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inter 2018

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COVER IMAGE

Horsehair armchair and leather boots by Kings & Cowboys kingsandcowboys.com Vintage brass reading lamp, Shop 301, Dirty Janes, Bowral dirtyjanes.com Shot on location by Elise Hassey

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Editor's welcome

t was Ralph Lauren who reportedly said, 'Style is very important. It has nothing to do with fashion. Fashion is over very quickly. Style lasts forever.' Which is an interesting thought that I feel colours this winter issue of ESCAPE Southern Highlands, our style issue.

It starts with the unique individuals who bring their great style as local retail purveyors (see page 92). These clever people are happily making their mark by doing it their own way, in turn helping to create the relaxed yet classic style with a contemporary edge that sums up the Southern Highlands.

After shopping, take a well earned winter break at one of the Highlands' hideaways we feature on page 101. Whether you like the sound of a boutique hotel, a former nunnery or an old train carriage, each shows panache and flair and illustrates that Southern Highlands style is an attitude, not an accessory.

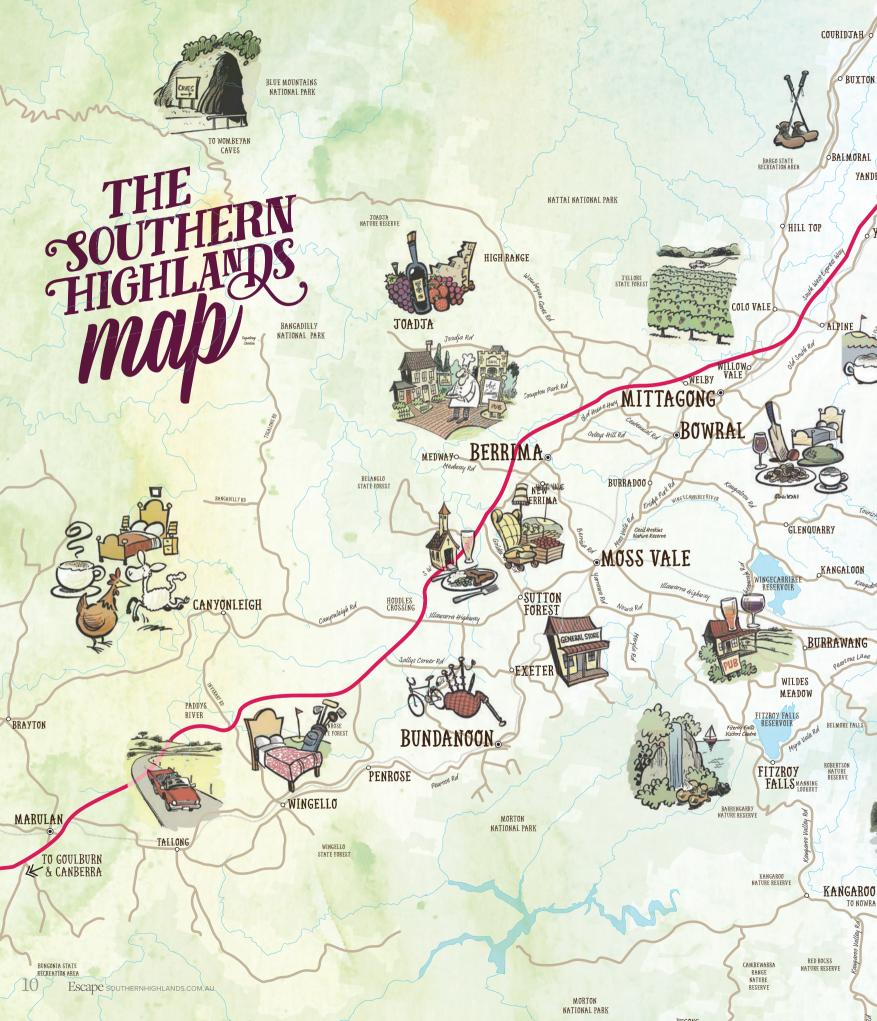
Also alive and well in the Highlands is innovation. You see it in our hardworking farmers who are looking for ways to diversify land use as they face a long dry winter, sometimes lending land to drive in/drive out farmers like The Good Garlic Guy Russell McKean (page 64). Originality is likewise at work

among the experience providers (page 116) who aim to bring global tourists there to experience our enviable lifestyle and environment, and to take home a 'cultural souvenir' such as a visit to a vineyard or truffle farm (page 46). It is there in the collaboration between The Southern Highlands Food and Wine Association and Destination Southern Highlands, who are creating a multilingual website aimed at increasing international wine tourism. All this innovation points to the 'visitor economy', another buzzword detailed in a recent NSW Government report we talk about on page 17.

As the unstoppable Sydney behemoth sprawls towards the Highlands, the report says there are real opportunities to work with our environment, our businesses and our communities to mould Highlands style in a future direction. One conversation with a local (a landowner, farmer and businessman all in one) stays with me. If you want to keep what's under the Highlands where it is, you need to offer real employment opportunities, openings, new beginnings and innovations on top of it. Winter food for thought.

Enjoy your ESCAPE Southern Highlands.

Alex





OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES

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

BURRAWANG

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

EXETER

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

BERRIMA

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

SUTTON FOREST

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

HILL TOP

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

FITZROY FALLS

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

JOADJA

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

CANYONLEIGH

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

BOWRAL

Watched over by Mount Gibraltar, Bowral is the largest town in the Highlands. Full of historic public and private buildings, stunning country gardens and grand estates, this thriving country township is known for its vintage, interiors, antiques and homewares stores and precincts such as Dirty Janes and Green Lane, as well as markets, galleries, bookshops, nurseries and boutlques. Its dining scene has become all the richer recently with the opening of The Mill, Grand Bistro and Bistro Officina, which complement winning stalwarts such as Biota Dining, Onesta Cucina, Cafe Rosso, Eccetera Trattoria Pizzeria, The Royal, and a raft of other local favourite restaurants, cafes and pubs. Visitors and locals are drawn to famous landmarks such as the Bradman Museum and International Cricket Hall of Fame, as well as the many festivals and events that include Tulip Time, the Bowral Classic, Bong Bong Picnic Races, and this winter's Pie Time Festival in June. And of course there is a plethora of award winning vineyards nearby, such as Centennial Vineyards, to visit as well.

MOSS VALE

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

ROBERTSON

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

BUNDANOON

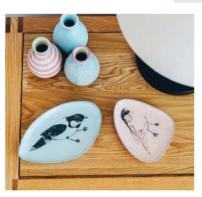
Packed with old world charm,
Bundanoon is a vibrant town with cafes,
tearooms, antique dealers and health
retreats. Market days are held on the first
and third Sundays, and bushwalking and
mountain biking enthusiasts are drawn to
the nearby Morton National Park. If you
are overnighting or holidaying, stay and
eat at the newly refurbished Bundanoon
Guest House, or at tasty DeliLicious
down the road.

MITTAGONG

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



THE HIGHLANDS IS HOME TO AN ECLECTIC COMMUNITY OF **ARTISTS**, **BUSINESSES**, **ARTISANS**, **MAKERS**, **PRODUCERS**, **FARMERS**, **TOURISM OPERATORS AND PURVEYORS OF FOOD**, **WINE AND SPIRITS**, ALL WORKING TO ATTRACT VISITORS TO OUR BEAUTIFUL REGION OF NSW WITH GREAT STYLE AND INNOVATION. WITH WINTER'S CHILL ON THE WIND, IT'S TIME TO RUG UP AND **CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSE AND UNIQUE PEOPLE**, **PLACES AND EXPERIENCES**.









Our enduring love affair with all things stylishly Scandinavian continues with the recent opening of high end furniture and homewares emporium The Modern Furniture Store in Station Street, Bowral. For many years the home of the much loved Milk Gallery, which has relocated downstairs, mouthwatering pieces of art have now been replaced by mouthwatering pieces for your floorplan.

Michael Josephson, founder of retail fashion giant Universal Store, expanded into designer homewares in 2010 after identifying a gap for mid range Danish heritage prices 'in a price bracket between knock off pieces and sofas costing \$10,000 a piece'. Josephson, who recently bought iconic 1860s Exeter homestead Boscobel, plans to relocate with wife Melissa and their family to the Highlands from their Brisbane home within five years.

Former lawyer and investment banker Josephson says opening in Bowral made sense to a business with showrooms already in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

'Bowral is at the crossroads of discerning shoppers from Canberra and Sydney,' he says. 'It's the right demographic for our products, most of which are created by a 130 year old Copenhagen furniture company.' Other brands include Danish and Finnish brands such as Normann Copenhagen and Marimekko.

Meanwhile, up the road in Mittagong, talented 4 Leaf Clover textile designer Fiona Budzynski has moved out of her home studio and into a shared retail space with fellow artisans Joh Trapnell of Suite Recovery and furniture upholsterer Jonti Shepherd of Roland Upholstery. The enticing combination of 4 Leaf Clover's beautiful wallpapers and fabrics, and Joh's designer fabrics, this is an exciting new creative hub with all the answers.

The Modern Furniture Store, 33 Station Street, Bowral; themodern.net.au 4leafclover.bigcartel.com Suite Recovery, 96A Main Street, Mittagong; @suitejoh @roland_upholstery

1000 KILOMETRES ON HORSEBACK FOR LOVE

Polo playing brothers Sinclair and Henry, fifth generation Goulburn farmers are gearing up to take part in the world's toughest equestrian endurance race. And they're doing it beside their equally proficient and striking cousins Rob, Ed and Jack Archibald of Scone polo fame.

The five Australian horsemen head to the former USSR in August to compete in the 1000 kilometre Mongol Derby to raise money for research into a cure for primary progressive multiple sclerosis. The debilitative condition has left their father and uncle, Rob Bell, in a wheelchair. While skilled on polo fields here, where Jack Archibald is captain of the Australian team, and in Europe where Rob Archibald is married to racing industry darling Francesca Cumani, none are underestimating the challenge.

'It will be a phenomenal experience,' says Henry Bell pictured below right with Sinclair and Ed. 'We will be riding across a country we have never been to, and competing in an event that very few people have even heard of let alone can comprehend. But it's a challenge worthy of our dad and uncle, who himself was always a very fine horseman and would have liked to take part. We are riding for him.'

The race crosses Mongolia's steppe, fording rivers and deserts and is the longest and driest horse race in the world. It recreates the ancient horse messenger postal system developed by Genghis Khan in 1224. Competitors ride on half wild Mongolian horses. Henry says they expect to ride 100 kilometres a day, finish the race in ten days and raise \$100,000. Last year the race was won by 29 year old Australian Olympian Ed Fernon, who Henry says offered this advice.

'Basically he said hold on, and ride as much as a possible in the lead up to the race because it's pretty hard going.' Good luck fellas.

https://kissgoodbyetoms.org/fundraiser/ride-for-a-cure/



Music to our ears

John Large, co-owner and founder of Centennial Vineyards, which celebrates its 20th birthday this year is hopeful local and visiting music lovers will soon be back at his winery enjoying A Day on the Green. The popular concerts, which attracted up to 8000 people to see renowned international artists such as Lionel Ritchie, Alicia Keys and Leonard Cohen, finished in 2012 after the organisers looked to the Hunter Valley to stage future events. But after applying for a development application in 2016 and going through litigation, Large was recently granted permission to proceed with the outdoor concerts this year and is talks with the event's promotors in Melbourne. 'T'm hoping we will have renewed A Day on the Green pretty soon,' says Large. Now that's worth singing about. centennial.net.au



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TASTY MORSELS

HATS OFF TO LOCAL PRODUCERS AND CHEFS WHO CONTINUE TO GAIN NATIONAL ATTENTION FOR DOING IT RIGHT. REDLEAF FARM, LI-SUN EXOTIC MUSHROOMS, THE GOOD GARLIC GUY FOR RUSSELL'S GOOD POTATOES (SEE OUR STORY ON PAGE 64), MOONACRES FARM AND TALUCA PARK WERE ALL CELEBRATED IN THIS YEAR'S RECENT 2018 DELICIOUS AWARDS, PECORA DAIRY AT ROBERSTON WAS ALSO LAUDED FOR MAKING YARRARA, AUSTRALIA'S FIRST RAW MILK, UNCOOKED CURD CHEESE, AVAILABLE SOON AFTER BEING MATURED FOR SIX TO NINE MONTHS. ALSO KNOCKING IT OUT OF THE BALLPARK WAS MALI BRAE FARM, NEAR MOSS VALE, WHICH RECEIVED THE AUSTRALIAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARD 2018 FOR WEDDING SERVICES. AND FINALLY TO IOANNIS BERNADOS AND HIS BERNIE'S DINER IN MOSS VALE. NOMINATED BY BIOTA'S HEAD CHEF AND FOUNDER JAMES VILES IN INTERNATIONAL FOOD TOME WHERE CHEFS EAT -A GUIDE TO CHEFS' FAVOURITE RESTAURANTS 2018.





TO MARKET TO MARKET

Funny the way things work out. In 2012, when Jill Keyte and husband Ray bought their property in Exeter as a Sydney weekender, she thought the idea of opening a local market in the grounds of the lovely Village Hall sounded good. But by the time they moved full-time here in 2016, the Exeter markets were in full swing. Then this year, after selling some land to growers Sam Costello and Elizabeth Crawford at Brillig Farm, the opportunity came by again, and this time Keyte grabbed it.



'We loved the laidback charm and vibrancy of the markets,' says Keyte, who is an author, farmer and the sister of newsreader Jennifer. 'We don't want to change that, but we want to help the event become more of a destination market for locals and visitors. We recently did a postcode poll at the markets that showed 25% of visitors were from Exeter, 30% were from the rest of the Highlands and the remainder were visiting from Sydney.'

Keyte is welcoming new stalls and planning themed markets, such as a special garden event in November, and says she will continue to champion local producers and products. Exeter Village Hall, first Saturday of the month, 9am-1.30pm

VISITOR ECONOMY CRUCIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS

A recent plan by the NSW Government about our tourism region, Destination Sydney Surrounds South, says the Highlands is ideally placed to benefit from the 'visitor economy'. The Destination Management Plan 2018-2022 found that in 2016-2017, 11.3 million visitors injected \$1.77 billion into the region of the Southern Highlands, Wollondilly, Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven, with 67% of visitors from Sydney. The report found that while this region is growing in the domestic visitor market, it is lagging behind other NSW regions in the number of international stays and visitor expenditure, and is lacking in new tourism experiences and competition.

The report urges local governments to encourage accommodation investment and support the development of niche and special interest tourism offerings in our region, including local indigenous experiences, golf, adventure, food and beverage, aquatic, equine, arts and culture, heritage, outdoor and nature.

The plan aims to double the value of the region's overnight visitor economy by 2022, to become the number one overnight short break destination. The Destination Management Plan details a number of major commercial developments in the Southern Highlands, including Bendooley Estate's Function Centre, Mount Ashby Winery's planned Function Centre and a planned Indoor Equine Centre at Werai Racecourse.

The report concluded that events and festivals are integral to the visitor economy: 'The DSSS zone needs to identify, attract and nurture events that will increase overnight expenditure and stimulate visitation in off peak periods.' Turn to page 114 to read all about new festival Pie Time this month and to page 116 to learn which local operators are ahead of the game in the 'visitor economy'. To read plan **dnsss.com.au/resources**



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Centennial Vineyards EXCLUSIVE

Introducing RONDINELLA AND CORVINA

Rondinella and Corvina are two Italian red grape varieties, predominantly grown in the Northern Veneto region near Venice. These grapes are famous for producing rich full-bodied wine styles known worldwide as Amarone (dry red table) and Recioto (intense sweet red). Both styles are made utilising a high level of dried fruit in ferment to enhance flavour and enjoyment. In addition to these two wine styles, Centennial Vineyards also make a superb and very unique Rosé using Rondinella and Corvina grapes.

Centennial Vineyards is one of only two growers in Australia of these unique grape varieties and the only producer of the Recioto style (RC Dolce Classico) and Reserve Rosé (Corvina and Rondinella).

Centennial's 'highly acclaimed' Reserve Rondinella Corvina was first introduced with the 2004 vintage and is now being reintroduced with the 2016 vintage.

CENTENNIAL VINEYARDS

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2016 Reserve Rondinella Corvina Reintroducing this superb winter red

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RESERVE

RONDINELLA CORVINA

WHAT'S ON

WE'VE CHERRY PICKED SOME BRACING WINTER HIGHLIGHTS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS. YOU'LL ALSO FIND MANY OTHERS THROUGHOUT THIS ISSUE. BUT WITH SO MUCH HAPPENING, BE SURE TO LOOK OUT FOR UPDATES @ESCAPESOUTHERNHIGHLANDS AND CHECK OUT SOUTHERN-HIGHLANDS.COM.AU/EVENTS/WHATS-ON.



TRUFFLE TIME

There's nothing like the prospect of a treasure hunt to get you out of bed on a winter's morning. Especially when you could be joining a Highlands truffle hunt to witness the dig for black gold. Sam Appel and John Phizacklea of Robertson Truffles are making their debut on the truffle scene this season (see our story on page 46) and they're keen to make their tours memorable. So sign up for one (robertsontruffles.com.au) or join a local wine tour or experience operator who also does truffles (see pages 54 & 116). If you'd prefer to dine rather than dig, The Loch at Berrima is holding its annual seven course fungi feast on Sunday August 5 (theloch.net.au).

BRING ON THE PIES

eat fest hits the Highlands this month. More than 30 local bakers and restaurants will be cooking up delicious dog's eyes (pies), and Destination Southern Highlands will be offering up a tasty schedule of pie related events throughout the month. For more details, visit pietime.com.au or turn to page 114. As an aperitif, here are a few of our favourite pie creations that will feature: The Sweet Whatman (apple, raspberry and frangipani) named after Don Bradman's maternal uncles and available at Stumps Cafe, Bradman Museum, Bowral. The Shaggylicious (slow cooked beef cheek and smoked pork) at The Shaggy Cow, Mittagong. Pie Noon (mushroom and tarragon) served at the Bundanoon Guest House, Bundanoon. From Moo to You (braised beef) at Moss Vale Livestock Exchange on Wednesdays (sale days). Banga & Curry (sausage, potato, onion, pea and curry) from Falls Cafe, Fitzroy Falls. And one last thing... Do you want dead horse (sauce) with yours? June 1-30; pietime.com.au



TALLY HO

If you're proficient at horse riding and looking for a way to ride like the wind and get your blood – and your steed's – pumping, get in touch with the Sydney Hunt Club. This group of hunting enthusiasts has been part of the Southern Highlands' rural tapestry since the 19th century, and rides out with hounds during winter on dozens of private properties here and in the neighbouring Southern Tablelands. Be aware, of course, in hunting with hounds there is generally a fox involved, and one person's vixen is another's vermin. sydneyhuntclub.com.au

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

'A Night in Vienna' summons up glamorous images of snow lined streets, Imperial palaces and coat clad Austrians (never mind its currently summer in the northern hemisphere). The Southern Highlands Symphony Orchestra is importing a dose of European musical glamour with its A Night in Vienna concert gala events, which include Viennese music such as Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto. Soloist Judith Rough will perform many famous Viennese songs. Go to southernhighlandssymphonyorchestra.com for more details and to buy tickets.



BURRAWANG CRICKET COLLECTORS FAIR

Join other cricket lovers at the second annual Burrawang Cricket Collectors Fair, complete with leading collectors, historians, writers and memorabilia experts. The day includes a presumably energetic panel discussion (given recent ball tampering events) on 'the spirit of cricket' with ABC commentator Jim Maxwell and journalist Gideon Haigh. There will also be ceramics, cards, caps, bats, balls, postcards, photographs, badges, silverware, ephemera and other memorabilia on display. Bring along your own cricketing treasures and have them valued by an Antiques Road Show style cricket buff. Traditional afternoon tea and scones will available. You could also join in the festivities the evening before at the Burrawang General Store Cafe, which will hold a vintage degustation dinner in the style held for touring Ashes Test teams of yesteryear. If you can't make this date, keep an eye out for details of the annual Long Lunch to commemorate Sir Don's August 27 birthday at Bradman Museum and Hall of International Cricket Fame, Bowral. Also, tickets for the Bradman Foundation Gala Dinner on Wednesday November 28 are now on sale. Collectors Fair, Sunday 22 July from 10am, Burrawang School of Arts, Burrawang, admission \$5. Information and dinner bookings via hello@52shepherdstreet.com.au Bradman Museum; bradman.com.au

STURT WINTER SCHOOL

Escape SH believes we are fortunate in the Highlands to have an arts, craft and design centre (and its annual winter and summer schools) of the calibre of Sturt Australian Contemporary Craft & Design Centre, and its dedicated staff and supporters. Not only does Sturt continually offer a schedule of exceptional and important exhibitions, it gives people from all over Australia the chance to retrain, relearn and follow their hearts desire to become a professional maker or artist, or simply try their hand at something new. Read more about Sturt, Australia's oldest continually running arts and crafts establishment, on page 119 & 110, and how it was started by the trailblazing Winifred West, also founder of Frensham School. Then check out Sturt's winter school program, which includes 16 week long adult classes and children's one day courses. These include drawing, painting, botanical illustration, printmaking, cloth weaving, textile printing, basketry, sculpture, working in metal and wood working. Also keep an eye on Sturt's website for weekend courses over winter and get your artistic juices flowing. Sturt winter school, July 9-13, Cnr Range Road and Waverley Parade, Mittagong; sturt.nsw.edu.au





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HARPER'S MANSION A National Trust (NSW) property Colonial house museum, National Trust shop, historical displays Hedge maze and two acre strolling garden Wedding and event venue for hire Open 10.30am – 4.00pm weekends and most public holidays. Group tours by arrangement. Corner of Wilkinson Street and Old Hume Highway, Berrima tel: 02 4877 2071 email: info@harpersmansion.com.au www.harpersmansion.com.au



Photo: Ray Joyce

Retford Park

Be enchanted by the magnificent gardens surrounding the grand Victorian Italianate homestead formerly owned by Mr James Fairfax AC. Discover the exquisite swimming pool and pavilion nestled amongst a patchwork of hedges gardens where sculptures demand centre stage. These stunning gardens open on the first weekend of each month* (the house will also be open on the August weekend – bookings essential). The gardens open from 10am to 4pm. Refreshments available. See website for Calendar of Events.

* If the 1st of the month falls on a Sunday then it is that weekend that the property will be open.

