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# Escape

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

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WINTER 2019



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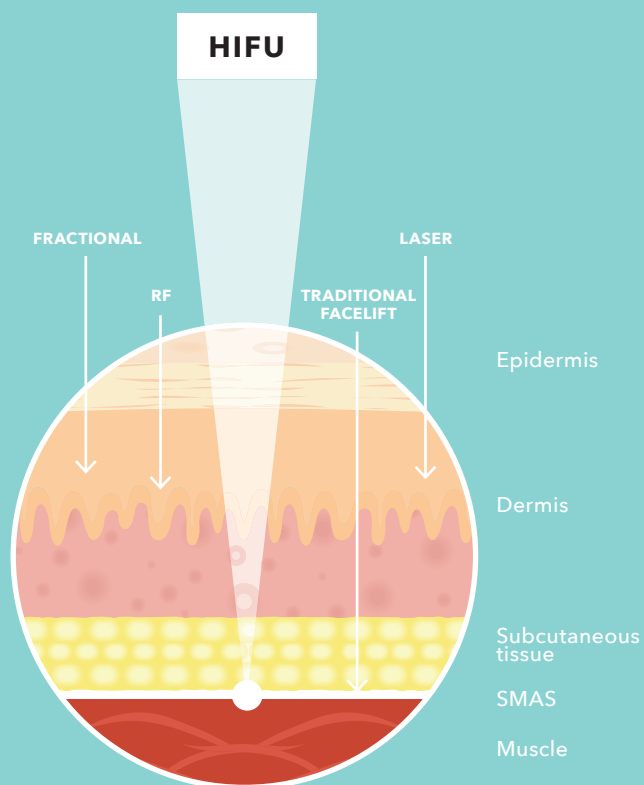
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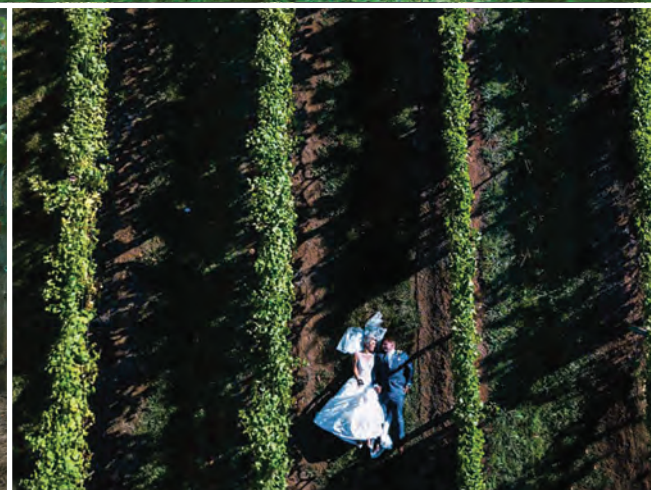
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Southern Highlands



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## Editor's welcome

Winter is often a time to hibernate but who would want to in the Southern Highlands? So much to do, so many fascinating people to meet, and almost too many special places to visit and experience.

Like The SHAC. A long held community dream, the Southern Highlands Artisans Collective in the Old Potato Shed in Robertson is now open and operating in all its artistic beauty and community fortitude. Read our story on page 14 about how 10 outstanding local artists are now using new workrooms, studios and galleries to add even more creative oomph to the wonderful Highlands.

John Large is another local who doesn't let go of a dream. Seven years after much loved concert event, A Day on the Green came to a close at his Centennial Vineyards, it's coming back in December, bigger and better with room for 10,000 music lovers. With its return comes the promise of big name singing superstars, and lots of benefits to local restaurants, hotels, tourism operators and music loving locals. Happy days!

In this issue we also speak to the new owners of Links House Hotel, the location of our cosy firepit front cover. Already rocking it with their

catering firm, Rustic Table Catering, Vanessa Legge and Joey Pfahl are now making this bespoke accommodation option their own, giving visitors a taste of their charming brand of Highlands hospitality.

Speaking of hospitality, I recently had an amazing stay at historic Burradoo property Bibury, next door to the late philanthropist and billionaire Paul Ramsay's home, and also fell in love with unique stayz hideaway The Humpy in Wildes Meadow. Very different properties I hope you'll enjoy reading my thoughts about. And we speak to a very special soul, Mick Pfahl (father of Joey and local nursery owner), take an antiques road trip around the Highlands, check out family ties at some of our historic and fascinating graveyards, and book into the best retreat locations offering winter succour for the mind, body and soul.

And as always at Escape Southern Highlands, we showcase the where to go, and what to do delights of our backyard for visitors and locals alike. So wrap up warm this winter, join us in hoping we get some good rain soon, and enjoy your Escape Southern Highlands.

**Alex**



# The SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS map







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# OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES

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

## MITTAGONG

Historic Mittagong, the site of one of the first iron ore discoveries in Australia, has plenty to offer. From parks (try Lake Alexandra) to walks (the nearby Box Vale track with its incredible views of Nattai Gorge) to wineries (including Artemis Vineyard and Winery and Tertini Wines). There's also the treasure trove that is the Mittagong Antiques Centre, and fabulous craft and design centre Sturt with its shop, cafe and wood school as well as gem Twisting Vintage for preloved designer and couture clothing and the award winning cafe, The Shaggy Cow. Stop off at Destination Southern Highlands Welcome Centre on the way into Mittagong and get informed about what's on locally and stock up on locally made produce. Don't forget to call in at boutique brewery Eden Brewery for some beer tastings.

## MOSS VALE

Centred around the Victorian era railway station in Argyle Street, Moss Vale is known for being a down to earth country town. The annual agricultural show is one of the biggest in the area, and recently the main street has undergone a revival with the opening of many independent artisan and homewares shops. Fantastic cafes and eateries such as Bernie's Diner, The Vale, Highlands Merchant and Il Pranzo offer delicious eating choices, with newcomers Southern Highlands Brewing Kitchen & Taphouse, Birch and the Wine Mosaic Lounge bringing some well received glamour to old favourites such as Seafood Affair, and Briars Country Lodge and Historic Inn just up the road although the bar and restaurant is closed presently and expected to reopen early 2019 following a fire. All functions and events still on.

## BOWRAL

Watched over by Mount Gibraltar, Bowral is the largest town in the Highlands. Full of historic public and private buildings, stunning country gardens and grand estates, this thriving country township is known for its vintage, interiors, antiques and homewares stores and precincts such as Dirty Janes and Green Lane, as well as markets, galleries, bookshops, nurseries and boutiques. Its dining scene has become all the richer recently with the opening of Dos Hombres, Grand Bistro and Bistro Sociale which complement winning stalwarts such as Biota Dining, Onesta Cucina, Cafe Rosso, Eccetera Trattoria Pizzeria, The Royal, Gumnut Patisserie and a raft of other local favourite restaurants, cafes and pubs. Visitors and locals are drawn to Bowral's shop and galleries and 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, the Food and Wine Festival and Bong Bong Picnic Races. And of course there is a plethora of award winning vineyards nearby, such as Centennial Vineyards to visit for some tasting and buying.





## 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, Berrima General Store & Cafe and Feast at Berrima, plus excellent patisseries, cafes, local makers and artisans) as well as The Berrima Bakehouse Motel (a great place to stay) as well as Australia's oldest continuously licensed inn, the Surveyor General which also serves great pub grub. 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 with its fabulous Stephanie Alexander kitchen garden.

## BUNDANOON

Packed with old world charm, Bundanoon is a vibrant town with cafes, tearooms, antique dealers. 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. For body and soul, book a retreat at Quest for Life. Don't miss Brigadoon, the great Scottish celebration in April.

## BURRAWANG

Quaint and historical, Burrawang is one of the Highland's most picture postcard villages. The newly renovated Burrawang Village Hotel (recently named Best Country Dining Venue - Country Southern in the Australian Hotels Association NSW awards 2018) 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. Don't miss the village's Easter markets, which are a highlight of the Highlands market calendar, attract a crowd of thousands and are a great day out.

## ROBERTSON

The small, character filled town of Robertson combines a rolling pastoral setting with fabulous locally grown produce such as potatoes, truffles, pears, paddock raised eggs and award winning Pecora Dairy ewe's milk cheese. The newly changed-hands 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.

## 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. Don't miss one of Val's fascinating old township and distillery tours.

## EXETER

The Exeter Village Hall and adjoining park and oval lie at the heart of picturesque Exeter, a village of leafy streets and grand rows of trees. Exeter General Store performs its role as bookshop, post office, gourmet cafe and food store admirably. If browsing is on the cards, you'll find The Village Pump Antiques is worth a look and across the road, Bowerbird Lane at Halcyon Cottage is great for homewares and gifts. The Exeter village markets are held on the first Saturday of each month in the grounds of the village oval.

## CANYONLEIGH

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


## FITZROY FALLS

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

## 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 terrific local lavender producer and cafe Belle Fleur Cottage, and the Cave Creek walking track too.

## SUTTON FOREST

It might be small but Sutton Forest has stuff going on. Sutton Forest General Store, under new management, sells locally grown fruit & veg, pizza bases and homemade curries, 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. 



# MOVERS & SHAKERS

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## PEPPERGREEN REVIVAL TEAM

IT SPECIALIST HANK CHIU AND CLASSICAL PIANO TEACHER KATRINA LIAO ARE SYDNEYSIDERS WHO RECENTLY MADE A TREECHANGE TO THE HIGHLANDS, ON STEROIDS. THE YOUNG COUPLE ARE THE NEW OWNERS OF THE MUCH LOVED FORMER PEPPERGREEN ANTIQUES, STARTED BY ROBERT AND CARINA COX IN BERRIMA, AND PEPPERGREEN ESTATE, THE FORMER MAYTREE VINEYARD AT CANYONLEIGH.

Opening early June after a major facelift by Mittagong architect and builder Colin Anlezark, PepperGreen Estate's cellar door, tasting rooms and restaurant in Berrima (across the village green) will showcase the Canyonleigh vineyard's nine releases from its first year, including a riesling, pinot noir and shiraz. Hank and Katrina purchased the Cayonleigh property in 2014 with Hank's father, Joe, who immigrated to Australia in 1986 from Taiwan along with a lifelong ambition to grow vines. The family has also planted 50,000 olive trees over 100 acres on another property they purchased two doors down in Canyonleigh. Production of PepperGreen Estate Extra Virgin Olive Oil is also under way, and will be available at PepperGreen Estate's Berrima cellar door. The restaurant there, which has seating for 40, will be run by executive chef Mark Chance and serve French inspired food with sharing platters and boards. It will be open for lunch as well as coffee and cake, and



of course wine tastings. Private rooms will be available for private and corporate events, and a bus run will take interested visitors out to PepperGreen Estate's olive plantation and vineyard at Canyonleigh. PepperGreen Berrima was a charming cottage much loved by local and visiting homemakers, designers and collectors for its rolls of antique fabric, silver, china, linens and tableware. Baz Luhrmann reportedly fitted out the homestead in his blockbuster film Australia from PepperGreen Antiques. 'We are very aware of the history of PepperGreen and the iconic place it has in locals' hearts,' says Katrina, 'which is why we felt it so important to keep the name and renovate the building very sensitively. There are so many stories of people buying something really special to them here. Our manager even got her engagement ring here. There's a lot of interest in what we've been doing and now finally we are ready to share it all with everyone.'

[peppergreenestate.com.au](http://peppergreenestate.com.au)





## MANY HAPPY RETURNS

JOHN LARGE IS NOT A MAN TO LET GO OF A DREAM LIGHTLY. When the Day on the Green open air concerts at Centennial Vineyards were forced into premature retirement in 2012, the owner and founder of the award winning Bowral vineyard became determined to see their return.

Seven years later, after much negotiation with the Wingecarribee Shire Council, Day on the Green finally looks set to return to the Highlands. A new and larger location for the open air stage is proposed within the vines on the 320 acre property, and an increased capacity to accommodate 10,000 local and visiting music lovers.

John met with Day on the Green promoters Michael Gudinski of Frontier Touring and Michael Newton of Roundhouse Entertainment last month and, all going to plan, Centennial Vineyards will host its first returned Day on the Green concert in December.

'We had an independent evaluation of the economic benefits of our proposed concerts to the Highlands,' says John. 'Assuming attendance of 10,000 people per concert, it is estimated at approximately \$2.423 million for last year, about \$242 per attendee. 'Therefore the report found four concerts held annually would produce a potential direct expenditure benefit to the Wingecarribee Shire of approximately \$9.7 million year.'

Past acts at Centennial have included Leonard Cohen, Missy Higgins, INXS, Joe Cocker and Lionel Ritchie, and not wanting to jinx the much loved event that has taken much of his time and investment to resurrect, John is nevertheless busy scoping who may be the first international act for the new Day on the Green series.

'Can't say too much, but I will say that Elton John will be on tour in Australia in December.' Watch this space. [centennial.net.au](http://centennial.net.au)



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*Fungi Feast, Sunday, 4 August*

*The Malting, Joadja Distillery, Saturday, 26 October*



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It started life as a sorting station for spuds (the prodigiously grown veg for which Robertson is historically renowned), and then became the studio of one of the Highlands' most famous artists, Ben Quilty. But now, after sitting largely underused and unloved, the Old Potato Shed

in Robbo's main street has sent out fabulous new green shoots with the vision that is The Southern Highlands Artisans Collective (The SHAC). Following a fabulous makeover and a jubilant opening night recently that attracted more than 400 hundred well wishers, 13 local artists and makers have taken up permanent residence there with studio shopfronts, workrooms and exhibition spaces. Some of the very talented SHACers include Mr & Mrs Munro (who are also co-ordinating The Workshop Room, with a pretty terrific schedule of making and creative workshops to get your teeth into) alongside James King, India Mark, Ric Abel of Spud Lane Studios (who runs regular life drawing classes), Ashley Mackevicius, Belinda Berman, Yvette Marie Tziallas, Phoebe Middleton, Penny Simons, Penny McManus, Kate Vella and Natalie Miller. A wonderful new dream come to life that is sure to bring so much to Roberston and the Highlands. 74-76 Hoddle Street, Robertson. [theshac.com.au](http://theshac.com.au) @theshac; [theworkshoproom.com](http://theworkshoproom.com) @theworkshoproom

## CATERING COUPLE DO HOTEL IN STYLE

JOEY PFAHL AND VANESSA LEGGE MET THROUGH MUTUAL FRIENDS IN THE HIGHLANDS 10 YEARS AGO. With Vanessa's background in event management at the Art Gallery of NSW and Joey as the founder of The Hospital Shop cafe in Bowral, the pair quickly discovered they share a real love of cooking and entertaining. Their business, Rustic Table Catering, was born in 2012 with the focus firmly on the private catering market in the Highlands. 'We started Rustic Table Catering in the manner we like to entertain and be entertained,' says Vanessa, 'with communal eating, shared platters and an atmosphere of relaxed but plentiful dining.'

Joey concurs. 'There are all these amazing people in the Highlands with beautiful homes who are looking for our sort of catering and dining, which is really just based on the way we like to cook for and eat with our friends and families. So one referral led to another and now we do weddings, parties, opening nights, private dinner parties, the polo, Bong Bong Races, everything, really,' says Joey. In June 2017 the entrepreneurial cooks were approached to take over the catering at Links House, and last year they bought the boutique hotel with its restaurant, bar and private dining room. Built in 1928, Links House sleeps up to 27 guests in intimate, cosy and pet friendly surrounds. Available for private dinners and parties, Links also caters for cocktail functions and weddings for up to 65. Guests can also take over the entire hotel for a weekend, marry on the lawns out the front or in the pretty courtyard and gardens out the back, and celebrate long into the night in privacy.



A historical beauty, Links is the oldest guesthouse in the Highlands, and one of the sets of long running Australian TV soap Motel. It was also the first hotel in the Highlands with ensuite bathrooms. 'Although we've updated them since then,' laughs Vanessa. 'What we are going for here is a convivial, intimate establishment with a personal touch,' says Joey. 'Guests are not rattling around in some huge cold hotel. Rather they are greeted and looked after in a charming and individual space. And fed deliciously.' Links has 17 smart bedroom suites, each individually styled by local artists and designers including Elizabeth Pilkington of Piece by Piece Home and Dana Clark of Three Wise Monkeys in Bowral. Fully licensed, its restaurant is open for breakfast all week, dinner Thursday to Saturday, and Sunday lunch by appointment from 12-3pm.

The private dining room seats up to 30 guests, with Vanessa and Joey fully catering for sit down dinners for those who love dinner parties but would rather not do all the work. There are also terrific events on at Links Hotel over winter, such as Book Club events in June, Christmas in July lunches and a Bastille Day dinner on July 14. 'We treat our guests the way we love to be treated when we are away from home,' Vanessa says. 'In intimate, cosy surrounds with personal service and great food.'

**17 Links Road, Bowral; [linkshouse.com.au](http://linkshouse.com.au) @linkshousebowral**





## HOMEWARES WITH HEART

Genevieve Furzer and Simon Kenny are a pretty cool job lot. Genevieve owns the super fab Mossy Store on Argyle Street in Moss Vale and Simon, a former photographer and furniture maker, creates much of the stock she sells on the couple's 40 acre property at Marulan. Highlanders for five years since they moved from Sydney, and store owners for two, Genevieve and Simon have created their point of difference among Moss Vale's other great homeware shops (Made by Others, Bowerbird on Argyle Country Homes & Interiors, Suzie Anderson Home, Hunter & Gatherer Collections, That Beautiful Shop, Nest & Burrow, and newcomers Honey and The Maine House) by stocking Simon's beautiful handmade wood upholstered armchairs, tables and swing daybeds alongside 150 mostly Australian makers and designers, many of whom Genevieve discovers on social media. 'I disappear down rabbit holes and am gone for days searching for a new maker,' she says. 'We're always looking for something new that ticks our boxes. We really care about the makers and the environment in which things are made so the things in the shop have an essential goodness to them. Longevity is also very important for us.'

With the Mossy Store selling sustainable homewares, clothing, ceramics, glassware, tableware and yes, Simon's furniture, Genevieve says each piece she sells tells a story.

'People who come into our shop like to know the provenance of what they buy so just about everything has a story, and with 150 makers represented here, that's a lot of great stories.'

394 Argyle Street, Moss Vale; @mossystore\_mv 📍

lifestyle | gifts | be enticed



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## RESTAURANT - WEDDINGS - SALLY BERESFORD ANTIQUES - FRENCH FARMHOUSE TABLES

Mount Ashby Estate is a beautiful boutique vineyard and restaurant located within the rolling hills of the Southern Highlands, NSW. The property has a unique and rustic charm providing guests with an opportunity to relax and enjoy the French inspired menu with a glass of Mount Ashby Estate wine. Guests are seated in the original dairy on handcrafted French Farmhouse tables made in the Southern Highlands, surrounded by the Sally Beresford collection of antiques.

