra Reserve. There is a great playground here, plus a track around the lake that's perfect for scootering or riding or running on. Feed the ducks, spot the resident turtles and other wildlife, and picnic in the grounds, or even cook your own lunch on the barbecues provided.

Follow the Tourist Drive along the Old Hume Highway out of Mittagong, cross over the freeway, turn right into Wombeyan Caves Road and find the Box Vale Walking Track. The 4.4km easy-grade track follows a historic railway line and cuttings through the natural sandstone. The walk takes about three hours. Visit nearby vineyards and cellar doors at Artemis, Tertini Wines and Centennial Vineyards.

Continue on towards Berrima, stopping beforehand at Bendooley Estate with its book barn and restaurant, cellar door and rare book department, where you will find more than 200,000 preloved and rare books. Back on the road it is only a short journey to the historic village of Berrima, considered one of the best remaining examples of a small Australian town built in the 1830s. Many of the original buildings have been sensitively restored and now trade as craft shops, galleries and restaurants. One of the original coaching inns, the Surveyor General, is still operating and Berrima Court House (open daily) is classified by the National Trust, as is the beautifully restored Harper's Mansion.

Leave Berrima by crossing the Wingecarribee River and turn left at Francis Xavier Church. You will pass through rural countryside on your way to Moss Vale. If you want to see some real country life, stop in at the Southern Regional Livestock Exchange (the saleyards), on a Wednesday or Saturday. Continue into Moss Vale. Founded on ground originally granted by Governor Macquarie to Charles Throsby in 1819, Mossie is a thriving community of country and town people, increasingly attracting an eclectic range of artists, foodies and tree-changers. 18



Visit the 'Drives' section of Destination Southern Highlands' website, southern-highlands.com.au/visitors/drives for further information on each tourist drive; plus fantastic videos taking you along for the ride. Scan this QR code to view a video of Tourist Drive 17.





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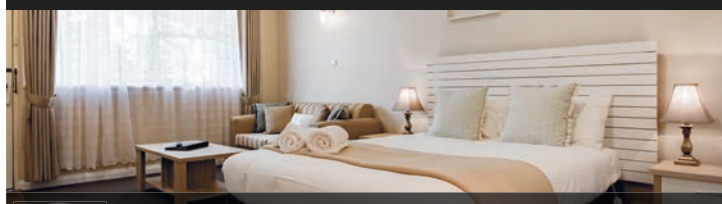
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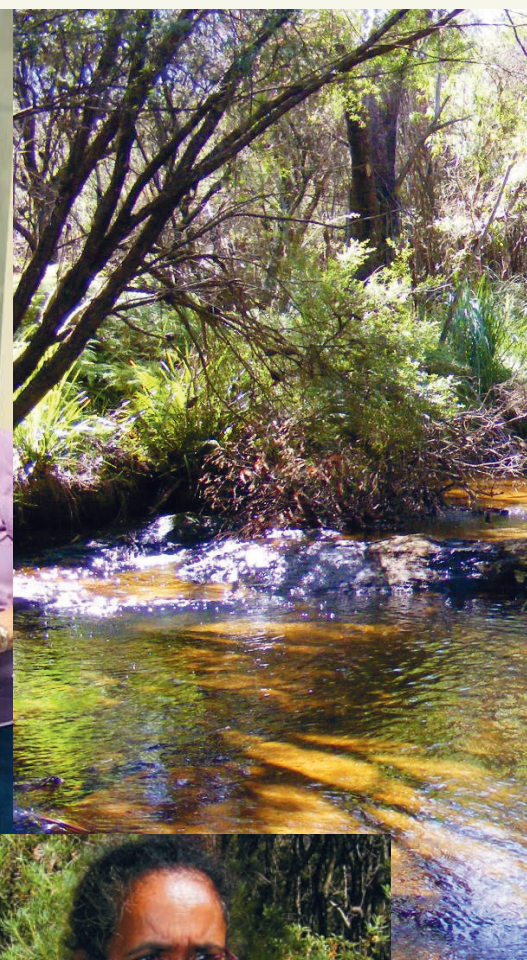
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WORDS **CARLA OFFORD - THE CONFERENCE SHOP**



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For the artist in all of us, **Artation** is a team-building experience that creates collaborative painting sessions for corporate groups. This new and innovative way of bringing your staff together encourages harmony, respect and camaraderie. The Artation approach differs from most conventional styles of team-building in that it is collaborative rather than competitive, so all teams achieve a positive outcome rather than one team winning all. For an added bonus, all participants take home their very own masterpiece as a memento of the session.

Alongside the picturesque surrounds and delicious food and wine, the Southern Highlands also has a rich history of Aboriginal culture that dates back millions of years. **Platypus Dreamin Tours** is a unique experience enabling groups to become immersed in the traditional culture of the Gundungurra people of the Southern Highlands. This comprehensive insight into our indigenous heritage begins with a traditional 'welcome to country' and smoking ceremony. Groups then experience firsthand how the Aboriginal people survive in the Australian bush, including how to use native plants for food, medicine and making tools. Wonderful Dreamtime stories are shared over damper, jam and bush tea, and delegates then have the opportunity to create their own artwork inspired by Aboriginal traditions.





GET INTO IT OUTDOORS

With its beautiful landscape, breathtaking scenery and vast wide-open spaces, the Southern Highlands beckons anyone who visits to venture into the great outdoors.

National Parks teeming with wildlife and rich with Aboriginal history offer incredible walking trails and scenic viewing points. The Wingecarribee River runs through the region, giving a new perspective on the stunning landscape from the water.

Your team can take in the fresh air while hiking or mountain bike riding through the stunning Morton National Park. There you will have the opportunity to spot the abundant wildlife or challenge yourself on an orienteering course to Fitzroy Falls – a spectacular 80-metre high waterfall.

If you feel your team needs to be seriously challenged, you can't go past dropping them into the wilderness for some 'survivor'-style action. Similarly, brains will be challenged and bodies tested to their limits with high-tech adventure races and the intimidating yet highly entertaining Tuff Corporate Mudder! ►



INNOVATIVE NEW MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS AT MOSS VALE GOLF CLUB

If you're a golf tragic and wish to play multiple times per week on a great course, then the new Platinum category will provide the most value. For the keen weekly player, Gold membership will be a better fit. Should you plan to play less frequently, Silver membership will accommodate you.

Consider the options.

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP – Annual Fee \$2,200

Inclusions: NO competition or green fees; One member's guest can play in a competition once per month at NO cost. *This category is designed for those who foresee playing in competitions at least twice per week.*

GOLD MEMBERSHIP – Annual Fee \$1,200

Inclusions: NO cost for social/non-competition golf seven days per week; Competition fee \$15* per round (*subject to change). *This membership is designed for golfers who foresee playing in competitions once per week.*

SILVER MEMBERSHIP – Annual Fee \$299

Inclusions: Eligible for all competition golf - Fee \$40 per round; Eligible for social/non-competition golf - Fee \$25 per round. *This membership category is best suited to those who play competition golf less than once per week.*

Junior membership for those Under 21 years is only \$99 with NO competition or green fees.



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For something more heart-stopping, head to the **Illawarra Fly** for a 1.5-kilometre zipline treetop adventure. In what is officially the highest zipline tour in Australia, delegates can fly through the tree canopies on a series of elevated cable spans and suspension bridges from one platform to another, continuously attached to a steel cable suspended up to 35 metres above the forest floor.