(02) 4861 1933 | e: retfordpark@nationaltrust.com.au www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/retford-park/

MARULAN KITE FESTIVAL



THE MARULAN KITE FESTIVAL

has the pleasure in inviting you to join us over the weekends of the 8th & 9th & the 15th & 16 September, 2018 for the

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

at the Marulan Memorial Hall in George St.

Marulan between 10am and 4pm on each day.

Keeping with the celebration of the Meridian

the theme of the Exhibition is

"TIMES FLIES".

Then come & join us for the annual
MARULAN KITE FESTIVAL in
TONY ONIONS PARK, George St.
Marulan - FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY.
The fun will start at 9 am through until 3 pm.
Some of the Activities include

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd

- * The Famous Kite Workshop
- * The Kite Parade
- * Entertainment
- * Kite Running
- * The Famous Billy Boil Cup at the TERMINUS HOTEL
- * Competitions
- * Children's PET SHOW
- * Car & Bike Show
- * Lots of market stalls

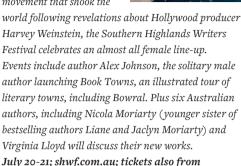
marulankitefestival.org.au Email: marulan.kites@qmail.com



SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WRITERS FESTIVAL

Responding to the #MeToo movement that shook the

Bong Bong Street, Bowral



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The Bookshop Bowral and Creative & Co Store,

WINTER AND WHISKY IS THE PERFECT COMBINATION, SO HEAD OUT TO THE FASCINATING HISTORIC JOADJA TOWNSHIP AND DISTILLERY. LEARN ABOUT THE 1200 SCOTTISH IMMIGRANTS WHO LIVED AND WORKED THERE MINING KEROSENE SHALE FROM 1878-1911 AND TASTE JOADJA DISTILLERY'S FIRST SINGLE MALT WHISKY. TOUR DATES JUNE 10, JULY 1; BOOKINGS@ JOADJATOWN.COM.AU



Mental health is no laughing or dancing matter, of course, but join Mittagong local Gennene Turner, owner of Highlands Health Club. at her annual fundraiser. Groove Away the Blues to raise funds for The Black Dog Institute, which works to help those with mental health issues. Turner, who traaically lost her brother to suicide, has lined up funny man Anthony Ackroyd and band Eklypse to entertain guests, who will enjoy a three course meal, lucky door prizes and a silent auction. A terrific event to throw your support behind, as suicide remains the leading cause of death in Australia for those aged 15-44. Saturday July 28, Mittagong RSL; gennene.turner@hotmail.com

DOGS WITH SPEED

Think Sled Dogs, Snow Buddies, high octane pooches and sleds and get yourself out to Wingello State Forest for the annual running of the NSW Siberian Express Black Hawk Sprint. Sled dog racing started in Australia 20 years ago, with every state having sledding clubs (except the Northern Territory). Held over a weekend, this event includes pee wee classes (for kid mushers seven and under) as well as adults races with points going towards competitor's Australian Federation of Sleddog Sports tally. Once just the pursuit of arctic dogs such as Siberian huskies, malamutes and samoyed, today German shepherds, retrievers and many rescue dogs excel at the sport. Morning heats start at 7am.

July 21 and 22, Wingello State Forest; siberian express.org

WELCOME BACK WINTERFEST

Escape SH is delighted to see Bundanoon's Winterfest return to the winter agenda after being sorely missed last year. A celebration of all that is wintry, the festival begins with a fabulous street party and community get together where you will find music, stalls, entertainment, food and drinks. Then a week long schedule of diverse events for kids and adults alike including a writers workshop with former paratrooper Chris Allen, a pavlova masterclass with BIRCH chef Lachlan Houghton, a guided family walk to Erith Coal Mine, bush medicine and Aboriginal art and culture classes, a short film festival, yoga workshops, an introduction to fermentation, an Indian vegetarian cooking class, a ceilidh and a closing night bonfire and that's just for starters! And given the unpredictability of the Highlands weather, it may even snow so rug up and get out amongst this wintery wonderland.

July 7-14; bundanoonwinterfest.com



Retford Park Garden Symposium

There are few things as lovely on a cold winter's day than pulling on a coat, hat and gloves and meandering through the garden of a lovely Highlands home. Retford Park in Bowral, recently gifted to the National Trust, opens its gardens to the public the first weekend of every winter month. But if that isn't enough, here's your chance to be part of an exclusive symposium at Retford Park, the Art of Creative Pruning. This three day event will include lectures from noted horticulturists and garden designers Michael Bligh, Jonathan Garner and Ken Lamb, and Retford Park's head gardener, Rick Shepherd. Also included are visits to other significant Highlands gardens, transport and accommodation at nearby Milton Park (which, like Retford Park, was built by the Hordern family, and you can read our hot hotel review on page 26). To enhance the experience, enjoy an intimate dinner in Retford Park's dining room surrounded by the famed art collection of the late Mr James Fairfax. Something quite special. Garden open days July 7 and 8, August 4 and 5 Art of Creative Pruning Symposium, July 24-26; nationaltrust.org.au; retfordpark@nationaltrust.com.au

DAFFODIL OPEN DAY AT 5TH CHAPTER

Avoca beauty and vineyard 5th Chapter Estate has 10 acres of English style gardens with separate spaces dedicated to French, Japanese and rose gardens. Visit on Daffodil Day when the entrance fee of \$10 is donated to The Garvan Institute for Medical Research.

August 26, 10am-3.30pm, fifthchapter.com.au ■

TALKS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

SUNDAY SKETCH SESSIONS

Local artist Thomas Bucich (also a purveyor of fine homewares, as seen on our front cover with his to die for Kings & Cowboys horse hair armchair) invites you to join him in his Colo Vale studio to explore your creativity in guided still life drawing sessions. Accompanied by a glass or two of local vino!

Sundays 2-5pm; thomasbucich.com

BIKE REPAIR WORKSHOP

Want to get up on two wheels but don't know your gooseneck from your crank arm? Then sign up for a free bicycle maintenance workshop run by the fabulous volunteers at the successful Bicycles for Change program at the Wingecarribee Resource Recovery Centre in Moss Vale. The bikes they fix up in the program go to people in Namibia, but you can use these one hour sessions to learn simple bicycle maintenance tips like how to refit a chain, changing a tyre and much more. Wednesdays at 10am; contact Elizabeth.Guest@wsc.nsw.gov.au for bookings





BECAUSE OF HER WE CAN

NAIDOC Week is held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Don't miss the NAIDOC exhibition in the Foyer Gallery of Wingecarribee Council Chambers, Moss Vale. Based on the theme 'Because of her we can', curator Melissa Wiya has selected images and works of significant Aboriginal women who have played an active and significant role in our community at all levels. From July 1, 8.30am-4.30pm, Foyer Gallery, Civic Centre, Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale

ART AND EATS AT THE COWSHED

The popular Cowshed painting workshops with artist Kirsten Deakin at Maree Reid's delightful Burradoo home are back. Leave with a finished masterpiece after enjoying a fireside lunch for all to share. All materials and lunch included. June 3, July 4, August 5, 9.30am-4pm. Call Kirsten on 0401 326 700 for details.

RABBIT. RAGOUT AND RAVIOLI

Learn to make authentic Italian food and enjoy some local wine at cooking classes at the lovely Southern Highland Winery in Sutton Forest with chef Marco Salvestrin. Rabbit ragout is on the menu in conjunction with Pie Time events in June. They then move on to homemade Italian meat and vegetable ravioli, and then in August you can learn to make a mean authentic Italian lasagne. All classes are on Fridays at 6-8.30pm and include a glass of wine, the cooking demonstration, a winemaker's talk from Eddy Rossi, a behind the scenes tour and dinner. Bellissimo! June 29, July 27, August 24; southernhighlandswinery.com.au

TAP INTO WELLNESS

Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT or tapping technique) practitioner Naomi Janzen is running a four day professional EFT practitioner training course in Robertson. She will also be speaking at a Southern Highlands Businesswomen's Network breakfast about this globally used tool in the treatment of emotional and physical pain. EFT course, July 27-30; SHBWN talk at Bistro Officina, June 6, 7am-9am; ozfreedomtechniques.com



A HEALING WINTER'S DAY

Are you grieving the loss of someone you love?
Come along to this very special winter willow
healing workshop held by artist and weaver Penny
Simons in beautiful Kangaloon. The day includes a
raw cacao morning circle meditation, a plant based
lunch cooked by the fire by Caroline Marson of
Caroline's Kitchen Wisdom, a country walk, a fire
pit ceremony with meditation, and the making and
decorating of a willow heart for a person, or time of
life you might miss and grieve. A creative, healing
and nurturing experience and a willow heart to
take home. Wednesday 13th June 10am-4pm
\$180. stickytickets.com.au/66975

BOUGIES DE LUXE

Cassandra Angelini is the founder of the Bougies de Luxe range that includes hand poured scented soy candles, diffusers, fragrances and bath oil (all available in the gorgeous Orangery on Green Lane, Bowral and The Green House, Moss Vale). Join Angelini for her sweet smelling candle making workshop in her Burrawang home and studio. **July 21; bougiesdeluxe.com.au**

MILTON PARK YOGA RETREAT

Pamper yourself with yoga and more at a three day winter retreat at Bowral's ultra-luxe Milton Park with wellness professional Heidi Horne. The retreat includes four 75-90 minute yoga and meditation sessions, accommodation, gourmet breakfast and two course dinners.

June 29-July 1; heidihorne.com.au; miltonpark.com.au

COMMUNITY YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

Following on from the success of last year's forums, this year's event is hosted by BDCU Children's Foundation and preventative education charity batyr. It is a free community event open to parents, teachers and families.

June 26, 7pm, Mittagong RSL, Carrington Room

QUEST FOR LIFE

Give yourself or a loved one the gift of peace and wellbeing with Petrea King's residential programs at Quest for Life in Bundanoon. Courses include Healing Your Life (June 18-22 and July 9-13) and Moving Beyond Trauma (July 23-27).

questforlife.com.au

JOIN THE HERD

Get with the innovative thinkers of HERD (Highlands Entrepreneurs Regional Development) and learn how collaboration, expertise and ideas can help attract innovative businesses to our region. Winter forums include one on developing financial products and foreign exchange (June 15) and Youth, Employment and the Role of Start Up (July 20). herd.org.au



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FOR THE LOVE OF LUXE

IMMERSED IN HISTORY AND SURROUNDED BY SUMPTUOUSNESS. MY NIGHT AT MILTON PARK COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL & SPA WAS A WELCOME TASTE OF THE VERY GOOD LIFE. WORDS ALEX SPEED IMAGES ELISE HASSEY

> ituated at the end of a long winding driveway that allows time for anticipation, the five star Milton Park Country House Hotel & Spa impresses at first sight. To the left, one of the oldest, most precious cool climate gardens in the Southern Highlands comes into view. Designed with a nod to the 18th century English School of Landscape, which swept away strict geometric features for a more natural look, the gardens are home to thousands of trees. These include octogenarian elms and weeping beeches, 400 rose bushes, 2000 metres of hedges and a bluebell wood. There are also traditionally designed elements such as a sunken garden, rose parterre, Japanese style ponds and pergola draped in wisteria.

To the right is a likewise impressive grand old country mansion. The original home, which is now the hotel, was built in the Edwardian period by one of Australia's wealthiest founding families, the retailing and pastoral Horderns. It was the dwelling of their third son, Anthony, who (before he married Viola Bingham) was known in the Sydney press in 1910 as one of Australia's most eligible bachelors.

the carpark lined with radiata pine, and note the McLarens, Porsches and Lamborghinis that have already arrived.

Along a sandstone garden path is the indoor swimming pool, housed in a vine laced stone building with arched windows. It brings to mind images of 1950s Hollywood yet, like the house, the pool dates back to 1910 and was actually the country's first heated and filtered one.

Milton Park was built by Sydney architects Morrow and De Putron for Anthony Hordern, whose older brothers Sam and Lebbeus also made their mark in the Highlands through ownership of Retford Park and Hopewood House. (Sam also became President of the Royal Agricultural Society, his namesake the famous Hordern Pavilion at the old Sydney Showground.) Anthony was 21 when he bought the 1200 acre Mansfield Farm, as it was known then. He renamed it Milton Park and the property became one of the top Poll Hereford cattle studs in Australia. Back in Sydney, his father and uncle Lebbeus had established the Anthony Hordern & Sons Department Store in 1844. It went on to become the Palace Emporium, a six storey building between the corners of George, Pitt and Goulburn streets, which at one time was recognised as the largest department store in the world.

Milton Park doesn't scrimp on space either. Anthony Hordern lived here with Viola until her death in 1929, and in 1932 he married Mary Bullmore, the great aunt of casino magnate James Packer. It's the kind of place where money and breeding talks, with its ballroom, cocktail and champagne bar, billiards room, private dining room and three restaurants, including fine dining Horderns Restaurant, as well as 36 Deluxe Rooms and 8 Suites. This is a historical house that saw some serious glamour in its 1920s heyday.

DETAILS

Milton Park Country House Hotel & Spa 200 Horderns Road, miltonpark.com.au



The Horderns lived here until 1960, when it was bought by King Ranch of Texas. In 1984 Milton Park became a hotel and in 1993 a member of the Relais et Chateaux group, at one time recognised as one of the top 50 guesthouses in the world.

Music to my ears! I am ready to relax, and Milton Park does understated luxury expertly. Fittings and furnishings are effortlessly sumptuous and top end. Artwork is original and spaces are expansive yet welcoming.

I am deftly checked in and ushered to my lavish Forest Suite, one of four with spa, fireplace and private terrace. It is tastefully decorated with French influenced furniture and plantation shutters. I am on the second floor, with a terrace that looks out onto Milton's Park's woodlands. I can almost hear the laughter of the Horderns' stylish house party guests of years gone by. An evening stroll around the gardens is a further delight.

A favourite venue for weddings, Milton Park also does a mean High Tea and since 1948 has opened its gardens to the public. Look out for details and dates on the hotel's website.

Back to the room where my fire has been lit, I relax in the massive spa in my marble bathroom and then slip into a fluffy white robe to enjoy excellent in room dinner service. I sleep like an heiress in my four poster bed with fine cotton bedding, and awake to sounds of birdlife.

Breakfast in the morning is a delight too. Served with charming attention in the Orangerie, it is a complete smorgasbord of anything you'd want. I watch over coffee as a soon to be bride and her maids, decked out in active wear P.E Nation (beloved by Hollywood celebs) make their way to Milton Park's beautiful Wellness Spa for treatments before a wedding on the lawns later in the day. Lucky girl. I get the feeling Anthony Hordern and his dashing brothers would definitely approve.

SUIT: On-trend brides; garden lovers; anyone looking to relax and indulge; frazzled marrieds looking to reconnect.

DON'T MISS: A swim in the indoor pool; a walk in the gardens; a spa treatment; a champagne cocktail in the Polo Bar.

DETAILS: Keep an eye on Milton Park's website for Escape packages, retreats and garden open days.









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E info@therobertsonhotel.com

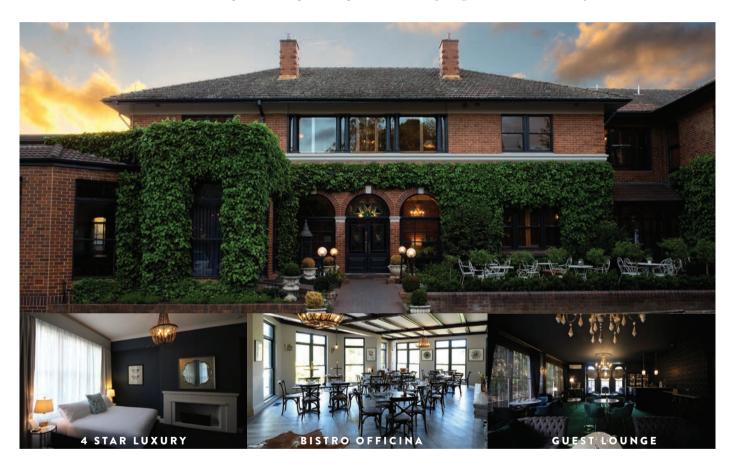
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— bowral, southern highlands —

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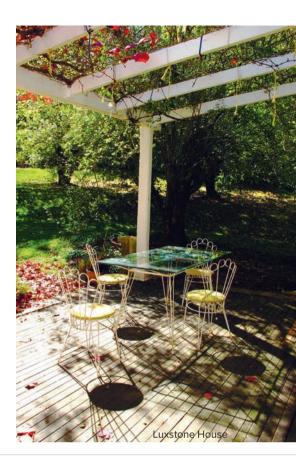
Formerly the manager's residence for the historic Burrawang General Store, Bower Cottage is a lovingly restored 3 bedroom self contained cottage that sleeps 6 people comfortably. With an open fire, reverse cycle air conditioning and bathroom underfloor heating, a cosy stay is guaranteed. Morning coffee delivered and enjoy breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea at the store.

Bower Cottage 11a Hoddle St, Burrawang 2577 4886 4496 bgsc.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 0478 525 945 or 0407 611 349 luxstowehouse.com.au



ACCOMMODATION DIRECTORY

STAYING THE NIGHT WINTER 2018

Berrima Bakehouse Motel	19 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima	www.berrimamotel.com.au	02 4877 1381
Bundanoon Country Inn Motel	2 Anzac Pde, Bundanoon	www.bundanoonmotel.com.au	02 4883 6068
Exeter Farm Stay	276 Rockleigh Rd, Exeter	www.exeterfarmstay.com.au	0419 808 022
Harper's Cottage	8 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima	www.jellorecottage.com.au	0404 951 884
Jellore Cottage	16 Jellore St, Berrima	www.jellorecottage.com.au	0404 951 884
The Settlers Hut	16 Jellore St, Berrima	www.jellorecottage.com.au	0404 951 884
Yallambee	43 Garland Rd, Bundanoon	www.yallambee.net.au	02 4883 7787

WORLDS AWAY

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hen furniture retailer Harry Sebel opened the Sebel Townhouse in Sydney in 1963, it quickly cornered the market as home away from home for international celebrities. Anyone old enough to remember the music scene of the Seventies may recall fans outside the hotel screaming for a glimpse of ABBA or Sherbet. Elton John chose the Sebel Townhouse for his surprise wedding reception to sound engineer Renate Blauel on Valentine's Day in 1984, and the who's who of rock and roll were often spotted enjoying a drink or three in the hotel's famous bar.

The chain has since expanded to more than 20 properties, and its Bowral establishment, The Sebel Bowral Heritage Park, is an elegant collection of residences in the heart of the Southern Highlands. Tucked discreetly away on a Bowral street, it is far removed from the original hotel's colourful and often headline grabbing history.

From the inconspicuous entrance on Kangaloon Road, down the sweeping driveway past historic Iver Buck Cottage (now a private home) and a manicured village green style lawn, everything about Sebel Heritage Park feels calm and composed. The road winds through a community of Alex Popov designed townhouses, home to permanent residents, with signposts directing short stay guests to the contemporary accommodation at the far end of the complex.

Our home for the night is a spacious one bedroom apartment with garden views and has everything we need for a comfortable stay. A handwritten welcome note from the Sebel team is a nice touch on arrival, and a complimentary box of chocolates from Bowral's Sweets & Treats is soon demolished.

Glass doors from the living area slide open onto a cosy balcony and a glimpse of the afternoon sun setting in the

western sky. The open plan lounge, dining and kitchen layout offers plenty of room to prepare and enjoy a meal, then settle in to watch a movie or curl up with a good book. A remote operated fireplace soon takes the chill off the cool evening air. Longer stay guests will appreciate the laundry facilities tucked away behind folding doors in the bathroom.



The king sized bed with crisp sheets and cloud like pillows is dangerously comfortable and perfect for a well earned weekend sleep in. Guests looking for a bit more activity can visit the gym for a workout or swim a few laps of the heated indoor pool, a short stroll from our apartment.

Location is surely a major drawcard to The Sebel Bowral Heritage Park, with many of the Southern Highlands' attractions within walking distance. Keen golfers only have to wheel their clubs a few hundred metres to tee off over the lush fairways of Bowral Golf Club. The Bradman Museum and International Cricket Hall of Fame complex (open 10am to 5pm daily) is a pleasant stroll away and will keep cricket fans of all ages entertained for hours. Bowral Public School Markets in Bendooley Street (second Saturday of the month) is a few blocks away, and those on the hunt for antiques and vintage wares will find plenty to pick through at Dirty Janes, with more than 75 dealers spread across a huge warehouse style space in Banyette Street.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner options are plentiful with Bowral's popular cafes and restaurants offering delicious bites, from the perfect pie to take away Thai. For a special meal, two local favourites are even closer to home: the two hatted Biota Dining is directly across the road from the Sebel, and Bistro Officina (also hatted) is just around the corner. If you fancy an aperitif before dinner, both have fabulous bars too.

With so many sights and venues within cooee, it's tempting to park the car, pull on the walking shoes and make this a winter weekend all about Bowral, in many ways the grande dame of the Highlands. And just as its rock and roll Sydney cousin catered to its clients, The Sebel Bowral Heritage Park seems well attuned to its surroundings and offers just what guests are looking for.