The architecture of the building is a blend of French provincial and early Australian, which reflects the involvement, importation and restoration of French antique furniture.

Visit Mount Ashby Estate to take in the ambience and stroll through the original Bowral Produce Store (circa 1918) filled with antiques or simply dine with friends on the veranda overlooking the grazing cattle.

Mount Ashby Estate, 128 Nowra Rd, Moss Vale NSW 2577 T: 02 4869 4792  
[events@mountashby.com.au](mailto:events@mountashby.com.au) [www.mountashby.com.au](http://www.mountashby.com.au) [www.sallyberesford.com.au](http://www.sallyberesford.com.au)

*Mount Ashby Estate*



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# WHAT'S ON

# Winter

IT'S TIME TO RUG UP AND STEP OUT INTO THE WONDERFUL WINTER AND EXPERIENCE ALL THE HIGHLANDS HAS TO OFFER. AS WELL AS SOME OF OUR FAVOURITES HERE, GET MORE INFO AND UPDATES @ESCAPESOUTHERNHIGHLANDS AND [SOUTHERN-HIGHLANDS.COM.AU/EVENTS/WHATS-ON](https://southern-highlands.com.au/events/whats-on)

JUNE



## SEND IN THE PIES

The third annual eatfest that is Pie Time kicks off this month, this year with even more on the menu to get your teeth into. Served up over the 30 days of June, the award winning campaign includes 100 ways to enjoy pies, including pie themed tours, Pie Teas, Pie-cations, the NSW/ACT Best Pie competition and the Pie and Pinot Trail. The pie packed program culminates in the two day PieFest extravaganza at Bong Bong Racecourse, Bowral. With more than 30 local bakers serving up their own sweet and savoury delicacies, this is a pie packed event. Sauce with yours? For more details, check out our full rundown on page 68.

[pietime.com.au](https://pietime.com.au)

## DRESSED TO WED

*They want you to say 'I do!' because the theme for the Inner Wheel Club of Southern Highlands fundraiser this year is Wedding Fashions through the Centuries. At the fashion parade event you'll see bridal dress after bridal gown waltzed down the catwalk, beginning with numbers from the 1800s. The grand ballroom will be decorated as a full wedding reception, and high tea and sparkling wine will be on offer. There will be a raffle with prizes galore, live music, and hopefully not a Bridezilla in sight. All proceeds go to Quest for Life, Bundanoon. **June 15, Mittagong RSL, from 2pm; \$55pp includes high tea and a glass of bubbles. Tickets from Mittagong RSL reception or [mittagongrsl.com.au](https://mittagongrsl.com.au)***



## FOREST FEAST & FROLIC

Celebrate the longest day of the year in a secret forest destination with a throng of other Winter Solstice enthusiasts. This year's fabulous Feast of the Beast, brought to you by Highlands Harvest Feasts, will be held in the Meryla State Forest (you'll be advised of the exact location on the day). Festivities will include music by terrific local jazz and blues group Ella's Holiday and you'll feast on a three course shared platter dinner, including whole lambs and pigs on spits, with mulled wine and cider by Artemis Wines and beer by Southern Highlands Brewing Company available for purchase all evening. Dressing up is encouraged (think Game of Thrones and Vikings) and the best will be rewarded with prizes. Hearty fun with fire, food and family is the theme and various packages are available, such as the limited deluxe Serf Served tables (bawdy wenches not included). Saturday June 22, 4.30-10pm, Meryla State Forest. General admission adults \$95, children \$45. Serf Served tables with three course dinner and matching wine packages \$195pp. Bus transport available at additional cost. Guests will be issued with a map to the secret site prior to the event.

[highlandharvestfeasts.com/product/feastofthebeast/](https://highlandharvestfeasts.com/product/feastofthebeast/)

## NEW CLUSTER ON THE BLOCK

*There's nothing like knowing your paddock to plate provenance, and the Southern Highlands Food & Wine Clusters are the result of 100 outstanding producers coming together in nine districts across the Highlands to provide insider knowledge on the best local and artisan producers. Developed by chef and owner of The Loch, Berrima, Brigid Kennedy, and food doyen (and ESH's food writer) Jill Dyson, Mittagong Food and Wine Cluster will launch at Eden Brewery on July 24. So if food and wine are your things, come along and share the good news. **July 24, 4pm, Eden Brewery, 1/19 Cavendish Street, Mittagong** [southernhighlandsfoodandwine-clusters.com.au](https://southernhighlandsfoodandwine-clusters.com.au)*







Reservations

[enquiries@eschalot.com.au](mailto:enquiries@eschalot.com.au)

02 48771977

24 Old Hume Highway Berrima

Lunch - Thursday to Sunday

Dinner - Thursday to Saturday





JULY



## WONDER FEST

A really terrific community event, Winterfest at Bundanoon returns with a fabulous opening night street party. Check out the ice skating rink, bucking bull ride, face painters, magicians and clowns, food stalls, live music, and lots of burning braziers of course. Then follows a packed program of events, including appearances by a mobile zoo from Australian Wildlife Displays, a Poets Breakfast at the Bundanoon Hotel, plus Bundanoon Sings at the pub (come along and learn a three part harmony). Also not to be missed, a one off performance of Dead Men Talking by acting icons Max Cullen and Warren Fahey in their roles as Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson. And that's just for starters. Winterfest will end on the evening of July 13 with a huge bonfire farewell. **July 6-13, Railway Street, Bundanoon; bundanoonwinterfest.com**



ESCAPE  
LOVES

## MUSICAL MAGIC

Renowned virtuoso pianist Kathryn Selby was accepted into the Sydney Conservatorium of Music at age seven, won an American Music Scholarship and made her debut at New York's Carnegie Hall. Since then she has performed in many countries, over many years and won many international competitions and awards. She is also founder and artistic director of unique chamber music ensemble Selby & Friends, who will visit the Highlands again on their latest national tours. From Russia with Love features the music of Beethoven, Scriabin, Debussy, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov, performed by stunning violinist Daniel Dodds and ACO Principal cellist Timo-Veikko Valve with Kathryn on piano. The next concert, The Game Changers, will feature sonatas and trios by Kats-Chernin, Ravel, Britten and Dvorák, and virtuosic performances by Kathryn, brilliant Australian violinist Susie Park and cellist Julian Smiles. A very special and intimate winter treat for those who love chamber music, and for those who may never have experienced world class live classical music but would like to do so. Children are most welcome with children under 12 free admission. From Russia with Love, July 13, 5pm-7pm; The Game Changers, August 31, 5pm-7pm. Chevalier College Performing Arts Centre, 11 Charlotte Street, Burradoo; selbyandfriends.com.au

## LE BOUQUET OF BUBBLES

Can't afford to escape to France for the northern hemisphere summer? Never mind, you can book into this rather special event by Noble Spirits at Ashton Park instead, and experience the taste of a French summer in a glass, or two or three... The Champagnes of Avize tasting masterclass will feature three prestigious cuvees from the house of Frerejean Freres, with guidance and commentary by Champagne expert Constant Beguin Billecocq. As well as enjoying these exquisite French wines around a brightly burning brazier, you will learn about the Avize region and the art of Champagne making. How very civilised. **July 6, 3.30-6.30pm, \$95pp or \$170 per couple. Ashton Park, 6077 Illawarra Highway, Moss Vale; ashtonparkmossvale.com.au/wine-appreciation**



## SCHOOL FOR THE SENSES

If you want to get in touch with your creative centre, look no further than the Sturt Australian Contemporary Craft & Design Centre's fabulous winter school. They are offering a week of art and craft classes by local and visiting expert tutors and artisans, including printmaking with Tony Ameneiro, creative papermaking with Peter Taylor, handbuilt ceramics with Rachel Wood, wood carving with Jeff Donne and sculptural basketry with Harriet Goodall (our Instagram Star on page 95). There are also great day courses for the kids, such as 3D Aliens: printmaking with Angharad Rixon, and mixed media and drawing with Sue Meredith. **July 8-12, cnr Range Road & Waverley Parade, Mittagong; sturt.nsw.edu.au**

## SPEED DOGS

HIGH OCTANE DOG RACING RETURNS TO WINGELLO STATE FOREST FOR THE ANNUAL RUNNING OF THE NSW SIBERIAN EXPRESS BLACK HAWK SPRINT. STARTED IN AUSTRALIA MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO, AND WITH ALL STATES EXCEPT THE NT NOW FIELDING TEAMS, THIS TWO DAY EVENT SEES RACERS AND ENTHUSIASTS DESCENDING ON THE HIGHLANDS FOR CLASSES FROM PEE WEE (FOR KID RACERS AGED SEVEN AND UNDER) TO ADULT, AND POINTS FROM THIS EVENT GO TOWARDS A COMPETITOR'S AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF SLEDDOG SPORTS TALLY. DOGGIE COMPETITORS INCLUDE HUSKIES, MALAMUTES AND SAMOYEDS, AS WELL AS MANY RESCUE BITSY DOGS. A GREAT SPECTATOR EXPERIENCE, WITH A BANQUET AND RAFFLE TO ENJOY AS WELL. **JULY 20 AND 21, WINGELLO STATE FOREST. MORNING HEATS START AT 7AM. (DRIVER CHECK IN FROM 4PM ON JULY 19.) SIBERIANEXPRESS.ORG**



## A FESTIVAL OF FOOD IN BOOKS

Michaela Bolzan, clever founder and director of the Southern Highlands Writers' Festival, has lined up another stimulating program of writers and authors for this year, the eighth, and the theme is a celebration of books and food. The 2019 festival will happen at the historic and beautiful Hopewood House, home of celebrated painter Tim Storrier and wife Janet. This year's line up includes writers Kristina Olsson, Mikey Robins, Todd Alexander and celebrated chef and food writer Christine Manfield, who will prepare a Literary Lunch straight from the pages of her new book, *Tasting India*. **July 20, Hopewood House, 201 Centennial Road, Bowral. Tickets from [shwf.com.au](http://shwf.com.au)**



## ALL THINGS GARDENING

The Bundanoon Garden Club's biannual seminar is designed for all levels of gardeners and wannabe ones too. The event features guest speakers Tino Carnevale (TV presenter, patron of the Tasmanian Weed Society and part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program), Meredith Kirton (gardening journalist, author and lecturer) and Simon Rickard (landscape designer, botanical guide and gardening communicator). Acclaimed Wildes Meadow botanical artist Elaine Musgrave will have some of her art for sale alongside stalls selling garden tools, garden ornaments and plants. All tickets include entry to guest speakers, a promotional pack, morning tea, lunch, plus lots of creative ideas to take home. **July 20, 9am-3.30pm, Soldiers Memorial Hall, Bundanoon. Bookings essential through <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=496407&bundanoongardenclub.com.au>**



AUG



## GARDEN ROAMS

Meandering through someone's beautiful garden is a favourite Highlands activity. And you're invited to do just that at the National Trust treasure Retford Park, home of former newspaper baron James Fairfax. These amazing gardens are open to the public the first weekend of the month. Another good one is at nearby Avoca where 5th Chapter Estate will open its five hectares of manicured gardens to mark Daffodil Day, with all proceeds going to the Garvin Institute of Medical Research. **Retford Park winter open weekends 10am-4pm June 1&2, July 6&7 & August 3 & 4, adults \$15 concession \$10 family \$35. The house is not open on these dates but the gardening staff will be on hand to answer any questions. 1325 Old South Road, Bowral [nationaltrust.org.au/retfordpark](http://nationaltrust.org.au/retfordpark) 5th Chapter Daffodil Day, August 23, 10am-3.30pm, 217 Walkers Lane, Avoca. Entry \$10 pp. [fifthchapter.com.au](http://fifthchapter.com.au)**



## VINTAGE TRADE MAGIC

Athol Salter and Jane Crowley the inspired father and daughter team behind one of our best loved vintage emporiums, Dirty Janes, Bowral are once again holding their wholesale buying event, Crowley & Grouch at Home. This trade only event is a fabulous chance for retailers, designers and decorators to hand pick unique vintage and antique pieces direct from their warehouse. With new stock arriving after an extensive overseas European buying trip earlier this year, this is one event you better get your trade skates on for. **August 22-24, 13 Banyette Street, Bowral. Entry by registration only at [crowleyandgrouchathome.com.au](http://crowleyandgrouchathome.com.au)**



# TALKS, TOURS, FORUMS, CLASSES, WORKSHOPS... SO MUCH TO TRY AND DO

## COMFORT COOKING

Kangaloon cook Helen Vlahakis was taught as a girl to love food and the joy cooking for others can bring by her Greek grandmother. Now she's busy sharing this love through her Mumma's Country Kitchen cooking classes. Held on Helen's 100 acre property, classes include Winter Warmers (June 15 & 16) and Vegetarian Warmers (August 3 & 4) where Helen will teach budding cooks to make hearty and heartwarming savoury, sweet and vegetarian dishes, including braised beef cheeks, a pot roast, cream of mushroom soup, apple and blueberry crumble, sticky fig cake with brandy butterscotch sauce, spanakopita, and pumpkin and sage bread. All classes include a light lunch, a glass of Highlands red and a little gift from Helen to take home. [mummascountrykitchen.com.au](http://mummascountrykitchen.com.au)



## TOUR DE FARM

Longtime Robertson farmers and butchers **John and Vicki Mauger** of local institution **Maugers Meats** continue their successful journey into farming tourism with their increasingly popular Paddock to Plate tours. Guests enjoy a three hour morning at their Laurel View property, which includes a charming chat by jovial John about the family's farming history and a delicious morning tea by Vicki, an excellent baker. Then comes a walk to the yards to meet some of the cattle, a butchery demonstration where John breaks down and explains the cuts in a side of beef and, finally, you guessed it, lunch! On the table will be roasted meat rolls and during Pie Time on June 22, their famous Maugers chicken and beef pies. Paddock to Plate tours, June 22, July 20, August 17, and check out page 107 for details of the Maugers' new school tours. [maugers.com.au/paddock-to-plate-tour](http://maugers.com.au/paddock-to-plate-tour)



## MARRIED MAKERS

VERY CLEVER COUPLE MR AND MRS MUNRO CONTINUE TO SHARE THEIR LOVE OF MAKING WITH A TERRIFIC SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS AT THEIR NEW CREATIVE AND STUDIO HOME, **THE WORKSHOP ROOM** (PART OF THE FABULOUS SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ART COLLECTIVE AKA SHAC IN ROBERTSON). **LEARN HOW TO MAKE A RESIN CHEESEBOARD AND SIDE TABLE** WITH ARTHOUSE INDUSTRIES' SKYE PETHO (JUNE 6, 7 AND 8); **GIVE AN OLD CHAIR NEW LIFE AND LEARN THE SKILL OF UPHOLSTERY WITH REIGN OF CHAIRS' FIONA EDMEADES** (JUNE 22 AND 23); **BRAINSTORM HOW TO START YOUR OWN CREATIVE BUSINESS WITH RUTH WOODS FROM CRAFT SCHOOL OZ** (JUNE 30); AND **LEARN THE DELICATE CRAFT OF EMBROIDERY WITH KASIA JACQUOT IN FLORALS IN BLOOM** (AUGUST 25), AND MUCH MORE. COST FOR WORKSHOPS INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS AND MORNING OR AFTERNOON TEA. **GO TO [THEWORKSHOPROOM.COM](http://THEWORKSHOPROOM.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.** MEANWHILE, NEXT DOOR AT INK, BRUSH, WILLOW STUDIO 4 (ALSO IN THE SHAC), JOIN SCULPTURAL WEAVER PENNY SIMONS FOR HER **MAKE A CATALAN TRAY WORKSHOP** (JUNE 21, 9.30AM-1PM). CONTACT HER AT [PENNY@RURALARTISANLIVING.COM](mailto:PENNY@RURALARTISANLIVING.COM) FOR DETAILS.

## EARTHY DELICACIES

During the very special, and very short, truffle season, you need to get yourself on one of the two hour hunts with Robertson Truffles and taste some black gold. Tours include an introduction to farmers Sam, John and Bella (their Italian lagotto romagnolo truffle hunting dog) and a brief history of their farm, where the largest black perigord fungus was unearthed in 2014, along with the secrets to farming these mysterious fungi. The action then moves from the Truffière to the orchard for a hands on hunt where everyone can dig for truffles. Following the hunt there is a washing and grading demonstration and a truffle tasting menu prepared offsite by The Press Shop Café in Bowral. Tours run every Saturday from June 8 to August 17. [robertsontruffles.com.au](http://robertsontruffles.com.au)



## DISTRESSING IN A GOOD WAY

JOIN TALENTED FURNITURE RESTORER PETE BURROWS AT HIS LOVELY SAINT ELOI STUDIO IN BURRADOO AND LEARN HOW TO MAKE ANYTHING (WELL A SMALL PIECE OF FURNITURE, TABLE, CHAIR, BOX) LOOK SCHMICKO AGAIN WITH A COAT OF CANTERBURY BLUE FURNITURE PAINT. THEN BOOK IN FOR THE INTENSIVE CHALK PAINTING & SPECIAL FINISHES WORKSHOP, AND LEARN MORE TECHNIQUES TO COMPLIMENT YOUR CHALK PAINTING PROJECTS, SUCH AS DISTRESSING, COLOUR WASHING, STENCILLING AND PAINTING FABRIC OR VINYL. **CHALK PAINT WORKSHOPS, MAY 18, JUNE 15, JULY 27, AUGUST 17. INTENSIVE CHALK & SPECIAL FINISHES, JUNE 1, AUGUST 3.** [PETESSHEDPAINT.COM](http://PETESSHEDPAINT.COM) [PETESSHED@LIVE.COM](mailto:PETESSHED@LIVE.COM)



## HOW THE GARDEN GROWS

Does your green finger tend to go a little brown in winter? Get along to urban food garden Quarter Acre Farm in Mittagong for organic practice and ecological principals, and see what can be grown through the colder months with a little knowledge. Join owner Jo Dodd on Sunday June 16 and July 14 for her Fruit Tree Pruning workshop which include the how, why and what of pruning, notes and hands on practice. Then on June 20, go along to Quarter Acre Farm, which supplies several local restaurants, for its Winter Open Garden. Entry is free and there will be a Moss Vale Community Garden stall with plants and preserves for sale. [@quarteracrefarm](mailto:@quarteracrefarm) or [thequarteracerfarm@gmail.com](mailto:thequarteracerfarm@gmail.com)



## STACK SOME STONES

Join Simon Badway, the clever craftsman responsible for many a dry stone wall in the Highlands, for an introduction to his trade. Simon, officially known as a dyker, will relate the basics of this ancient art and will teach you the theory and hands on technique to tackle your own project, and give you some practice in class under his eagle eye. Lunch is included in this terrific outdoor class, as are snacks, gloves, materials and a final reviving drink at day's end as you cast your eye over your work and plan your future builds. General good health required as you have to lift large stones during this workshop.