Take your team to **Wombaroo Adventure Park** for a retro 'school camp' experience. This adventure facility has many challenges you may remember from your youth – flying foxes, a giant swing, a catapult, archery, raft-building, tree-climbing and much more. Complete with instructors, this experience can be as school camp or boot camp as you like!

One of Australia's most famous cricketers, Donald Bradman, is immortalised at the world-renowned **Bradman Museum and International Cricket Hall of Fame**. Delegates can step back in time to enjoy a cricket match on the picket-fenced Bradman Oval or take in the history and nostalgia of one of our nation's favourite sporting past times in the Bradman Museum.

Staying on the sporting theme, there are numerous well-manicured golf courses scattered throughout the region where players of all levels are welcome for team-building tournaments.



FOOD, WINE AND FUN

Any activity that involves food and wine is generally a popular choice with delegates. And with more than 60 vineyards, a dozen or more cellar doors and a portfolio of cooking experiences on offer, the Southern Highlands spoils you for choice.

At **Southern Highlands Winery**, delegates can find themselves admiring walls of French oak barrels and 10-metre high stainless steel storage tanks while taking a tour with a professional winemaker and sampling their impressive cool-climate creations at the end.

Seasonal grape-crushing, or 'grape-stomping', is a must-do throughout March and April, and the opportunity to create your own 'blend', bottle it, name it and 'market' it, is a very entertaining experience offered by various wineries. Simple tastings of award-winning varietals are available at all of the cellar doors, with

highlights including **Centennial Vineyard, Tertini Wines**, and **Joadja, St Maur**, and **Bendooley estates**. ►

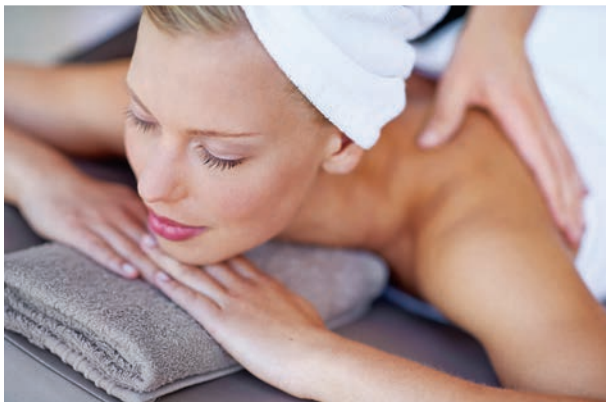


CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
*Bradman Oval, Wombaroo Adventure Park,
Joadja Estate Vineyards, Tertini Wines.*



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ABOVE *Peppers Manor House* RIGHT *Eschalot*

Being a foodies' paradise, the Southern Highlands has also seen the rise and rise of wonderful cooking schools, on-site cooking competitions and adventure food tours to add to the conference itinerary.

Most venues, including **Milton Park Country Hotel and Spa**, **Peppers Craigieburn** and **Peppers Manor House**, offer activities such as 'Master Chef' and 'My Kitchen Rules' type activities. Off-site experiences such as **Cookability** offer tailor-made classes for up to 85 delegates – perfect for satisfying aspiring chefs of all levels and showcasing the best of local and seasonal ingredients.

If walking in the footsteps of a 'hatted' chef is appealing, Richard Kemp, owner and executive chef at the formidable **Eschalot** restaurant in Berrima, was the first to develop a seasonal market garden for use in his impressive fine dining restaurant over a decade ago. Take a tour and enjoy his narrative on ingredients and then enjoy his delicious creations.

Two-hatted **Biota Dining** in Bowral offers bespoke workshops prepared and hosted by James Viles and his team. Expect to forage in the market garden, be surprised by ingredients and explore various cooking techniques at this inspired venue.

To take food back to basics and allow your teams to bond at a more relaxed pace, delegates can head straight to the farm gate on a tour of various producers and witness the origins of some of the Southern Highlands' most delectable produce.



IMAGES THIS PAGE: ELISE HASSEY

The region is well known for its delicious jams, sauces, chutneys, cheeses, olives and much more. Stops to consider along the way include heritage-listed **Montrose Berry Farm** for some seasonal fruit-picking and award-winning **Cuttaway Creek Raspberry Farm** to sample their popular produce.

Yelverton Truffles offers an inspiring truffle hunt led by the farm's dog, and the winter months provide an opportunity to visit the extraordinary tunnels of Li-Sun Exotic Mushrooms.



ABOVE Cookability classes
RIGHT Corporate drumming



DOING IT INDOORS

Beyond cooking competitions and wine appreciation, the list of indoor team-building treats is a long one. Teams can be challenged with mind-bending puzzles, clues and problem-solving through 'Escape'-style challenges. Spending time with charitable concerns such as Tikes on Trikes and Helping Hampers can have a substantial and lasting impact on delegates as corporate responsibility meets the under-privileged.

Most people do love their 15 minutes of fame, and you can easily bring a bit of Hollywood to your Southern Highlands conference as teams create their very own movie with a Blockbuster Productions experience that is both creative and ridiculously fun.

Staying with the creative theme, corporate drumming is the latest addition to innovative team-building activities. This interactive session sees delegates embrace their own inner drummer and travel on an unforgettable high-energy musical journey. And each delegate even gets to keep the drum!

Trivia, tasting, constructing, creating, challenging, learning, bonding and collaborating – you will definitely find the perfect solution to all your team-building needs in this bountiful region.

Team-building is a truly worthwhile addition to any conference itinerary – a great way to motivate and inspire delegates, plus leave a lasting impression. Conferences are meant to be memorable, and the Southern Highlands and all that it has to offer will certainly make your next conference, meeting or event just that!



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

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BETHANY AND SAM MILLIGAN MET IN SCHOOL BEFORE BETHANY MOVED ELSEWHERE AND SAM JOINED THE ARMY. BUT THE TWO NEVER FORGOT ONE ANOTHER, AND EIGHT YEARS LATER THEY FELL IN LOVE AGAIN, AND THEN **MARRIED AT BENDOOLEY ESTATE**. PHOTOGRAPHER **HENRYK LOBACZEWSKI** CAPTURED THEIR PERFECT WINTER'S DAY.

*Winter
wonderland*



To paraphrase William Shakespeare, the path of true love does not always run smoothly. Just ask Sam and Bethany.

‘We met at Camden High school but then Bethany went to another school,’ says Sam, a tower crane rigger. ‘Then we met four years later at a party and went on a few dates but I had joined the army so we went our separate ways again.

‘But I never forgot Bethany, and after another four years we got in touch. I was living in Queensland, Bethany was still in Camden, so we did the long-distance thing until I was discharged from the army and moved home. We have been together ever since.’

Bethany, a funeral director in her family business, says she fell in love with Sam because of the way he adores her. ‘He makes me feel loved and secure,’ she says. ‘He also makes me laugh constantly.’

Sam proposed at a family function, after asking Bethany’s mum for her blessing and showing her the ring. From the outset, the couple were in no doubt about who they wanted to marry them, or where they wanted to do the deed.

‘In my line of work I meet a lot of celebrants,’ says Bethany. ‘We chose Michael Bourke because we wanted someone who was down-to-earth, humorous and beautiful. And Mick nailed it.

‘As for the venue, we have both always loved the Southern Highlands, and we loved Bendooley on sight. The ambience was bliss and the food was amazing. It was just us.’