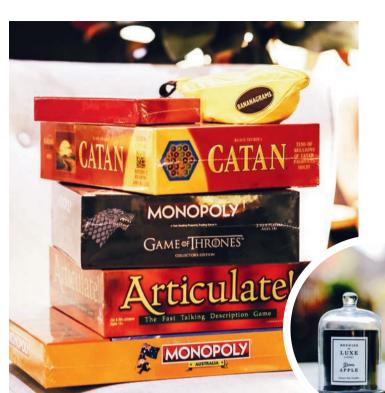
DETAILS

heritage-park/

The Sebel Bowral Heritage Park 9 Kangaloon Road, Bowral thesebel.com/new-southwales/the-sebel-bowral-







For the love of winter

Call us easily pleased but when it comes to a wintry day spent relaxing and digital detoxing with family and friends, we don't need many props. Give us a great glass of local red (we love local vineyard Tertini's awarding winning Pinot Noir 2015), a good board game (Nest & Burrow in Moss Vale has a fabulous selection, including Articulate, Risk, Game of Thrones Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit and our favourite adult game, Cards Against Humanity), and a beautiful scented Bougies de

Luxe candle by Kangaloon maker Cassandra Angelini, and we're 110 per cent happy. So, light the home fires, or snuggle up at one of the many beautiful Highlands hotels, guesthouses and B&Bs, close the front door and shut the world out for a bit. Perfect. @tertiniwines

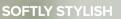
@bougiesdeluxe @nestandburrow



Blankie bliss

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@madebyothers; madebyothers.com.au



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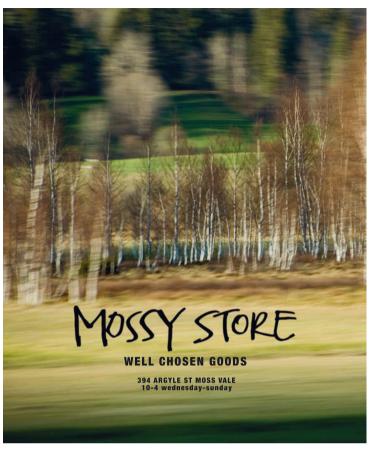
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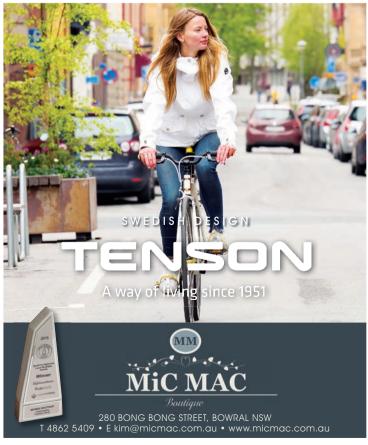
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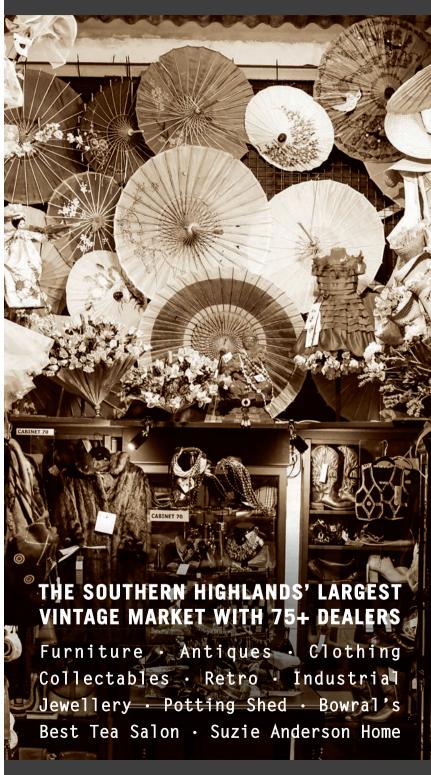
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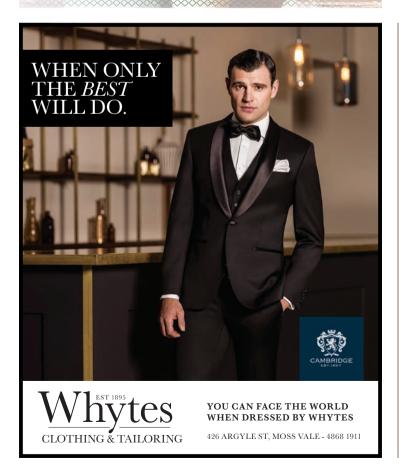


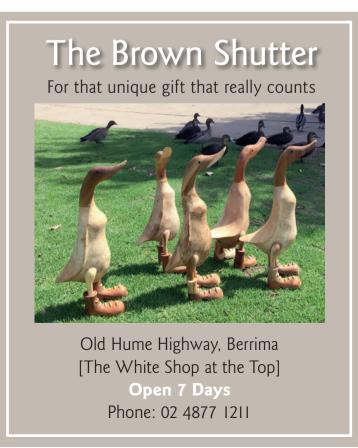
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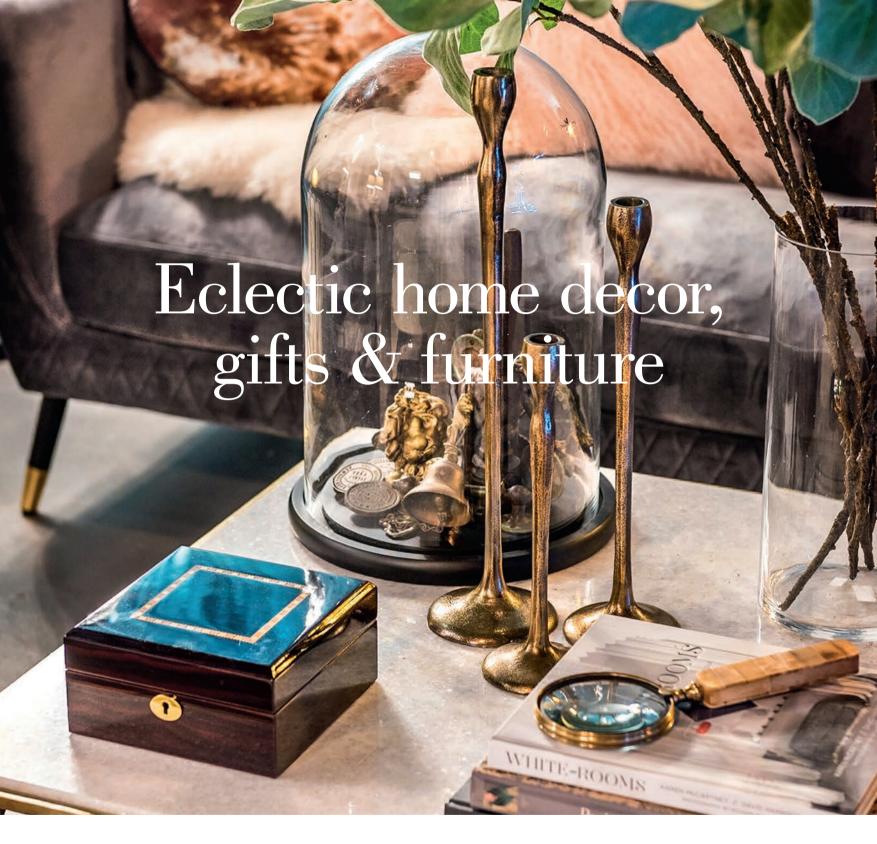


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The new face of Mrs Oldbucks



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

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

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A HUNTING WE WILL GO!

Truffle hunting is a new adventure these enthusiastic novices are keen to share with you. So head up to Robbo to check out their truffiere and sniff what all the fuss is about.

IMAGES ABBIE MELLE

ost of us might have felt slightly daunted at the prospect of taking over operations of a property that grew the largest truffle ever found in the Southern Highlands. But husband and wife team John Phizacklea and Samantha Appel have all the confidence of the young and feel anything but intimidated. Uninitiated as they were in the ways of the aromatic fungus, and new parents to baby Gracie, the former advertising and food industry workers are full of ideas how to continue and build upon their Robertson truffiere's previous success.

'You could say we have both been on very steep truffle learning curves over the past few months,' says Appel, a new member of the Australian Truffle Growers Association. 'But it's something we are both very passionate about, and we see ourselves carving a great life and business here with the truffle growing and tours for ourselves and Gracie.'

Recently renamed Robertson Truffles, it was here in 2014 on the 85 hectare farm near Belmore Falls that the 1.172 kg Perigord black truffle (Tuber melanosporum) was found under seven year old Ilex and Robur oak trees. With 375 host trees in eight rows, the farm also has some trees that produce Burgundy truffles (T. aestivum).

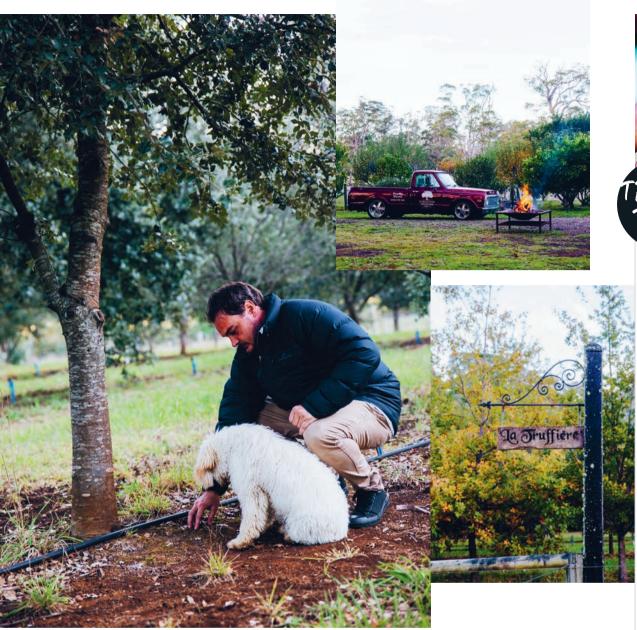
But more about that whopper truffle. The largest one found in Australia at that time, the precious fungus was such a monster it didn't need the traditional sniffer dogs to unearth it, but reportedly broke the surface without assistance. (For some perspective, the world's largest black truffle at that time weighed 1.31 kg and had been found near Buje in Croatia in 1999.) The Australian and Croatian



are the owners of Gourmet Grocer and International Foods, and bought Robertson Truffles early this year. On the hunt for a farm

close to Sydney to share with their four children and eight grandchildren, they were unaware of the added bonus of truffles at first. They'd had in mind growing organic garlic but when they saw the truffle forest, it just fell into place.

The Southern Highlands truffle season begins at the start of June and runs until the end of August, says truffle expert and dog trainer Prue Church, who is helping the Phizacklea family in their new venture. From the NSW Northern Rivers, Church travels to the Highlands every year for the season with husband Alan. Their 'noses', much loved dogs Sirius, Peri and Caph, have been trained by Church in the art of detecting the truffles. The roots of the oak trees are infected with the truffle spores, and then hopefully grow on the roots of the trees, in turn omitting a strong odour which dogs can be trained to detect. The Churches and their working canine family will be at Robertson Truffles when their first tour of the 10-week truffle season kicks off on June 3.



'Prue will be helping us with the truffle hunts during our first truffle season,' says Appel. 'She is teaching us and helping train Bella, our six month old Italian truffle dog. She's a Lagotta Romagnolo breed.'

Appel and Phizacklea are also continuing to work with many of the local experience providers, such as Highlands Food & Wine Experiences and The Grape Escape. 'And we have a corporate booking with WILDfest, who are bringing Porsche here for a private event,' says Appel.

The family has recently added a function venue near their truffle orchard for visitors, and their tours will include refreshments on arrival, an information session, a truffiere visit and truffle dog demonstration. With hopes pinned on a harvest this year of 60-80 kg, they

are also planning to plant some more oak trees, and have longer terms plans to collaborate with local dairy producers to make a truffle cheese for high end food outlets, and possibly a truffle honey to sell on site and locally.

The cold climate, pristine environment and rich red soil around Robertson are considered ideal for these underground treasures, which have a current market value of \$2800-\$3500 per kg.

Appel and Phizacklea are hoping for local and overseas sales to chefs and restaurants, and are planning a trip to France between the Australian and European truffle seasons to see how the French do it. But for now, says Appel, it's all hands on deck getting ready for this year's truffle hunt season. **roberstontruffles.com.au**



- → Truffles are mysterious mushroom like fungi that grow underground.
- → They rely on the strong pungent scents of their fruits to ensure animals dig them up and spread their spores. In Australia, truffles are grown in NSW, ACT, Victoria, in the south of Western Australia and Tasmania, where the first plantations were developed in the early 1990s.
- → Truffles grow on trees whose roots have been inoculated with truffle spores and on average take five to seven years to produce.
- + Tuber melanosporum is the French Black, aka Perigord, truffle sought after by chefs. The White Truffle (Tuber magnatum) is the king of all truffles, fetching the highest prices, but is not widely available.
- + Australia is currently the fourth largest truffle producer after France, Italy and Spain.*
 *Information thanks to the Australian Truffle Growers Association
- Local farming family, the Olssons owners of Olssons Industries which produces livestock nutrition and salt feed blocks and high end gourmet sea salt products, make a fine Truffle Salt. Harvested from salt from the family's South Australian salt pans, the Olssons are also in the process of growing truffles on their Moss Vale property. They have hopes to harvest their first crop this year.

olssons.com.au



hen Nerio and Mara Panizzutti bought the St Maur estate in Exeter back in the 1970s, it was one of the region's biggest dairy producers. Guernsey cattle grazed the open fields and five families lived and worked on the farm. The Panizzuttis' weekend getaway soon became a permanent lifestyle and in 1998, while still running the dairy, Nerio planted 16 acres of vines on the property. A generation later, their son Marco credits some of the vineyard's success to the roaming dairy cows and their natural fertilisation of the verdant soil.

As any winemaker knows, creating the perfect drop is a delicate process and Marco believes wine is made in the vineyards not in the lab. 'You can't make good wine from bad grapes,' he says. 'We bottle every year and it's truly a reflection of the year when you're drinking it.'

For the Panizzuttis, winemaking is all about passion and patience. They produce around 1800 dozen bottles



annually and 2018 is shaping up to be a 'cracking' year. A decent run of good weather (warm days, cools nights and the right amount of rain) has seen them hold back on harvesting, hoping for more intense flavours. Handpicking is Marco's favourite part of the winemaking process, and is underway when we dropped in to taste the fruits of earlier seasons. 'It's a nice feeling as a farmer to have a good year and to know your fruit is in the shed,' Marco says.

St Maur, named by former owner Everest York Seymour as a play on his surname, has retained much of the original bones of the dairy farm while being transformed to meet the needs of a winery. The milking shed is now the Cellar Door and the members' private dining room, with soaring ceilings and spectacular views over the valley, has a charming barn like feel that reflects its agricultural roots.

Those first vines planted by Nerio (chardonnay, pinot noir, cabernet sauvignon and merlot), are now 20 years old and delivering the quality of fruit for which winemakers hope. St Maur produces two ranges, the single estate Lot 41 from the mature vines, and the Saint Series, a blend of fruit from younger St Maur vines along with grapes from other local growers. In our Lot 41 tasting, the smooth 2015 chardonnay and the 2016 pinot gris are refreshing and easy to drink, and the earthy 2016 pinot noir with plum, cherry, pepper and blackberry flavours is a hit around the tasting table. But it's the smoky 2015 cabernet sauvignon merlot, with its velvety texture, plum and chocolate flavours, and rich colour, that gets the most nods. A delicious, full bodied winter wine.

Marco says he loves to see people come together to share a love of fine wine, and that's the premise behind their monthly long lunch concept. Exclusively for members, with 18 guests around the dining table, all food is sourced within a 50km radius as the crow flies and prepared by a selection of local chefs to complement the wines. There's no membership fee, only a commitment to buy two cases of wine a year. And judging by how quickly the seats are snapped up, the long lunch is set to become a tradition.

As the team at St Maur begins producing the 2018 harvest, Marco is keen to sample the results. He laughs when asked if dairy farming or winemaking is the easier lifestyle. 'When you're reliant on Mother Nature nothing is easy,' he says. 'But winemaking is more enjoyable. We've created some great wines but I'd hate to think we've achieved our best wine yet because that would be boring.' And that ongoing pursuit of excellence is precisely why St Maur wines are well worth a try if you're stopping by. Their Cellar Door is open Thursday to Monday 10.30am-4.30pm.

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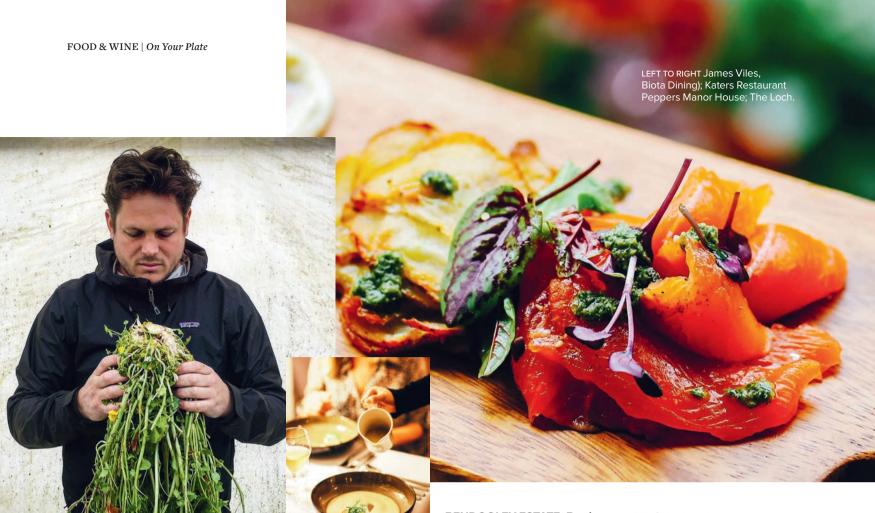
2013 PCC Riesling Trophy Best Riesling 2015 Australian & New Zealand Boutique Wine Awards. 97 points, 2016 James Halliday Wine Companion.

2015 PCC Pinot Noir 95 points, Gold Medal 2016 International Cool Climate Wine Awards.



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ON YOUR PLATE

AS CHEF ROBIN MURRAY TELLS US ON PAGE 56, THE HIGHLANDS FOOD SCENE HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY SINCE HE AND WIFE MANDY OPENED THEIR FINE DINING CENTENNIAL VINEYARDS RESTAURANT 14 YEARS AGO. AND THAT'S FOR THE BETTER, HE ADDS, BECAUSE THE MORE GREAT RESTAURANTS THERE ARE, THE MORE LOCALS AND PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE HIGHLANDS WILL WANT TO COME OUT AND EAT. ESCAPE'S THOUGHTS EXACTLY ROBIN, AND WINTER IS A GREAT TIME TO SAVOUR SOME OF THE FABULOUS DEGUSTATION MEALS, TASTING PLATES, SEASONAL FEASTS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND THEMED DINNERS THAT ARE MAKING MOUTHS WATER IN THE REGION.

WORDS JILL DYSON

BENDOOLEY ESTATE, Berrima

On Thursday June 21 you can enjoy an evening of fine dining and wine by candlelight at Bendooley's atmospheric Book Barn. Chef Benn Troy's seven course degustation menu will be accompanied with local cool climate and European wines plus live classical music. Pick up a bestseller on the way home. The cost is \$225pp and includes individually matched wines for each course.

4877 2235 bendooleyestate.com.au

BIOTA DINING, Bowral

Lunch at Biota from Thursday to Monday includes a five-course tasting menu, and there's a five or seven course tasting menu for dinner Thursday to Tuesday. Chefs James Viles and Riley Aitken are big on local and national produce as part of the theatre and taste of memorable fine dining. The tasting menus range from \$100 to \$155pp. (FYI Biota opens its month long pop up restaurant in Sydney's Chippendale in June)

4862 2005 info@biotadining.com

BIRCH, Moss Vale

Chef Lachlan Houghton has devised a six course winter crustacean lunch in this stylish Moss Vale newcomer for Sunday July 15 to showcase his technique and creativity. It will feature in season edible delights from the ocean and its shores, and costs \$165pp or \$250pp with matching wines. **4868 1817**

enquiries@birchrestaurant.com.au

BISTRO OFFICINA, Bowral

Chef Nicola Coccia cooks with a fire in his Italian belly that produces passion and punch on a plate. Bistro Officina joins forces with the likewise inspired Balog brothers of Mittagong's Artemis Wines to create a dinner on Saturday July 21 that is sure to be full of flavour and fervour. bistroofficina.com.au

BOWRAL BRASSERIE, Bowral

With its fine French fare, it seems 'naturellement' for this local favourite to be celebrating Bastille Day with a special dinner on Saturday July 14. Call for a booking. Tout suite.

4861 2277 bowralbrasserie.com.au

BURRAWANG GENERAL STORE CAFE, Burrawang

Chef Tamika Ferguson serves up a culinary Winterfest dinner on Saturday July 14 with three courses, special cocktails and a roaring fire at Burrawang village hub, the historic and rather fabulous Burrawang General Store Cafe. **4886 4496 bgsc.com.au**

ESCHALOT, Berrima

Chef Richard Kemp offers a degustation and a la carte menu every day at his beautiful hatted stalwart, Eschalot. Wednesdays and Thursdays you can grab three or more eating compatriots to take advantage of his midweek eight course degustation discount, and eat up a 10% discount and drink a glass of bubbles. The normal price is \$110pp or \$165pp with matching wines. 4877 1977 enquiries@eschalot.com.au

KATERS RESTAURANT, PEPPERS MANOR HOUSE, Sutton Forest

Chef Thomas Pirker turns on Christmas in July on Sunday the 15th at Peppers with a four course set menu that includes citrus and herb brined roasted turkey breast with housemade blood plum chutney, and Christmas pud with buttermilk custard. Yum. He is also offering a midweek Monday to Thursday grazing menu for locals who lunch from June 1 to August 31, with a 20% discount and a glass of house wine. Christmas in July, 12.30pm-4.30pm, July 15, \$75pp, children under 12 \$37.50, children under five free. 4860 3102 manorhouse@peppers.com.au

HORDERNS RESTAURANT, MILTON PARK COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL, Bowral

Craig Knudsen has created a winter tasting menu for groups up to 10, with his experienced focus on wine, food and ambience guaranteed to make the dining experience a sensory one. Job made easier by Milton Park's sumptuous parklands all around to complete the sense of splendour (read our hotel review on page 26). The tasting menu is \$120pp, with matching wines available at extra cost. **4861 8100** reservations@miltonpark.com.au

MOUNT ASHBY ESTATE, Moss Vale

Chris Harvey and Sally Beresford are holding a French themed Bastille Day degustation dinner on July 14 at their lovely Mount Ashby Estate, which will match courses with French and Mount Ashby wines. If you love French style, be sure to allow time to peruse Sally's fabulous barn shop for furniture, lighting and homewares. Saturday July 14, \$160pp includes wine.

THE DINING ROOM, BUNANOON GUESTHOUSE, Bundanoon

4869 4792 mountashby.com.au

Chef Eon Waugh is cooking up some winter fun with a five course French themed Bastille Dinner on July 14 with complimentary sparkling wine on arrival. He is also creating a four course Christmas in July feast (\$75pp) on Saturday July 28 and, our favourite, a Bollywood 'celebration of Indian cuisine' night on Saturday August 18. **4883 6372**

bundanoonguesthouse.com.au

THE GLASS CAFE, Mittagong

Your choice of a four or five course degustation Yuletide menu (\$50pp or \$60pp) on Friday July 20 and Wednesday July 25. BYO wine.