**June 22, 10am-3pm, Ashton Park, 6077 Illawarra Highway, Moss Vale;**  
[ashtonparkmossvale.com.au](http://ashtonparkmossvale.com.au)

## GUT GOODNESS

It's pretty accepted today that gut health and digestion are all important components of overall health. Just ask Sara-Jane Cleland, naturopath and founder of The Naturopath's Cooking School, who is hosting a Broths & Ferments for Digestion and Gut Healing workshop. Serving up theory and practice that takes elements from the Paleo diet and the Raw Food diet, this workshop is for those looking for an expert to debunk dietary misconceptions and explain what 'food as medicine' and evidence based nutrition actually means. Includes hands on organic cooking and eating!

**July 6, 2-5pm, CWA Hall, Bowral;**  
[sarajanecland.com.au](http://sarajanecland.com.au)

## SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE

WHEN IT'S A BIT DULL OUTSIDE OR YOU JUST FEEL LIKE BRIGHTENING UP YOUR ACT, GET ALONG TO ONE OF TRACY HOPKIRK'S JEWELLERY MAKING CLASSES IN HER MITTAGONG STUDIO. YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO MAKE RINGS AND CHAIN BRACELETS, OR HAMMERED PENDANTS, NECKLACES AND BANGLES, FOR YOURSELF OR TO GIVE TO SOMEONE ELSE. JUNE 29, HAMMERED STACKING RINGS; JULY 13, HAMMERED EARRINGS; AUGUST 17, CHAIN BRACELETS; AUGUST 31, HAMMERED PENDANTS AND NECKLACES. CLASSES 10AM-3PM, \$180PP. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

**[TRACYHOPKIRK-JEWELLERY.COM.AU](http://TRACYHOPKIRK-JEWELLERY.COM.AU)**







## HISTORY MEETS LUXURY

THIS ARCHITECTURALLY EXCELLENT HOUSE HAS A FASCINATING STORY TO TELL. **ALEX SPEED** SHARES ITS HISTORY, DISCOVERED WHILE STAYING THERE IN ABSOLUTE LUXURY. **IMAGES** BY ELISE HASSEY

Walk into the splendid Drawing Room at Bibury, and once you've picked your mouth up off the floor and taken in the finery, you may see under the glass top of the coffee table a hardcover book about Professor Leslie Wilkinson. Inside there is a foreword by Lloyd Rees.

'Professor Wilkinson's architectural work is now so well known in this country as to need no introduction,' wrote the revered landscape painter of the architect, designer and builder of this historic Burradoo property back in 1946.

'From the time of his arrival in 1918 to become the first Professor of Architecture at the University of Sydney, he made an immediate and deep impression, first upon his students, and later upon the community at large. And Leslie Wilkinson was born to impress, both in his thinking and his work.'

You're not wrong, Lloyd, I think. Even to the untrained architectural eye like mine, this is one historic property that impresses immediately. Brit Leslie Wilkinson was one of the first in Australia to depart from Anglo-Saxon architectural traditions. Instead he factored his new climate and environment into his design. Having spent much time in England and Spain, he combined Georgian and Mediterranean influences in his practice. He was responsible for the Main Quadrangle, Physics Building and Medical School at Sydney University, and his works also include a number of churches and notable homes in Sydney and

beyond to the Southern Highlands. Wilkinson designed and built Bibury, then called Shadowood, in 1929 for local lawyer Alexander Robert Macgregor and his young family at a cost of £3,745. Wilkinson knew and loved the Highlands, having visited with his own young family in the 1920s. He rented a schoolhouse in Burrawang's Church Street, where his kids learnt to ride bicycles in the main street and Wilkinson sketched landscapes of the local potato crops.

On Alexander Macgregor's death in 1935, his widow commissioned Wilkinson to build her another home in Links Road, taking the name Shadowood with her. This grand home's second owner, a Miss Maud Dangar, renamed the property Bibury, presumably after the historic village in Gloucestershire, England.

Fast forward 80 years, and I am initially unaware of Bibury's rich history as we arrive through the house's grand wrought iron gates from the street. Driving past a towering pin oak and through three acres of heritage listed gardens and the porte-cochère (covered coach gate entrance), I am agog. What is immediately evident as we pull up in the flagstone courtyard with cherubic fountains, before the terracotta coloured house with Wilkinson's signature green shutters and signature red painted front door, is that this place is something special.

Present day owners Ann and Brian Thornton think so too. Ann grew up next door at Yarrowin, alongside brothers John and the late Peter and Paul, the founder of Ramsay Health Care and billionaire philanthropist. She remembers playing in the gardens of Bibury in the 1940s when it was owned by the Flynn family. Fifty years later, after falling into disrepair, in 2000 the property





was extensively conserved by architects Clive Lucas and Ian Stapleton, who were awarded the prestigious Greenway Prize for heritage restoration.

In early 2014 Paul Ramsay, who lived at Yarrawin all his life, bought Bibury, again in a state of considerable disrepair. Following his death only months later in May, Ann and Brian, who attended the then Our Lady of Sacred Heart school with Paul at Centennial Road in Bowral, purchased the property from the Paul Ramsay Foundation Trust. The restoration project took four years.

‘When they were tidying up Paul’s estate, I think it was an emotional buy for Ann,’ says Brian. ‘We got builder inspections because it was obvious it was a huge job, but over the years we’ve done quite a few old houses up into family homes. With this particular house, the important thing about it for us was it was a Spanish mission house and it was quite unique; there is nothing else like it in the district.’

‘When we came it was obvious that it was a cold, sad derelict building with rotting floors in need of a huge renovation. But the courtyard is what Ann particularly remembers.’

Working closely with heritage advisors, architects schooled in Wilkinson’s practice and local builder Glenn Thomas of GMT Builders, they managed a restoration that included replacing entire sections of floor, total replumbing, and electrical and heating rewiring. The family also did as much research as possible and reused every piece of original furniture or fitting they could throughout the property. As a lovely touch, Wilkinson’s original 1929 drawings and plans for Bibury hang framed in one of the bedrooms. ‘Every single thing we could, we’ve retained and restored,’



says Brian. ‘This project has been a huge labour of love, and we followed the principals of heritage restoration to restore it, renovate it and modernise it up to today’s living standards.’

The property is now available for luxury accommodation rental and when we arrive in the evening, the fountains are bubbling in the courtyard, the mature trees in the gardens lit beautifully and the house looks splendid. A huge atrium hallway with cupola hung with original artworks leads to a luxurious open plan kitchen and dining/living room overlooking the splendid gardens with huge doors leading outside to a travertine patio.

The Thorntons are thoughtful and generous hosts, and an array of goodies awaits, including a hearty shiraz from nearby Southern Highlands Winery, olives and cheese. The fridge is full of breakfast delicacies like organic eggs, orange juice, bacon, sourdough by Flour Water Salt and jams by the Little Hand Stirred Jam Shop in Berrima.

With five sumptuous bedrooms, Bibury can sleep up to 10 people with king, queen or double beds and one room that converts to two king singles. Fittings and furnishing in this home are top notch with crisp linens and lavish feather duvets, and there is additional accommodation for two more available at an additional cost in the self-contained Chauffeur’s Quarters across the courtyard. As night falls, we sit on deckchairs on the colonnaded verandah (one of Wilkinson’s design loves, along with the vine covered loggia, arches, stuccoed brickwork, exquisite parquet floors and high timber ceilings), and happily drink it all in.

Later I retire to bed in the divine Macgregor Room, which looks out across manicured lawns, rose gardens, a wisteria walk and maze, and the magnificent pin oak. Believed to be more than 100 years old, it has watched the history of this property unfold, and seen children such as Ann Thornton and her brothers play.

**Suits:** architecture buffs, garden lovers, people who love relaxed luxury, attention to detail and elegance.

**Perfect for:** wedding party overspill from nearby Links House Hotel; generational family birthdays, reunions or celebrations; corporate getaways. [bibury.com.au](http://bibury.com.au) 





# BERIDA HOTEL

— bowral, southern highlands —

NEWLY REFURBISHED LUXURY HOTEL IN THE HEART OF BOWRAL

*At Berida Hotel we provide a boutique hotel experience where history and grandeur meet modern luxury.*



**LUXURY  
ACCOMMODATION**



**EUROPEAN  
RESTAURANT & BAR**



**BAR AND LOUNGE**

Originally built in 1925, and located just moments from the main street of Bowral, the Berida Hotel, radiates history and grandeur with 43 elegantly restored and fully air-conditioned hotel rooms, allowing you to relax and unwind while on your stay in the heart of the Southern Highlands.

Our onsite European Bistro and Bar serves the freshest local produce and an array of fine beverages in a warm and friendly atmosphere. With two conference rooms, complete Health Club including indoor heated pool, gym, tennis courts and luxurious Day Spa, the Berida Hotel is the perfect venue for your next weekend escape, romantic getaway, social engagement or corporate event.

For bookings and enquiries visit [www.beridahotel.com.au](http://www.beridahotel.com.au) or call one of our friendly staff on 02 4861 1177

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## TUCKED AWAY

SIMPLE, STYLISH AND BUCOLIC, THIS HIGHLANDS HIDEOUT IS THE ULTIMATE SMALL ESCAPE WITH BIG PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY ON OFFER.

Words **ALEX SPEED**

In my experience, style is not something that can be learned or copied. Rather, it comes from an innate belief that what you do and the way you put things together just works.

Such style is immediately apparent when I arrive for my Airbnb stay at The Humpy. It sits on Clearys Lane in Wildes Meadow, the love child of Nicky and Tina Goodall, and built on the template of a pioneer settler's hut, is striking in its individuality and charm.

The Goodalls moved to the Highlands 20 years ago from a sheep property, Coolibah, near Young. Their daughter Harriet, a master sculptural weaver (and our Instagram star on page 95 whose solo exhibition opens in July at Sturt Gallery, Mittagong), lives just up the road in Robertson with her farming family.

'We decided to settle in the Highlands because when you look around the countryside it's like a three course meal for hungry eyes,' says the charmingly loquacious Nicky. 'This land used to be owned by Gwen Meredith, the dear woman who wrote the long running ABC radio serial Blue Hills, which was very important to a lot of people in the bush, including me when I was a young jackaroo growing up. I'm a farmer not a builder but I'm pretty practical and can use a hammer and saw, so I said to Tina, I think I've got a house in me before I die.'

Nicky built the property's stylish main house out of two tin sheds and lots of natural earthy materials to appeal to the couple's 'bucolic bent'. Two years later, when Tina said they



needed another bedroom and bathroom to accommodate friends and family, Nicky again took up his tools and constructed the freestanding Humpy that sits across the lawn.

'We thought along the lines of a settler's hut,' says Nicky. 'With a skillion out the front and back, one large room in the middle and bush poles holding it up. We used lots of secondhand materials like railway sleepers.'

Clad in corrugated iron, this self catering accommodation option is indeed bucolic style at its best. The main door is fashioned as stable door out of old four by two, as are the front shutters that open onto the garden with winter roses and hydrangeas, ja dam, eucalypts and a swing. Outside on the skillion, there is a table and chairs, perfect for sundowners.

Inside, one room with enormous exposed wood beams has a king sized bed with a patchwork bedhead. An antique baby bassinette and chaise lounge offer sleeping options for a child or two. There is a desk, another comfy settee, a microwave, kettle, toaster and shelves, and a full fridge considerably stocked with fresh milk, teabags, ground coffee, homemade granola and jam. A little table under the window makes a perfect place for a laptop if a visitor is intent on making this getaway a work affair. The bathroom continues the shearing shed feel of this place, with a rain water shower floored with stones brought from Coolibah.

The silence here is golden, only interrupted by intermittent singing magpies or the laugh of a kookaburra. Looking for quiet, I walk to the top of Clearys Lane, hemmed by giant gums, and marvel over the beauty of Wildes Meadow. Others come to The Humpy looking for different things. Such as love.

'We had our first engagement recently,' Nicky tells me fondly. 'A young couple in their twenties booked for three days, and one evening Tina and I heard the sound of laughter coming from across the lawn. The next morning when they came to say their goodbyes they told how the young fella had got down on one knee and proposed. He had given his love a beautiful box cut diamond, and she had happily said yes.'

It seems a fitting tribute to this getaway that was built with love. **B**



### DETAILS

**The Humpy, Wildes Meadow. [airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com)**

**Suits:** people with a work deadline to meet; romantics with a big question to ask urbanites looking to escape; lovers of rustic style.





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263A Bong Bong Street, Bowral; [mimbeim.com](http://mimbeim.com)



## A BEAUTIFUL BURN

Zoe Waters, creative partner of actor and local John Waters, has recently released a range of luxury coconut and soy candles called Zoco. Hand poured in her home studio, these burning beauties are inspired by Zoe's life on her Robertson farm and the beautiful Highlands outdoor elements. Available online or at Halvorsen Interiors in Robertson and Cashmere Essentials in Bowral. [zococandles.com.au](http://zococandles.com.au)



## CUPBOARD LOVE

Made By Others Anna Byng and Ursula Armstrong were among the original purveyors of great design and contemporary art in Moss Vale's now burgeoning main street, and they show no sign of slowing down. The first to bring Finnish super brand Marimekko and Australia's Dinosaur Designs to the Highlands, they recently added iconic Melbourne label Elk Clothing with its gorgeous mindfully made knitwear to their special inventory. Escape also loves the Wallace Sewell 100% wool blankets, made in London and also only available at MBO in the Highlands. 2/366 Argyle Street, Moss Vale; [madebyothers.com.au](http://madebyothers.com.au)





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[barebodybeauty.com](http://barebodybeauty.com)

## CANINE CHIC

Include your four legged fam in the fashion equation this winter and keep Fido stylish with a doggie do by Rose Boyd of the Doggie Barber in Moss Vale. Finish the look with one of these warm and waterproof waxed jackets from Canadian favourite Teckelklub, which come in sizes for hounds from mini to mammoth breeds. **470 Argyle Street, Moss Vale; [doggiebarber.com.au](http://doggiebarber.com.au)**



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## BLUE HUES

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## KNITTED WITH THANKS

ONE OF OUR TRUE HIGHLANDS HEROES IS FRENSHAM OLD GIRL, OBSTETRICIAN AND GYNAECOLOGIST **DR CATHERINE HAMLIN**. SHE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE GLOBALLY WITH HER LIFE'S WORK AT THE ADDIS ABABA FISTULA HOSPITAL IN ETHIOPIA, WHICH SHE STARTED WITH HER LATE HUSBAND DR REG HAMLIN IN 1974. MEANWHILE, AT HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS, FELLOW FRENSHAM OLD GIRL JANE CROWLEY CONTINUES HER LONGSTANDING SUPPORT OF DR CATHERINE'S WORK, SELLING THE CATHERINE HAMLIN FISTULA FOUNDATION PRODUCTS AT HER BOWRAL EMPORIUM, DIRTY JANES BOWRAL. IF YOU ARE IN THE MARKET FOR A GIFT FOR A NEWBORN OR LITTLE ONE, CHECK OUT THE RANGE OF KNITTED TOYS AT THE MAIN COUNTER. WE ESPECIALLY LOVE THE AFRICAN MAMA AND BUB ANIMALS, ALL HAND KNITTED WITH LOVE BY WOMEN FROM ZIMBABWE AND ETHIOPIA. AND AS A NICE ASIDE, THE FRENSHAM SCHOOL DINING ROOM WAS OPENED IN DR HAMLIN'S HONOUR IN AUGUST LAST YEAR.

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## Seasonal Scent

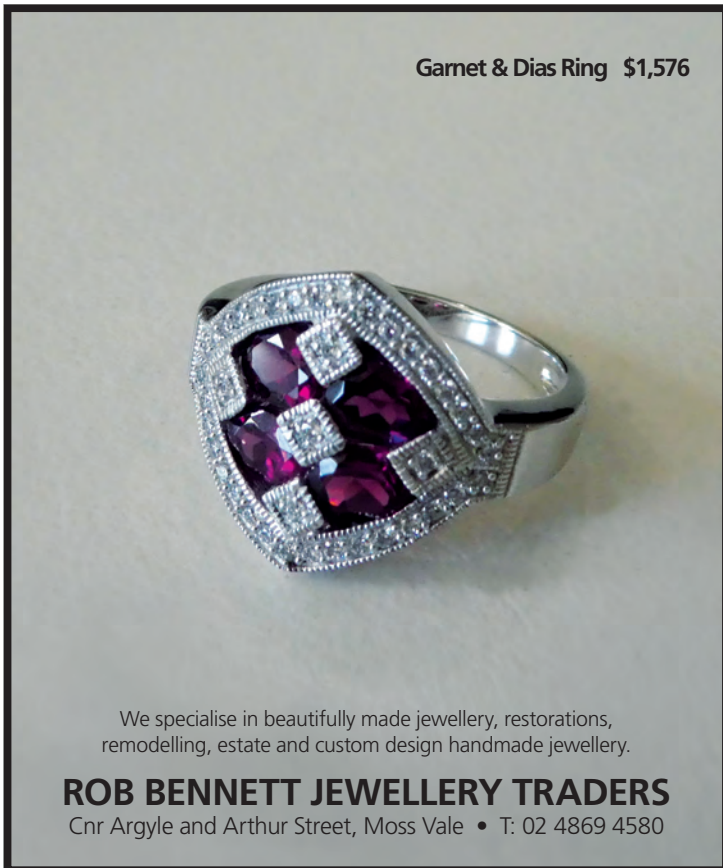
French Belgian perfumer Dimitri Webber, whose partner hails from Moss Vale, has a way with words. His newest scent to join his delicious Goldfield and Banks unisex fragrance range is Velvet Splendour. Made from Golden Wattle (or 'acacia pycnantha' if you want to get botanical) and with notes of mandarin, jasmine, sandalwood and yes mimosa (wattle), Dimitri sums his new perfume up like this .... 'Velvet Splendour is like holding a bunch of wild flowers in both arms and pressing one's face gently into it .. an impressionist's painting of a long drive through the open, breezy and cloudless countryside'. Sold! Get yours exclusively in the Highlands at Suzie Anderson Home Bowral and Moss Vale. [suzieandersonhome.com](http://suzieandersonhome.com)