Bethany says while other couples may shy away from getting married in winter, she and Sam were determined to make it a central theme of the day.

‘We opted for a glamorous, elegant Hollywood vibe – formal black suits with silk lapels for the men, floor-length blush sequinned gowns with cream fur shrugs for the girls, and Hollywood waves in our hair. The weather was perfect, and the atmosphere with that huge fireplace and the elegance of the fur coats, well, it just all came together.’

Bethany and her attendants got ready in Bendooley’s cosy Book Barn Cottage (see our Escape Southern Highlands review in the Autumn edition), the ceremony took place in



the gardens and then the 176 guests sat down to a three-course reception in the Book Barn.

‘The most important elements to us were the food, alcohol and music,’ says Sam. ‘Everyone commented on how spectacular the food was. We opted for the Table Share and everyone said there was more than enough to go around – we didn’t want to hear of our guests doing McDonald’s runs at 2am on the way home. Similarly, the alcohol flowed generously and the band, Something Borrowed, was fantastic, playing from the ceremony right through the reception.’

To Sam and Bethany, their day was perfection. Right down to the moment Jesse, one of their friends, proposed to Letitia, one of Bethany’s bridesmaids.

‘From the time I woke up in the morning to the end of the night, everything was perfect,’ says Bethany. ‘We

were super organised, which helped me stay calm. I think that played a big part in such a huge day. Our one-year anniversary is coming up and we are excited to go back to Bendooley for lunch to celebrate it. The staff went above and beyond for us. They made us feel like royalty.’



DETAILS

VENUE

Bendooley Estate

3020 Old Hume Highway, Berrima
bendooleyestate.com.au

BRIDE'S DRESS

GC Bridal Lounge (Kate Gubanyi)

GROOM AND GROOMSMEN SUITS

David Jones

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**Lehann Keaton, Bubs to Brides
Alterations**

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Robyn Matthews

Dream Flowers, Camden

CATERING

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PHOTOGRAPHER

Henryk Lobaczewski

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Weddings, parties, anything...

WEDDING FEVER IS FLOURISHING IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS. ACCORDING TO 2015 FIGURES FROM TOURISM BODY, DESTINATION SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, **MORE THAN 1100 LOVEBIRDS CHOSE TO MARRY HERE, INJECTING \$33 MILLION INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY.** AND ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS, 75 PER CENT OF THAT NUMBER USED A **CIVIL CELEBRANT, LIKE NINA DE BORDE,** TO PERFORM THE HONOURS. NINA LIVES IN THE HIGHLANDS WITH HUSBAND ANDRE AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN, AND DESPITE MARRYING HUNDREDS OF COUPLES, SHE TELLS ESCAPE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SHE NEVER TIRES OF RECITING THOSE FAMOUS LINES, 'BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU...'

'Years ago I went to a church wedding, and as I sat there watching these two people get married, I realised that although the ceremony was about a lot of things, it was not really about the couple at the front of the church.

As a child, I always loved an audience. It was probably a middle child thing, but I was always the family comedian, in school plays and loved telling a story. So becoming a celebrant turned out to be the perfect role.

I have married hundreds of couples but when I started out several years ago, I had no idea the Southern Highlands was such a huge wedding destination. Hilarious, right?

DETAILS

Nina de Borde
Civil celebrant, Exeter
ninadeborde.com
@southernhighlandscelebrant
0434 977 418

But I'm someone who tends to have an idea and then makes it happen. Luckily for me, I just happen to live in this beautiful place where loads of people want to get married, so what was a bit of fun has turned into a full-time job.

I think being genuinely interested in people is at the heart of being a good celebrant. It's important you understand what makes each couple tick, and that you listen well. You need to make a connection so everyone feels comfortable, because as anyone who has ever married will tell you, weddings are strange occasions. To stand up in front of a large crowd and profess your love for another is daunting.

My role is to ensure the couple feel relaxed, supported and like they can be themselves. The guests can then engage and enjoy the moment too!

I am totally spoilt going to work each weekend. The Highlands has so many beautiful and unique venues – there are too many to name individually but there is definitely something for everyone here. Hopewood House is classic and sophisticated. Mali Brae Farm has great country views and top catering. Sylvan Glen is relaxed, and has the golf course. Milton Park's tulip lawn is lovely and The Briars' lake and willows are divine.

No two ceremonies are ever the same, but some stand out as completely unique. One couple threw an '80s dress-up birthday party for the bride, which turned into a surprise wedding for the guests. I was in the band pretending to play the tambourine, the groom was dressed as a punk and the bride as Madonna – it was hysterical.

I recently conducted the marriage of Simon the Red Wiggle and his wife, Lauren. And last year I married a couple aged 87 and 82. That was a delightful and humbling experience.

As for the business side of things, it costs \$521 to get married at the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. A newly trained celebrant may charge around \$600, and I've met others whose fee is \$1000. I'm somewhere around the middle.

I'm proud to say I've worked hard to grow in my job and I bring a lot of experience. I also rely on my intuition. I've been told that one of the things couples like about me, is that I reflect back to them the authenticity of the moment they are in. Importantly, it's their day, not mine.

This is not just a job, it's a real honour. I'm so lucky to have made friends with many couples I've married. Some call back for me to do their babies' naming ceremonies years later.

I think the most important thing I've found through my own marriage of 17 years, and my work, is that real love isn't just about roses (even though roses are always nice!). It's about rolling up your sleeves and digging in the dirt to grow something beautiful together. It is messy, but wonderful.' ■

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www.mossvalevillagecaravanpark.com.au

Winter wedding insights

THANKS TO INITIATIVES SUCH AS DESTINATION SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WEDDING FAIR, THE HIGHLANDS IS ATTRACTING MORE AND MORE MARRYING COUPLES FROM OUT OF AREA. WE SPEAK TO **KELLY MACNAMARA**, POPULAR VENUE **BENDOOLEY ESTATE'S** WEDDING COORDINATOR ABOUT WINNING WINTER WEDDING BUSINESS.

Take advantage of cost savings Our winter weddings have increased considerably in the past two years. We offer a 5 per cent discount on the total food and beverage costs, as well as a large discount on venue hire. Some couples are hesitant to book in cooler months but this 5 per cent saving can go a long way. Traditionally lots of suppliers go on holiday during winter so couples need to book well in advance to avoid disappointment.

Cover all weather possibilities Look for sunny winter spots and wet weather options. The gardens at Bendooley are sheltered from the wind by deciduous trees that allow winter sun in to warm guests. The undercover pavilion by the lake is ideal for wet weather or on a cold, wintry day because the sides will go up and the heaters are kept blazing.

Dress for the season Always advise guests on the invitation that the ceremony will be outdoors in the Highlands, and suggest they dress accordingly. An estimated temperature guide is very helpful! Supply faux fur wraps for the bridal party and a basket of blankets for guests as they arrive at the ceremony for a nice touch. Arrange transportation for guests to and from the venue so they are not left waiting in the cold.

Set a warming scene A rich colour scheme and open fires set the mood for a Highlands winter wedding. Feed your guests hearty meals like traditional roasts with mulled wine and Russian cocktails. The cooler months bring in formal elegance; men in tuxes and women in gowns. Lots of couples marrying at Bendooley have opted for the spectacular look of deep reds, cashmere wraps and elegant black-tie weddings. Nothing screams romance like well-dressed guests sipping wine by the fire.