4872 2640 glasscafe.com.au

THE LOCH, Berrima

Chef Brigid Kennedy serves up a \$70pp three course set menu for Christmas in July (Sunday July 22 and 29). Or join in the three hour seven course seasonal Fungi Feast degustation long table lunch on Sunday August 5 as truffle season arrives (12pm-4pm for \$145pp degustation or \$195pp with matching wines). **theloch.net.au**

THE VAULT DINING ROOM, THE OLD BANK HOTEL, Mittagong

Stephen and Teena Crooks present 'Food, Film and Fantasy' in a series of seven course feasts that relive the central meal from famous films, accompanied by the film and music score for \$180pp. For dates and film details 4872 4496 oldbankhotel.

THE SHAGGY COW, Mittagong

Owner Elle McCallum's degustation dinners go down a treat and her eight course Bastille Day event on Saturday 14 July will showcase the cooking techniques of French cuisine expert, head chef Jerad Dunnohew. The cost is \$95pp, add \$50 for matching wines.

4872 2966 theshaggycow.com.au

4672 2966 tilesilaggycow.com.au

WILDfest (Secret location)

Join other diners looking for new food and outdoor experiences at this culinary adventure to celebrate the winter solstice. Feast of the Beast is a family friendly event designed around a mystery guest chef cooking venison over fire with local wine, storytelling, fireside music and wassailing (which means much food and frequent toasting) in a magical outdoors location. It happens on Saturday June 23 at 8pm (\$95pp for adults and \$45pp for kids, which includes all food, wine and entertainment) and the location is kept secret squirrel until the day of the feast. **0418 262 282** wildfoodadventures.com.au





did

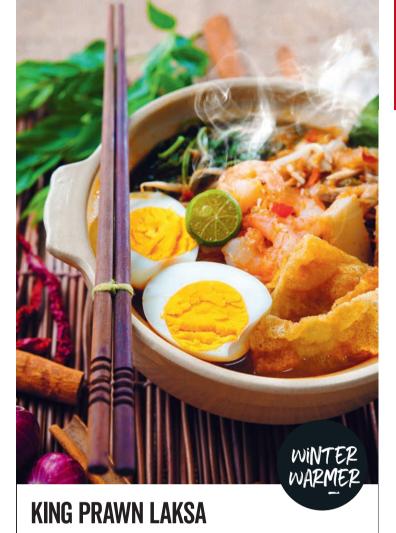
A massive spoon of steaming, orange stained coconut broth. First an aroma then an explosion on the palate, instantly took me hostage. Next, a prawn and bean shoot crunch was somehow smothered by pillow-perfect noodles and chewy tofu which gave way to the perfume of crushed spices and galangal. Then, the devil arrived...Chilli... that old familiar sting, my addiction. Is it legal to marry a soup?

It seems like only yesterday Angela and I would walk to George Street from Sydney Uni to meet up with Dawn, Andrew, some Canadian girl and, soon-to-be-married-and-quickly-divorced, Wayne. We were a newly formed group of food obsessed desperates who found any reason to cook for one another.

However, on reflection, our trip to "The Malaya" was probably our first food adventure outside our own kitchens. And what an adventure it was, because we discovered Laksa!

To me, very few dishes are as richly layered and comforting. Recently back from Singapore, where memories of my laksa youth re-emerged, I vowed to become, both master and slave to the pursuit of the perfect bowl. It was an eyes-wide-open commitment to researching, experimenting, tasting, adjusting, and it had all the prospects of standing alongside my pizza dough obsession, which 35 years of rolling and stretching has only now opened the door to the perfect crust.

However, to my surprise and delight, as soon as the quest began, it was over because all roads lead to two easily achieved luscious Laksa steps... a good paste and then, a good stock. The rest is simply a matter of 'add as you go' and create the balance you like. It's simple. Here's how I do it. Move over Chardonnay... meet the new liquid lunch... King Prawn Laksa. ▶



Ingredients

- 4 peeled, deveined king prawns per person (keep the shells)
- A jar of your favourite Laksa chilli paste (so many to choose from)
- Proper chicken broth... again, everywhere to be found if you don't make your own
- Coconut milk
- 1 onion, sliced, 1 stick of lemongrass bruised and 1 slice of galangal (all widely available these days)

To begin

- Fry the shells, onion, lemongrass and galangal in a little oil until shells are all pink. This step infuses the now reddish oil with fresh perfumed flavours which, characteristically pool as little blobs on top of the laksa.
- Next stir through some laksa paste and heat through, stirring for about 30 seconds.
- Finally add chicken stock, water and coconut milk to your own taste. Start with 1 cup of stock, ½ cup water and ½ cup of coconut milk per person.
- Simmer for 10 minutes and now for the all-important tweaking...
 taste for extra paste, stock, water, coconut milk, sugar and salt.

To serve

- Put into each bowl, cooked soft noodles, deep fried tofu, bean sprouts, cooked prawns and half a boiled egg. *Tip, you can microwave to heat this or dunk and drain in hot water before putting into the bowl.*
- Pour over your piping hot strained laksa, top with chilli paste, and sprinkle with store bought fried shallots.



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hen trying anything new, it pays to go straight to the horse's mouth. Duncan MacDonald is cellar door manager at Cherry Tree Hill Wines in Sutton Forest and knows a thing or two about wine. When it comes to tour operators, his pick of the bunch is Highlands Food & Wine Tours.

'It's run by John Scott and it's the pick of the local operators for me,' says MacDonald. 'John's a fantastically professional and knowledgeable guide, and his passion for the Southern Highlands makes his tours stand out.'

John Scott is a longtime Hill Top local and a fireman with Fire & Rescue NSW for nearly 35 years. He started Highlands Food & Wine Tours in 2013 and runs the company between shifts at Narellan Fire Station.

'I started up five years ago when I realised a lot of locals, and Sydneysiders, didn't know much about all the good food and wine production that was going on here,' says Scott. 'I wanted to do my bit to publicise the sector and give people a great day out.'

Reportedly a font of local knowledge, Scott gives a lively commentary as he drives his guests from cellar door to cellar door (turn to page 66 for details of local wineries, vineyards and cellar doors).

'The wine tours with three and four cellar doors are the most popular,' explains Scott. 'These are generally a 9.30 am pick up and go to about 2.30pm. Lunch at the Eling Forest Winery cafe is included in the price.'

The Grape Stomping Tour at Eling Forest Winery is a chance for some good old fashioned dirty fun. Or for something completely different, the Wine Body and Soul Tour might suit.

'We start with a group spiritual reading by medium Gail Withers from Heart and Soul Healing,' says Scott. 'Each person gets a chance to hear a message from a loved one from the spiritual world before the cellar door visits.'

Bridal parties and hens groups like the Pamper Time Tour, which starts with a facial or massage at Endota Spa, followed by the cellar door visits. And Scott recently began offering the Shoot the Vines tour: 'It begins with a clay target shooting session at the Berrima Clay Target Club, supervised by licenced shooters in a safe environment, and is followed by cellar door visits. We order the day that way for safety reasons.'

For groups of eight or more Scott offers made to measure tours taking in any combination of cellar doors from the northern cluster of Artemis, Tertini, Bendooley, Joadja and Centennial through to the Highway estates of Eling Forest and Cherry Tree Hill, to the Sallys Corner cohort that includes Cuttaway Hill, Sally's Corner Wines, St Maur Wines (read our review on page 48) out to Mount Ashby near Moss Vale.

Mira and Scott Barton are the new owners of The Grape Escape Wine Tours and, according to Duncan MacDonald of Cherry Tree Hill, they too have a passion for all things wine and are also offering a variety of new experiences to their groups, such as lunch at a high end restaurant.

ABOVE (LEFT TO RIGHT) Bendooley Estate, Centennial Vineyards Cellar Door, Highlands Food & Wine Tours. The Bartons, who live in Exeter, made the tree change from Sydney eight years ago, and saw an opportunity when the long established Grape Escape came onto the market last year.

'We are both foodies and share a love of wine, and felt we could bring something new to the wine tour experience,' says Mira Barton, who formerly worked in banking and finance.

Scott Barton, an electrician by trade, says The Grape Escape can cater for groups of up to 20 people. Tours are from 10am to 4pm or 6pm and on average visit up to four cellar doors, each chosen by their guests. Champagne tours and grape stomping can be incorporated: 'At the cellar doors the winemakers will spend around an hour explaining their different wines and the making process, so you can truly understand the fruit in their bottles. Or if beer is more the



customer's thing, we can organise visits to Southern Highlands Brewing Company Taphouse or Eden Brewery.'

Customers are consulted in the planning stages about where they would like to lunch, and while most choose a cellar door restaurant such as Bendooley or Sutton Forest Estate Wines, other visited venues include Josh's at Berrima and Southern Highlands Brewing Company's Taphouse & Restaurant in Moss Vale.

'We are also in discussion at the moment with other restaurants, such as Birch in Moss Vale. Our focus is taking our clients to the wineries they want to visit for a day they will love and remember.'

Kenny Escapes Food, Wine & Experiences offers the Southern Highlands Wine Tasting Day for up to 20 people. The all day tour departs from Bowral, visits three wineries and includes a two course lunch and glass of wine at a local restaurant or winery, plus cheese and local produce tastings.

Meanwhile Jason Humble, owner of Highlands Chauffeured Hire Cars, is set to enter this space after recently purchasing A Grand Day Out, which offers tours such as Secret Gourmet Villages, High Tea and Vines and the Best of the Bunch, for two to 30 people.

Mark Bourne, winemaker and president Southern Highlands Food & Wine Association, says the Highlands' reputation as a premium wine region continues to grow: 'Our established vineyards are recognised both internationally and nationally, with particular focus on the traditional cool climate styles such as sparkling wines, riesling, chardonnay, pinot gris and pinot noir.' Cheers to that!

highlandswineandfoodtours.com.au; thegrapeescape.com.au; kennyescapes.com; agranddayout.com.au



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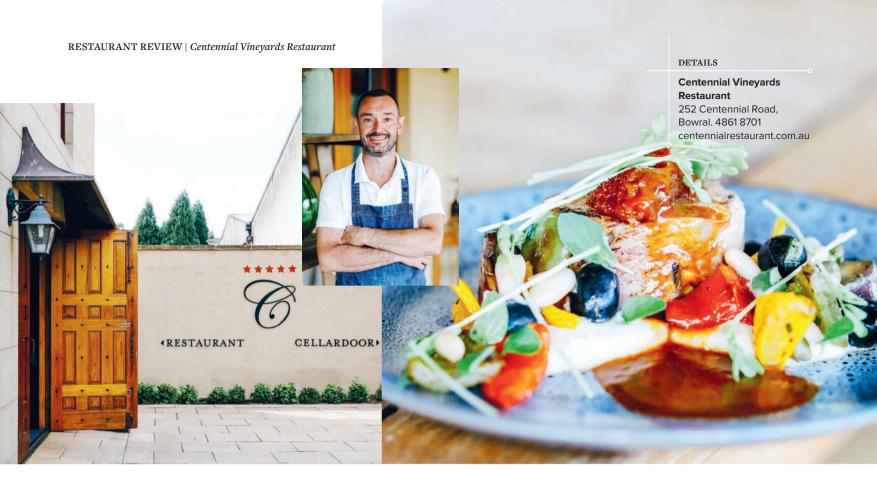
Everyone is welcome at our Cellar Door, it doesn't matter how much or how little you know about wine, just sit back and enjoy personalised service from our friendly cellar door staff. We are passionate about wine and look forward to sharing our knowledge with you.



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Highlands Classic

CLASSICALLY TRAINED **CHEF ROBIN MURRAY** COMES FROM **GOOD SCOTTISH HOSPITALITY STOCK AND HAS A FINE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT PEDIGREE**.
BUT HE NOW CALLS THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS HOME AND PERFORMS REGULAR
CULINARY MIRACLES AT THE LOVELY **CENTENNIAL VINEYARDS RESTAURANT.**

Perhaps it's the 'dreich' Scottish weather or the austerity of the landscape that engenders a collective gritty realism, but no matter how far from home, you can always trust a Scot to tell it how it is. Take hugely experienced, classically trained chef Robin Murray. He arrived in Australia nearly 25 years ago and has been at the helm of Centennial Vineyards Restaurant for the past 14.

After training at the prestigious Scottish hotel, The Caledonian in Edinburgh, he headed to Melbourne. For the next 10 years his mentors and contemporaries included chefs Raymond Capaldi, Gary Meaghan and George Calombaris (who did his apprenticeship at the Sofitel in Melbourne, where Robin worked before they both jumped ship). Calombaris then went to work for Murray at his molecular style restaurant, Reserve. When Murray departed in 2004 with now wife Mandy to take over the newly opened restaurant at Centennial Vineyards near Bowral, Calombaris went on to start The Press Club in Melbourne.

But don't expect to find Murray spruiking his past successes or close MasterChef Australia mates. This is one old school chef not interested in self promotion. Likewise, there is no food trickery or tomfoolery on the menu when you eat a la carte lunch, dinner or high tea at Centennial Vineyards Restaurant. And when Meet the Author events (held with The Bookshop Bowral) are happening, Murray stays in the kitchen out of the limelight and lets the calibre of his cooking speak for itself. No chance, then, I ask him freshly on the day Escape Southern Highlands visits for lunch, we'll be seeing him as a guest judge on MasterChef Australia any time soon?

'Och no, I'm not interested in that sort of thing,' says Murray in his broad Scottish brogue. 'Too much smoke and mirrors for me. I'm more of a real chef as such. My style is very classical with French and Mediterranean influences. Honest food. We might trick something up in a garnish, but I cook in a very classic way that is very produce driven.'

Murray has hospitality in his blood. His grandfather owned hotels and several of his brothers are chefs. Raised in Lossiemouth, Aberdeenshire, he came to Australia in 1995 to join an older brother working at the now closed but well remembered White Horse Inn in Berrima.

'I thought all of Australia was like Home and Away, and I arrived in winter in Berrima and found instead it was like bloody Scotland,' recalls Murray. 'I lasted six weeks and moved to Melbourne. I met my wife, Mandy, in a pub there and ended up staying.'

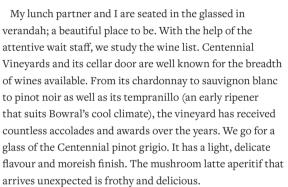


Scotland's loss is our gain. We are sitting in Centennial Vineyards Restaurant as Murray chats about his small farm at nearby Mandemar. He keeps chooks and bees, and grows fruit and veg for his restaurant kitchen. Everything from berries to citrus to edible flowers, garlic and herbs. He's even got yabbies in the dam that will find their way into his pot. He loves knocking about there with sons, Hamish and Brodie.

'The day I started working here I stopped shaving and stopped wearing a chef's jacket.'

He certainly chose a terrific place to make his tree change. Centennial Vineyards Restaurant looks out over acres of tempranillo grapes, waiting for the approaching harvest. The beautiful property including the vineyards, winery, cellar door and restaurant are owned by locals and businessmen, Mark Dowling and John Large. Murray leased the restaurant in 2004 and hasn't looked back. It is an imposing building with an al fresco feel reached at the top of an inclining driveway, past paddocks dotted with black Angus cattle. Huge wooden doors like you'd find on a medieval hall greet us.

Weddings are a large part of Murray's business now. He often caters for four or five a week thanks in part to his restaurant's ability to hold large numbers (140 in the main restaurant, 60 on the verandah, 70 upstairs). There is a wide glassed in verandah and a sunny courtyard outside. The restaurant has high rafted ceilings, sandstone floors and a huge fireplace at one end. It wouldn't be out of place in Tuscany or Bordeaux.



'It's one of our signature things,' explains Murray later. 'I like to get everyone in the mood to relax and enjoy the food.'

We share a starter of salmon gravlax with a dill and mustard honey sauce, and Murray's perfectly crisp rye bread. My main is the barramundi with a nicoise salad of green beans, boiled egg, black olives and tomatoes. It is plate licking good. My partner is tempted by the Italian lamb shoulder with prosciutto, white bean and garlic mash and Mediterranean vegetables but instead is swayed by the Szechuan spiced duck breast with sweet corn puree and plum glaze. It packs a tasty punch.

We share a summer trifle with fresh raspberries, cake, custard and cream. It is a scrumptious meal and just when I think I can't squeeze in another morsel, the handmade gluten free hazelnut biscuits that arrive with coffee prove me wrong.

Our meal is a fine example of modern Australian a la carte cooked by a deft chef who has no interest in reinventing the wheel. Murray's many longtime repeat customers, and locals like me who have never been before but will find their way back, tell him he has his formula down pat.

'This restaurant is my maison, my house, my home,' says Murray. 'What do I want people to take away? I want them to enjoy themselves and walk away feeling satisfied. It's that simple.'

Spoken like a true Scotsman.



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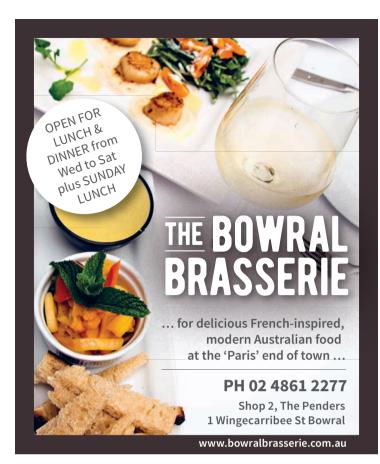
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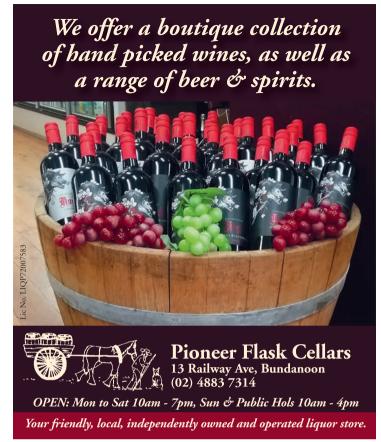


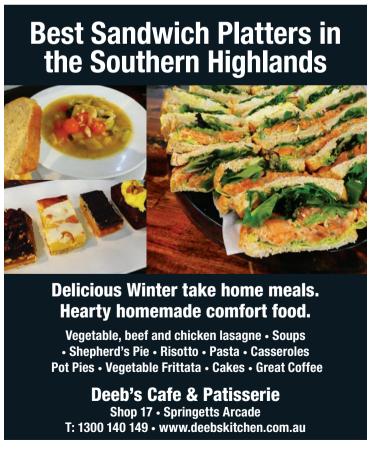
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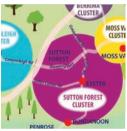
















Southern Highlands Food & Wine Clusters a Jaste For Adventure.

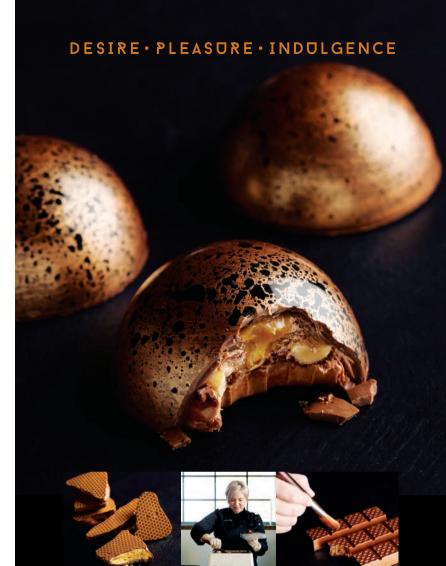
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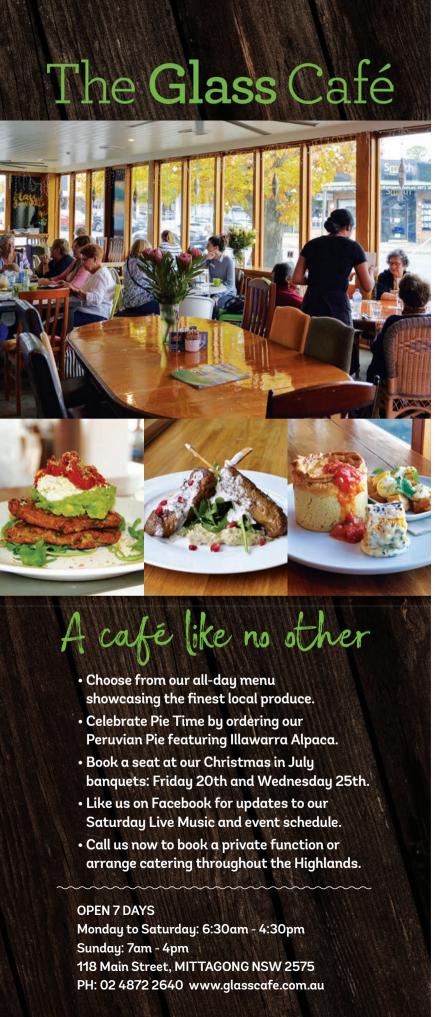
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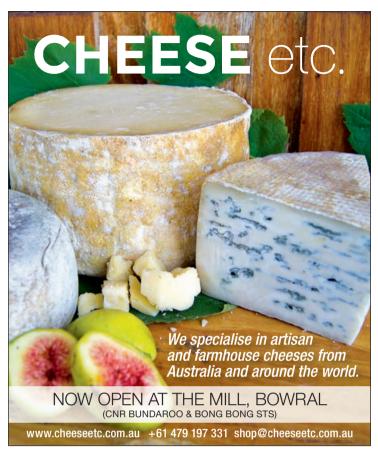
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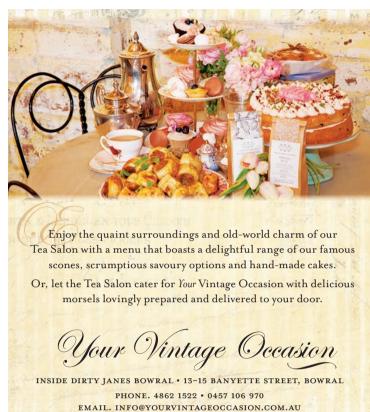
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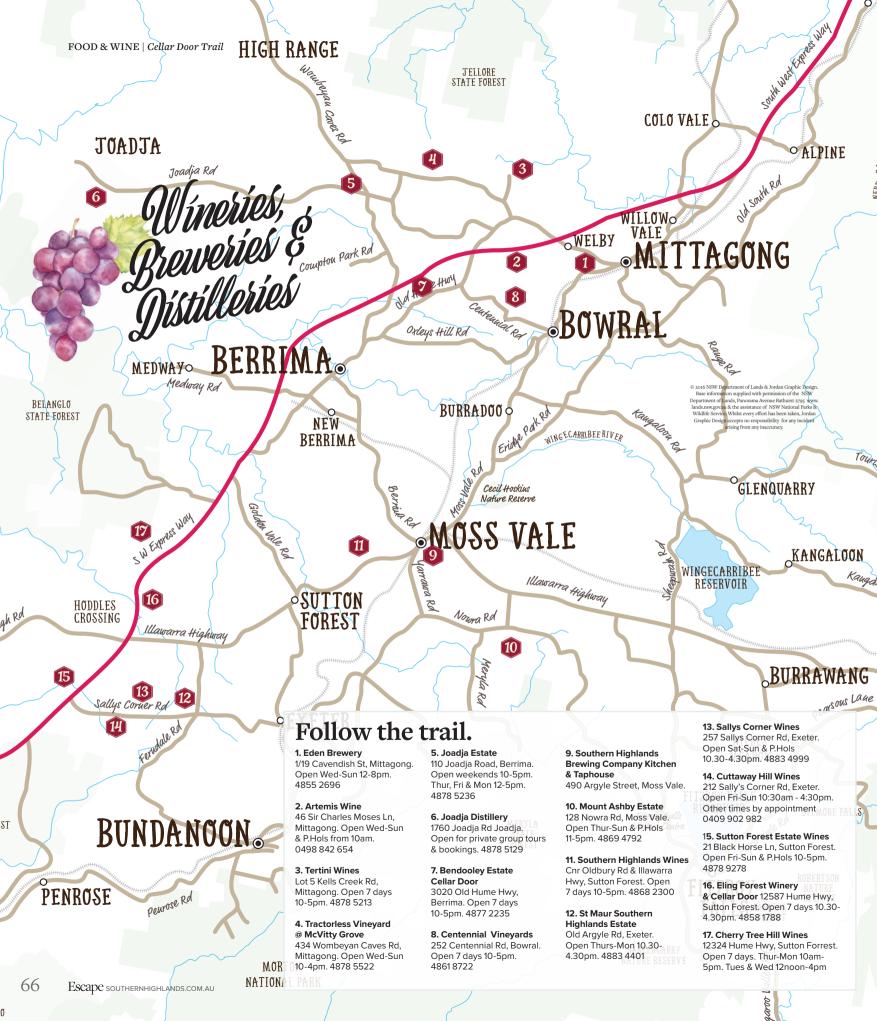
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panels. But I was influenced a lot by TV shows The Good Life and All Creatures Great and Small, and I always thought I'd end up a farmer. How long have you been doing it? This is our third commercial season of garlic and the second of potatoes. I lend a paddock from friends with a 100 acre property in East Kangaloon and a paddock on vineyard Far Ago Hill at Cayonleigh. Greenpeace is a long way from Kangaloon. I was a bit of a rad and started work experience at Greenpeace in 1986. I wanted to take my surfboard out onto Sydney Harbour and grab onto the US nuclear warships. But they didn't let me do it. Then 10 years ago I started searching for farmland. The objective was always to make a living without detriment to the planet. Back to my Greenpeace roots! The Southern Highlands ticked a lot of boxes. Not too humid, close to Sydney and beautiful, pristine landscapes. In fact given its proximity to a growing Sydney the Highlands has everything going for it. Apart from its lovely alliteration, why The Good Garlic Guy? My original company name was Solstice Organics, as I plant by the moon cycles, but one day a customer at a farmers' market yelled out, 'Hey, there's that good garlic guy!' and I thought, that's a good name.