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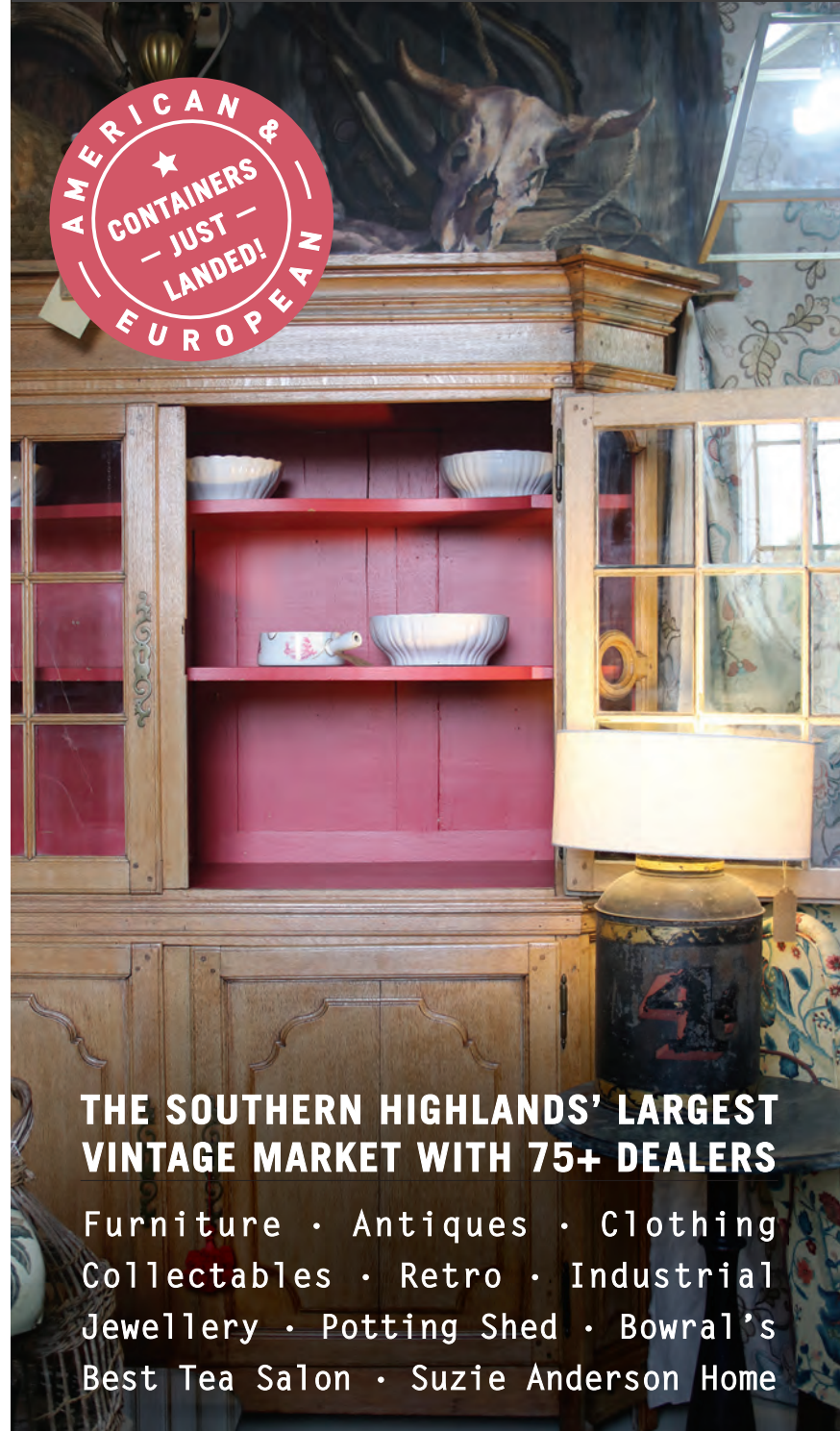
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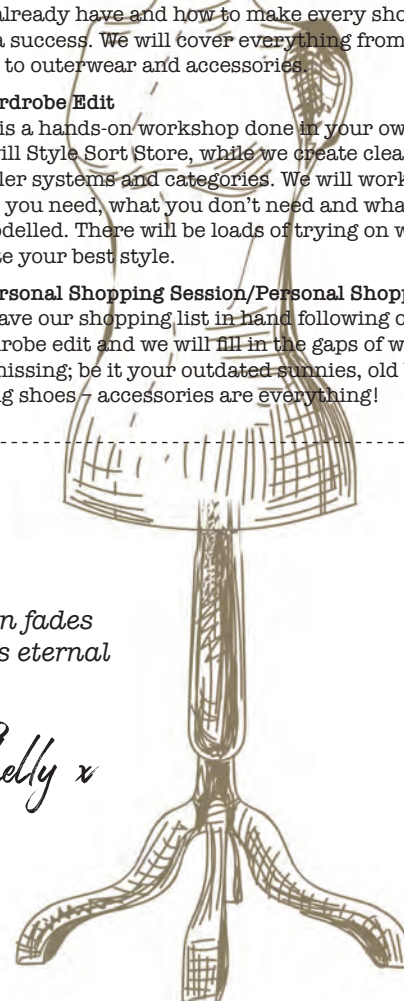
This is a hands-on workshop done in your own home. We will Style Sort Store, while we create cleaner, simpler systems and categories. We will work out what you need, what you don't need and what can be remodelled. There will be loads of trying on while we create your best style.

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We have our shopping list in hand following our wardrobe edit and we will fill in the gaps of what you are missing; be it your outdated sunnies, old bag or wrong shoes – accessories are everything!

*fashion fades  
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*Shelly x*



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# I'LL DRINK TO THAT!

BOOKING YOURSELF ONTO A WINE TOUR IS A GREAT WAY TO BE CHAUFFEURED ABOUT THE HIGHLANDS SO YOU CAN GET ON WITH SOME SERIOUS SAMPLING. ESCAPE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CLIMBED ABOARD TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR LOCAL INDUSTRY AND ENJOY SOME MERRY MAKING.

**Words** Alex Speed **Images** Elise Hassey

If you are off on an all day wine tour of some of the renowned Southern Highlands vineyards and cellar doors, it's a given you'll enjoy an alcoholic bevvy or two, especially the cool climate wine varieties our local vintners excel in making.

John Scott, operator and friendly tour guide of Highlands Food & Wine Tours also recommends you pace yourself. It's not a good idea to start off drinking everything in sight only to spend the rest of the day snoring on the bus, he says.

With these useful pointers in mind, one Saturday morning I am ready and waiting for John and his 15 seater mini bus out the front of my home. I have my water, wallet and sensible head on, and I am looking forward to enjoying one of those experiences so many locals like me always mean to do but somehow never get around to.

When Hill Top local John is not hosting wine tours, he's a fulltime firie at Picton, and he is also president of the Southern Highlands Food & Wine Association. This morning he's

already picked up a group from Paddy's River where they are weekendng at an Airbnb property. Chris and Jo are English, but recently relocated from Hong Kong to Sydney. Also along for the tour is Simon from South Africa, his English wife Juliet and their young daughter. Then in Bowral we pick up Peter and Kim from Picton; Christine and Matt, and Nicole and Chris, who all live in Sydney.

With a full contingent, John takes Centennial Road to Greenhills Road in Berrima, giving his visitors their first glimpses of our picture postcard landscapes. It's quiet on the bus but John assures me that as the day goes on and people start tasting, everyone tends to get noisy and sociable.

We arrive at our first vineyard and cellar door, Joadja Estate Winery, which is the Highlands' oldest. And, sure enough, with the help of Siobhan Maloy's pouring skills, it doesn't take long for our crowd to loosen up.

Siobhan runs Joadja Estate with partner and winemaker Matt





Toomey. The couple moved to their new life as vigneronns four years ago after first seeing these 15 acres of vines for sale on the internet.

Joadja's 2017 and 2018 vintages are the first produced by Matt and are given the seal of approval this morning. The 2018 pinot grigio is a lovely drop, and a classic cool climate pick. Joadja's merlot and new sparkling moscato are delicious, the moscato with its nose of peach and orange blossom. I make a mental note to remember it for a lunch on a summer's day, preferably here at Joadja during one of their frequent Music in the Vines events. I finish with a quick snifter of Joadja's Summer Rose for good measure. Made from cabernet grapes it is my favourite here, and being only 10% alcohol is a definite bonus.

Back onto the bus and conversation is now flowing. Accustomed to taking hens or stags on wine tours, and not averse to dressing up in theme when requested, John is a pleasant and knowledgeable tour host. He gives out little snippets of information about Berrima as we pass through (did you know the National Heritage Council declared the village a historic precinct in the 1960s, for example?). John has also become a keen wine collector. 'Thanks to these tours, I now have quite a substantial wine cellar at home myself.' Respected within the industry, John shares the tours around all the vineyards and cellar doors locally, so visitors get a really



good feel for what the winemakers in the region are doing.

Ten minutes down the road, Cherry Tree Hill Wines at Sutton Forest (read more about this winery on page 60) has just finished harvesting its sauvignon blanc and pinot noir grapes. Set on more than 1000 acres, it has a very pretty cellar door with tables and umbrellas looking out on the 35 acres under vine. Cellar door manager Duncan Macdonald introduces our group to Cherry Tree Hill's flagship wines, its award winning 2018 riesling and 2015 chardonnay. Both are delicious, full bodied and a hit with the tasters. Chris and Jo are very taken with the 2016 sparkling red made from a blend of cabernet sauvignon and merlot grapes, and disappear with Duncan to get supplies. I follow and buy a 2016 riesling as a take home memento.

Back on the bus we're feeling relaxed as we head off towards nearby Eling Forest Estate for lunch at the cafe there. We share a long table and over beef burgers and fries learn more about why we all came on this Highlands' vineyard and cellar door tour.

'We've had several weekends away in the Hunter Valley and have done wine tours there but we've never been to the Highlands before,' says Chris a plumber. Young professionals Christine and Matt booked in at the last moment, wanting to finally visit the Highlands and its vineyards, which are gaining a name in the world of wine.

On the move again, there is much talk on the bus of property prices and the positives of living in the Southern Highlands versus Sydney. Looking out the window at the lovely countryside rushing by, we all agree the Highlands wins hands down.

Our last stop is the new headquarters of the Tractorless Vineyard at a Mittagong warehouse for more tasting and some grape stomping. Inspired winemaker Jeff Aston, formerly of McVitty Grove, is now growing grapes for his two boutique Tractorless labels, Sustainable and Creator, at Canyonleigh and at Blue Metal Vineyards at Berrima, where he recently signed a 30 year lease. Passionate about the chemistry of winemaking and about creating different wines to suit his drinking habits, Jeff is a great ambassador for the local industry. This warehouse is the production and bottling side of his winery, and he hopes to begin serving food for Pie Time in June. As we sample Jeff's wines I find my favourite is the 2014 Lost Flock, a blend of five reds, which he created for drinking in front of a roaring winter Highlands fire. I sit with my glass and watch as some of the others take to some grape stomping with gusto.

A great host to the last, John drops me home safely with cries of 'Send us a copy of your story!' ringing out from the bus as I farewell my new wine friends. It's definitely been a day worth doing and as I trot inside feeling quite merry, I vow to recommend a day wine tour as an experience all locals and visitors must try. [highlandsfoodandwinetours.com.au](http://highlandsfoodandwinetours.com.au)





# PIGS IN PARADISE

ELI BAILEY AND EBONY GARNER ARE THE FREE RANGE AND STUD PIG FARMERS BEHIND DEWSBURYS FREE RANGE PORK WHICH, ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, SUPPLIES SOME OF OUR REGION'S HOTELS AND MARKETS. THE COUPLE'S PIGS ARE RAISED OUTDOORS FROM BIRTH TO SALE AND ARE FREE TO ROAM AND FORAGE. ELI AND EBONY TALK TO ESH ABOUT PORK, PATIENCE AND THEIR PASSION FOR PIGS.

Words **Alex Speed**





**Tell us a little about Dewsburys Pork, Eli.** We have 375 acres and run a select herd of 20 breeding sows made up of Duroc and Hampshire pigs. My great great grandfather originally owned this land, which was sold and then purchased many years later by my grandfather, before being sold again. In 2014 my mother and I bought some of the land, and my mother's side of the family still farm wool and sheep there today. **So farming is in Eli's blood, but what about you, Ebony?** Before I met Eli about four years ago, I was working in Children's Services in Sydney. Moving here to work alongside him and the pigs was definitely a life change for me. **Can you tell us what free range means to you and your pigs?** It was going to be a free range operation from the beginning. We chose this method because it would improve our land, which is not suitable for grazing sheep or cattle. But also because it is a much higher welfare option for the pigs and produces a much better product. **How does it improve your land?** Think of pigs as ploughers. They have a natural tendency and instinct to dig and turn over the soil in search of anything edible or interesting, such as roots, beetles or grubs. They'll effectively plough large areas and remove weeds and scrub, as well as exposing any rocks that can be removed later on. They also produce a lot of manure that is high in nitrogen and phosphorus, which greatly improves the soil, provided the land is rotated adequately and allowed to rest. Good management is key. **Do happy pigs equal better pork?** Absolutely! We think the difference between indoor grown pork and free range pork is enormous. One of the first things our customers always ask is whether our pigs are grown free range, so there is definitely an increasing awareness.

**Why did you decide to breed rare breed pigs?** Initially we began with cross bred pigs and gradually moved towards pure Duroc and Hampshire pigs. One of the reasons for this was due to the exceptional growth and suitability of these breeds to a free range environment. For a lot of our restaurant cuts and farmers markets, the pigs are generally sent to the abattoir between 12 and 14 weeks old. This may seem young but with very fast growing breeds like Duroc, they are around 50kg at 12 weeks, while the Hampshires are slightly slower growing and are around 50kg at 14 weeks. This size yields a carcass of 38kg. **What is your farming philosophy?** It revolves around quality of life, sustainability and conservation. Quality of life is our main priority. This means our pigs are happy pigs, and live in a stress free, highly stimulating, natural environment where they are treated with kindness and respect. To ensure our farm is running sustainably, we work with the pigs to manage and rotate our paddocks and maintain a healthy environment. As well as being sustainable, the environment that our pigs are kept in is predominantly native pasture and woodland.

**Are all your animals born and grown on your property, and killed nearby?** Yes, all of the pigs we send for meat are born and bred on our property, and we always transport our own pigs to the abattoir to ensure their trip is safe and stress free. Our foundation stud stock came from South Australia and Victoria, and we also make use of AI to introduce new blood lines. This ensures that we have a wide range of the best quality genetics available for our breeds in Australia, and we sell to other breeders and studs looking to maintain these rare breeds. **What does your way of farming give the customer when eating the pork?** The customer gets a product that is of the highest quality and knows they are supporting an ethically grown product and that they are helping to conserve rare breeds. **Do you come to love your sows and boars?** Yes, we certainly do! When you spend every day with the pigs you really get to know them individually. Not one pig is the same and we enjoy each one's special 'pigness'. Elmo is our oldest Duroc boar. He's a gentle giant weighing in at approximately 450kg and standing over 1 metre tall at the shoulder. But despite his size he has a sweet, almost dog like nature. He loves a scratch, all of our attention and listening to the radio.



**Please share some truths non-pig people probably don't know.** The gestation period for a pig is very short, only 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days. Another amazing thing that pigs do is nest before they give birth. They'll spend hours gathering up the materials they like, such as grass, wattle, eucalyptus branches, sticks and rocks, and take it back to one of the shelters we provide, although they often prefer to nest under a tree. They are very independent.

**What lessons have you learnt together since becoming farmers?** We are still learning every day, but the biggest take homes would be time management, patience, definitely communication, and the ability to adapt quickly when something doesn't go to plan, which is all the time with pigs. You're on their schedule. **What's your favourite cut and the best way to cook it?** A great tasting cut has fine marbling of fat and a nice deep pink colour. Any cut with the bone in always bolsters flavour and helps retain moisture. We love the cutlet rack. It has a perfect balance of lean to fat, nice marbling and the perfect amount of crackling. Having said that, one of our favourites in winter is the humble pork knuckle or hock. This cut is really tasty fresh or brined for slow cooking or roasting, and if smoked it's perfect for a pea and ham soup. **Where can we taste test Dewsburys Pork locally?** We currently supply Peppers Manor House and Eling Forest Winery Cafe at Sutton Forest, and we've also recently returned to Railway Street Farmers Market in Moss Vale every Thursday 3pm until dark. We're looking to do more Highlands markets soon too. **Your experience in a nutshell?** Our land needs as much care and respect as our animals, and through sheer hard work, it's been amazing to see it transform into such productive place. Together we've found an unexpected passion for pigs and for giving them a better life. [dewsburyspork.com.au](http://dewsburyspork.com.au)

## Other Pork Producers we love

**Taluca Park:** award winning free range biodynamic farmers Frank and Annamarie at Taluca Park, Exeter supply their award winning pork to many of our restaurants locally including Moonacres Café at Robertson (see our review on page 46) and Berrima General Store. Their free range eggs are also fabulous. Buy yours from Highlands Merchant, Argyle Street, Moss Vale or Exeter General Store, Exeter. [talucapark.com.au](http://talucapark.com.au)

**Redleaf Farm:** fellow award winning farmers Sam and Katrina Sparke at Redleaf Farm, Fitzroy Falls also supply many of our leading restaurants including Biota and Barn by Biota with their award winning free range suckling piggies, pork, and lamb. They can also help organise a pig or lamb on the spit if you're planning a celebration, and make their own salami. Perfect for that shared platter before a winter Highland roaring fire. [redleaf-farm.com.au](http://redleaf-farm.com.au) 📍





## EARTHY MEETS APPETISING AT MOONACRES

*The casual but classy setting and imaginative use of locally grown ingredients make Moonacres Kitchen a must for daytime dining. And then there are the farming principles behind the food and the plans for much more.*

Words **Alex Speed** Photos **Elise Hassey**

**I**t's just past midday on a midweek day and Moonacres Kitchen in Robertson is pumping. Welcomed by the friendly waiting staff we take a seat in the whirring body of this cafe restaurant. Nine tables, approximately 30 bums on seats. Not bad at all for a Thursday lunch.

Emma, the young barista, is doing a roaring trade as locals such as actor John Waters come in to grab a caffeine fix. Dougal, the bread chef, comes in from the ovens next door with a new load of sourdough. Through the kitchen hatch, head chef Steve Santucci and his sous are hard at work, but not in that manic chef way.

Instead, this place has a lovely relaxed vibe that seems to come from Steve's easy energy and manner. Formerly head chef at acclaimed Vini in Sydney's Surry Hills, Steve makes food that takes some inspiration from his Italian parents and has la dolce vita down pat.

Phil Lavers, the farmer and the co brains behind Moonacres Kitchen, is here too. A former banker who left behind the world of

finance and money, he and wife Lisa and their children moved from Tokyo to Fitzroy Falls in 2006 to invest their souls in the earth. Regular Highlands market goers will recognise the unassuming Phil from the years he has spent selling his organic fruit and veg grown on his Fitzroy Falls property, Moonacres.