Frame the photos The stunning winter afternoon light is a favourite of photographers, who love weddings in this season for that reason. But hold the ceremony early enough to ensure plenty of time for photos before the light fades, and be positioned towards the west for amazing winter sunset shots.

A message for brides and grooms Always remember the weather may be cold but winter is beautiful. The most amazing photos I have seen have been of winter weddings. Embrace the cold and winter theme. Your guests will love it, and you'll have the most unforgettable day of your life.

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Diana Kelly is a Commonwealth authorised Civil Celebrant registered on the Attorney General's official list of Marriage and Life's Celebrations Celebrants. With such a strong background in presentation, making a very personalised ceremony comes quite naturally to her. Diana's primary concern it to make her couples happy and fulfilled with the wedding experience from the very beginning. Obligation free introductory meeting.

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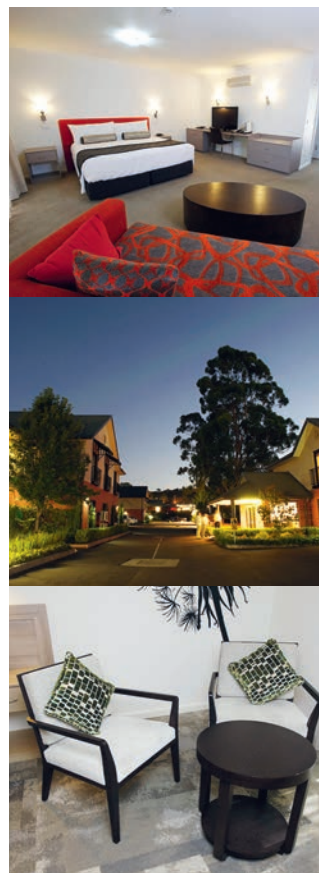
I would like to thank all my family, clients and the community of the Southern Highlands for supporting my business over the past 10 years. I'm truly thankful and overwhelmed to have reached this milestone and look forward many more glorious years in business.

Tanya



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SUNDAY LUNCH

As the weather turns chilly, what better way to spend a Sunday than going out for lunch with friends.

WORDS ALEX SPEED





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Mount Ashby Estate

Getting Sunday lunch right is, to a degree, about atmosphere and attitude. The French, for instance, who are attitude personified, know how to throw a Sunday lunch. Communal dining, a roaring fire, ample food served with finesse, sparkling chat and red wine. And plenty of it. Chris Harvey and Sally Beresford, owners of Mount Ashby Estate, are pioneers of the French-inspired long-lunch concept in the Highlands.

Sally was also one of the first to begin selling custom-made farmhouse tables, first from Woollahra and now from Mount Ashby. These are made from timbers imported from France and elsewhere in Europe.

Eat in their charming La Palette Café, originally the dairy, and you'll be seated at one of Sally's signature tables, the largest of which seats 16. Offerings include twice-cooked Gruyère soufflé and confit duck in blood orange and spiced plum sauce. Sally has coeliac disease so 90% per cent of the menu is gluten-free.

The location of Escape Southern Highlands' beautiful cover shot this issue, Mount Ashby is all about enjoying the atmosphere created by the open fire, along with the food and wines grown at this boutique vineyard and cellar door. It is conviviality on a stick. There's also plenty of room on the lawn for the kids to run around as you linger over lunch. Potter in The Produce Store next door, and hanker after Sally's gorgeous range of provincial 17th to 19th-century European antiques.

Open for lunch Thursday-Sunday 12pm-3pm.
128 Nowra Road, Moss Vale. mountashby.com.au



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
*Bendooley Estate, Bistro
Officina, Mount Ashby Estate.*



Robertson Inn

Owner Adrian Guest took over this old gem in 2012, and good reports have been coming from Robertson ever since. It's one of Australia's last fully wood-constructed hotels, now with a smart grey paint job and internal facelift, and we're told by a friend who held her husband's birthday there that it's a fabulous place for a private function. The Inn also holds weekly community feel-good events for locals, such as Tuesday Trivia and Two-for-One T-Bone on Family Thursdays, and kids eat free.

Come Saturday and Sunday lunch, the Robertson Inn has an indoor jumping castle, so the kids can go wild for half an hour while you chill out near the open fires and dine on the gastro-pub menu that includes the Salmon, Leek and Asparagus Pot Pie, and the famed beef eye fillet steak sandwich.

Open for lunch 7 days from 12 noon. 89 Hoddle Street, Robertson. robertsoninn.com.au ►



Burrawang Village Hotel

It's exciting times in Burrawang, now the much-loved local pub has had an overhaul. New operators Paul and Kate Dean, and Kate's father James Couche (who owned the famed Lord Dudley pub in Paddington for 38 years), have introduced a new bar menu with delights like gourmet sausages, mash and peas, with the snags supplied by Maugers Meats just across the street.

They're holding on to some important pub traditions, however, like the Burrawang Hockey Teams' famed fruit and veg and meat tray raffle every Friday and Saturday night. And we are told the \$1 oysters on Fridays nights are a treat.

So if you want to get the pulse of this little community (which had the best primary school NAPLAN writing results in Australia in 2015), the hotel is a good place to start. Get along on the June long weekend and lunch in the fabulous beer garden. Festivities will end with a bang on Sunday June 11 with a fireworks display.

Open for lunch 7 days from 12 noon. 14-16 Hoddle Street, Burrawang. burrawangvillagehotel.com.au