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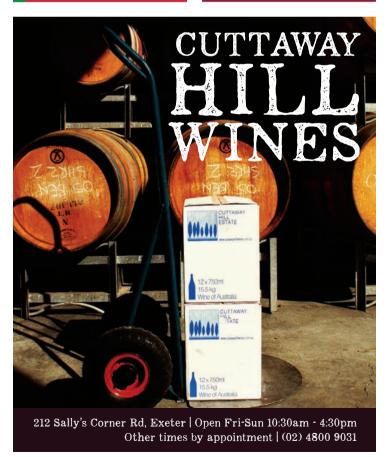
257 Sallys Corner Road, Exeter. p: 4883 4999 or m: 0424 183 499 www.sallyscornerwines.com.au **Open:** Sat, Sun & public holidays 10.30am – 4.30pm

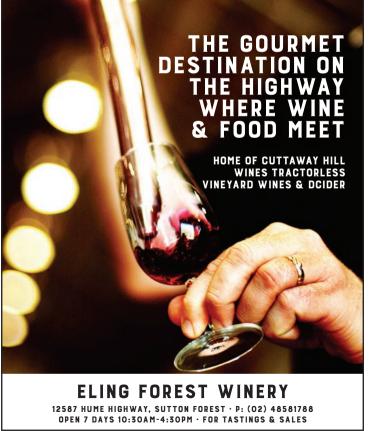


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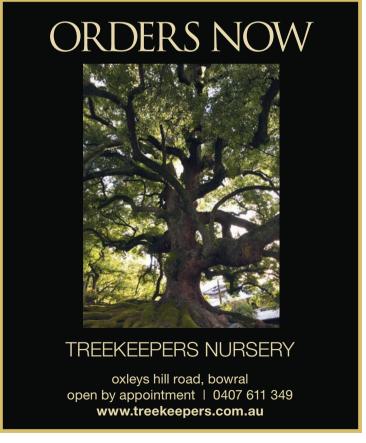
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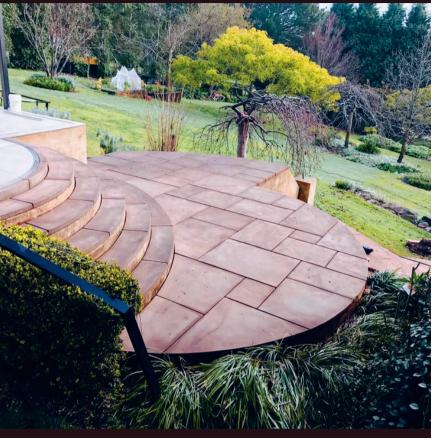


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DAYTRIPPING IN THE HIGHLANDS

WHETHER YOU'RE VISITING THE HIGHLANDS OVER WINTER OR WANT SOMETHING SPECIAL TO DO WITH FRIENDS WHO ARE, THESE HEARTWARMING PURSUITS HAVE THE TICK OF APPROVAL FROM **ESCAPE ON A CHILLY DAY.**



* TAKE A TOURIST DRIVE

If you prefer to see the Highlands on four wheels, look at online at past editions of Escape's flipbooks or pick up one of Destination Southern Highlands great maps for Tourist Routes 14, 15, 16 and 17. Spend a day or two driving our winding country roads and enjoying scenic lookouts, rural vistas and picture book villages steeped in history. Stop at famed tourist attractions, pick up a few bottles to take home at our local wineries (see our map on page 66), dine in hatted restaurants and happening cafes, and pick up some stylish homewares and edible goodies at our eclectic shops and markets. You can also find suggested day and overnight stays in online issues of Escape Southern Highlands **escapesouthernhighlands.com.au**

Must make tourist stops

- + Bradman Museum and International Cricket Hall of Fame, Bowral
- + Donald Bradman's boyhood home: 52 Shepherd Street, Bowral
- + Sturt, Mittagong: contemporary craft, arts and design centre
- + Retford Park, Bowral: mansion and gardens newly gifted to the National Trust
- + Harpers Mansion, Berrima: historically restored Georgian home with huge maze
- + Mittagong Antiques Centre: treasure trove of antiques to uncover
- + Hillview, Sutton Forest: permanent sculpture park recently opened
- + Fitzroy Falls: spectacular 80 metre waterfall with lovely walks and views
- + General Stores at Exeter, Fitzroy Falls, Berrima, Burrawang, Wingello, Penrose and Marulan: great food, local produce and the pulse of their communities
- + Illawarra Fly, Robertson: take to the trees and zipline through the rainforest
- + Berrima District Historical Society, Berrima: museum and archive of local history,
- + Dirty Janes and Green Lane, Bowral: vintage and antique shopping at its best, plus food and drinks
- + Argyle Street, Moss Vale: artisan shops, eclectic cafes, funky fabulous vibe

* WINTRY HIGHLANDS WALKS

Rugging up and stepping out is a great way to enjoy our definite seasons. For an excellent starting point go to the Destination Southern Highlands website (southernhighlands.com.au) for an extensive list and maps of walks, or call in at the Welcome Centre on the Hume Highway in Mittagong for advice and maps. While you're there, pick up a copy of Gillian and John Souter's Best Walks of the Southern Highlands, a little gem of a book that gives detailed information on 45 local walks. Keep in mind, though, that our national parks such as Morton National Park don't allow your four-legged family members to walk with you, so look at the many state forests in the Southern Highlands that do welcome dogs. If you would like to stride out where the more experienced walkers go, Southern Highlands Bushwalkers (bushwalkingnsw.org.au) welcomes non members to treks that are sure to get the blood pumping and the soul singing.





* DO HIGH TEA

Many visitors and locals love the Southern Highlands climate for the resemblance it is said to bear to Old Blighty (England), which was probably of great comfort to early Europeans. A welcome hangover from those days of looking northwards to Queen and Empire is the well established delightful High Tea habit in the Highlands. Be tempted by pinwheel sandwiches, scones, sweet cakes and treats, pots of tea or even a glass of a nice Highlands sparkling wine on the side. A great reason to come in from the cold, try these beauties or check out southernhighlands.com.au for more venues.

Best tea and treats stops

- + Your Vintage Occasion Tea Salon at Dirty Janes, Bowral
- + Milton Park, Bowral
- + Gumnut Patisserie, Berrima, Bowral and Mittagong
- + Katers at Peppers Manor House, Sutton Forest
- + Stones Patisserie, Berrima and Bowral
- + Raw & Wild, Bowral
- + Centennial Vineyards Restaurant, Bowral
- + Old Bank Hotel, Mittagong





* WARM UP OVER LUNCH

Winter in the Highlands is not complete without a relaxed lunch in front of an open fire. Whether you are after French inspired fare, family friendly food, a la carte or fine dining, or a relaxed and understated setting, we've got it all here. Probably best to book before you arrive, though, because it gets busy. Here are some of our winter picks with fires blazing.

Favourite lunch choices

- + Briars Historic Inn, Moss Vale: lunch seven days from 12pm
- + Bendooley Estate, Berrima: lunch seven days, 11.30am-2.30pm
- + Surveyor General, Berrima: lunch Sunday Friday, 12-2.30pm
- + Southern Highlands Brewing & Taphouse, Moss Vale: lunch Thursday - Sunday from 12pm
- + Burrawang General Store Cafe, Burrawang: breakfast and lunch 7 days, 8am-4pm
- + Bistro Officina, Bowral: lunch Friday Sunday from 12pm, brunch Saturday and Sunday from 10am
- + Robertson Inn: lunch seven days from 12pm
- + Harry's on Green Lane, Bowral: lunch seven days from 12pm
- + Biota, Bowral: Thursday Monday from 12pm

🛪 HISTORIC HIGHLANDS

Settlers arrived in the Southern Highlands in the 1830s, making it a destination rich in history and heritage. Life was hard and many Highlanders, particularly children, died prematurely and are buried in the many historic church graveyards and cemeteries. If you are interested in history or are researching your family tree, make sure to call into the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society in Market Place, Berrima. Archivists from the society recently documented every person buried in the Highlands from the 1830s, and a register of these records is kept in the society's museum in Berrima and is available for public viewing. If historic buildings and architecture are your thing, visit the Destination Southern Highlands website (southernhighlands.com.au) and download their terrific Heritage Trail for the history of every village and town plus walking trails, site details and locations. This comprehensive resource was put together with the help of the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society to help you to really get to know the Highlands, its significant buildings, monuments, conservation areas and memorials.

PARADISE FOR PROS AND PUTTERS

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

BOWRAL GOLF CLUB

18 holes - par 69

Kangaloon Road, Bowral

Open to the public seven days, including competitions.

Bookings essential.

Professional: Kevin Kenny Cost to play: Visitor \$38.50,

twilight \$20. Clubs and carts

available to hire.

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

Lessons on demand.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 18th - 409m. par 4. A narrow fairway with a

240m carry off the back tee to get over the water, then uphill

to a sloping green.

Toughest green: 16th. Two

bunkers and a right to left slope.

Additional facilities: Putting green, practice area, croquet

awn. Full club and bar facilities. Functions catered for. Look out for special events in club

restaurant including Lamb

& Pork Buffet with all the

trimmings on June 10 and

Christmas in July Buffet on

July 6 from 1pm. Available

for weddings. Contact: 4861 1042;

bowralgolfclub.com.au

MT BROUGHTON GOLF AND **COUNTRY CLUB**

18 holes - par 72

Kater Road, Sutton Forest

Open to the public seven days

around competitions.

Professional: Larry Canning Cost to play: Weekday \$50,

weekend \$70. Clubs and carts available for hire. Lessons: \$50

per hour. Groups and clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire. Strictly

no denim.

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

Often plays into the wind.

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

big bunkers.

Additional facilities: Full driving range, chipping and putting practice areas. Full club and bar

facilities. Functions catered for by Southern Highlands Winery.

Accommodation available at

Peppers Manor House, and a la carte food at Katers restaurant.

See website for membership

specials. Contact: 4868 3200;

mtbroughton.com.au,

KANGAROO VALLEY GOLF AND COUNTRY RESORT

18 holes - par 71

Mt Scanzi Road, **Kangaroo Valley**

Open to the public seven days:

both members and visitors are

welcome to play in competitions.

Cost to play: Weekday \$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 that rolls right to left.

Second shot is up a steep incline

and the green has two tiers.

Toughest green: 13th. Slopes

back to front with two tiers.

Additional facilities: Practice

fairway, chipping and putting

practice areas. Full club and

bar facilities. Functions and

conferences catered for.

Accommodation is available

in rustic wood cabins and

luxury two and three bedroom

villas located right around the

resort. See website for Stay

and Play packages.

Contact: 4465 0200;

kangaroovalleygolf.com.au

MOSS VALE GOLF CLUB

18 holes - par 71

Arthur Street, Moss Vale

Open to the public seven days

around competitions.

Bookings essential.

Professional: Steve McRae

Cost to play: \$35 for 18 holes.

Clubs and carts available for hire.

Lessons: From \$50. Groups and

clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 18th – 378m, par 4

Dog leg hole turning left around

a large gum tree with a natural

waterway in front of the green.

Toughest green: 14th. Very

undulating with a bunker to the left

Additional facilities: Clubhouse

bistro serves lunch Tuesday-

Sunday and newly revamped

restaurant Shotz serves a French

inspired brasserie menu Friday

and Saturday nights by former

Centennial chef Ben Riley.

Tuesdays is Locals Night (kids

eat and drink free). Wednesdays

is Locals Special Nights (buy one

course, get one free). Breakfast

available weekends. Available for

weddings and functions. Contact: 4868 1503;

mossvalegolfclub.com.au



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

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 including children's menu at San Fior restaurant. Driving range and aqua range facilities available. Functions catered for. Available for weddings.

Contact: 4862 8615; gibraltarbowral.com.au

HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB

18 holes - par 70

Old Hume Highway, Mittagong

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Professionals: Tegan and James Purcell

Cost to play: Weekday \$29, 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, 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. Weddings, functions and conferences catered for. Luxury

accommodation available

peppers.com.au/craigieburn

at Peppers Craigieburn.

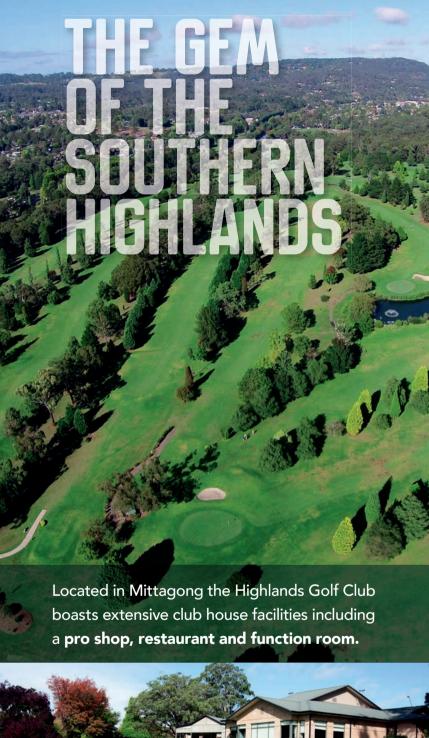
Contact: 4862 8000;

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. Wedding, accommodation and function facilities are available at the Sylvan Glen Country House. Consult website for stay and

play packages. Contact: 4884 4306;

sylvanglen.com.au







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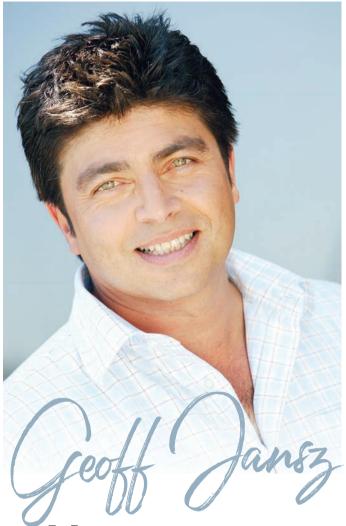




SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CONFERENCE VENUES

See H. W. Built		Š
	76-20 I	8
	-Milton Dark Count	

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



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14 CHARMING



1 ROMANTI





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You'll be surrounded by 60 private acres of woodland, golf course and vineyard, with kangaroos bounding across the gardens as the sun goes down. At the heart of Sylvan Glen is a historic country guesthouse with 15 lovingly decorated ensuite rooms.

Your wedding or conference group will enjoy the guesthouse exclusively - it's absolutely private for your stay.

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

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

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Sylvan Glen





SYDNEY COUPLE EMILEE YUEN AND TIM HILL WERE LOOKING FOR AN OUTSIDE VENUE THAT WOULD HAPPILY INCLUDE THEIR BELOVED DOG IN THE WEDDING PARTY. THEY FOUND IT HERE IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS. PHOTOGRAPHER THOMAS STEWART CAPTURED THEIR PERFECT DAY.

hen it comes to love, the siren song of Cupid often makes us do things we ordinarily wouldn't. Just ask Emilee Yuen. It was over 10 years ago now that Emilee, a small animal veterinarian, was at a Brisbane pub playing pool with fellow university mates and first laid eyes on Tim Hill.

'We played pool together all night and when it was time to go I just knew I had to see him again,' Emilee recalls. 'So I plucked up the courage to do something I'd never ever done before and asked him for his number.' Tim's phone number was forthcoming (phew), and the courtship began, progressing to their engagement on a holiday to the Philippines where Emilee met Tim's extended family for the first time. 'Tim got down on one knee and proposed on the beach in Boracay after a private dinner,' says Emilee, who is of Australian/Chinese heritage.

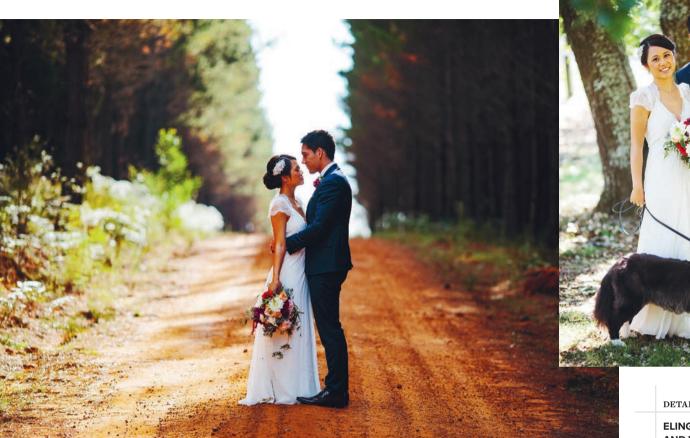
The happy couple married at Eling Forest Estate and Winery in Sutton Forest almost 10 years after meeting, and even now Cupid's spark is still alive. 'I never get bored of his dashing good looks,' says Emilee. 'I love that he has a big heart and is a very supportive partner. He understands me through all my moods even when I don't say anything, and doesn't let that get in the way of showing me how much he loves me.'

Laughter is key. 'I love that Emilee and I share the same sense of humour and not a day goes by where we don't find something to laugh at,' says Tim.

Today in Sydney, where Emilee works as a vet and Tim is the CEO of his own start-up company, they recall their unique Southern Highlands wedding with delight.

'We wanted to get married out of the city and had looked at many places in the area when we were location scouting,' says

Emilee. 'Eling Forest was just the right size, not too ostentatious, offered on site accommodation and, to be honest, fit the budget. It also had a range of good spots for photography and the on site working winery gave our guests something to do in the down time between ceremony and reception.'



The outdoor location was also crucial as it allowed Tanis, Emilee's border collie, to attend.

'After years of begging my parents for a dog when I was growing up, they finally let me get one and Tanis became my constant companion. I had always dreamed that he would play an important role at my wedding, so his inclusion was never negotiable. We initially wanted to hold the marriage ceremony in a little chapel, but ditched that idea without a second thought when we were told no dogs were allowed. A friend walked with Tanis down the aisle, so he wouldn't get too distracted by our 60 other guests.

'He passed away recently at age 14, so having him as part of the day was very special to me.'

The couple chose the cooler months to marry and the weather gods smiled on their day with blue skies, and warm sunshine. 'We did have a wet weather option but the weather was perfect,' says Emilee. 'A few of our guests actually got a bit red.'

Dogs and weather aside, cultural heritage played a large part in Tim and Emilee's day, as did her propensity for hunting and gathering.

'It was important to us to include the tea ceremony in our wedding. It encompasses a deep sense of Chinese

culture and demonstrates the importance of family values. And in the year before our wedding I collected vintage china side plates to be our bonbonnieres. Everyone had a piece of our wedding cake on a unique plate that they took home. I think I dragged Tim around to every antique store from Sydney to Tasmania to find them.'

Another nice touch were the gumboots Emilee's sister sent over from Japan for the bridesmaids to wear for 'forest location photos'.

At the online gift registry, guests could purchase experiences for the happy couple to enjoy on their honeymoon in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Morocco.

Emilee says it was the little things that made their day so special.

'I liked how much everyone enjoyed themselves, and how they got a bit sloshed on the winery tour we organised while we were getting photographed. Also, seeing my cousin bawling tears of joy as I presented tea to her during the tea ceremony. And staying up late eating chips and drinking Champagne in bed because we were so buzzed. But more than anything, getting to marry my best friend and soul mate.'