Moonacres Kitchen opened last year, more than a decade after Phil first started farming at Fitzroy Falls. A novice back then to the world of agribusiness and growing and veg, Phil is now an award winning organic farmer, also busy overseeing the ongoing success of Moonacres Kitchen. This includes a major renovation to these premises before its grand opening in June last year, and the planned opening of Moonacres Cooking School at the newly opened SHAC up the road this September. The cooking school will hold regular cooking lessons, some run by Steve's local and Sydney chef friends, using the goods of local producers including Moonacre Farm, and focusing on Phil's ongoing quest to teach us about soil health and sustainable farming methods.

'I have no doubt the food Steve serves here wouldn't taste as good as it does without the soil we have cultivated at Moonacres Farm,' says Phil, looking around at his restaurant full of happy eaters. 'I also believe that unless people learn how and why to look after the soil, we are in very big trouble.'

Phil departs, leaving us to anticipate our lunch in a very pleasant place to sit. For one, the acoustics are great; thought has been given to design and materials used, and there is no yelling foghorn leghorn like across tables. There is a selection of breads



and pastries to eyeball near the barista, and a great clear inbuilt viewing window where prosciutto and capocollo (dry cured pork neck) done inhouse hang drying. There are jars of Moonacres homemade preserves and pickles on display, an ever changing menu that reflects the seasons and local produce, and a specials board. It's torture for hungry eyes.

Our lunch arrives thanks to staffer Allie, who brought her foodie talents here after running Rockabellas Roadside Diner up the road for some years. Steve has sent out four dishes for us: the Amber Salad, Baked Eggs with Chorizo, Soup of the Day with house made bread and butter, and a selection of Prosciutto and Capocollo cooked overnight in stock and served with Robertson figs pickled in mustard with Pecora Mountain Blue, made by Cressida and Michael McNamara at nearby Pecora Dairy.

The Amber Salad is made up of pumpkin and carrots from Moonacres Farm, with pearl barley, pecorino fresco from longtime local outlet and wholesaler Highlands Fresh, hazelnuts grown at Filbert Farm in Exeter, and salad mix by local growers Sam and Elizabeth at Brillig Farm, also in Exeter. It is a winter delight on a fresh day. Presented in the skin of the pumpkin like a tarted up fluorescent spud and served with an orange dressing, it is a very moreish delicious dish.

The soup is sweetcorn and sage with pimento sour cream, topped with rapa, an Italian green. It is comforting with a kick thanks to

the pimento. I can't eat enough of the home made cured meats, with the sweetness of the figs offset by the edge of the mustard and the local blue cheese. Perfect for a wintry share plate. The baked eggs from nearby free to roam Jamberoo Mountain Farm are served with passata and tomatoes from nearby Living Earth Farm and chorizo made at the most excellent Taluca Park Free Range in Exeter. It is a lunch to savour, with Steve using what he has to hand on any given day in such innovative and deceptively simple ways.

'We are pretty thrilled how it's been going since we opened last year,' says smiley Steve, as he comes over to give me the rundown on the local producers who all helped make our lunch so memorable.

'Yeah it's been really great and it's very exciting now with our plans for our cooking school, which will definitely be a first in the Highlands. It will be one of the few cooking schools in Australia, certainly NSW run by a working certified organic farm. I'll be doing some of the teaching there and so will some of my fellow chefs. There's lots to look forward to and work towards.'

Moonacres is a restaurant bound to win its own accolades. Big on growing and supporting local, it wears its heart and earthiness on its sleeve, and that's definitely good for the soil and the soul.

**Moonacres Kitchen**, 81 Illawarra Highway, Robertson. Open for coffee, breakfast and lunch seven days, 6am-3.30pm.

[moonacres.com.au](http://moonacres.com.au) 📍





# GO THE MIGHTY $\pi$ 'S!

**WHEN AN OBSESSION WITH MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS GETS MIXED UP WITH A PASSION FOR DELICIOUSLY FILLED PASTRY CASES, YOU KNOW IT MUST BE HIGH TIME FOR PIE TIME.**

Words **Geoff Jansz**

**T**wo years ago, all the nerds in the Southern Highlands started quivering with anticipation when Pie Time was announced by Graeme Day on 2ST radio. At last! The rest of the world was catching up with us. The number Pi ( $\pi$ ), as we all know, is a mathematical constant. Originally defined as the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, it's actually an irrational number that never stops... a bit like a mother-in-law.

I could imagine seething throngs stampeding through Bowral down Bong Bong Street, top button done up, horned rimmed glasses in place and pencils in hand, heading for the pencil sharpener sale at David's Newsagent (clever boy). The Running of the Geeks will eclipse Pamplona's running of the bulls. I had to get involved, and made a call to the organiser, Destination Southern Highlands' Steve Rosa. Our conversation went something like this...

**Me:** Steve, you're a genius! This is really going to bring in the tourists. What can I do to help?

**Steve:** Fantastic, Geoff. Do something amazing with a pie.

**Me:** Okay, what about  $\pi$  squared?

**Steve:** Great idea, Geoff, a square pie.

(Poor Steve,  $\pi$  squared is the inside dimension, not the outside shape. He must be tired, so I went with it.)

**Me:** Alright then, let's do  $2\pi r$ . (The circumference of a circle.)

(Silence)

**Steve:** Two pies are what? No, no, wait Geoff, I get it. Two pies are not enough! Can you eat three, four, five? A pie eating competition! (Okay, now I'm confused. Better change track.)

**Me:** What about this, Steve? You know how  $\pi$  is endless (3.14159 ad infinitum)? Let's see who can name  $\pi$  to the greatest number without using Google?

**Steve:** You're right, pies are endless. Let's see who has the best pie memory. There's apple pie, meat pie, pumpkin, curry, seafood... Geoff, you and I really speak the same language!

(I see what's happened. Poor Steve has suffered the same fate as so many of the great mathematicians I have followed and admired... Cantor, Gödel, Boltzmann and more. He's gone mad.)

**Me:** Okay, mate, I see you're really throwing yourself into this event. I admire that, but maybe you should have a little break. How about I come around for a chat? Would you like me to bring around a pie?

Nowadays pies are easy to make due to the prevalence of prebaked pie shells on the market. You simply make your filling and bake the pie. Prior to this, there were the dreaded steps of making your own pastry, lining the tin and, oh my God, prebaking the shell. This step can now be left to us with OCPD (obsessive compulsive pastry disorder) to worry about. ■



EASY  
BAKING



## Breakfast Pie

Large store bought prebaked  
savoury pastry shell  
2 eggs, beaten  
1/2 cup of pouring cream  
1 handful of baby spinach  
leaves  
1 cup of shredded cheddar  
cheese

small pinch of nutmeg  
big pinch of black pepper  
2 tbsp butter  
1 cup of diced ham  
1/2 onion, diced  
grated parmesan

### Method

Preheat oven to 180°C.

In a mixing bowl, thoroughly combine beaten eggs, cream, spinach, cheese, nutmeg and pepper.

Separately in a fry pan, melt the butter and sauté the ham and onion on medium high. Stir constantly until onions are cooked and translucent, about 2 minutes.

Tip hot contents into wet ingredients and combine immediately and thoroughly.

Pour into pastry shell, sprinkle over some grated parmesan and pop into the oven to cook for 20 minutes or until the surface is a little brown and the centre has just lost its wobble when given a little shuggle.

Switch oven off, leaving pastry inside for 10-15 minutes.

Open door and leave until ready to serve.

Great with your favourite sauce, grilled tomatoes and sautéed mushrooms.



Geoff Jansz

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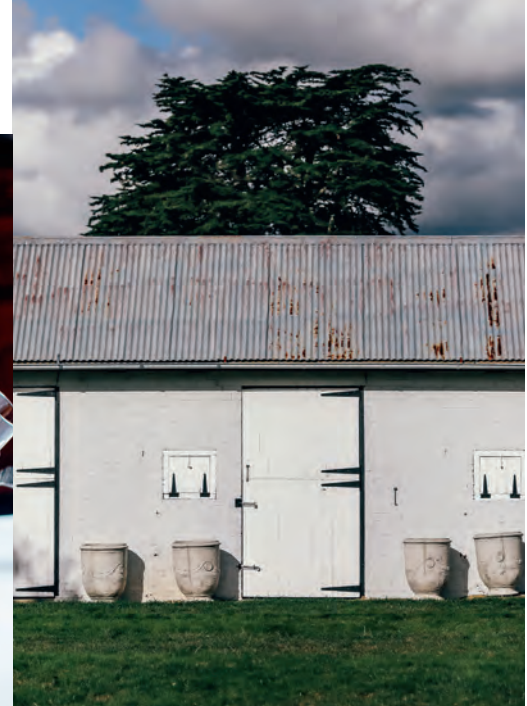
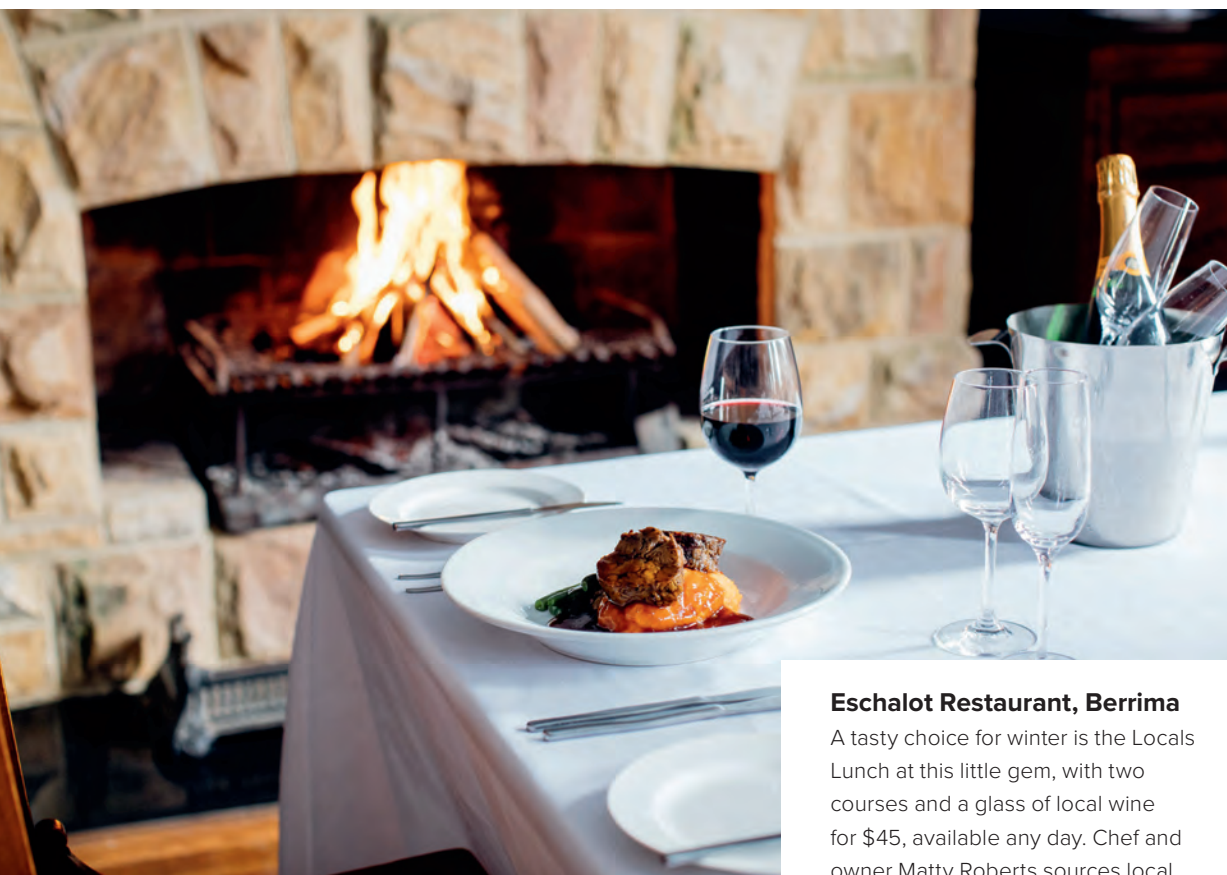
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# WINTER WONDEREATS

THINK OPEN FIRES, COSY VENUES, HEARTY WARMING FOOD AND LONG LUNCHES WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. A HIGHLIGHT IS PIE TIME, A MONTH LONG EVENT OVER JUNE WHEN MANY OF OUR CHEFS CREATE SIGNATURE PIES AND EAGER EATERS FOLLOW THE PIE TRAIL OR GET INVOLVED AND DINE WITH A PIE. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WELCOME CENTRE IN MITTAGONG OR CHECK [PIETIME.COM.AU](http://PIETIME.COM.AU). PLUS THERE'S MUCH MORE DELICIOUS FOOD ON THE WINTER MENU AROUND THE HIGHLANDS TO CHOOSE FROM AS WELL.

Words **Jill Dyson**

## **Eschalot Restaurant, Berrima**

A tasty choice for winter is the Locals Lunch at this little gem, with two courses and a glass of local wine for \$45, available any day. Chef and owner Matty Roberts sources local produce for his fine dining menu, and on June 18 will collaborate with fellow chefs Diego Arata from The Berrima General Store & Cafe and Nathan West from The Press Shop, Bowral to present an eight course degustation truffle dinner, featuring truffles from Robertson, matched with premium wines. Doors open 6pm, \$205pp, bookings essential (limited to 55 seats). [eschalot.com.au](http://eschalot.com.au)

## **Bundanoon Hotel, Bundanoon**

Established in 1922, this village bastion has recently undergone a complete refurbishment by its new operators (who also run the Royal Hotel Bowral and the Burrawang Village Hotel). With a private dining room, two new bar areas and a bistro, the Bundy Hotel is serving classic pub grub using local produce, and in June will launch a signature pie for Pie Time. Book for July and enjoy a Christmas in July Yulefest menu or take the kids for woodfired pizza. [bundanoonhotel.com.au](http://bundanoonhotel.com.au)

## **Southern Highlands Brewing Company Taphouse, Moss Vale**

Rotating Sunday roasts will complement other winter style Taphouse favourites including homemade Porter Pie and Peas. All are matched with recommended locally brewed ales such as the malty Celtic or Godfather Porter. Thursday 5pm-late; Friday-Sunday 12pm-late. [southernhighlandsbrewing.com.au/taphouse](http://southernhighlandsbrewing.com.au/taphouse)

## **Mount Ashby Estate, Moss Vale**

Mount Ashby Estate has a French feel, so not surprisingly Bastille Day on July 14 is a highlight of the year. That's when owners Chris and Sally Beresford will put on a five course dinner including French wines and their own Mount Ashby wine in their charming La Palette Cafe. Beef bourguignon will also be on their regular lunch menu during winter. Sit inside by the open fire or outside on the verandah to catch the winter sun. [mountashby.com.au](http://mountashby.com.au)



### **Bundanoon Guest House, Bundanoon**

Chef Eon Waugh at Bundanoon Guest House teams up with new recruit Palasis Cooney for special events during Bundy's annual Winterfest. Join them on July 10 for a 'Risotto Rules!' cooking demonstration and lunch for \$25, which includes a glass of wine. On July 27 feast on a traditional four course Christmas dinner for \$65pp. On August 17 'Colour Me Kerala' is a salute to Indian cuisine with delicious food, music and a touch of Bollywood for \$55pp. Bookings essential. [bundanoonguesthouse.com.au](http://bundanoonguesthouse.com.au)

### **Burrawang Village Hotel, Burrawang**

With its great beer garden, views and tasty bistro food, Burrawang Village Hotel is perfect for a long winter lunch. Enjoy pub grub classics, share plates and weekly specials or Sunday roast by the open fire. Celebrate the start of winter with fireworks on June 1. Lunch Monday-Friday 12-2:30pm; weekends 12-3pm. [burrawangvillagehotel.com.au](http://burrawangvillagehotel.com.au)

### **Bendooley Estate, Berrima**

Enjoy a wine by the roaring fire overlooking Bendooley's vineyard and the rolling green hills beyond. Pair the superior charcuterie board with a glass of their shiraz cabernet or delve into a range of warming dishes in the Book Barn. Enough to make a foodie bibliophile's heart glow. Coffee and cake from 10am; lunch weekdays from 12pm and weekends from 11.30am. [bendooleyestate.com.au](http://bendooleyestate.com.au)

### **Bistro Sociale, Bowral**

Pull up a winter pew in front of one of the two open fireplaces at Bistro Sociale at the Berida Hotel in David Street, Bowral. It's open for lunch and dinner Friday, Saturday and Sunday; Wednesday nights is woodfired pizza and craft beer night; Sundays is seafood paella and roast of the day. Book for a European Wine Dinner event on June 27. [beridahotel.com.au](http://beridahotel.com.au)

### **Fire Drum Restaurant, Mittagong**

Open for lunch and dinner Wednesday to Saturday, the menu features some old and new winter delights including, of course, Fire Drum's famed woodfired pizzas. There is also a Dine with a Pie option available in June. [firedrum.net.au](http://firedrum.net.au)

### **Burrawang General Store Cafe, Burrawang**

Open every day for lunch. Try their special Pie Time offerings in June and join a traditional Christmas lunch in July on July 27. [bgsc.com.au](http://bgsc.com.au)

### **Horderns at Milton Park Country House Hotel, Bowral**

German chef Thomas Ege's enthusiastic team at Milton Park produces excellent food made from local produce with a modern European twist. His new winter menu launches the first week of June and includes a truffle dish of the month featuring local truffles. Dress up for a special Christmas dinner on July 14 and 28. [miltonpark.com.au/horderns](http://miltonpark.com.au/horderns)

### **Royal Hotel, Bowral**

This is a must stop for a quintessential Highlands dining experience. Soak up the winter sun in the leafy courtyard with menu classics and a glass of Veuve Clicquot or cosy up by the open fire with a Sunday roast and local pinot noir. Celebrate Pie Time in June and Christmas in July with a roast lunch. Monday-Friday 12-2:30pm, Saturday-Sunday 12-3pm. [royalhotelbowral.com.au](http://royalhotelbowral.com.au)

### **The Glass Cafe, Mittagong**

The Glass Cafe, which has moved up the road to 84 Main Street, will be part of the Pie Trail in June with its Peruvian alpaca pie served with elote corn, patatas bravas and aioli, and a lamb's fry pie. Plus there is a Christmas in July banquet on July 26. Private bookings available for larger groups. [glasscafe.com.au](http://glasscafe.com.au)



### **Berrima General Store & Cafe, Berrima**

Look out for chef Diego Arata's Cotechino made with local free range pork, pumpkin and chestnuts or, if you are lucky, his cassoulet. Pretty special. Last Monday of the month at 6pm for \$60pp Diego puts on a dinner based on a different region in Italy. Book early. [@berrimageneralstoreandcafe](http://@berrimageneralstoreandcafe)

## **DON'T MISS!**

### **FUNGI FEAST @ The Loch, Berrima**

Chef and owner Brigid Kennedy's Foodie Field Day showcases local produce and introduces the growers. On June 30 the Fungi Feast, a seven course degustation lunch featuring local exotic mushrooms and Black Perigord truffles is \$145pp or \$195 with wines. Or celebrate a mid winter Christmas lunch on July 21 & July 28 at 11.30am, 12.30pm or 1.30pm for \$68pp. Bookings essential. [theloch.net.au](http://theloch.net.au)







## A SAPLING THRIVES

*Renee and Glenn Wallace took a leap of faith when they opened fine dining Birch Restaurant in Moss Vale back in December 2017. But 18 months down the track, the gamble seems to be paying off. They talk to ESH about potential, producers and being in the right place.*

**What's your restaurant history, Renee?** I have worked in the hospitality industry for over 20 years, on the floor, in the kitchen, as well as the creative side from marketing and graphic design, to small business consultancy. It feels like every time I move away from hospitality I get drawn back in, in some capacity. Plus, both Glenn and I have eaten out. A lot. **Opening a restaurant isn't the easiest thing to do...** We'd lived in the Highlands for 10 years and wanted the challenge of creating a brand and a business from scratch in an industry we love. Also, there's so much growth potential in Moss Vale. All the stars aligned for us to open Birch. **Was it a scary gamble?** Absolutely, so many people told us this was the wrong thing to do. Not the right place, the timing could be better, you name it! But at the end of the day, we are firm believers that you need to do what makes you excited. **What's the concept behind Birch?** We wanted to represent the seasons. We base our menu and even our wine list and cocktails on seasonal flavours and availability, so the name needed to somehow represent that. We sat around one night throwing ideas and names out there, enjoyed a few glasses of wine in the process,

and when we woke, Birch was the only name we remembered. So thinking that was a good omen, we went with it. And it ties in with the region. There are birch trees everywhere in the Highlands.