Biota Dining

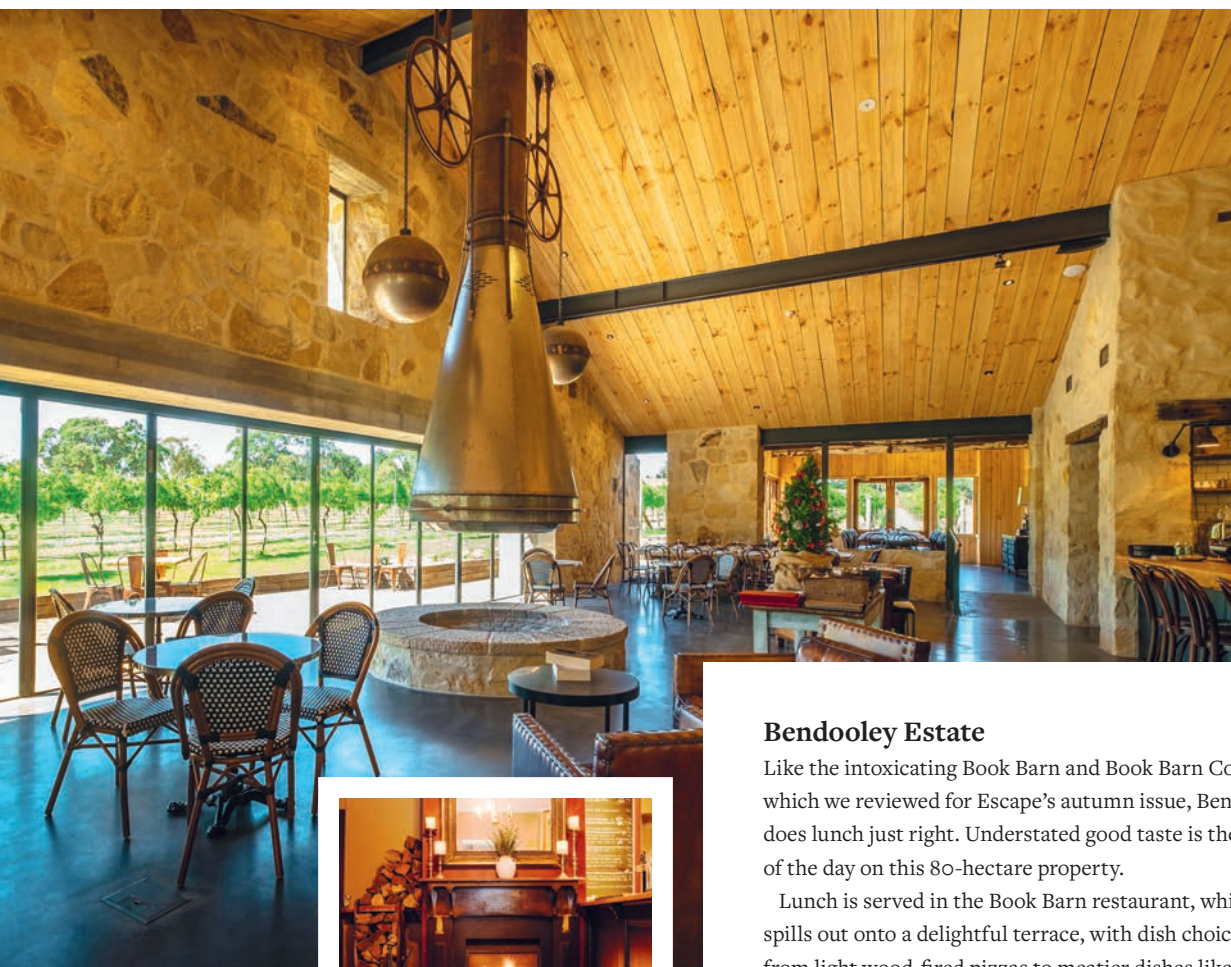
No great dining list in the Highlands would be complete without Biota, which takes Sunday lunch to a new level. Led by the indefatigable James Viles, a former Chevalier boy and now one of Australia's most respected young chefs and restaurateurs, Biota delivers a real eating-out occasion.

Big on seasonal produce, supporting local hero producers, and foraging for its foods, Biota offers up a three-course or six-course tasting menu. Or maybe go for the new lounge menu in the bar area.

Warm yourself in front of the double-sided fireplace, or sit outside in the sunny courtyard within hectares of kitchen gardens. Consistently one of the most-awarded regional restaurants in NSW, Biota serves up a Sunday lunch you won't forget in a hurry.

Lunch Friday-Monday. 18 Kangaloon Road, Bowral. 4862 2005. biotadining.com

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
Biota Roast, Burrawang
Village Hotel, Biota Dining,
Bendooley Estate, Briars
Country Lodge and Historic
Inn, Bistro Officina.



Briars Country Lodge and Historic Inn

Judging by the number of cars parked outside Briars every Sunday, night or day, this historic coaching inn remains a firm favourite.

Certainly, outside on the terrace, fire-pit blazing, is a lovely spot on a sunny winter's day to enjoy a 'cook-your-own-steak' option. The Allen family bought the 1827 Georgian Briars two years ago. Daughter Stacey Evans says they are 'intent on restoring Briars to a family-centric, welcoming place'.

Recent changes include a new menu with greater emphasis on local produce, more premium steak offerings and sharing platters such as a charcuterie board (think prosciutto, smoked ham, duck pâté, port jelly, and sourdough with honey and black truffle butter. There is also a wide selection of vegetarian, dairy-free and gluten-free options, and five private dining areas for special lunch occasions.

Open for lunch 7 days from 12 noon.

653 Moss Vale Road, Bowral. briars.com.au

Bendooley Estate

Like the intoxicating Book Barn and Book Barn Cottage, which we reviewed for Escape's autumn issue, Bendooley does lunch just right. Understated good taste is the order of the day on this 80-hectare property.

Lunch is served in the Book Barn restaurant, which spills out onto a delightful terrace, with dish choices from light wood-fired pizzas to meatier dishes like slow-braised wagyu brisket. After lunch, taste one of the Bendooley wines in the new cellar-door, or wander happily around the lovely grounds.

Lunch all week; weekends 11.30am-2.30pm. 3020 Old Hume Highway, Berrima. bendooleyestate.com.au

Berrima bonuses

With so many options in this historic village, we couldn't split hairs. The Loch is a fabulous newcomer that opens its Tasting Room every Sunday for lunch. There it champions local produce, much of it picked from its farm.

Feast at Berrima is a newcomer turning heads, and Eschalot remains a stalwart of fine dining and good taste, with a choice of a three, four or eight-course tasting menu. And although it doesn't have a fireplace, we couldn't leave out Josh's Café. This much-loved local has an eclectic menu and great vibe.

The Loch, 581 Greenhills Road, Berrima.

theloch.net.au Feast at Berimma, 1 Market Place, The Alpaca Centre, Old Hume Highway, Berrima. feastatberrima.com.au Eschalot, 24 Old Hume Highway, Berrima. eschalot.com.au Josh's Café, 9 Old Hume Highway, Berrima. 4877 2200.



LOCALS ALSO LOVE

The Moss Vale Hotel:

Great family-friendly food at the Porterhouse Bistro. **Sutton Forest Inn, Sutton Forest:**

Lauren cooks up a storm in this sunny bistro.

The Mill Cafe, Bowral:

Exciting new space making waves with a great menu and happy crowds. **Centennial Restaurant Bowral:** A favourite with a la carte lunch menu and vineyard views.

Bistro Officina, Bowral:

A funky place with loyal customers and innovative lunch options.

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Tally Ho!

Hunting to hounds began in Australia in 1811, and for the past 200 years has been part of the tapestry of life on the land in the Southern Highlands, and some of the people who colour it.

IMAGES ROBERT BILLINGTON
BILLINGTONPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU





Well into its winter season this year, the Sydney Hunt Club rides out on a dozen private properties spread over the Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands, with more than 20 club members and their families. Riders range in age from 70 to 10, and the club's foxhound pack of 14-and-a-half couples (or 29 dogs in modern speak) is kennelled by Huntsman Donnchadh Brown near Yass.

Hunting to hounds was outlawed in Scotland, England and Wales last decade, however remains popular in France, the USA, Canada and New Zealand. In NSW and Victoria, where the fox is deemed a noxious pest, it is legal to hunt with hounds if riders and hounds are registered members of approved hunting groups, and meets are held on private land with the permission of the landowner.

Angus Stephen, Highlands local and president of the Sydney Hunt Club, says hunting to hounds is more than simply catching or running to ground Charlie or Todd (as the fox is referred to in fox-hunting terms). Rather, it allows riders to give their horses free rein and ride cross country. Something, he adds, that is becoming a rarity.

'For the vast majority of people who hunt, catching the fox is the least important aspect of the whole day,' says Stephen. 'What hunting to hounds is really about is the exhilaration, and the excitement of letting working horses have their head in an uncontrolled environment, and for riders to ride and jump what is in front of them.'