DETAILS

ELING FOREST ESTATE AND WINERY

@elingforestcellardoor

BRIDE'S DRESS

Aspen by Jenny Packham preloved from Still White @stillwhite

BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES

Annabelle by Jenny Yoo @jennyyoonyc

CATERING

Phatt Duck events and catering @phatt_duck

CELEBRANT

Sue Jackman suejackman.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Thomas Stewart @thomstewart thomasstewart.com.au

MILLINERY

Bespoke piece by Viktoria Novak @viktorianovak

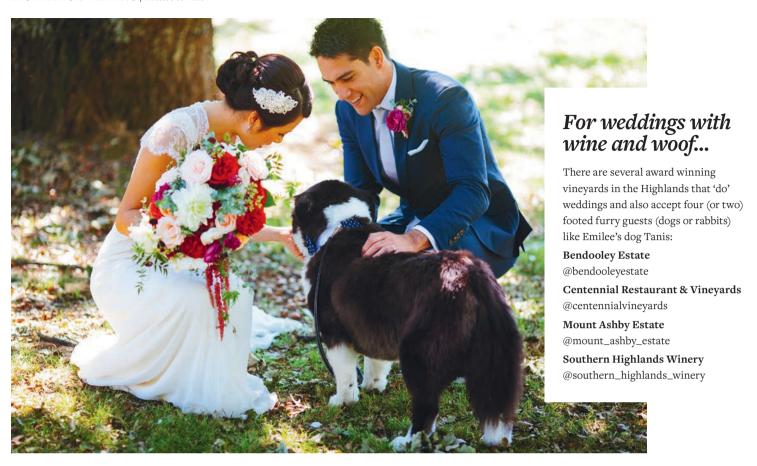
VENUE STYLIST

She Designs Events (supplied mismatched vintage chairs) @she-design

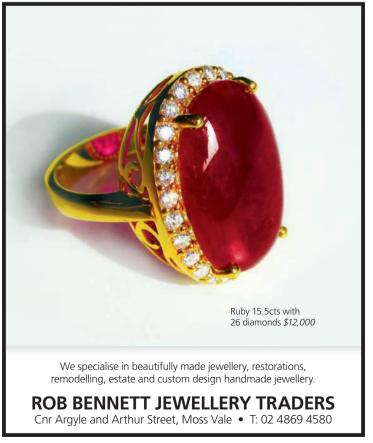
FLORIST

Affair with George @michellevaneimeren

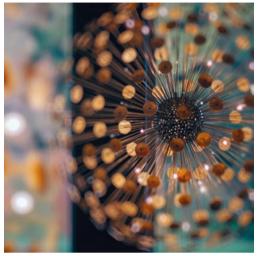
















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HAND PICKED

Mount Ashly Estar



MAUREEN GARDNER, GREEN LANE BOWRAL AND THE GREEN HOUSE, MOSS VALE

What's your style? Green Lane and The Green House are extensions of our own personal style. I want visitors to feel like we are welcoming them to our personal space. What makes you unique? We want to provide our quests with a shopping and eating haven with an international flavour away from the pressures of everyday. How do you offer that je ne sais quoi? I try to find the unusual and the beautiful that have a story to tell. Other than our plants, most of our products are antique or vintage. There's a shop in Paris called L'Object qui Parle, the Object that Speaks. That's what I look for. They always say in retail you should wear what you sell? Yes, definitely. That way, if it doesn't sell you can wear it, plant it in your garden or have it in your home. We stock Italian linen clothing, which I enjoy wearing, and like home, our shops are crammed with treasures, books and art, rugs and cushions, ornaments and crystal, vintage lamps and silverware. What's your personal style? My father used to say, 'Always be yourself and do your best,' and that sums it up for me. Style is putting your stamp on your home, your work and on everything you do in life. What's the sharpest thing you own? A wonderful vintage astrakhan coat I bought years ago in New York. When you think style in the Highlands, where do you go for a drink? Our own garden in Sutton Forest. Dinner or lunch out? Josh's Café in Berrima A present for a loved one? Babilonia, in Bowral or Made by Others in Moss Vale. Highlanders rocking their style their way? Jan Weeks at the Magpie Café in Berrima and Lydie du Bray and her antiques in Braemar. They are Southern Highlands style gurus. 15-17 Banyette Street, Bowral & 247 Argyle Street, Moss Vale thepottingshedbowral.com; thegreenhousemossvale.com





BRAD GIPSON, WHYTES CLOTHING, MOSS VALE

What's your style? We're a country outfitter, with classic and timeless style. What makes you unique? Being in business for 123 years! How do you offer that je ne sais quoi? We know what our customers like. We also offer a tailoring and alterations service on site, hire wear, school wear, dry cleaning, and shoe and boot repair, to name a few. **Do** you wear what you sell? Definitely. I'm inspired by Gant, Tommy Hilfiger and Lacoste, all of which we sell. There is nothing more satisfying then selling the full outfit I have just dressed the windows in. What's your personal style? Smart casual lvy League. Classic chino pants, polo shirts, Oxford cotton shirts and loafers. I like to be able to leave the shop and head to dinner with a blazer or sports coat to finish the look. What's the sharpest thing in your shops or home? Our rocking horse. It's symbolic Whytes, and intergenerational. It's a pleasure to hear parents tell their kids they used to ride it as a child. When you think style in the Highlands, where do you go for a drink? Southern Highlands Brewing & Taphouse for a drink with mates. Highlands Merchant for a coffee. Dinner or lunch out? Farm Club Australia in Werai or Briars on Moss Vale Road. A present for a loved one? Gubbins Home Timber & Hardware, which is always great for garden and home bits. I never go past Iris Skin & Beauty for my wife, Monique. A stylish Highlander doing it their way? My father in law, John Whyte. He is one of the best dressed men around. Whytes, 426 Argyle Street, Moss Vale ▶



SARAH PRICE, WINTON HOUSE, BOWRAL

What's your style? I formed Winton House after living

in the US for 10 years and lusting after products such as Dash & Albert, which we now sell. So I guess our style is American. What makes you unique? We have access to an internationally renowned brand. In the Highlands you can find Dash & Albert rugs at Suzie Anderson Home, Bowral and Moss Vale, and Superb Design, in Mittagong. How do you offer that je ne sais quoi? By creating stylish homes from the floor up! Our rugs are handcrafted. They are ethically sourced and produced. They say in retail you should wear what you sell. How do you get around that? I think if I had every rug I love in our home, it would be like living in Aladdin's cave. What's your personal style? Style to me is about confidence and what you radiate. I would like to think I radiate kindness, generosity and, when needed, sassiness. What's the sharpest thing you own? A blue and white ginger jar with the last of the season's hydrangeas. When you think style in the Highlands, where do you go for a drink? At home with friends and a glass of Centennial Vineyards sauvignon blanc. Dinner or lunch out? Actually, breakfast out. The Little Hand Stirred Jam Shop in Berrima is perfect. A present for a loved one? Dirty Janes and the strip at Moss Vale with Suzie Anderson. wintonhouse.com.au

GILLIAN HERNE, TWISTING VINTAGE, MITTAGONG

What's your style? Carefully curated, high quality original garments from past eras in fashion. They allow people to explore and create their own style. And great brand names like Trent Nathan, Prue Acton and Jenny Kee, What makes you unique? In all honesty, clients tell me that our collection is on a parallel with stores they have visited in London, New York or Tokyo, both for quality, presentation and diversity. How do you offer that je ne sais quoi? By sourcing garments that are of the best quality, and have a point of difference. Most of the pieces I sell are at least 40 years old and were created in superior fabrics with cut and quality you won't find on the high street. Do you wear what you sell? Absolutely! I am totally passionate about my collection and the gems each changing year has become known for. I started collecting as a teenager in the '70s and never stopped. What's your personal style? My favourites are 1970s pantsuits. Style is a look or an attitude that has been arrived at with care and thought for balance, shape and form. What's the sharpest piece you own? My bright orange 1960s leather coat always attracts comments. When you think style in the Highlands, where do you go for lunch? Bendooley Estate's Cellar Door in Berrima or Harry's on Green Lane in Bowral. A present for a loved one? Just a Smidge in Bowral for clothes and special bits. Three Wise Monkeys in Bowral for eclectic pieces from around the world. Tanzanite in Mittagong for treasures for all budgets. Twisting Vintage, 20B Bowral Road, Mittagong





TREVOR JONES, JONES AND WRIGHT, BERRIMA

What's your style? Substance. What makes you unique?
Leathersmiths who truly stitch by hand and not machine are few and far between. How do you offer that je ne sais quoi? Quality materials is the key. I offer people an honest to goodness alternative to the junk that ends up as landfill. They always say in retail you should wear what you sell? My favourite belt is one I made years ago in English bridle leather. It gets better with age. What's your personal style?
Black T-shirt, jeans and a well worn pair of leather shoes. Simple, unpretentious, practical, elegant. All qualities I include in the things I make. What's the sharpest thing you own? The camel leather fly swatter I made that hangs under the kitchen sink. It's a symphony of quality, engineering and construction that gets the job done in style.

When you think style in the Highlands, where do you go for a drink? Locals Night at E2 Events in Berrima every Friday. Dinner or lunch out? A cod pie (or any pie) from the Two Skinny Cooks in Berrima or a lasagne from the General Store in Berrima, followed by an excellent espresso. Present for a loved one? I would make it.

13 Old Hume Highway, Berrima jonesandwright.com.au

STYLISH SHOPS ESCAPE SH LOVES...

That Beautiful Shop, Moss Vale: pre-loved furniture, prints, and homewares The South Store, Bowral: fashion brands include Romance was Born, P.E Nation, Mind Over Manor, Mittagong: urbane, unique lifestyle and homeware goodies Sturt Gallery, Mittagong: one-off ceramics, glass, jewellery made by makers Carousel, The Mill, Bowral: affordable contemporary fashion Berrima Pottery, Berrima: handmade tableware, jugs, mugs & kids range Kish, Bowral: cute, affordable earrings, scarves, jewellery Babilonia: best selection of designer jeans in the Highlands Nina Leon: to-die-for European boots, loafers and brogues MicMac: on-trend Danish brands specialising in wet weather and denim Highlands Merchant: gourmet gifts by local producers for foodie fiends Sandy Short Style, Bowral: sumptuous European and Australasian designer brands.

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Hoddle Street, Burrawang
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10am - 4pm

2

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Percentage of sale to Burrawang Primary School





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THE SOUTH STORE

The Acre, Shop 6, 391-397 Bong Bong St, Bowral othe_south_store

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HAS MOVED...

By Helene

Shop 3, 341 Bong Bong St, Bowral (opposite target) 0434 676 821





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Ros Goody - "Gone Fishing" - mixed media



Robert Billington - photograph



Country Homes & Interiors



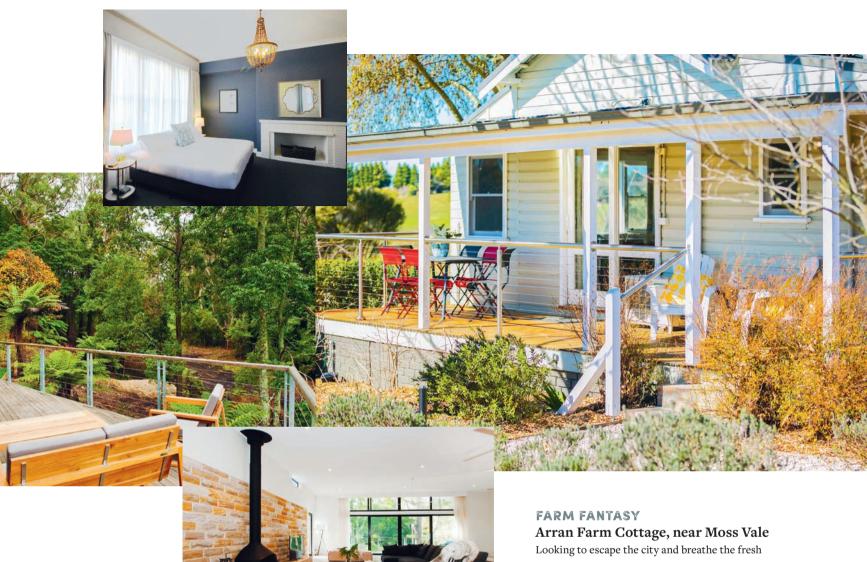


Nina Léon's Shoe Boutique



melbourne





BUSHLAND BEAUTY

The Gullies Retreat, Bundanoon

The name of this designer hideaway gives a quiet nod to the beautiful mountainous part of the Highlands referred to by our original indigenous people as 'a place of deep gullies'. This luxurious hideaway combines history (two 1920s sandstone cottages) with the contemporary (a modern cube with ceiling to floor windows) overlooking acres of gullies. Stay with up to 10 people and enjoy every traditional and mod con, including central heating, a slow combustion wood heater, gourmet country kitchen and a deck with a view of the tree tops. Walk into nearby Bundanoon or get lost in nature. This retreat is elegance and understated beauty at its best. *Perfect for: The design conscious, stylish groups, lovers who love nature*.

holidayrentalspecialists.com.au

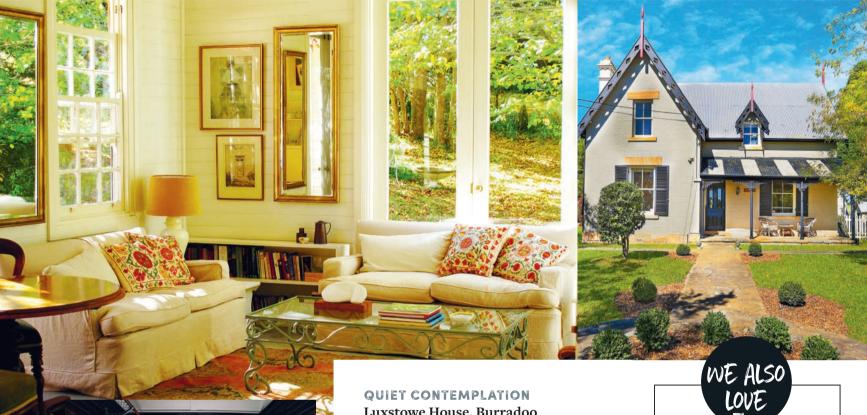
Looking to escape the city and breathe the fresh Highlands air? Arran Farm Cottage is a newly renovated weatherboard situated on a 100 acre property between Moss Vale and Werai. Sleeping up to four with two bedrooms, an open lounge with wood fire stove, a north facing verandah and lovely views, this is the perfect country stepping stone to get family and friends away from it all and to reconnect. It's a five minute drive to Moss Vale and the fabulous Farm Club at Werai, a must visit. *Perfect for: Hassled families, would be country types; girlie getaways.* stayz.com.au

LUXE LOVELINESS

Berida Hotel, Bowral

This recently revamped boutique hotel with its opulent colours, Catherine Martin wallpapers and decadent rooms screams style and is the perfect staging post for a sophisticated stay. Before exploring outside, spend some time being buffed in Endota Spa, and wine and dine at Bistro Officina where chef Nicola's passion filled food and equally glamorous front of house, Alexandra, smoulder. Perfect for: Urbane sophisticates, dedicated foodies, rung out parents, wedding guests. beridahotel.com.au

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE The Gullies Retreat, Berida Hotel, Arran Farm Cottage, Luxstowe House, Redleaf Carriage, Manor House Boutique Hotel.



OUTDOOR OPULENCE

Redleaf Carriage, Fitzroy Falls

Love train travel but haven't experienced the romance of an overnight sleeper? Carriage 1238 is a former passenger train complete with period dining room and cosy sleeping compartment for two. Carriage 343, a former guard's carriage, is solar powered with sleeping space for four, a kitchen with a wood burning stove and the most fabulous outside bath set amongst the serenity of silky gum trees. Both are sumptuous and seductive. Restored and renovated in keeping with the heyday of train travel (think Murder on the Orient Express) and located on award winning Redleaf Farm, they will transport guests. Perfect for: Romantics, travellers, train lovebirds, folk wanting to go country. redleaf-farm.com

Luxstowe House, Burradoo

Reacquaint yourself with the art of reading, drawing and painting, or reconnect with loved ones here at Luxstowe House. Tucked away down a driveway lined with apple trees in the grounds of Treekeepers Nursery, Luxstowe House is a cosy weatherboard cottage full of charm, antiques, books and art. Sleeping four, it sits within a pretty rural setting with established trees, shrubs and sculptures, close to the Wingecarribee River as well as Moss Vale and Bowral. A gentile Highlands hideaway that harks back to an era of space and grace, when life seemed slower and less harried. Perfect for: Art lovers, green thumbs, those seeking solace. luxstowehouse.com.au

SAINTED STAY

Manor House, Moss Vale

This historic gothic revival house was one of the first to be built in the Southern Highlands. Constructed in 1848 for the Reverend Hyatt Wyatt (really), the Anglican rector of Berrima, on land granted to a former convict, John Waite, the property was later a nunnery and a school. Famously it was home to Mary MacKillop during her visits to Moss Vale. Today, beautifully restored on an acre of gardens, this house is a pleasant stroll away from Moss Vale's centre, and sleeps up to 12 guests in luxury with all the mod cons. Perfect for: Wedding parties, Saint Mary MacKillop devotees, intergenerational groups. homeaway.com.au 0417 797 451 🖪

BIOTA DINING & ROOMS, BOWRAL

Twelve gorgeous rooms plus gourmet food biotadining.com/stay

IELLORE COTTAGE, BERRIMA

Historic hideaway on the doorstep of vineyards and wineries jellorecottage.com.au

BENDOOLEY ESTATE, BERRIMA

Seven designer cottages and food, wine and books bendooleyestate.com.au

FARM CLUB AUSTRALIA, WERAI

Cattle, farm shop, great cafe, lovely accommodation choices farmclubaustralia.com.au

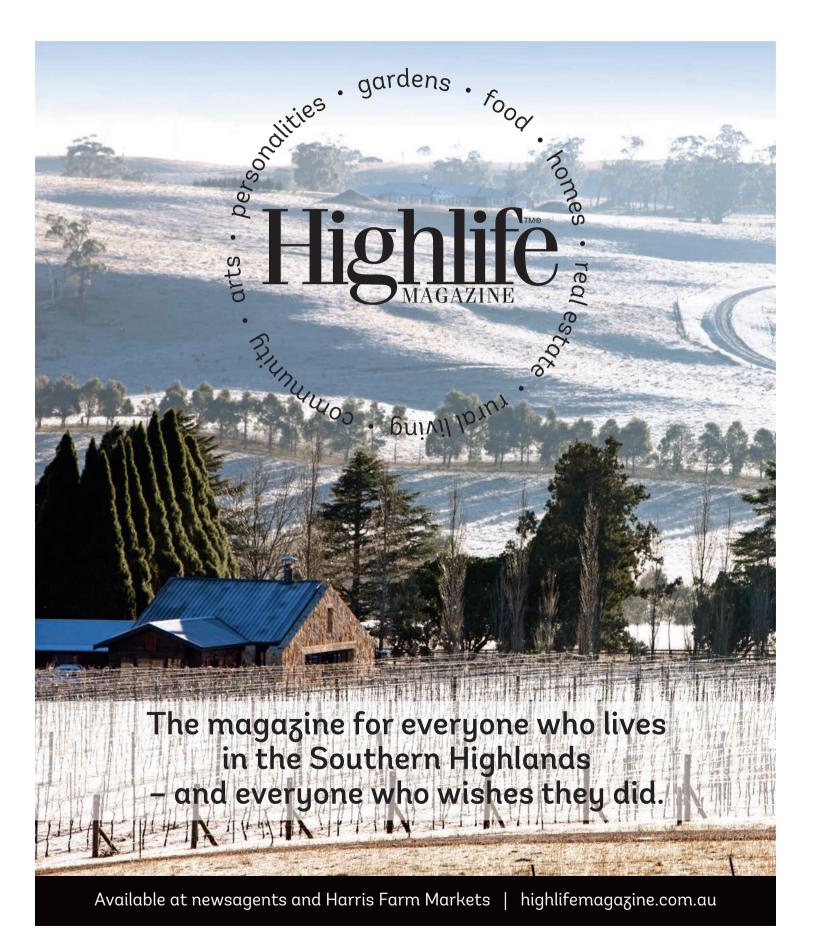
THE ROBERSTON HOTEL

Think the Great Gatsby on a Highlands holiday therobertsonhotel.com

BOWER COTTAGE, BURRAWANG

Beautifully restored, fab cafe right next door bgsc.com.au

MILTON PARK, BOWRAL Understated and five star (read our review on page 26) miltonpark.com.au



My name is MELISSA PENFOLD

My life in five words is... Rich in work and fun.
I spend my time between Sydney and the Southern
Highlands because... My husband and I fell in love with
a house here. I love arriving, closing the door and not
thinking about anything. My favourite things here are...
The greenery and quietness. There's also a bunch of
things to do with all kind of interesting folk if you want
it, but not if you don't. Followers on Instagram see...
My country pad, gardens, interiors, table settings,
entertaining ideas and lots of no nonsense advice to
get the designer look without spending a fortune. It's all
about comfort, quality and a dash of individuality. When

it comes to style... It's something that can't be influenced, and great style should show no sign of effort. Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication. Don't make the mistake of thinking style is dependent on money. A really interesting room is rarely perfect. You will never see me without... Jewellery. It's essential. The older you get, the better quality your jewellery should be. My style mantra is... Good taste doesn't cost anything extra. It's as easy to get things right as it is to get them wrong. My top tip for good socialising... Be on time. I am a stickler for good manners. People talk about being 'fashionably late' but for a social engagement you really shouldn't be more than 10 minutes late. And be generous with hostess gifts. Gifts are always IN. I always take visitors to... The Burrawang Village Pub, and Harry's on Green Lane or Cafe Rosso in Bowral. I'm also excited by new local shops Escape Map (for vintage, industrial and rustic) in Bowral, and Flower, Flower (for cyclamen, orchids and potted buxus) in Mittagong. For still warm

brioche, we head to Robertson's Petit Fleur. My special place is... Our pad. There's a big, open kitchen, insanely good food, open fireplaces. To gaze from our spacious, calm bedroom at endless hedges, lawn and sky, well, it's a fairytale. Our house is not so much a place to be seen as a place to disappear. Don't leave the Highlands without... A big bunch of leaves to remind you of your visit. The lessons you hope to pass on... I work closely with my daughter Isabella in my media and consulting business. I want her to learn to be easy in her own skin and to make everyone else easy in theirs. Treat everyone with the same kindness and consideration. There's no first or economy class when two people come together. The one style accessory for this winter... White awnings that look very south of France for the terrace.