**Why Moss Vale?** Why not? Moss Vale is a fantastic little nook of the Highlands, with so many bespoke and boutique businesses. It has a fabulous vibe and we wanted to be part of it. **What are the pros and cons of opening a restaurant as husband and wife?** Our relationship has evolved over the years and Birch is just another chapter in our balancing act, really. There are certainly difficulties, especially with two young children, but ultimately we are working on building something we are both very proud of. **Tell us about chef Ben Bamford...** Ben's experience includes almost a decade as Executive Chef for hotels including Pullman Sea Temple Resort and Spa in Port Douglas and, most recently, Gibraltar Hotel Bowral. He puts the best of seasonal produce centre stage, and that results in a constantly evolving menu that reflects the best of the region and surrounds. His cooking is all about quality and personality. **What sort of dining experience do you offer?** Birch's execution is up to the standard of a capital city and we have a small but experienced team to thank for that. Our chefs can often be found on the floor delivering dishes to tables when the floor staff are under the pump and that's a reflection of how we all respect each other, the food and the guests' experience. **How's it going so far?** We've been really humbled by not only the support of diners, but also the producers. It's important to






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us to utilise local produce as much as we can. We support the producers as much as possible and they support us. **How do the events you put on play into that?** Our events, specialty dinners and Sunday sessions have all been a combination of collaborations, and about our desire to bring something fresh to the Highlands. **What's the long term vision?** We have been so focused on establishing Birch, we are only just now getting the opportunity to look at the bigger picture. We are looking at opening Birch up to small weddings and partaking in more external food and wine events like local markets. The wish list is extensive. [birchrestaurant.com.au](http://birchrestaurant.com.au)




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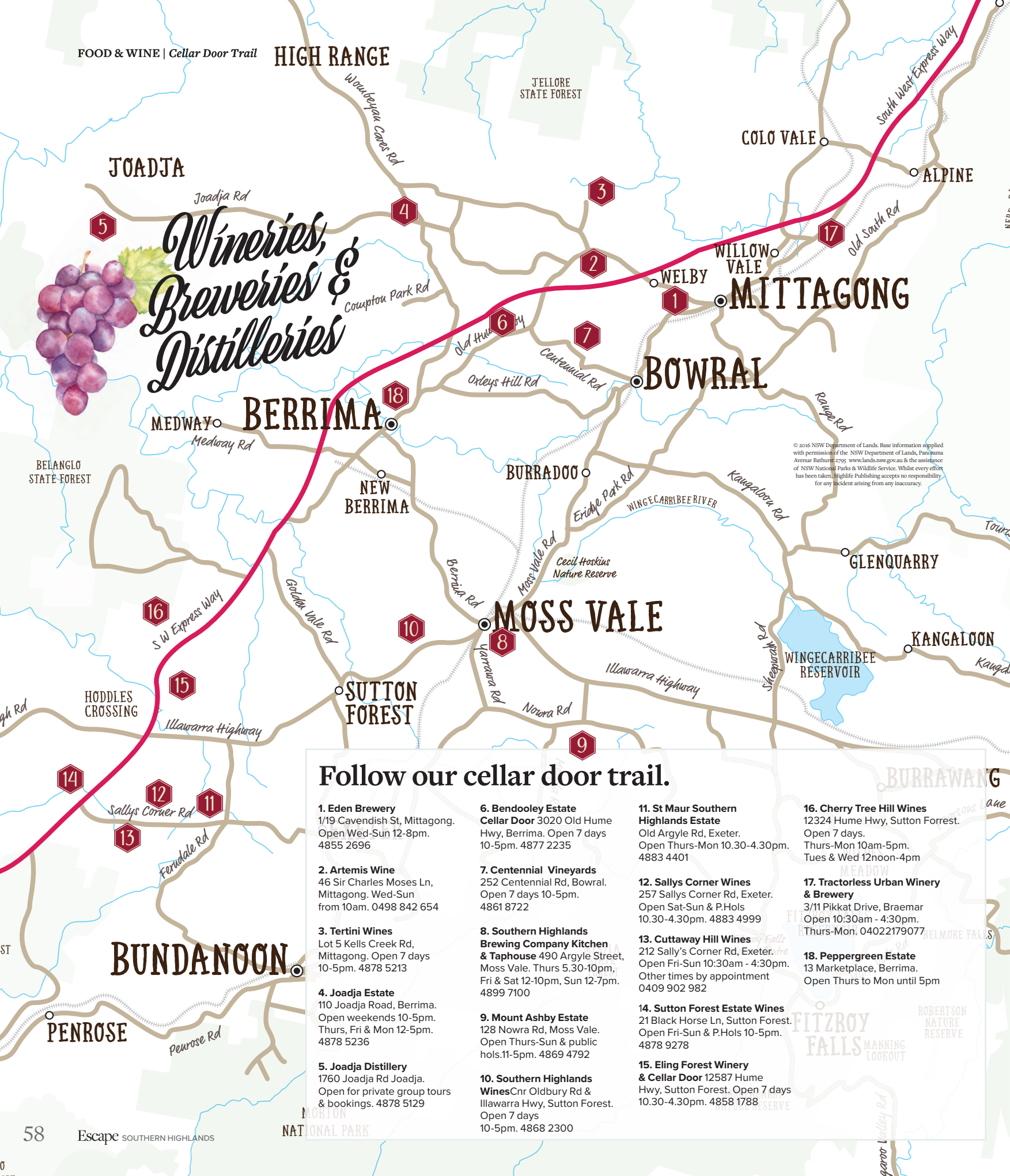
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# Wineries, Breweries & Distilleries

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## Follow our cellar door trail.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**8. Southern Highlands  
Brewing Company Kitchen  
& Tap House** 490 Argyle Street,  
Moss Vale. Thurs 5.30-10pm,  
Fri & Sat 12-10pm, Sun 12-7pm.  
4899 7100

**9. Mount Ashby Estate**  
128 Nowra Rd, Moss Vale.  
Open Thurs-Sun & public  
hols. 11-5pm. 4869 4792

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

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

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

**13. Cuttaway Hill Wines**  
212 Sallys Corner Rd, Exeter.  
Open Fri-Sun 10.30am - 4.30pm.  
Other times by appointment  
0409 902 982

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

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

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

**17. Tractorless Urban Winery  
& Brewery**  
3/11 Pikkat Drive, Braemar  
Open 10.30am - 4.30pm.  
Thurs-Mon. 04022179077

**18. Peppergreen Estate**  
13 Marketplace, Berrima.  
Open Thurs to Mon until 5pm



# DRINKS TABLE

WHAT DO YOU CALL A REGION WITH A MULTITUDE OF VINTNERS, WINEMAKERS, BREWERS AND DISTILLERIES DOING GREAT THINGS? BLOODY LUCKY. READ ABOUT WHAT THOSE IN OUR LOCAL INDUSTRY ARE UP TO.

## Golden accolades

Allen and Dawn Davies are hands on vintners and cultivate all their own grapes on their tiny boutique vineyard at Sallys Corner in Exeter. So all the more special that they won not one but two gold medals recently. Their 2016 Chardonnay won a gold at The Canberra & Region Wine Show on the same day they were notified their 2016 Merlot had also won a gold medal in the 2018 Australian Highlands Wine Show. Allen had been a Sydney solicitor for nearly 50 years when he and Dawn moved to Exeter and planted their first vines in 1998. They now work with Frank van de Loo, a finalist for the Best Australian Winemaker for 2018, who makes their award winning vinos at his Mount Majura Winery in Canberra. [sallyscornerwines.com.au](http://sallyscornerwines.com.au)

## Distilled magic

Elisa and Val Jimenez continue to create magic at their very special Joadja Distillery. The couple purchased the distillery at the fascinating site of Old Joadja Town in 2011 and laid down their first barrel in 2014. And they were rewarded threefold for their hard work and dedication at the Australian Distilled Spirit Awards in Melbourne recently with three bronze medals for their Single Malt Whisky, Single Barrel Whisky and their London Dry Gin. The only NSW distillery to be awarded a medal in the Whisky category,



Joadja's next single malt, expression number six, will be released within days. Joadja Anis Liqueur also won Elisa and Val a silver gong in this year's Tasting Australia Spirit Awards. A fabulous place to visit, take a guided historic tour with Val around the 19th century Scottish mining township and then do some taste testing at the barn style cellar door.

[joadjadistillery.com.au](http://joadjadistillery.com.au)

## Brewers and their celebrated beers

The founders of Southern Highlands Brewing Company and their fabulous Taphouse at Moss Vale continue to do great things. In what's believed to be a first, brewer Cameron James and fellow founder Ben Twomey have created a Highlands beer made from homegrown ingredients. Barley from Val and Elisa at Joadja Distillery, and Highlands malt and homegrown hops from their brewery at Sutton Forest. The resulting Highlander beer is a golden ale, says Ben, with a tropical fruit back end. Their beers are also garnering international fans with Naked Harvest, one of SHBC's blonde ales, winning a bronze medal at the recent London Beer Competition against brewers from 33 countries. Beers are rated for quality, value and packaging. Southern Highlands Brewing Company makes eight ales and lagers, which it showcases at the their Taphouse at 490-494 Argyle Street in Moss Vale. [southernhighlandsbrewing.com.au](http://southernhighlandsbrewing.com.au)

## Tasting tops

Tertini Wines and Artemis Wines near Mittagong, were recently signalled out in the Gourmet Traveller Wine Awards as Best Tasting Experience in the Southern Highlands and Best Small Cellar Door, respectively, so get them on your visiting list. While you're at Artemis, have a snifter of its new Pinot Noir Eau de Vie. Traditionally a fruit based brand, winemakers and brothers Anton and Mark Balog have infused their version with their applauded grapes, producing a ripe plum with notes of cherry and chocolate and a fresh mint finish. Yum! Serve in front of a roaring fire on ice cubes with some burnt orange peel or drink it neat, Highlands martini style.

[tertiniwines.com.au](http://tertiniwines.com.au);  
[artemiswines.com.au](http://artemiswines.com.au)



## Finding Eden

The innovative brewers and owners of Eden Brewery, Deb and Jacob Newman, continue at pace. Their two year anniversary beer, a special edition Dark Phoenix made of their signature bestselling Phoenix D Kottbusser (which recently won a gold medal at the Australian Beer Awards) has a big twist of added dark chocolate and honeycomb and is going well. And now they have released a New England IPA, GABS (Great Australian Beer Spectacular) brewed with smoked bacon and grilled pineapple to settle the ham and pineapple pizza debate (love it or hate it). They have also put German lager Argania Bock back on tap. Phew!

[edenbrewery.beer](http://edenbrewery.beer) 🍺





# VINES OF THE TIMES

THE TRADITION OF WINEMAKING ALONGSIDE FARMING IS STRONG IN THE LORENTZ FAMILY OF CHERRY TREE HILL AT SUTTON FOREST. AS IS THEIR DESIRE TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD WITH THEIR GRAPE VARIETIES AND WINERY FACILITIES.

Words **Jane O'connell**

Winemaking runs through the veins of the Lorentz family with a viticulture heritage that spans four generations and traces back to Kiskunhalas in regional Hungary. Gabriel Lorentz, the patriarch and owner of Cherry Tree Hill Wines, has childhood memories of his grandparents' poultry farm shipping turkeys to English customers at Christmas, and inspecting grapevines with his grandfather on a horse drawn cart.

Gabriel migrated to Australia in 1957 and bought the Cherry Tree Hill property in 1980, but for two decades their farming focus was Murray Grey cattle. In 2000 Gabriel and son David planted sauvignon blanc, riesling, chardonnay and merlot grapes, and Dave happily continues the family winemaking tradition today.

'There are so many childhood memories here,' says Dave. 'I wouldn't want to have a vineyard anywhere else.'

These are now 35 acres under vine, which is substantial

for the Southern Highlands, but only a fraction of the 1200 acres available on the Sutton Forest property. They still have about 180 head of cattle (Black Angus these days) plus several houses on the estate, including the main family homestead. When the vines were first planted, their cattle stud manager, Ian Evans retrained at Charles Sturt University to become a viticulturist and lives on site, as does cellar door manager Duncan MacDonald.

The vineyards have developed over the years to keep pace with wine drinking trends, and in 2014 pinot noir was introduced. Next to be grafted is the Austrian variety grüner veltliner, a personal favourite of Dave, who says he's focussed on producing wines that make him happy. The first full vintage is expected in 2021.

All winemaking and bottling for Cherry Tree Hill currently happens locally off site using their estate grown fruit. Their sparkling wine, Méthode Traditionnelle 'Gabriel', travels





further afield, with the pinot noir, chardonnay and pinot meunier grapes sent to Orange to be produced in the traditional style of the Champagne region in France.

Most visitors wander into Cherry Tree Hill's charming cellar door wanting a taste of the award winning riesling, the best in NSW according to the sign out the front, and backed up twice at the NSW Wine Awards. 2018 was another stand out year with their latest release riesling delicately balanced and already very drinkable. Their sweeter style 2018 Off Dry Riesling is off to a good start, winning bronze at the Canberra International Riesling challenge, and earning a Huon Hooke rating of 91/100.

In another nod to the importance of family, Cherry Tree Hill's 2016 Reserve Pinot Noir 'Hayden' is named after Gabriel's youngest grandson (Dave's son) and is a popular choice at the cellar door, particularly in the cooler months. It's one of the few varieties hand picked at Cherry Tree Hill,



along with small parcels of cabernet and chardonnay. All other grapes are machine harvested. The 2015 Reserve Chardonnay 'Diana' is the signature tippie of matriarch Diana, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Matured on 100% French oak, it's the perfect accompaniment to a locally sourced tasting board, available on weekends for \$35. If there's enough winter sun, enjoy a glass at the outdoor tables overlooking the chardonnay vines.

With so much space to play with, it's perhaps not surprising to hear plans are underway to build winemaking facilities on site, extend the cellar door and incorporate a restaurant. Until then, it's business as usual producing popular single estate wines that sell out as fast as they're bottled. Cherry Tree Hill may be a world away from regional Hungary, but the cool climate winemaking of the Southern Highlands is keeping Lorentz family wines well and truly on the map. 



#### DETAILS

##### **Cherry Tree Hill Winery**

12324 Hume Highway,  
Sutton Forest

Cellar door is open seven  
days, 10am-5pm.

[cherrytreehill.com.au](http://cherrytreehill.com.au)





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[sales@suttonforestwines.com.au](mailto:sales@suttonforestwines.com.au)



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Australians have an enduring love of the humble meat pie, as iconic today as it was in the 1970s when the famous ‘football, meat pies, kangaroos and Holden cars’ jingle first made its debut on our TVs. Southern Highlanders also hold the meat pie rather dear, as our region apparently has the highest ratio of bakers to meat pie buyers in Australia. So it makes sense that we even dedicate an entire month to the celebration of it. June sees the award winning Pie Time campaign happening in the Southern Highlands, which means a bursting menu of events to get your laughing gear around.

Now in its third year, and recently awarded a gold medal at the Australian Tourism Awards for best tourism marketing campaign, Pie Time is really reaching its strides with the team at Destination Southern Highlands excelling itself again. ‘Pie Time is 30 days and hundreds of ways to enjoy pies in the Southern Highlands,’ says Steve Rosa, Group Manager Tourism and Economic Development. Here are our favourite pie picks:

## PIE PICKS

### Pie Tours and Activities

Book yourself onto the Paddock to Plate Pie Tour with Robertson farming family the Maugers; take a ride in Vinh Tran’s Military Vehicle restored and reconditioned American army jeeps for a Pie & Wine Tour at the Centennial Vineyards; enjoy some star gazing with pinot, pies and roaring winter fires at Cuttaway Hill Wines; see our farming community at work in Moo to You – Cow Pies at Moss Vale Saleyards, which includes a tour of the yards, sales viewing and a meat pie and tea or coffee; join the Southern Pieland Express and ride the Cockatoo Run 3801 Pie theme train trip from Sydney to Moss Vale via Robertson. We also love the sound of Bonfire & Pie Night at Farm Club Australia, Weral, and The Wine Bluffs, a comedy stage production brought to the Highlands thanks to CMS Productions, and playing at Southern Highlands Winery on June 28 and 29. Described as ‘a unique

blend of 85% comedy and 15% wine’ this play has enjoyed sell out seasons at the Melbourne and Adelaide Fringe festivals.