With hunting heritage going back to 16th-century Britain, strict protocol and tradition is still observed. The Huntsman, Whippers-in (who help set boundaries for the hounds to work in) and the Field Master wear colours – scarlet or red coats – to denote office. The Huntsman, who blows the hunting horn to signal to the pack, follows the hounds and rides out in front. The rest of the mounted field follow according to seniority. Stephen, who at over 195cm (6'5") tall, rides an off-the-track thoroughbred 'that used to be owned by the blokes from The Footy Show'.

'Yes, traditionally hunting to hounds is about trying to catch a fox but quite often, in my experience, the fox gets away. But more than that, today it's a way to ride horses like we used to. Sadly, we are increasingly seeing that capacity diminish, even when living in the country.'

www.sydneyhuntclub.com.au

billingtonphotography.com.au ■





‘What hunting to hounds is really about is the exhilaration, and the excitement of letting working horses have their head in an uncontrolled environment, and for riders to ride and jump what is in front of them.’



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SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS markets

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

THE FARMER'S & FLEA MARKET

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

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

Bowral Public SCHOOL MARKETS

**Second Saturday 8.00am - 1.00pm (Except January)
(main produce market) Bendooley Street, Bowral**
Boasting everything you could wish for from a local market, this lively monthly gathering boasts everything from local produce and gorgeous plants to beautifully crafted toys and children's clothing; from boho-chic fashion to cowhide and Moroccan rugs; leathersgoods to botanical art. Then there's the food – from French to Vietnamese, pizza to pastries; there's something to suit every taste.

THE BUNDANOON MAKERS MARKET

**First and third Sunday 8.30am - 2.00pm
(Except January) Bundanoon Memorial
Hall, Railway Parade, Bundanoon**
Sewers, knitters, woodworkers, photographers; leatherwork and silver jewellery; fresh fruit and vegetables, freshly baked bread, Lebanese take home meals, hot Indian dishes, Japanese pancakes, honey and eggs, cakes, pies and melting moments all make this market more than worth the scenic drive to Bundanoon.

Berrima SCHOOLYARD MARKET

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

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

COLO VALE MARKETS

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

**SECOND SUNDAY 9.00AM - 2.00PM
HODDLE STREET, ROBERTSON**

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

MITTAGONG MARKETS

Third and fifth Saturday 8.00am - 2.00pm.

Corner Albert and Alice Streets, Mittagong

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

RAILWAY STREET FARMERS MARKET

Every Thursday 3:00pm - 6:00pm

On the Greens, Railway Street, Moss Vale

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

Exeter Village Markets

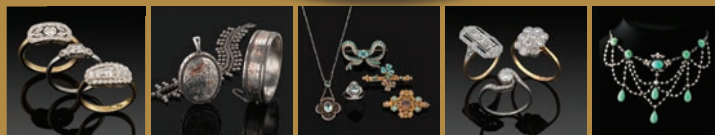
*First Saturday 9.00am – 2.00pm
Exeter Village Hall, Exeter Road, Exeter
Exeter's quaint Village Hall and beautiful lawn
hemmed by the village's cricket pitch are the
setting for this idyllic monthly market featuring
local producers, artisans and craftspeople.*

CROP-SWAP

Every Saturday 9.00am – 10.00am

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

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

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

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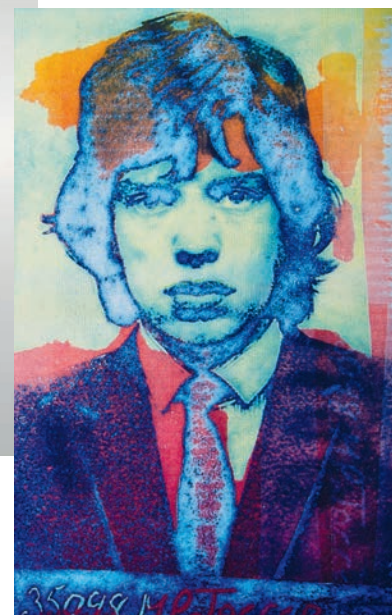
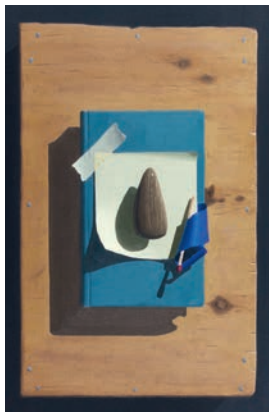
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FROM LEFT: Oliver Stokes-Hughes; Greg Hyde; Tracey Luff; Kelvin Taylor.

ARTS FOR ALL

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

Rubbing shoulders with fellow art-lovers, a glass of something delicious in hand to lift the spirits, is always a fun way to warm body and soul on a chilly day or evening in the Highlands. The inviting glow of gallery lights will rarely dim this winter with more than a dozen exhibition openings across our four main art venues. Opening events are free, and usually open to one and all. Check online gallery exhibition calendars for more details.

Weavers of many mediums and styles call the Southern Highlands home, so it is fitting the evocatively titled 'Woven in Winter' exhibition at Sturt Gallery asks a group of artists to explore what the theme means to them. Inspired by the changing elements of the season, mist, snow, ice, wind and rain, works include intricate and unexpected sculptural forms reflecting nature by weavers Bronwyn Berman, Brooke Munro, Catriona Pollard, Patrice Cooke, Shona Wilson, Tracey Mitchell, Keiko Schmeisser, Karen Farrell and extraordinary cardboard artist Tracy Luff. *Woven in Winter* runs from June 11 to July 3. Also at Sturt, weekend courses in weaving and the art of 'steam bending' wood into circular boxes will be held during August, while images by photographer Chris Donaldson are showcased in the exhibition 'Music to my Eyes', which runs July 30 to September 17. **Cnr Range Road and Waverley Parade, Mittagong; sturt.nsw.edu.au**

Recently refurbished, the Bowral Art Gallery is hosting seven exhibitions throughout winter, including five group shows. The annual *Pirtek Still Life* Prize which Oliver Stokes-Hughes was a finalist last year, embraces this season of contemplation and reflection with an exhibition of still-life paintings to be judged by local artisan and former MP Michael Yabsley, whose own venue, Wombat Hollow at Kangaloon, is another local space that exhibits creative pursuits. *Pirtek Still Life* Prize runs June 30 to July 9. **1 Short Street, Bowral; bdasgallery.com**

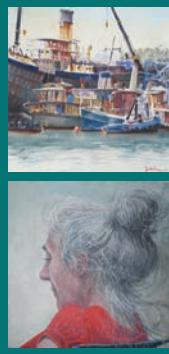
The usually joyous and sometimes illustrative fantasy-fuelled paintings, etchings and sketches of Bathurst-based artist Greg Hyde will be exhibited in the downstairs gallery of The Milk Factory Gallery and Exhibition Space from June 5 to August 31. Upstairs in the street-level gallery the large-eyed, spirit-filled birds featured in artist Sobrane's popular work will do their best to lure you, siren-like, to take a closer look from June through to September. Afterwards, browse the design centre and visit the Milk Factory's cosy cafe.

33 Station Street, Bowral; milkfactorygallery.com.au

Proving visual art and wine go so well together, the evolving Bowral artspace of Ten Thousand Paces combines both at monthly 'Drink and Draw' life-drawing groups. The cost is \$20 for a two-hour session and includes a glass of local wine. Contact Hamish on 0428 294 569 to book. The inaugural ArtBar also pops its cork there this month with a cosy, candlelit event including live music, poetry readings and, of course, art to admire. The very cool work of South Coast artist and printmaker Kelvin Taylor, who uses solar plates or photopolymer printing techniques for his pop art, will also feature July 1 to 13. **Ten Thousand Paces, Springetts' Arcade, Bong Bong Street, Bowral; tentousandpaces.com**

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Carlos Barrios is an El Salvadorian Australian artist who paints the vivid imagery of human, animal and spirit figures.