'My mother and grandmothers were all over the top glamorous with houses to match, and I saw that when people bought something new for the house they had an extra pep in their step. It gave them elegance and confidence,' she says.

Penfold grew up in a grand Georgian house decorated by Australia's first interior designer, Marion Hall Best. 'Marion's fascination with colour led to one of her greatest achievements, the development with painter-decorator Fred Russell of translucent glazed finish on walls. These featured throughout

our house, including my bright watermelon pink bedroom walls that, in retrospect, might have been a bit much for me.'

Today her almost 85k Insta followers love her preference for understated elegance ('I think there's no colour like no colour, and prefer its absence in interiors') and her posts of everything from glass hurricane shades and cabbageware plates to cool, relaxed Hampton homes and mouthwatering French chateaus.

Penfold's mass style appeal stems from making design accessible to all, and 'democratising good taste': 'A top designer might not be an option, but the paint colour they used can be. I've always felt an affinity with designers like Jasper Conran and John Saladino, who says when you enter a room for the first time, your blood pressure should go up. He likes to create an emotional experience, so even at a party or restaurant, he'll ask the owners to dim the lights or turn down the music. That's ME.'

Insta @melissa_penfold | melissapenfold.com

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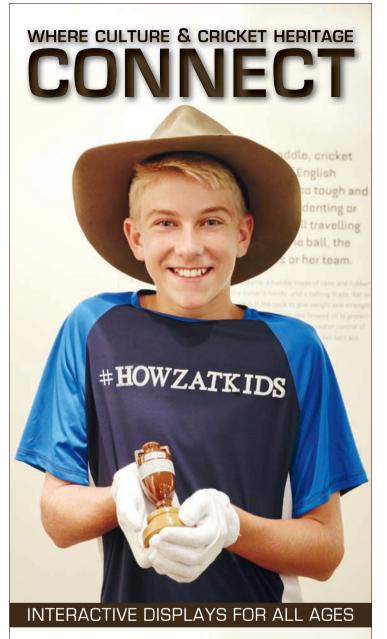
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The regular warkets held in villages and towns across the Highlands are a wonderful way to gain real insight into the creative side of the region. Come see what our artisans are making and our producers are growing. If you love unearthing locally made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

BUNDANOON MAKERS MARKET

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

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

EXETER VILLAGE MARKETS

FIRST SATURDAY 9AM-1.30PM

EXETER VILLAGE HALL, EXETER ROAD, EXETER ONE OF THE MOST PICTURESQUE MARKETS. IT IS HELD AT THE LOCAL HALL BESIDE THE COMMUNITY OVAL IN EXETER, FEATURES LOCAL PRODUCERS, ARTISANS, FOODIES AND CRAFTSPEOPLE, AND THERE'S A FABULOUS PLAYGROUND FOR THE KIDS NEXT TO THE OVAL.

Cauyouleigh Makers Market

Second Sunday 9am-3pm / Tugalong Road, Canyonleigh The General Store at Canyonleigh is the venue for this great new Highlands warket, which sells purely locally grown produce and handmade products, including jams, chutueys, woodwork and swimwear. Plus, fabulous artwork by emerging local artist Ebony Barnes (who is opening her studio for this year's Art Studio Trail, see page 23).

FRI-YAY Street Feast

Third Friday 3.30-8.30pm

The Mill, cnr Bong Bong and Bundaroo streets, Bowral A fun filled collective of fine local, artisanal and fresh farm producers providing a fabulous taste and sensory experience, with fabulous foodie stalls, entertainers and late night shopping.

RAILWAY STREET

Thursday 3pm-til 5pm last light Old Bowling Club Green, Railway Street, Moss Vale

This popular produce market recently celebrated its 2nd birthday and boasts everything from fresh seasonal vegetables, eggs, fish, bread, quiches and pies, jams and pickles, and fresh cuts of beef, to plants and seedlings.

MOSS VALE MARKET

FOURTH SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH 9AM-2PM (EXCEPT DECEMBER & JANUARY) MOSS VALE SHOWGROUND, ILLAWARRA HIGHWAY, MOSS VALE

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

Moss Vale Night Market

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

Highway, Moss Vale

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

BOWRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL MARKETS

SECOND SATURDAY 8AM-1PM (EXCEPT JANUARY) BENDOOLEY STREET, BOWRAL

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

ROBERTSON MARKETS

SECOND SUNDAY 9AM-2PM (EXCEPT JANUARY)

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

Crop-Swap Saturday 9au-10au.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY 9AM-2.30PM (EXCEPT JANUARY) AND SECOND SUNDAY IN DECEMBER | OXLEY STREET, BERRIMA MORE THAN 50 STALLS WITH EVERYTHING FROM FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE TO ARTISANAL WARES, GOURMET GOODIES FOR THE PANTRY OR AS A GREAT GIFT, PLUS PLENTY TO KEEP THE KIDS ENTERTAINED, INCLUDING A JUMPING CASTLE AND ART CLASSES, AND THE FABULOUS STEPHANIE ALEXANDER CAFE RUN BY THE SCHOOL

MITTAGONG MARKETS

THIRD AND FIFTH SATURDAY 8AM-2PM CNR ALBERT AND ALICE STREETS, MITTAGONG HELD IN THE GROUNDS OF THE UNITING CHURCH, THIS MARKET FEATURES PLANTS, COLLECTABLES. FRESH PRODUCE, CHILDREN'S TOYS AND CLOTHING, AS WELL AS HANDCRAFTED GOODS, JEWELLERY, ANTIQUES AND OLD WARES. LOCAL, FRIENDLY, AFFORDABLE, AND COUNTRY STYLED. 12



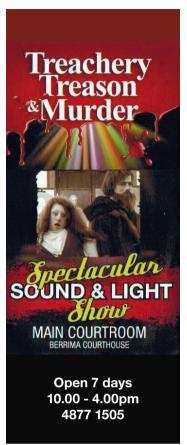
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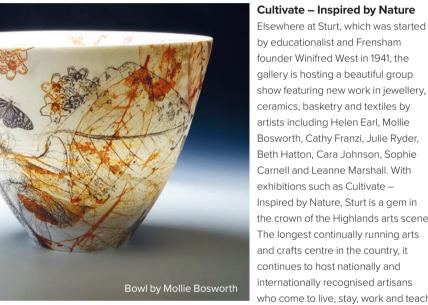






ARTS FOR ALL

BEYOND THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS' COMFORT CULTURE OF MISTY MORNINGS. LOG FIRES AND STEAMING BOWLS OF SOUP IS A VIBRANT AND THRIVING ART SCENE. SO READ UP. RUG UP AND HEAD OUT TO SOME EXHIBITIONS THAT WILL GENERATE THEIR OWN HEAT. OR AS AMANDA MACKEVICIUS WRITES, WHY NOT SIGN UP TO AN ART CLASS AND LET THAT FIRED UP CREATIVE ENERGY WARM YOUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL THIS WINTER.



Sturt Winter School

If you've always wanted to learn how to draw or paint, knit a tea cosy or sculpt a figure in clay, now's your chance. The arts and craft centre known simply as 'Sturt' is hosting its annual Winter School from July 9 to 13. There are 16 week long adult classes and five one day courses for children aged 7 to 12 years. They include contemporary embroidery, Saori cloth weaving, wood carving and textile printing, taught by fascinating teachers from around the country. Course fees include art talks, demonstrations and social events, with four or five night accommodation and meal packages available. This is a unique and special cultural experience. sturt.nsw.edu.au/ education/winter-school

Cultivate - Inspired by Nature

by educationalist and Frensham founder Winifred West in 1941, the gallery is hosting a beautiful group show featuring new work in jewellery, ceramics, basketry and textiles by artists including Helen Earl, Mollie Bosworth, Cathy Franzi, Julie Ryder, Beth Hatton, Cara Johnson, Sophie Carnell and Leanne Marshall. With exhibitions such as Cultivate -Inspired by Nature, Sturt is a gem in the crown of the Highlands arts scene. The longest continually running arts and crafts centre in the country, it continues to host nationally and internationally recognised artisans who come to live, stay, work and teach at Sturt. The centre has accumulated one of the important collections of post war contemporary craft outside of our national collecting institutions. The collection, which comprises almost 800 objects including ceramics, woodwork, jewellery, textiles, basketry and glass, was deemed of national significance after assessment by the National Library of Australia in 2011. June 10-July 29, Sturt Gallery, Cnr Range Road and Waverley Parade, Mittagong; sturt.nsw.edu.au

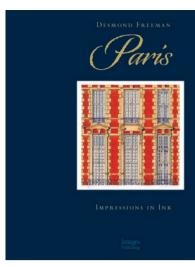
Country - Ancient Lands

Sturt is also hosting an exhibition of new work by ceramic artist Avi Amesbury. Country - Ancient Lands was inspired by her recent artist's residency at the Benyamini Contemporary Ceramics Center in Tel Aviv. August 5-September 16, Sturt Gallery, Cnr Range Road and Waverley Parade, Mittagong: sturt.nsw.edu.au

Bowral Art Gallery & BDAS

Thank goodness for the Bowral District Art Society and its beautiful, cosy and warm gallery space for hire. Many a local artist has exhibited here, solo or in a group, including those attending classes and workshops in the adjacent studio. Throughout the year, this community focused gallery hosts sponsored Art Prize Exhibitions, with generous cash prizes awarded. Two popular annual competitions will be held this winter, the Pirtek Still Life Prize from June 29 to July 8 and the Bowral Art Prize from August 10 to 19. Exhibition openings here are always fun (well attended and well catered) and are open to all. In total, another eight will be held at Bowral Gallery this winter. Moss Vale multimedia artist Lucinda McDonald kicks things off with Steel.Paper.Paint until June 5. Landscape painter A-F Fulgence, who holds painting and drawing workshops at BDAS throughout the year, will show her students' work in the gallery from July 28 to August 5. 1 Short Street, Bowral, 10am-4pm

daily; bdasgallery.com



Paris Impressions in Ink

Arthead Gallery Blues Art Prize

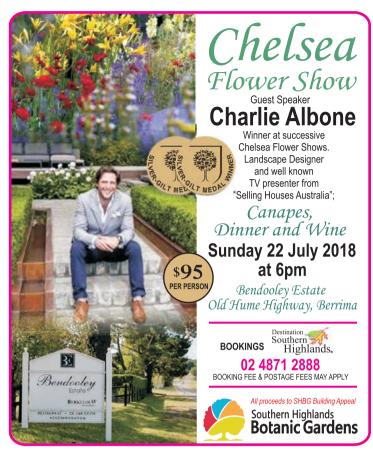
Artist Sonja Millis and Arthead Gallery are hosting the inaugural Blues Art Prize featuring blue art (as in the colour) in any medium, sized 16 x 16 inches (flat or squared). Call 4868 2000 for more information. June 9-17, 478 Argyle Street, Moss Vale; arthead.com.au

Wombat Hollow, **Desmond Freeman's Paris** - Impressions in Ink

Bowral artist and illustrious interior designer Desmond Freeman launches his masterpiece, Desmond Freeman's Paris – Impressions in Ink, at friends Michael and Suzie Yabsley's Wombat Hollow. This is the second in his series of five magnificent hardbacks showcasing iconic cities in pen and ink, and the launch will be accompanied by an exhibition of Freeman's prints from the book, which contains more than 50 drawings. His first book, Desmond Freeman's Venice - Impressions in Ink, features over 50 detailed ink drawings of the architecture and vistas of Venice and won the top global award in the Fine Art Books section of the 2017 Independent Publisher book awards from a pool of 5000 entries.

July 5 talk from the artist & exhibition July 6-8 Wombat Hollow, 300 Kirkland Road, East Kangaloon wombathollow.net.au





Southern Highlands

Symphony

Orchestra



1 Short Street Bowral NSW 2576

Phone 02 4861 4093

Email office@bdasgallery.com

Website: bdasgallery.com

Bowral ART Gallery



2018 GALA EVENT



SATURDAY 30 JUNE 7:30PM

SUNDAY 1 JULY 2:30PM

Memorial Hall Bendooley Street, Bowral



THE SHSO reserves the right to amend the advertised repertoire.

GALA EVENT - MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT NIGHT IN VIENNA

Franz von Suppé Moming, Noon and Night in Vienna Overture

Soloist Judith Rough:

Rudolf Sieczyński

Vienna, City of My Dreams Franz Lehár

Vilia from The Merry Widow

Johann Strauss II

Voices of Spring

Composition competition: winner - Maria Dunn Viaggio second - Wanda Kower Polandia

Zoe Andrews and Verna Lee

Mozart Concerto for Flute and Harp

Johann Strauss II Die Fledermaus Overture Soloist Judith Rough:

Mozart Chi sà, chi sà, qual sia Johann Strauss II Laughing Song from Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss II Blue Danube Waltz

Johann Strauss I Radetzky March

Conductors: Dr Allan Stiles and Jillian Bridge

Gala Tickets

Adults \$60 • Concessions/ Students \$45 • Children under 15 \$10

Online: www.try booking. com/368412 • www.shso.org. au In Store: Destination Southern Highlands, Mittagong Ph: 1300 657 559 • Powerpoint Music, 409 Bong Bong Street, Bowral • Some tickets may be

For More Information
Visit www.shso.org.au or call
0416 380 567

available at the door.



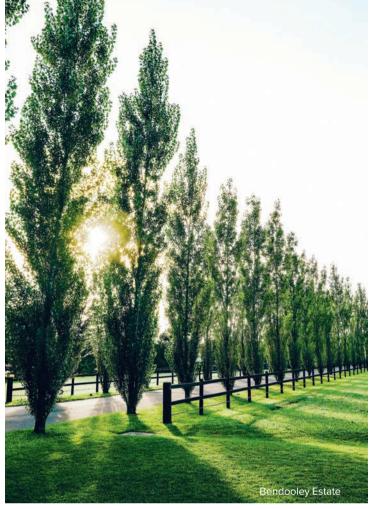








What do you love about living here? Everything is close to home. My wife Jemima and I have two young children, Digby and Sibella, and two businesses, and yet some days I can still duck home for lunch. I couldn't do that if we lived in Sydney. **How did a** Queensland boy end up in Bowral via Osaka? I left Goondiwindi at 14 to go to boarding school in Toowoomba. I travelled a lot through my 13 year career with the Queensland Reds, the Brumbies, the Western Force and the Kintetsu Liners in Japan. My inlaws, Sarah and Mitch Hooke, live here, and a few years ago Jemima and I bought what we thought was an investment property. We started renovating, and six months later I retired from rugby and was approached to set up Ray White Bowral. Do you come from a rural rugby playing family? My parents managed farms and I'm the youngest of six kids, all sports mad. Playing rugby league for the Goondiwindi Boars is my earliest team memory. What attributes made you a great player? I was super competitive, luckily born with a keen football brain. But I guess my defence defined me as a player in the end. Did you play for Australia? I played for Australia at the under 19 and under 21s World Cup, and for the Australian Mens Sevens for 12 months. I toured with the Wallabies in 2006 but was never capped. Career highlight? Playing for the Brumbies. Also, at 21, I was nominated as one of the top three players in the world for my age by the International Rugby Board (IRB). That was pretty special. When did you start with the Bowral Blacks? In 2015. I became head coach in 2016. When the Seconds won its premiership, did you feel like Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt? The coaching staff were all very proud. To be able to watch a group of individuals come so far and to have played a small part was a real buzz. You've recently had giants of rugby Bob Dwyer and David Campese helping out? I take a lot from Bob's counsel which I use in training. And it didn't take too much to get Campo on board. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the club, and fun, especially when he jumps around and thinks he's 20 again... Why is an inclusive rugby club important? You can express the culture of an area in the way you play your rugby. It's a responsibility to perform to the best of our ability in a manner that reflects the culture of the Highlands community. How is the club travelling? Unreal. Our juniors numbers are extremely healthy, and our senior club has a third grade team this season. As a whole, rugby union needs to do better at developing the nursery of junior players, and extending the game more broadly than the traditional breeding grounds of private schools. Best advice you ever received? Have the confidence to follow your dreams but always remain respectful. Biggest loves? My wife and kids. Biggest gripe about the Highlands? Winter is very long. Favourite place to go? Turning the phone off and appreciating family and a cold beer in our great backyard. What qualities did you learn playing that helps sell houses? Be tough and tenacious but remain scrupulous and honourable. I also have a degree in business and marketing from Monash University. Any relation to Douglas Fairbanks, dashing Hollywood silent film star? Unfortunately not. And finally, please finish this sentence. Old rugby players never die, they just... get extremely sore and start coaching.





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WHO ATE ALL THE







CELEBRATE ALL THINGS PIES IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE.
THERE'S LOADS TO EAT AND DO, SO ENJOY A PIE RELATED ACTIVITY FOR EVERY DAY OF THE
MONTH. WE SHARE A FEW BELOW, AND YOU CAN CHECK OUT PIETIME.COM.AU FOR THE
COMPREHENSIVE LIST AND DETAILS. BE THE ONE WHO ATE ALL THE PIES!

he Australian love affair with pies is enduring. They remain as popular today as they were in the 1970s when the classic strains of 'Football, meat pies, kangaroos and Holden cars' first rang out from our TVs. And according to Food Standards Australia New Zealand, every man, woman and child in Australia ate on average 12 pies in 2017. That's 270 million pies necked in a year, and while some people won't have eaten any, many will have eaten a whole lot more than that.

Which is why Pie Time 2018, cooked up by local tourism body Destination Southern Highlands, is a recipe for success. This festival of the pie was started last year as a means of engaging more than 30 local outlets to attract pie loving out of towners and locals to get their pies (eyes) on some dog's eyes (meat pies). And like the most edible of ideas, Pie Time found a keen audience. In its inaugural year it reportedly attracted thousands of first time visitors to the Highlands, who injected \$1 million into the local economy. The tasty tourism strategy also saw Destination Southern Highlands win a silver medal at the 2017 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards in the short breaks destination marketing campaign category.

This year's Pie Time, from June 1 to June 30, is offering even more meat with a month long calendar where visitors and locals can dine out on pie themed events of every flavour. The celebrations will culminate in a two day PieFest at Bong Bong Racecourse in Bowral. Feast your eyes on some of the highlights of the eat fest below. Go to pietime.com.au for more details and bookings.

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Join local father and son butchers John and Mat Mauger at their Robertson beef property and see firsthand where the free range, grass fed beef they use in their fabulous beef pies actually comes from. Indulge in pies that are truly paddock to plate. This is an up close and personal look at a successful Highlands farming/butchery operation.

Saturday June 23, 10am at Laurel View, 5110 Illawarra Highway, Robertson

Pie Cycle Tours

Two wheels can be better than four so pick up an electric bike at the Southern Highlands Welcome Centre in Mittagong and join Cycle Tours NSW on a guided 2-3 hour tour that takes in Artemis Wines and their Asian Duck Pie with pinot noir, or the Rabbit & Mustard Pie with their Amber Ale. Then you'll head off to Gumnut Patisserie for a Fruit Flan dessert pie.

Friday June 1-Saturday June 30 at 11am

PIE COOKING CLASSES

Join pie pros Lisa and Norma
McGill at Anna Phillips' Cook's
Cooking School for these hands
on classes that explore the world
of pastry and pie making. Enjoy
savoury and sweet pies, including
the perennial Australian favourite,
lemon meringue pie. Local bakers
Stones Patisserie and Heatherbrae's
Pies will also host classes.

Saturday June 16, 10.30am-1.30pm at 15-17 Kirkham Road, Bowral

Pies & Beer

Local craft brewers Southern Highlands Brewing Company (SHBC) in Moss Vale and Eden Brewery in Mittagong have jumped aboard the pie train with some handcrafted beer deals during Pie Time. The SHBC Pie & Porter deal offers a glass of Goodfather Porter (dark with toffee chocolate and roast malt taste and made with hops grown at the SHBC Sutton Forest micro brewery) with every pie meal in the restaurant. Or go for the Mini Pie & Porter, where you order a Goodfather Porter over the bar and for an extra dollar receive a mini pie. The Goodfather Porter was named by SHBC founders Ben and Cammo in honour of their fathers who both died of brain cancer, and who will donate \$1 to Cure Cancer Australia for every litre of the Goodfather Porter sold.



At Eden Brewery in Mittagong, founders Jacob and Deb have teamed up with Tracy and Vicki of Gumnut Patisserie to create the Eden Pie. Made with Eden's Black Beer and Gumnut's secret beef and pastry recipe, it will be on the Eden menu all through Pie Time to be tasted alongside Eden's selection of locally crafted beers.

= PIE & PINOT DINNER =

A seven course pie themed dinner with matching Cuttaway Hill pinot wines served by hatted chef and Eschalot Restaurant owner Richard Kemp and winemaker Mark Bourne in this lovely Berrima venue.

Saturday June 2 at E2 Events, 11 Old Hume Highway, Berrima

Pietest

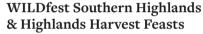
Wrap up the month long Pie Time with PieFest at the Bong Bong Racecourse in Bowral. The two day festival will showcase the highlights of the month, including the NSW/ACT Best Pie Competition and market stalls, pie cooking demos, kids' activities, food and wine, beer and cider, and of course PIES.

FOR MORE EVENTS & DETAILS PIETIME.COM.AU

Imagine it, create it, offer it... and they will come

RECENT RESEARCH FROM SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY FOUND **PEOPLE WHO**SPEND MONEY ON EXPERIENCES, 'DOING STUFF', ARE HAPPIER AND FEEL THEIR MONEY
IS BETTER SPENT THAN PEOPLE WHO SIMPLY ACCUMULATE MORE STUFF. WHICH IS WHY

OUR WINERY TOUR OPERATORS (PAGE 54) AND THE EXPERIENCE PROVIDERS BELOW,
SOME BUSY WORKING WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOUR COMPANIES AND
AGENTS, ARE RIGHT ON THE MONEY. LOCATED AS WE ARE BETWEEN THE SYDNEY AND
CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, A RECENT REPORT BY THE NSW GOVERNMENT
(SEE PAGE 17) FOUND THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS IS PERFECTLY POSITIONED TO GIVE
'THE VISITOR ECONOMY' THAT IS, GLOBAL AND NATIONAL EXPERIENCE HUNTERS AND
TOURISTS, THAT UNIQUE SOMETHING THEY SEEK.