### Dine with a Pie

Get taste testing and try more than 50 varieties of signature pies cooked up by our bakers, restaurants and cellars. We love the look of the Bradman Museum’s Red Cherries Pie; Southern Highlands Winery’s Rabbit & Ragu Pie and Mittagong RSL’s Chicken Coq au Vin Pie. Couple yours with a glass of local pinot or go the sweet pie option and savour it with a glass of local sparkling. We love the sound of Centennial Vineyard Cellar Door’s Apple, Ricotta and Mulberry Pie. Or go the whole hog and enjoy a Pie Tea. Gumnut Patisserie will be serving an ‘All Things Pies’ High Tea for Pie Time that includes three tiers of Gumnut goodies (a savoury selection; petits fours platter; and traditional scones, raspberry jam and cream).

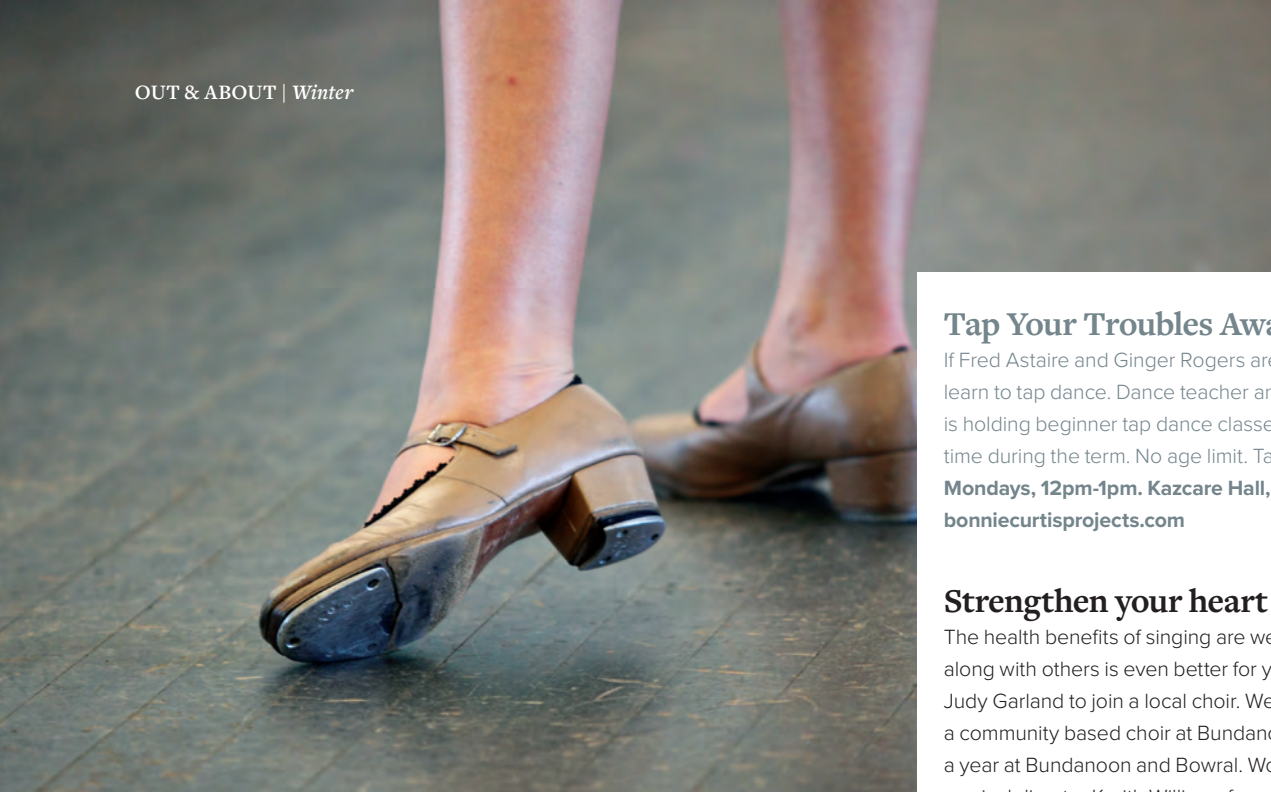
### Pie-Cations

Book into one of the Highlands’ accommodation options to enjoy Pie Time and receive pie vouchers or your own homemade pie at check in. We especially love Redleaf Carriages at the award winning Redleaf Farm, Fitzroy Falls.

#### Pie Drive

Meals on Wheels is Pie Time’s official charity partner. Run by the fabulous Debbie Smith out of the Moss Vale headquarters, Meals on Wheels helps hundreds of local older people and those with disabilities with its homemade nutritious meals, delivered with a smile and a friendly face. And once again their Pie Drive has enlisted the help of the Southern Highlands’ community to raise funds for this essential charity. Go to [pietime.com.au](http://pietime.com.au) for complete details of all mouthwatering pie proceedings. 





### Tap Your Troubles Away

If Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers are your speed, it could be time to learn to tap dance. Dance teacher and choreographer Bonnie Curtis is holding beginner tap dance classes for adults over winter. Join any time during the term. No age limit. Tap shoes required. What fun.

**Mondays, 12pm-1pm. Kazcare Hall, 15-17 Kirkham Road, Bowral.**  
[bonniecurtisprojects.com](http://bonniecurtisprojects.com)

### Strengthen your heart and soul with song

The health benefits of singing are well documented, and singing along with others is even better for you. But you don't have to be Judy Garland to join a local choir. We like the sound of Serendipity, a community based choir at Bundanoon that performs two concerts a year at Bundanoon and Bowral. Would be singers should contact musical director Kerith Williams for a relaxed audition. Or there's Ecopella, a 20 year old group formed in Sydney as 'the world's first choir to focus exclusively on green topics'. With music composed by songwriters within the choir, Ecopella performs around Australia and in the Highlands regularly, and rehearses fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons in Bundanoon. Happy days. [serendipitythechoir.com](http://serendipitythechoir.com);

[ecopella.org](http://ecopella.org)

### Up a Creek

Take a guided canoe trip along the glorious Kangaroo River and experience its mysterious sunken valley and dam walls made by convict labour. Moss Vale expert Travis Frenay of Paddles & Potage Canoes can sort a memorable trip for you and friends or family to paddle right up the river and camp overnight on secluded river banks. Not another soul in sight. Breathe. Sounds like total outdoor bliss. **Call Travis on 0447 488 521; [paddleportagecanoes.com.au](http://paddleportagecanoes.com.au)**

### Now for something completely different...

The Exeter Rapier Club is run by the Society of Creative Anachronism (the SCA) in the Canton of Okewaite (aka the Southern Highlands). The SCA is an international medieval re-enactment organisation, and thanks to the popularity of Game of Thrones, these guys are having a moment in the sun of late, with swords, knights and dragons being quite hot. They train and fight using authentic swords from medieval days (well, minus the sharpened tips and flesh slicing sides). Teaching what's a bit like fencing but done in costume, the Exeter Rapier School is committed to continuing the training of swordsmanship and meets the third Sunday of the month from 2pm-5pm in the Exeter Village Hall so if you want to learn to fight, get yourself along. Open to everyone 14 or over. There is also a regular series of other events with the Okewaitees so get in touch and try something completely new. [okewaite.lochac.sca.org](http://okewaite.lochac.sca.org)

## PURSUE A PASSION

NO NEED TO HIBERNATE. GET OUT AND DO SOMETHING YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO, BECAUSE WINTER MIGHT FEEL LONG BUT LIFE IS SHORT.










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**Contact:** 4465 0200; kangaroovalleygolf.com.au

## MOSS VALE GOLF CLUB

**18 holes – par 71**

**Arthur Street, Moss Vale**

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

**Professional:** Steve McRae

**Cost to play:** \$45 for 18 holes. \$25 for 9 holes. Clubs and carts

available for hire.

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

**Dress:** Neat golf attire.

**Hardest hole:** 18th – 378m, par 4.

Dog leg hole turning left around a large gum tree with a natural waterway in front of the green.

**Toughest green:** 14th. Very undulating with a bunker to the left.

**Additional facilities:** Clubhouse bistro serves lunch Tuesday-Sunday and Shatz dinner Friday and Saturday or all week next door at Dormie House. Available for weddings and functions.

**Contact:** golf reservations 4868 1503 or 4868 1811 mossvalegolfclub.com.au

## BOWRAL GOLF CLUB

**18 holes – par 69**

**Kangaloon Road, Bowral**

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

**Professional:** Kevin Kenny

**Cost to play:** Visitor 18 holes \$45. Visitor \$50, twilight

\$28.50. Clubs and carts available to hire.

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

**Lessons on demand.**

**Dress:** Neat golf attire.

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

**Toughest green:** 16th.

Two bunkers and a right to left slope.

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

**Contact:** 4861 1042; bowralgolfclub.com.au

## MT BROUGHTON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

**18 holes – par 72**

**Kater Road, Sutton Forest**

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

**Professional:** Larry Canning

**Cost to play:** Weekday \$50, weekend \$70. Clubs and carts available for hire. **Lessons:** \$50 per hour. Groups and clinics catered for.

**Dress:** Neat golf attire.

Strictly no denim.

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

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

**Additional facilities:** Full driving range, chipping and putting practice areas. Full club and bar facilities. Functions catered for by Southern Highlands Winery. Accommodation available at Peppers Manor House, and a la carte food at Katers restaurant. See website for membership specials.

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

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## PEPPERS CRAIGIEBURN

**9 holes – par 32**

**Centennial Road, Bowral**

Open to the public seven days.

**Cost to play:** \$15 for 9 holes.  
\$15 for club hire.

**Lessons:** On request.

**Dress:** Neat golf attire.

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

**Toughest green:** 4th.

**Needs a good approach.**

**Additional facilities:** Full club and bar facilities. Weddings, functions and conferences catered for. Luxury accommodation available at Peppers Craigieburn.

**Contact:** 4862 8000;

peppers.com.au/craigieburn

## GIBRALTAR COUNTRY CLUB

**18 holes – par 70**

**Boronia Street, Bowral**

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

**Bookings essential.**

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

**Lessons:** Groups and beginner clinics catered for.

**Dress:** Neat golf attire.

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

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

**Additional facilities:** Putting green, practice area, full club and bar facilities including children's menu at San Fior restaurant. Driving range and aqua range facilities available. Functions catered for. Available for weddings.

**Contact:** 4862 8645;

gibraltarbowl.com.au

## 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.

**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

## HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB

**18 holes – par 70**

**Old Hume Highway, Mittagong**

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

**Professionals:** Tegan and James Purcell

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

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, driving range, putting green, pro shops club and bar facilities. Wedding and functions catered for.

**Contact:** 4871 3274;

highlandsgolfclub.com.au

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Briars, Bowral	32	40	30	80	120	80	150	180
Bundanoon Country Inn Motel	21	24	36	60	60	60	60	60
Bundanoon Guest House	16	34	30	25	60	20	40	60
Dormie House, Moss Vale	32	40	30	60	120	45	90	140
Gibraltar Hotel Bowral	76	75	75	180	300	200	280	400
Killarney House, Bundanoon	15	16	25	30	60	25	40	70
Links House, Bowral	17	X	25	30	40	35	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





Photo: Meg Nurse

## Retford Park

Be enchanted by the magnificent gardens surrounding the grand Victorian Italianate homestead formerly owned by James Fairfax AC. Discover the exquisite swimming pool and pavilion nestled amongst a patchwork of hedge 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 first of the month falls on a Sunday it is that weekend that the gardens are open.*

 **NATIONAL TRUST**  
(02) 4861 1933 | e: [retfordpark@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:retfordpark@nationaltrust.com.au)  
[www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/retford-park/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/retford-park/)

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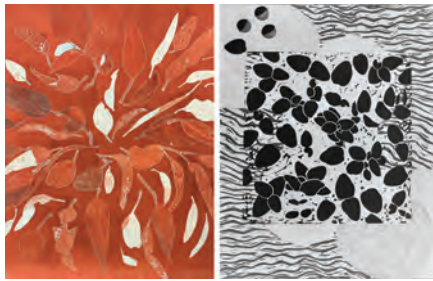
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[www.harpersmansion.com.au](http://www.harpersmansion.com.au)







**RSVP in Print:** Exchange Exhibition by Southern Highlands Printmakers (NSW) and Firestation Print Studio (Victoria) 12-25 June 2019, 46 printmakers showcasing contemporary works. RSVP in Print invites artists to create two unique prints; one reflecting their own practice, and a second print, responding directly to another artist's work. RSVP in Print depicts the importance of innovation and dialogue between artists and broader communities.

**Bowral District Art Gallery**

1 Short Street, Bowral

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*"The ceremony was just wonderful and absolutely everything we had dreamed of."*



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# Smiling hearts & happy tears

**VIVIAN THAM AND RAM CASTILLO MARRIED AT BENDOOLEY ESTATE IN AUGUST, A SPECIAL MONTH BECAUSE IT WAS WHEN THE COUPLE BEGAN DATING AND ALSO BECAME ENGAGED.** SEVEN YEARS IN THE MAKING, THEIR ENCHANTING WINTER WEDDING WAS EVERYTHING THEY HAD DREAMT OF, AND MORE. ATDUSK PHOTOGRAPHER CHRIS PRESTIDGE CAPTURED THEIR MAGIC.

**M**arie Ramos has played an intrinsic role in the love story of Vivian and Ram. A beloved mutual friend and a photographer in Sydney, it was Marie who offered Ram a spare ticket on the fateful night she and Vivian were going to watch Irish indie rock band Passenger at Oxford Art Factory in Sydney.

'I was working part time for Marie who was, and is, like a big sister to me, and is also a long time friend of Ram's,' says Vivian, a yoga teacher who also works in corporate organisational development. 'A couple of months later, Ram and I met again at a weekend barbecue celebrating the expansion of Marie's photography studio and he worked his charm and managed to get my number. Although in hindsight he admits it was quite a challenge.'

Cupid enjoys a good challenge, and soon Ram was having thoughts about Vivian he couldn't shake.

'I was attracted by Vivian's charming soul that carried moral fibre, common values and spirituality beyond her years,' says Ram, a multidisciplinary design director who hosts top ranking podcast Giant Thinkers, and is an international speaker and author. 'They are attributes I admire and aspire to have more of.'

'Vivian had a light, depth and gentleness about her that I found incredibly unique, and there were many layers to her character that kept revealing themselves. That continues to this day.'

For Vivian, Ram's self belief was irresistible: 'I loved his confidence, his passion and the fact he is unapologetically himself. Oh, and his unfailing ability to make me laugh. Then, as we fell in love and spent more time with each other, his devotion to his family showed me another facet of his personality. Over the years his support has allowed me to dream bigger than I ever thought possible, and to make those dreams a reality.' ►







## DETAILS

### VENUE

Bendooley Estate, Berrima  
[bendooleyestate.com.au](http://bendooleyestate.com.au)

### BRIDE'S DRESS

Maggie Sottero  
[maggiesottero.com](http://maggiesottero.com)

### BRIDESMAID DRESS

LaLa Mira  
[lalamira.com](http://lalamira.com)

### FLOWERGIRLS' DRESSES

Arabella and Rose  
[arabellaandrose.com.au](http://arabellaandrose.com.au)

### WEDDING CAKE

Panda.Co  
[pandaco.com.au](http://pandaco.com.au)

### CELEBRANT

Fr Paul Roberts

### VIDEOGRAPHER

White Tree  
[thewhitetree.com.au](http://thewhitetree.com.au)

### MAKEUP ARTIST

Margaret Albia  
[margaretalbia.com](http://margaretalbia.com)

### HAIR

Kay Del Rosario  
[@kaaydelrosario](https://www.instagram.com/kaaydelrosario)

### SHOES

ASOS Bridal  
[asos.com](http://asos.com)

### MUSIC

Lexi Clark and Tim Conlon

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Chris Prestidge  
[atdusk.com.au](http://atdusk.com.au)

### WATCH RAM'S PROPOSAL TO VIVIAN AT

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=xENWJtSYo1w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xENWJtSYo1w)





Ram certainly made one dream come true when he proposed to Vivian. He planned the entire proposal in collaboration with Marie who'd been there from day one, and later posted his surprise proposal on YouTube.

'Ram had set up the proposal at Marie's studio in hidden camera style,' explains Vivian. 'There were endless rose petals, a beautiful acoustic duo playing some of our favourite songs, and polaroid photos captured over the six years we'd been together strung up on fairy lights. I was speechless and I cried. A lot!'

Now promised to each other, the couple started looking for the perfect venue for their wedding, which they had always envisaged surrounded by greenery.

'The Southern Highlands was a perfect choice,' says Ram. 'Just far enough from Sydney for our guests to enjoy a relaxing and serene weekend getaway, but still accessible enough.'

'The first time we visited Bendooley, by the time we were in the driveway Vivian was crying, "This is it! This is the one!"

'I was crying too. I recall asking how much this was going to cost us!'

Jokes aside, Ram says they felt Bendooley struck the perfect balance of modern and country chic. 'We didn't want too many DIY components. We wanted to know we were in the safe hands of experts.'

'And after visiting the Book Barn, where we ended up having our reception, and their new cottages, we couldn't imagine celebrating or staying anywhere else.'

On August 31, 130 of the couple's nearest and dearest, including family members from Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines, came together in a marriage mass at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Berrima.

'As we are both Catholic, the planning of the ceremony with our priest, Father Paul, and selecting the readings and hymns was very special,' says Vivian. 'We chose readings that held special meaning for us and our relationship, and songs that embodied the essence of our special day.'

Ram's parents are from the Philippines so the couple also chose to include the Filipino tradition of being covered with a veil and cord by their chosen sponsors, to symbolise coming together under one roof.

Wearing a beautiful bridal gown that was actually the first dress she tried on, Vivian says one of her most precious memories is walking down the aisle: 'I'd thought about it so many times in my mind, but as my dad walked me down, I was overcome with all the love and warmth in the church, and seeing Ram at the end of the aisle.'

Another priceless moment was the surprise Vivian had planned for Ram.

'Since the proposal was such a big surprise, in the months leading up to the wedding I selected a song from one of Ram's favourite bands as a teenager, New Found Glory. Hold My Hand is a punk rock song with beautiful lyrics. With a few secret practice sessions and help from my dear friend Louise who accompanied me on the night on the electric

guitar, we slowed it down and I sang it and played keyboard. I didn't really expect tears but Ram was blown away.'

And in a shared surprise, a few weeks before their big day the couple booked lessons with a dance teacher.

'We thought it would be a nice surprise for the guests so we mashed up a few songs and the teacher choreographed something easy enough for us to learn in a fortnight,' says Ram.

The songs ranged from At Last by Etta James, which was the song that was played when we got engaged, to Everybody by the Backstreet Boys and Crazy in Love by Beyoncé. Ram's wonderfully talented cousins also sang a set during dinner.