Raised in an artistic family in San Salvador during the civil war, Carlos was six when he first heard his calling to create. He has not stopped since, drawing and painting every day with often religious-like fervour. A joyful force of nature, Carlos came to Australia in 1990 and later moved to the Highlands with partner, architect Anika Ekholm and their children. Carlos exhibits with Metro Gallery in Melbourne and Mitchell Fine Art in Brisbane. His next solo show will be works on paper at Olsen Gallery, Woollahra later this year. At home in Robertson, Carlos loves to spend time assisting great friend John Olsen, with Olsen's momentous paintings. 'Painting is many things for different people,' says Carlos, 'but for me it is getting in touch with the greatest energy of the universe.'

***My name is* CARLOS BARRIOS**

I live in... Robertson.

I love it here because... It allows me to be at peace with Nature.

My life in five words is... Arts, family, pets, cooking and Nature.

Followers of my Instagram see... Images of my current works.

The Southern Highlands has been home for... Nine years.

We moved here because... We needed fresh air, peace and harmony.

My favourite three things are... The beautiful waterfalls, local produce and John Olsen.

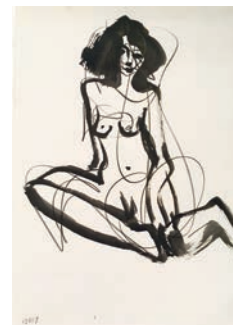
My favourite things to do here are... Paint, draw and look at Nature.

I always take friends who come to stay to... Belmore Falls, Wombat Hollow the home of Michael and Susie Yabsley and Bendooley Estate.

The thing most visitors say is... I want to live to here too.

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9am: Arrive at the Bundanoon Railway Station in the centre of the bustling village.

Opened in 1868, here is where trains arrive regularly from Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale – and trains are a great way to see the countryside. A meeting and trading place for the Wadi-Wadi and Gundungurra peoples, the area was known to the first inhabitants as a 'place of deep gullies' and European settlers interpreted this word as 'Bundanoon'. Head straight to the Jumping Rock Cafe to savour a delicious pie, especially during Pie Time in June which is Destination Southern Highlands new winter festival initiative, or pop into Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe for coffee and cake. Bundanoon was the first town in the world to ban plastic water bottles from shop shelves, so bring your reusable variety and fill at the numerous free fountains around.



10am: *Pick up something to take home from The Good Yarn.*

For 45 years, volunteers have given local arts and crafters an outlet, selling everything from children's smocked pinafores to woolly jumpers. This gem also stocks homemade jams and relishes, local eggs and honey, with the majority of takings going back into community charities and global grassroots initiative Bikes for Humanity. Just down the road, Nest & Burrow is another locally owned treasure trove of gifts, homewares, Italian leather goods and knitwear. Perfect for buying that keepsake, or three, to take home.

LEFT *The Good Yarn, Nest & Burrow.*



11.30am: *Time for a morning amble.*

Bundanoon is surrounded by the vast Morton National Park, which offers a range of bushwalks, and lookouts and sites to visit. Erith Park Coal Mine is a favourite with kids, while walkers with more stamina will enjoy the two-hour round walk to Tooth Lookout/Fairy Bowers Falls. For a family outing to remember, visit Glow Worm Glen at night. Starting at the top of William Street, the walk down to the glen and back takes about an hour, with the worms shining brightest between December and February. Don't forget to bring your torch, though. It's dark down there.



Fairy Bowers Falls.



12.30pm: *Lunchtime.*

Local Bundy boy Byren is the chef and owner of DeliLicious along with wife Liezel. According to regulars, the menu offers amazingly tasty food made with fresh, seasonal and local ingredients. ►

2.30pm: Time to nurture body and soul.

Visit Quest for Life, a world-renowned centre started by the extraordinary Petrea King, to explore skills and strategies for creating peace and resilience in your life. An extensive program of residential and tailor-made workshops is held within nine acres of beautiful grounds. Meanwhile, nearby Solar Springs Health Retreat offers pampering for tired bodies.



Quest for Life Labryrith



4.00pm:

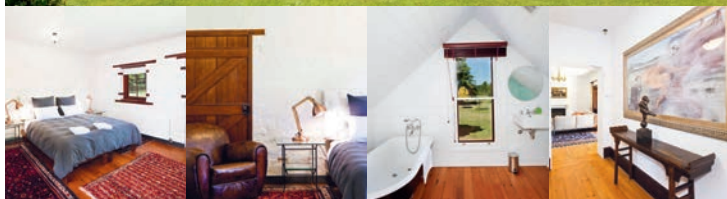
In the early 20th century, Bundanoon was home to more than 60 guesthouses catering for Sydney holiday rail travellers. Stay overnight and enjoy fine dining at the recently renovated Bundanoon Guest House, where chef Eon Waugh, previously of Josh's Café in Berrima and the Studio Restaurant in Exeter, is carving a shining reputation. For self-contained accommodation, The Pill Factory, built by early settler W.A. Nicholas to manufacture his Golden Cross medicines, sleeps up to 36.



The Pill Factory

9.00am:

Hightail it back to the Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe in Bundy's main street and feast on a breakfast burger. If you are a cyclist, all the better, as this cafe will deliver coffee to your bike. Now that's service!



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THIS WINTER.

BERRIMA GHOST TOURS

Many teenage kids go through a phase of loving scary movies so why not treat them to the real thing? Join a group who call themselves Australian Paranormal Phenomenon Investigator Ghost Hunts & Tours. Meet at Australia's oldest licensed pub, the Surveyor-General in Berrima, for dinner before being led through the historic village to see if contact is made with any spirits of peoples past still lurking about. **Saturday 3 June and Saturday 29 July 8pm-midnight. \$85pp.** appighosthunts.com

BREAKFAST IN THE BUSH

Wirrimbirra Sanctuary is home to many Australian marsupials and birds, and you can get up close to them and treat the kids to a full English breakfast when it is feeding time at the zoo. Bookings essential. 1st Saturday of every month, 9am-11am. \$10pp. **Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, 3105 Remembrance Driveway, Bargo. 4684 1112.** wirrimbirra.com.au

ACTION AND ADVENTURE

This July, Camp Wombaroo near Mittagong is running Adventure Day Camps for kids aged 8-14. Activities include canoeing, orienteering, abseiling, raft-building and archery. **Monday 10 July-Friday 14 July. \$54pp per day. 162 Black Spring Road, High Range.** campwombaroo.org.au

NAIDOC WEEK

This July 3-9 is NAIDOC Week, a national celebration to commemorate and applaud the achievements and contributions of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens. And a good way to educate our kids about indigenous culture and history is through the week-long series of events National Parks and Wildlife are holding in the Highlands, including 'Finding Food in the Forest' walks with Aboriginal Discovery rangers at Fitzroy Falls, and a family fun day and elders' lunch at Yamada Aboriginal Community & Cultural Centre in Mittagong. **nationalparks.nsw.gov.au, wsc.nsw.gov.au**