Last year trailblazer Amanda Fry, who 'used to do PR for the Kardashians' launched WILDfest Southern Highlands. This festival offered intimate glimpses into the Highlands with trips such as the luxury Canoes, Champagne & Canapes, and sumptuous overnight glamping and dining under the stars with Wild Native Feast at Joadja Distillery. And all this novelty and glamour attracted a new market of adventure seeker with gourmet taste.



Amanda promises this year's week long WILDfest in September will be even bigger and better, with five new categories that include two remote wilderness luxury retreats and tailored itineraries. Meanwhile, her series of Highlands Harvest Feasts kicks off on June 23 with the Feast of the Beast dinner to celebrate the winter solstice. Enjoy wild venison and catering by the terrific Rustic Table, beverages by locals Far Ago Hill Wines and Southern Highlands Brewing Company, plus music and revelry at a location in a State forest that will be

revealed on the day. All sounds very Kubrick-ish, doesn't it. But Fry hastens to add the event has no dark magic overtones: 'Feast of the Beast is a family event that centres on nature's growing cycles and introduces non religious, non prejudicial and past world activities from Celtic, Pagan and Nordic history for enjoying great food, wine and entertainment.' Other feasts to be held on significant days



of the equinox calendar include the Love Feast in September and the Midsummer Feast in December. Feast of the Beast Saturday June 23, WILDfest Southern Highlands, September 28-October 7 wildfoodadventures.com.au

NOSHtrekker Southern Highlands

Escape Southern Highlands first met former Bowral girl Tahnya Butterfield-Gill, founder of Singapore based food experience company NOSHtrekker, last year at a sumptuous Berrima dinner at the home of former Hermès hostess Christiane de Bievre. Back then Tahnya told us that what inbound international travellers, especially from South East Asia, want is 'cultural souvenirs of areas collected from experiences with locals'. Making good on her belief the Southern Highlands is one of the hidden gems of New South Wales, she recently announced NOSHtrekker packages to the Southern Highlands from Singapore.

These three day, two night packages with transfers from Sydney and Canberra include Golf for Gourmands and Taste of the Southern Highlands packages. On offer are private dinners cooked by local chefs including Escape's own food sage, Geoff Jansz, boutique accommodation, and a range of activities such as golf, shopping, walks, and visits to food producers and cool climate wineries.

'With so much mainstream travel focus on the Hunter Valley and the Blue Mountains,' says Butterfield-Gill, 'the Southern Highlands is an ideal location for those wanting a different experience. It's great for people who think they have seen it all.'

Tours from Singapore begin in September. Keep an eye on NOSHtrekker's website for other local culinary events. **noshtrekker.com**

Highlands Guides, Farm Club Australia, Werai

Alice Le Cras and husband Hugh Clarke are the owners of Farm Club Australia, Werai, near Moss Vale. When it comes to ideas on how local landowners can diversify to offer opportunity to our community and tourists, they have many, including a recent collaboration with professional fly fisherman Angus Reynolds. Together Farm Club and Reynolds' business, Highlands Guides, have come up with a smorgasbord of half day, whole day or several day experiences to attract national and international tourists. These include 4X4 tours, clay target shooting, Aboriginal cultural experiences, bird watching, canoeing, mountain biking and road cycling wine tours. All experiences are led and instructed by accredited and expert guides, including twitcher Ashley Hewson of aussiebirder.com and local indigenous leader Wendy Lotter. The indigenous experience, for example, takes place in National and State forests that border Farm Club Australia and looks at local native bush tucker and medicine.

'Many of the experiences take place on Farm Club,' says Reynolds, 'but things like the canoeing, the fly fishing and the bike riding also take place off site. It's a beautiful property and a real chance for people to see what the Highlands has to offer.'

Tailormade packages are also available, as is accommodation in one of Farm Club's choice of three luxury houses. Or camp under the Highlands stars with Reynolds as your overnight guide. highlandsguides.com; farmclubaustralia.com au



The Loch, Berrima

Chef Brigid Kennedy is another who was prescient in seeing the growth potential in the experience space. Owner of The Loch, Berrima and president of the Moss Vale and Rural Chamber of Commerce, Kennedy worked with Escape food doven Jill Dyson to bring about the hugely successful Southern Highlands Food Clusters. These aligned local producers, collectively giving them more pulling power. She is now working with the NSW government to bring tour operators to the clusters, using Moss Vale as the pilot to help build the Highlands mid-week economy and appeal to Sydneysiders. Brigid also recently hosted soon to air TV program Escape from the City (based on the UK's successful Escape to the Country), which showcases our producers. At home at The Loch, where husband Kevin restores and sells antiques, Kennedy hosts seasonal long table foodie feasts and other culinary delights. The industrious pair also open their farm gate and gardens Sunday mornings.

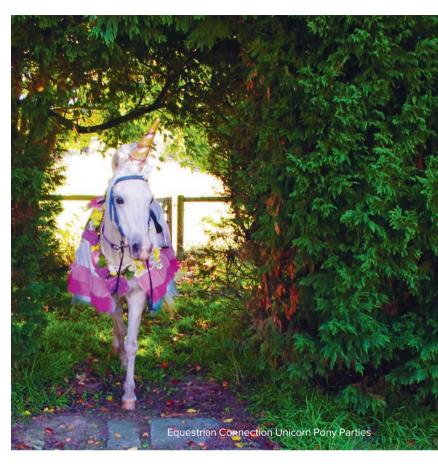
theloch.net.au; mossvale.org.au



SH EXPERIENCES ESCAPE ALSO RECOMMENDS:

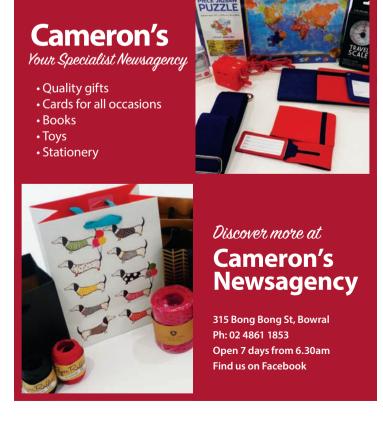
- 1. Me Jane CAMP OUT: do luxury glamping in your own property @mejanecampout
- 2. Joadja Distillery: heritage tour & whisky taste at this unique historic site joadjadistillery.com.au
- 3. SH Polo Tournament: enjoy this fast & furious summer event where chukkas fly southernhighlandspolo.com.au
- 4. Day on the Green: Soon to return, listen to big music names at Centennial Vineyards, Bowral centennial.net.au
- **5. Tulip Time:** get spring fever at this famous floral festival tuliptime.net.au
- **6. Pie Time:** Eat some pies at this tasty new winter festival in June pietime.com.au
- 7. Wallaby Hill Three Day
- Event: see international riders compete in November at Wallaby Hill Equestrian Centre, Robertson wallabyhill.com.au 8. SH Art Studio Trail: visit
- 8. SH Art Studio Trail: visit acclaimed artists in their studios over two weekends in November shaf.com.au
- 9. Bowral Classic: Join 3500 bike road riders on three courses through Highlands in October bowralclassic.com.au
- 10. Gather & Cook: Find, forage & feast with 2 hatted Biota chef James Viles in Highlands landscape biotadining.com
- 11. 52 Shepherd Street,
 Bowral: Take a fascinating
 tour of Don Bradman's fully
 restored childhood home
 52shepherdstreet.com





World Map





KIDS WHAT'S ON

GETTING KIDS OUTSIDE
DURING WINTER WHEN
THEY'D RATHER BE INSIDE
FIXATING ON THEIR SCREENS
CAN BE A CHALLENGE.
HERE'S A FEW BATTLE TACTIC
OPTIONS ESCAPE LOVES.

WORDS ALEX SPEED

ARTFULLY HORSING AROUND

Clever Dr Peta Seaton, former politician and owner of Ashton Park in Moss Vale, has been successfully running some pretty terrific food and drink workshops for adults over the past year or so. Now she's added creative school holiday workshops to her program, which include mosaic, block printing, decoupage, sculpture and paper marbling. She has also teamed up with Sarah Spence of Equestrian Connection who is running a school holiday riding camp at Ashton Park. Participants can mix and match whole days and part days.

Monday July 9-Friday July 13; ashtonparkmossvale.com.au; @equestrianconnectionau



CREATIVE KIDS

There's no denying it. If you work and have children, life can be a juggle. Especially during school holidays. Which is why the Sturt Winter School children's classes sound so alluring to me as a parent; and quite frankly, if I were still a child it would sound just plain fabulous. The offering of five courses in Mittagong across Monday to Friday includes mixed media artwork, painting and drawing, weaving and ceramics including making a dragon's castle. Kids from 7-12 years can do one or all of the courses (at a discounted price) that run from 9am to 4pm. The price includes morning tea, lunch and materials. For classes year round, Emilie Lidden of Inkwell Studio runs art classes in term time as well as holiday programs. Her Art for Children classes in Bowral are all about the process and enjoying the moment, Lidden says. 'Our classes are structured around weekly and seasonal themes, encouraging experimentation and creativity. We introduce basic printmaking techniques while also developing drawing and painting skills, using artist quality materials. We practise fundamental drawing skills, including shading and tone, perspective and learn how to create texture."

Sturt Winter School, Monday July 9-Friday July 13; sturt.nsw.edu.au Inkwell Studio Art Classes; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday home school classes; info@inkwellstudio.com.au

PET LOVES

August 26 is National Dog Day and innumerable studies have shown having a pet at home helps children develop skills such as nurturing, responsibility, empathy and communication. So what better time to bring a pet into the family than winter, which is a busy time at Wingecarribee Animal Shelter in Moss Vale.? Run by the staff and the fabulous Friends of Wingecarribee Animal Shelter (FOWAS), the shelter is the first place to go when seeking out a canine or feline companion for the kids. A big shout out, too, to animal loving businesses like property agents jacksonwall, who partner with FOWAS to find forever homes for lost, abandoned, surrendered or abused cats and dogs. And cheers to Ashcroft's SUPA IGA in Moss Vale and its loyal customers who regularly donate dog and cat food and care products for the animal shelter.

fowas.org.au; jacksonwall.com.au; ashcroftssupaiga.com.au

SPOTTING UNICORNS

Still at Ashton Park, kudos to Peta Seaton and Sarah Spence who recently launched Equestrian Connection Unicorn Pony Parties with the help of Dolly and Mickey Mouse, the resident 'unicorns'. 'The inspiration came from local parents and young riders, especially girls who love ponies, asking about increasingly popular unicorn themed events,' explains Seaton. 'Luckily, two unicorns had recently magically taken up residence at Ashton Park.' Lucky party throwers get to groom, feed, have photos with and ride on the (very tame) mystical beasts, as well as bragging rights beforehand. Parties come with rainbow favours, rainbow themed party food and rainbow cake if so desired, and can be tailor packaged. All in a lovely Highlands setting. Magic!

ashtonparkmossvale.com.au; @equestrianconnectionau

ACTING OUT

Need to give your darling little diva or demon some direction? Southern Highlands Youth Acts Council (SHYAC) is a non profit volunteer based group that supports youth arts and drama locally. They put on fabulous school holiday theatre programs that generally result in a play or musical at the end. SHYAC is currently in rehearsals for their next production, The Addams Family. Likewise, The Highlands School of Performing Arts holds regular classes, holiday theatre workshops and an annual production or performance in drama, dance, singing and ballet. Great places for kids to gain confidence, meet new friends and learn to take their drama on stage. shyac.org.au; thspa.com.au

CHASING STARS

Winter is a great time for star gazing. Experts from the Bureau of Meteorology in Sydney say that our neighbouring Southern Tablelands, which start around nearby Marulan, are an excellent place for this extremely kid friendly activity. In winter the nights are longer, and the frequent gorgeous sunny winter days lead to clear winter nights. Another reason to look upwards in winter is to see the centre of the Milky Way galaxy as it passes overhead.

HIGHLANDS ESSENTIALS

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

EMERGENCY:

Fire / Ambulance / Police 000

Bowral Fire Station 16 Merrigang St, Bowral, 4862 1446

Mittagong Fire Station 10 Bowral Road, Mittagong 4871 1002

Moss Vale Fire Station Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1288

Bowral Police Station 53 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral 4862 9299 closing soon.

Moss Vale Police Station Newly opened Hume Police District area control. Elizabeth Street. Moss Vale 4862 9299 now operational.

State Emergency Services (SES) 13 25 00

Emergency Bush Fire 000

HOSPITALS / HEALTH:

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

Doctors

Bowral Street Medical Practice 70 Bowral St, Bowral 4861 3183

Mittagong Healthcare Centre 58 Bowral Road, Mittagong 4872 3933

Southern Medical Centre 61 Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1500

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

VET CLINICS:

Bowral Vet Hospital 78 Station Street, Bowral 4861 1444

Mittagong Vet Hospital 109 Main St, Mittagong 4872 2028

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

AUSTRALIA POST:

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

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Southern Highlands Taxis Hire Cars & Coaches

21 Lyell St, Mittagong 4872 4800

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

Berrima Bus Lines 90 Old Bowral Rd, Mittagong 4871 3211

Highland Chauffeured Hire Cars 4872 3038 or 0400 921 239

Transport Info Line (Trains) 13 15 00

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

HELPFUL:

Electricity Emergency Endeavour Energy 13 10 03

Gas Emergency Jemena 13 19 09

AGL Emergency 24/7 on 131 245

Telstra Emergency 13 22 03

Wingecarribee Shire Council Open 8.30am – 4.30pm

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

Resource Recovery Centre Open 7.30am – 4.30pm

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

Wingecarribee Animal Shelter Berrima Road, Moss Vale 4868 1520

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to dream



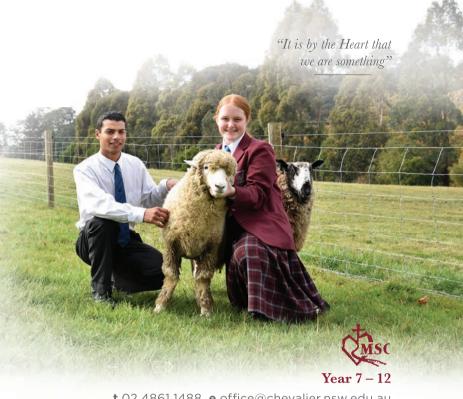
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(Quote from Artist Mike Hewson)

"It has been so great to make this children's playground for Wollongong. A huge achievement for us and far more challenging than any of us imagined. It was only made possible with the generous support and skill of Troy Stratti of Bundanoon Sandstone. We are finalists for the Parks and Leisure Australia Awards of Excellence in the category of Play Spaces (<\$0.5M) to be announced on 10th May. I am also a keynote speaker at the 2018 Landscape Australia Conference on 5 May in Sydney. Again big thanks to Wollongong City Council for pioneering such a bold and ambitious permanent public project for your civic centre. Shout out to Event Engineering, Daniel Halse, Snare Fabrications and GlooLoop amongst many others. Curated by the amazing Barbara Flynn."

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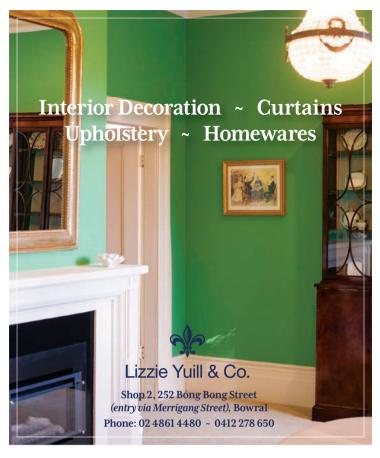
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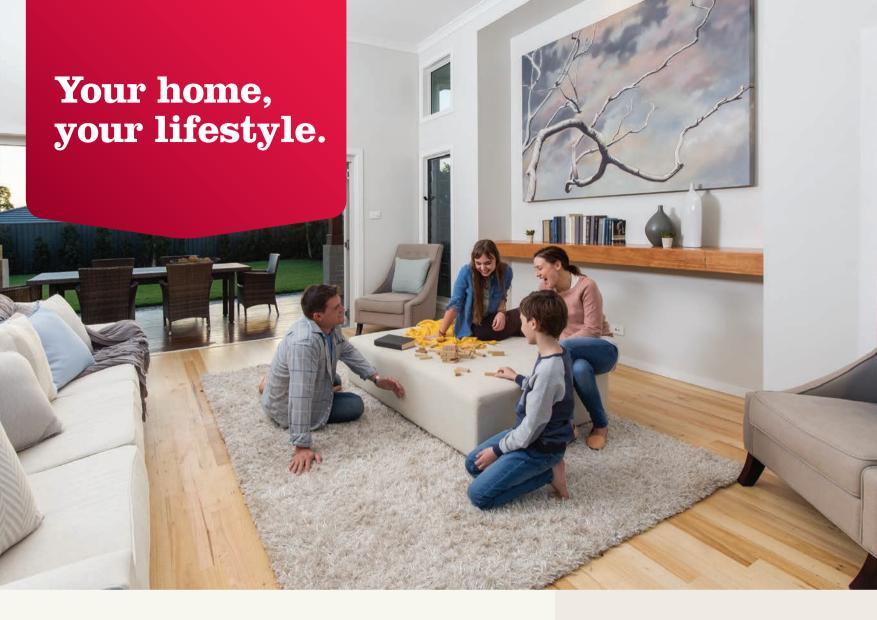
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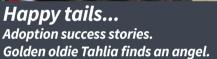
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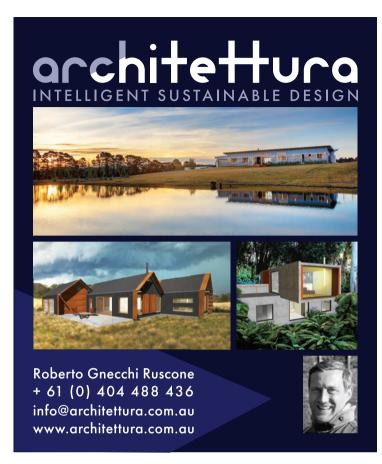
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IN MY BACKYARD

She's the diminutive actor known the world over for her magic portrayal of Professor Sprout in the Harry Potter film series as well as for her countless other award winning stage and screen roles over a 50 year career. Now the legendary Miriam Margolyes wants you to come and stay at her Southern Highlands home.

IMAGES TONY SHEFFIELD

iriam Margolyes is an acting dynamo who travels the world performing in films and television series. But if there's one thing Margolyes will tell you she is most definitely not, it's glamorous.

'My life does sound very lovely and glamorous, doesn't it? Which I don't understand at all, really, because I am the least glamorous person you could meet,' she says, chortling raucously at the very idea. 'This is because I never make up, I never change my clothes, except for cleanliness of course, and I really don't like appearing on those celebrity programs either because there is so much trivial chat going on you can spend the entire time talking bollocks and that's just silly.'

One thing that's decidedly not silly is her eye for property. Over the years Margolyes, who is now 77, has collated an impressive portfolio that includes a terrace house in Bondi, two townhouses in London, an Umbrian farmhouse in Italy, an English seaside house within sight of the British Channel and Yarrawa Hill near Robertson, her tree house home in the Southern Highlands.

Margolyes and partner Professor Heather Sutherland, an academic who specialised in Indonesian trade, first set eyes on Yarrawa Hill in 1996. Down a dirt road, their 156 acres of secluded rainforest land butts onto the escarpment side of the Budderoo National Park.

'We bought the land following my role in Babe, where I was the voice of Fly, Babe's sheepdog mother,' explains



Margolyes. 'A lot of Babe was filmed next door on John and Vicki Mauger's gorgeous property, and when we discovered this place, I thought, I want this. Heather and I, and Heather's sister Sandra, who is a private detective in San Francisco, bought the land and then we built the road and the house.'

The home sits high up in the tree canopy with sweeping views of Wollongong and the Pacific Ocean. Designed by architect Mark Jones, it is clad in steel with broad triangular decks on thick poles facing north.

'We found Mark by looking through magazines and we really liked the style of house he designs. Then we met him and he gave us each a questionnaire to fill in that asked: How do you think I can build you a house if I don't know you and how you like to live?'

The result is a big, welcoming home, resplendent with character and warmth. Three large independent apartment spaces are linked to a communal living area that maximises the views. Each apartment has its own bedroom with double bed, study and luxurious ensuite, and is linked by a gallery cum library to the Great Living

'We get visits by kangaroos, wombats, wallabies, lyrebirds and even the occasional snake, though thankfully I haven't met one on this stay.'

In 2013 Margolyes became an Australian citizen and remains as in demand today in acting circles as ever. Now at home in London, she recently filmed another series of The Real Marigold on Tour, which follows Margolyes and other senior citizens around the world. She has also done commentaries for Flipping Profit, a real life BBC infotainment about car boot sales, and for bestselling kids' book series Winnie and Wilbur. We will see her on Australian screens in the new season of Rake later this year, and she is also set to star alongside Essie Davis in the film version of Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries. She returns to Australia in December to begin rehearsals for the Melbourne Theatre Company's production of the Lady in the Van, and while she's away she has decided to rent out Yarrawa Hill on Airbnb.

'I've always thought houses work best if they are used, she says. 'And now that we have decided to make Yarrawa Hill available for more people to enjoy, I'm happy because it will be even more loved.'

yarrawahill.com





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Dreamcatcher

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school and, some would argue, hockey club, and it may just also be home to the largest number of tree changers, hands down.

And with properties like this village farm around the Burrawang traps, who can blame people with a dream escape in mind for gravitating here. This beauty really is a tree changer's dream.

Firstly, it's set on land. The 30 acres is more than enough room to swing a cat. In fact it's ample for a couple of dogs, some chooks and a few cattle

as well. Architect designed and built in 2000 from half brick and ever appealing timber, it was made to weather so looks decidedly older, albeit it in a beautifully kept manner.

It has four bedrooms, if you include the studio, three of which are across the way in a separate wing, the so called cottage. All good. Room for lots of Sydney friends to stay, or park the teenagers there and let them get on with it.

With sunny bookshelf lined living areas, floor to ceiling windows, French doors and terraces, a charming sunny kitchen, a mud room, plus a double garage, workshop and storeroom, it has everything you need or could want. And all this is set within professionally designed and landscaped gardens, complete with terraces and pergolas. And the views, wow... the stuff Highlands dreams are made of.





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