SUTTON FARM HISTORY TOUR

The history of Sutton Farm dates back to the early 1800s, when the land was granted to a freed convict and his wife. Convict labour was used to build the homestead, and the famed stables, which were added in the 1930s and doubled as a set for the filming of Phar Lap in 1983. The property, which is now an equestrian centre, has recently been restored and offers two-hour historical tours daily and include a guided walk and morning tea. **Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest. 4869 2600. suttonfarm.com.au**

TRIKE AND PIE TOUR

Picture you and your excited offspring on the back of a 2012 boom trike, out for an hour's ride with a stopover at the famous Robertson Pie Shop for a pie and coffee or milkshake. June is Pie Time so rug up and have an experience you'll both wheelie love. **0435 790 884. justlookingtriketours.com.au**



STURT WINTER SCHOOL KIDS' COURSES

Enrol your kids in one of Sturt's fabulous one-day courses and get them creating. Subjects include painting landscape in mixed media, making a clay boat, and designing and creating a crazy hand puppet. Suitable for kids aged 7-12 years and the cost includes materials, morning tea and lunch. **Monday 3 July-Friday 7 July. \$95pp per day or \$440pp per week. Range Road, Mittagong. sturt.nsw.edu.au**

FARM CLUB AUSTRALIA

Get the kids outside in the countryside, and up close to farm life at Farm Club Australia in Werai, five minutes from Moss Vale. Walk around this working farm, and feed the sheep, pigs, horses and alpacas before visiting the Farm Shop to stock up on locally grown produce. **Every Sunday morning. farmclubaustralia.com.au**

HIGHLANDS ESSENTIALS

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IN HANDY DURING YOUR STAY IN THE HIGHLANDS.

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Mittagong Fire Station 10 Bowral Road, Mittagong 4871 1002

Moss Vale Fire Station Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1288

Bowral Police Station 53 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral 4862 9299

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

State Emergency Services (SES) 13 25 00

Emergency Bush Fire 000

HOSPITALS / HEALTH:

Bowral Public Hospital Mona Road, Bowral 4861 0200

Southern Highlands Private 99 Bowral Street, Bowral 4862 9400

Doctors:

Bowral Street Medical Practice 70 Bowral St, Bowral 4861 3183

Mittagong Healthcare Centre 3 Albert St, Mittagong 4872 3933

Southern Medical Centre 61 Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1500

Eastbrooke Medical Centre 4-10 Funston Street, Bowral 4862 7666

VET CLINICS:

Bowral Vet Hospital 78 Station Street, Bowral 4861 1444

Mittagong Vet Hospital 109 Main St, Mittagong 4872 2028

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

AUSTRALIA POST:

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3/63 Main St, Mittagong 13 13 18

9/15 Clarence St, Moss Vale 13 13 18

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Berrima Bus Lines 90 Old Bowral Rd, Mittagong 4871 3211

Highland Chauffeured Hire Cars 4872 3038 or 0400 921 239

Transport Info Line (Trains) 13 15 00

Railway Stations:

Bowral Station St

Mittagong Regents St

Moss Vale Argyle St

HELPFUL:

Electricity Emergency Endeavour Energy 13 10 03

Gas Emergency Jemena 13 19 09

AGL Emergency 24/7 on 131 245

Telstra Emergency 13 22 03

Wingecarribee Shire Council Open 8.30am – 4.30pm

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

Resource Recovery Centre Open 7.30am – 4.30pm

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

Wingecarribee Animal Shelter Berrima Road, Moss Vale 4868 1520

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A photograph of two Highland cows in a snowy field. On the left, the rear half of a large adult cow is visible, showing its thick, shaggy reddish-brown fur. In the center-right, a smaller calf of the same breed stands facing the camera. The ground is covered in a layer of white snow with some dry grass visible. In the background, a line of trees with green and brown foliage stands against a pale, overcast sky.

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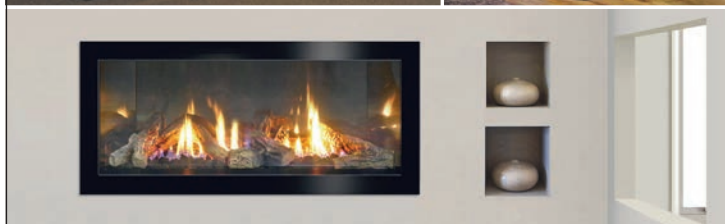


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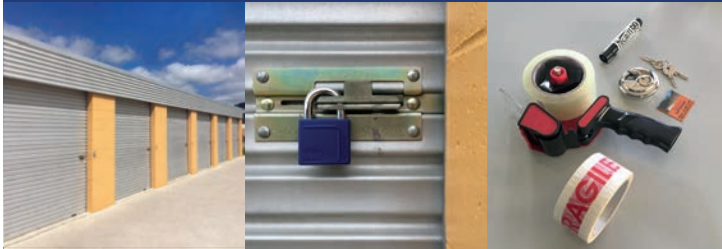
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IN MY BACKYARD

DESIGNER AND CURATOR SARAH KING SHOWS AND SELLS HER INIMITABLE FURNITURE AND HOMEWARE PIECES GLOBALLY, AND TAKES THE WORK OF OTHER AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS TO THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DESIGN FESTIVAL, THE MILAN FURNITURE FAIR. BUT IT IS A **CONVERTED STUDIO IN HER BACKYARD** MAKING HER CREATIVE JUICES FLOW OF LATE.

'I have been in Moss Vale for six years. Before that I moved with my family to Hobart from Sydney to do the big Tasmanian social experiment, and opened a design store there making and selling work from my own practise, Blakebrough+King and other local and international designers. But after returning from Hobart, it seemed too hard to go back to life in Sydney so we chose to live in Moss Vale.

When we moved to East Street, the area behind the house was a paddock with no trees. I planted about 120 trees, and we built this workshop in the backyard with blood, sweat and tears. It was a really industrial place full of machinery, where we designed and created. Blakebrough+King shows from a gallery called Criteria in Melbourne, and another 19 Greek Street in London.

When Gussie my youngest daughter turned 16 she wanted a big party with space for a DJ, so we cleared everything out of the studio, and I loved it. I'd been thinking all along what a great domestic space it would be. I still had a lot of stuff from the Hobart days so I opened a tiny private shop there, selling homewares and furniture. I opened for friends, and friends of friends. It was little but pretty effective which got me to thinking I should do something more with it. That's how it became what I term a weekender. It's a beautiful space for two to four people, with a downstairs studio area and an upstairs mezzanine.



True to my design style, it's furnished very minimally but functionally, and nothing is superfluous. It's all just beautiful stuff you need, and would love to take home. Which is lucky because most of it you can. Everything from the chairs, to the rugs, to the writing desk to the four-poster bed was either designed by Blakebrough+King, or by friends and colleagues who are also artists and designers. Even the bedsheets were made by my mum who has a linen business, Plane Tree Farm. The whole front of the building slides opens to the garden, and the freestanding bath is positioned in the living area downstairs with the bed, which is pretty luxurious. People seem to really like that. They also love the list of recommendations for local cafes and restaurants, and places to visit I have pulled together. My next door neighbours are small footprint farmers, and they provide me with an optional continental breakfast of yoghurt and granola if guests want it. We opened in February, have been full every weekend, and are booked up a month in advance. I love the guests I've been getting, and you seem to get the people you imagine would like it. It's a bit like match-making. You get the right people for your place.'

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