The couple honeymooned in Japan at Osaka where they stayed at the stunning Conrad hotel, and discovered the Dotonbori markets and Kyoto before heading to Hawaii. Now about to celebrate their first year anniversary, Vivian says their wedding was everything she wanted.

'The ceremony was the most special part of the day and I cried so many happy tears. Our priest encouraged us to write a few of our own words to share with each other and Ram's short thanksgiving summed up so much of our seven years together, as well as his vision for our future. I will never forget how it made my heart smile.'

Ram agrees it was the most special of days: 'There are two things I will never forget. The first was everyone we love in one room. The second was our own vows that we wrote to each other. I had imagined the day for a very long time, seven years in the making, and it was everything I hoped and dreamt of. Even things like the church being a little cold, and the slight sprinkling of rain in some of our photos, all made it part of our unique wedding day. I wouldn't have done anything differently.' ■









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# Oldies but goodies

*For lovers of old wares, the trail of discovery through the Southern Highlands is well worth taking. Linger a little along the way because whether you're a cashed up collector or on the hunt for a vintage bargain, every village and town has something of antique interest.*

WORDS JANE O'CONNELL IMAGES ELISE HASSEY





## Lydie du Bray Antiques

A visit to Lydie du Bray Antiques, in a turn of the century property at Braemar, is a fine way to kickstart an antiques road trip around the Highlands. 'Kamilaroi' is both a beautifully restored home and a decadent showcase of European antiques, inside and out. Stunning wares fill every room and spill into the hallways and beyond, including 18th century armoires, enormous gothic mirrors and dozens of crystal chandeliers, as well as beautifully aged fountains, stone statues, garden gates and gazebos.

Paris born owner Lydie du Bray has lived in Australia since 1964 but travels regularly for buying trips, personally selecting every piece sourced through a network of suppliers she's built over 40 years in the trade. Lydie specialises in French, Swedish, Dutch and Belgian wares, and by winter will have three new shipments ready to unload.

For a sense of the entire collection, wander through the gardens, the old cottage and the barn, a rustic space furnished with formal bedroom suites and elegant chandeliers which would give Versailles Palace a run for its money.

Lydie du Bray Antiques, 117 Old Hume Highway at Braemar is open seven days, 10am to 5pm. [lydiedubrayantiques.com.au](http://lydiedubrayantiques.com.au)



## Mittagong Antiques Centre

Less than 10 minutes drive from Lydie's place, Mittagong Antiques Centre with multiple vendors under the one roof is a completely different offering. Aided by its high profile location, where the road forks left for Bowral or right for Berrima, the store is a popular stop for those who like the treasure trove style of individual stalls side by side.

Darren and Lori Lewis have run the business for the past four years of its 22 year existence, and act as caretakers for the wares of 45 dealers who showcase here. You could (and many do) browse for hours through the cabinets of collectibles, estate jewellery and bric a brac, with everything from vintage posters to sixties fashion on offer. If you happen to visit close to the hour, head over to the charming assortment of longcase clocks in Shop 31 for a cacophony of chimes as each clock tolls to its own slightly different schedule. Lori's favourite piece of the thousands on offer is a rare Georgian mourning ring with a price tag of \$16,000.

Mittagong Antiques Centre at 85-87 Main Street in Mittagong is open seven days, 10am to 5pm. [mittagongantiquescentre.com.au](http://mittagongantiquescentre.com.au)

## Sticky Beaks Emporium

Next stop is Sticky Beaks at Berrima, another emporium style offering with 15 stallholders and a distinctly Australian charm. Business owner Renai Melvin started here just over a year ago when her personal collection outgrew the family home. With a background in sales and customer service, Renai helps stallholders such as longtime local Megan Bird with display and pricing, and is on hand to welcome visitors and encourage them to explore and reminisce.

Memorabilia abounds in the seven room store and Renai often sees grandparents explaining teledexes or rotary telephones to younger generations. Her favourite piece is a 1930s homemade butter churner that harks back to the good old days when kitchen appliances were powered by elbow grease. Popular wares include the once ubiquitous Anchor Hocking peach lustre coffee mugs and a mint condition set of anodised picnic cups, sure to stir up old memories. The most asked after item is a striking retro kitchen cabinet with a red Formica bench top that Renai says is display only and has so far has resisted all offers to sell.

Sticky Beaks Emporium at 18 Jellero Street, Berrima is open Thursday to Sunday, 10.30am to 5pm. [@sticky\\_beaks\\_vintage\\_emporium](https://www.instagram.com/sticky_beaks_vintage_emporium) ►



## The Everything Store

At Sutton Forest, the Everything Store is an apt name for the 1830s building that has operated as a general store of some description all its life. Current business owner Michelle Hall started working part time in the store back in 2004 and when the opportunity to take over the lease came up eight years ago, she grabbed it. Located at the T intersection of Exeter Road, the small shop is so chock a block with collectibles it takes two people two weeks to do a stocktake. Michelle says she is a sucker for anything rusty and a bit beaten up, and loves styling the front of the store based on seasons. In the colder months garden furniture is swapped out for wingback chairs and fireplace tools. The store is popular with local B&B owners who scour the shelves for vintage wares with a Highlands' provenance to decorate their properties. *The Everything Store, 7404 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest is open Thursday to Monday, 10.30am to 5pm.*



## Mount Ashby Estate

If you're an antiques fan who prefers signature pieces, don't miss Mount Ashby Estate, an enticing combination of boutique vineyard, cellar door, restaurant and antiques showroom. Owner Sally Beresford's speciality is French farmhouse style tables, made locally from centuries old trees sourced sustainably in France. The oak, pear, cherry and sycamore trees are milled before the timber is shipped to Australia where local craftsmen use old school woodworking tools to plane and finish by hand.

Sally started the business 18 years ago when she couldn't find a dining table big enough to seat her large family and continues to keep a close eye on quality control. Her collection is put to good use in the winery restaurant and just about any dimension can be made to order. A selection of tables on display in the nearby showroom (itself an historic building relocated from Bowral) includes her favourite piece, a spectacular Basque dining table that seats 12.

*Mount Ashby Estate, 128 Nowra Road, Moss Vale is open Thursday to Sunday, 11am to 5pm.*  
[mountashby.com.au](http://mountashby.com.au)





## *Dirty Janes*

From Mount Ashby Estate, head to the heart of Bowral to visit one of the area's most famous emporiums that draws visitors from all over. Dirty Janes Antique Market has more than 75 dealers and stallholders in a huge warehouse with the largest offering of old wares and the added bonus of a tea salon. After a day of foraging for collectibles, it's the perfect spot for a well earned rest and a cuppa at Your Vintage Occasion Tea Salon, served in gorgeous fine bone china, of course. *Dirty Janes, 13-15 Banyette Street, Bowral is open seven days, 10am to 5pm.*  
[dirtyjanes.com](http://dirtyjanes.com)

## DEFINITELY ALSO WORTH A SQUIZZ

The wonderful **Green House** in the heritage listed Station Master's Cottage near Moss Vale Railway station opened by Maureen & Chris Gardner of Harry's Café and The Orangery in Bowral, is due to reopen in Spring after extensive renovations and some exciting new additions. Watch this space. 247 Argyle Street, Moss Vale

**The Village Pump Antiques** across from the Exeter General Store has old workbenches crammed with tools and spare parts, and a vintage lawnmower, ideal for those who like to tinker. **2 Bundanoon Road, Exeter**

## IN MEMORIAL

Lance Hill of Lancelot Hill Antiques, Bowral was a true gentleman of the antiques game and his passing last year was keenly felt by many. Lance's famous emporium in Bong Bong Street, **Bowral Lancelot Hill Antiques** with its huge barn ivy covered doors, and red picture pane windows is widely photographed and shared on social media. Following Lance's death in April 2018, his children have taken over the running of the business. **Lancelot Hill Antiques, 379 Bong Bong Street, Bowral** 📍



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P: 4861 6311



# LIFE STORIES



OLD GRAVEYARDS OFTEN COMMAND WONDERFUL VIEWS IN PICTURESQUE SETTINGS, AND PROVIDE A FASCINATING SNAPSHOT OF A PLACE'S PAST INHABITANTS. ESH SOAKED UP THE HISTORY, ATMOSPHERE AND LIFE STORIES REMEMBERED AT SEVERAL LOCAL GRAVESITES..

**As a rule, local composer and national radio host Andrew Ford always takes visiting friends to the Robertson graveyard because 'it has a beautiful view and a very special atmosphere'. And he's not alone. Many locals and visitors to the Highlands spend time wandering about our many beautiful historic church graveyards and cemeteries. Trish Bow of Destination Southern Highlands says their Welcome Centre at Mittagong receives a steady stream of visitors on a mission to research their family history in search of maps.**

**That's not surprising, given this area was one of the earliest settled in NSW, starting with Bong Bong near Moss Vale and then Berrima, where inns were built in the 1830s to provide accommodation for people travelling by horse and coach.**

**There are more than 30 graveyards dotted around the Highlands, some private but most open to the public. Here are just some of our historic gravesites, and some of the fascinating people resting there, if you fancy a quiet winter stroll reflecting on the area's past.**

## CHRIST CHURCH, BONG BONG, MOSS VALE

Built near the site of Bong Bong, the original settlement in the Southern Highlands, Christ Church is the oldest in the Highlands, and has one of the most beautiful interiors. It was built in 1845 to plans by renowned architect John Verge on land given by Charles Throsby. Charles had inherited nearby Throsby Park from his uncle, explorer Dr Charles Throsby. Now heritage listed, with beautiful ecclesiastical glass windows, Christ Church is also the final resting place of Charles, his wife Betsey (one of only three survivors of the Boyd cannibal massacre of 1809 in New Zealand) and many of their 17 children and descendants.

Other famous people laid to rest here include explorer Joseph Wild, who arrived as a convict but befriended ship's surgeon Dr Throsby on the way. The pair later became the first to explore the ACT region, with Wild credited with discovering Lake George. Other famous figures buried here include Australia's first outstanding horse trainer, Etienne de Mestre, who trained twice winning Melbourne Cup horse Archer in 1861 and 1862. There is a Throsby family crypt under the church, reportedly never used, and in 1945, 17 cypresses were planted to commemorate the church's centenary. One for every Throsby child. Also buried here is Emmanuel 'Bernie' Benardos, grandfather of Ioannis Benardos, ►



owner and operator of the ever popular Bernie's Diner in Argyle Street, Moss Vale. Bernie was born in 1895 on the Greek island of Kythera and immigrated to Australia in 1913. He moved to Moss Vale in 1925, married his wife Mirsini and opened his first milk bar in the 1920s, moving to the site of the current Bernie's in 1927. Bernie and Mirsini had four children, and were much loved Highlanders. When he died in September 1954 aged only 59, more than 500 people attended his funeral in Moss Vale. Mirsini died in 1991 and is buried next to Bernie.

#### ROBERTSON CEMETERY

During the Great War of 1914-1918, more than 200 local boys tragically lost their lives fighting on the Western Front. One was Bertie Vandenberg, who came from a large Robertson farming family and joined the First Australian Imperial Force. He was killed at Pozieres in France at just 26 on July 24, 1916. His body was never found but his parents, Henry and Mary Ann, erected a memorial to their beloved boy in Robertson Cemetery, a beautiful site that overlooks the hills of Bertie's home. Henry and Mary Ann were both later laid to rest there, alongside many other Vandenberg family members.

#### BERRIMA GENERAL CEMETERY

This burial ground was the final resting place for many of the German internees and prisoners of war housed at Berrima Gaol during WWI. Also among the tombstones is the grave of naturalist Dr Charles James Meller, a veteran

of the famous Dr David Livingstone's expeditions on the Zambesi from 1860-1863. Meller, who worked in Mauritius when he left Livingstone, was later instrumental in the development of Australia's sugar cane industry, and in 1868 came to Australia to collect and send cane varieties back to Mauritius, whose crop was seriously affected by disease. In 1868 Meller moved to Berrima but, afflicted with recurrent fevers since his African exploits, fell gravely ill and died aged 33. The inscription on his grave gives no hint of an extraordinary career or the fact he was reportedly an atheist.

#### ST PATRICKS, SUTTON FOREST

This pretty church and its graveyard sit on three acres given by local John Cosgrove to the Catholic Church. A school opened and operated on the site between 1852-1869 before the present day stone church was built for £654 and opened in 1879. A stand alone loo has lovely views out over adjoining paddocks (were you to leave the door open to look while sitting). Within the graveyard lies one John Ellsmore. Born 1804, John was convicted for poaching on the Earl of Lichfield's estate in Staffordshire, England and was sentenced to transportation to NSW. He arrived in 1833, and after he had served his seven year term, came by land at Sutton Forest, which he called Spring Grove. He died in 1865 aged 61 and left behind a wife and 11 children. Many of John's descendants continue to call the Highlands home. ►







### ALL SAINTS, SUTTON FOREST

It's quite something to be able to visit the gravesites of your great grandfather and grandmother, even more so when they were founding settlers of the Highlands, and John Morrice even bears his famous relation's moniker.


The first John Morrice was born in Jamaica in 1811, where his parents had sugar cane plantations, but after his father died, John returned to England with his mother and 12 siblings to be educated. In 1834, aged 23 John Morrice left Britain to seek a new life in Australia. During his passage the ship he was travelling on was becalmed, explains John Morrice Jnr, 83, who lives in Bowral.

'My great grandfather was travelling with a man called Reverend Dr. John Dunmore Lang, who started the Prystebarian church in Australia. He had been sent by the NSW government to entice free settlers to the new colony who were either skilled in education or the clergy. My great grandfather must have fit the bill. But off Brazil, the sailing ship, James, Dunmore had chartered to bring the free settlers to Australia was becalmed, and all the supplies on the ship were eaten. When the wind finally returned and the ship went into port, this Dunmore Lang didn't have any money to buy supplies but knew my great grandfather had been given his inheritance to come to Australia.'

Morrice lent Dunmore funds to restock the ship and was later repaid with deeds to a 1000 acre land grant at Sutton Forest. In 1835, Morrice built his home on this land he called Eling Forest. Soon after his brother William arrived in the the new colony and Morrice shared his holding with his brother which he called Comfort Hill.

In 1838 John Morrice married Jane Osborne, and the couple had 12 children. Morrice later had substantial cattle properties in central west NSW, and become very wealthy during the gold rush as a gold buyer, and selling tools and supplies to prospectors. In 1860 he was elected to the NSW legislative council and later donated the land Moss Vale Public School now sits on.

John Morrice died in Marulan in 1875 aged 64, after fighting a bushfire. The headstone on his grave, where he lies alongside wife Jane was recently modernised by his great grandson John Morrice.

Also among the graves at All Saints lies John and Eliza Nicholson. John was First Harbour Master Of Port Jackson who with Captain John Bingle designed the National Colonial Flag for Australia which featured the Southern Cross and Union Jack in tandem. Nicholson later retired to Newbury, Sutton Forest and donated the land All Saints now sits on. 



HANDY  
TIP

### LOCAL HISTORY BUFFS

Before you set out on your family fact finding mission, be sure to get in touch with the dedicated researchers and archivists at Berrima District Historical and Family History Society, which has an extensive archive and research collection, including more than 10,000 photographs. The team, which includes historian and author Linda Emery, can carry out family and house history research for a nominal fee, and is a font of local historical knowledge.

[berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au](http://berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au);

[bdhasarchives@gmail.com](mailto:bdhasarchives@gmail.com)



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Harriet Goodall is a sculptural weaver whose material hunting ground is the eyrie property she lives on near Robertson. Trained and inspired by the late Virginia Kaiser, one of Australia's pre-eminent basket makers, Harriet transforms objects she finds from the land into her creative bread and butter. She also teaches indigenous women at home and around the globe how to empower themselves through making. Harriet is currently busy working on a backlog of custom lighting commissions, the latest of which is California bound, and preparing for her anticipated solo exhibition, *Circling Back* at Sturt Gallery

 @harrietgoodallartist

**My life in five words is...** practice, passion, process, farm and family.  
**We moved to the Southern Highlands...** in 2005. We had been travelling for a year, we were completely out of money and my parents had built a house on a few acres at Wildes Meadow. So we stayed there until a cottage on a Robertson farm became available, and we've been growing animals, vegetables and kids there for 13 years now. We have yet to come across a better place to live. **We love the Highlands because...** it is perfectly placed between coast, country and city. It has a great mix of people, permanent and transient. **My favourite things to do here...** are bushwalking and swimming in waterfalls with my loved ones. **Followers on my Instagram page see...** images of my creative life, the commissions I make and retreats in exotic locations. **When it comes to creating, these are the truths I know...** It is a discipline. If you don't keep your bum in the seat, no work gets done. Also, comparing yourself to others is a waste of time; artistry can only be emulated, never recreated, because it is born within. **Growing up in the bush on a sheep property...** gave me early up close experiences with life and death, and a perspective on what really matters. **I started weaving...** in 2007 because weaving gave me an excuse to collect natural ephemera. My light bulb moment

INSTAGRAM STAR | Harriet Goodall



came when I had a visitor in my studio and we turned one of my random woven baskets upside down. She ordered three on the spot. **My inspiration comes from...** the Australian landscape and the materials I find that reflect its essence to me. **In a sentence my work speaks of...** ancient craft practices, contemporary environmental awareness and a love of the land. **When people see my work...** I hope the contrast between tones and textures, soft and hard, transparent and solid, shape and line stir an emotion or create a heart swell. **My tip to those who want to start making is...** be prepared to sacrifice monetary wealth for other riches. **The most precious piece of advice I ever received was...** to follow my heart, from my brave father. That was in reference to whether to start a relationship with the boy who is now my husband. **The qualities I think have helped me become a success are...** courage, tenacity, empathy, vulnerability and passion. **Keeping your work unique is a challenge as an artist because...** social media has come into play and the whole world is in bed together. It can get quite cosy! Also you don't get a regular pay packet and your hands get wrecked. But hours are flexible, and at the end there is something tangible to see for your efforts **My favourite pieces in my home are...** our paintings. All were made by artistic relatives and friends or gifted by loved ones **My most precious loves are...** my family and other animals. **I always take visitors to the Highlands to...** a lookout on Lees Road. The escarpment drop gives you a bird's eye view over the rainforest and coast. **My favourite place in the Highlands is...** my parents' garden and cottage at Wildes Meadow. (See *Escape's* review on page 31.) **The lessons I hope my children learn from me...** include the importance of forgiveness, a readiness to fail and laugh at yourself, a willingness to donate time to help others, having ethics that are not swayed by popular ideals and unconditional love. **I have spent much time learning...** the weaving and making ways of several countries' indigenous peoples, because if we don't do as much as we can to help preserve traditional cultures it will all be irretrievably lost. And professionally, creating a body of work for a solo exhibition was a longstanding goal of mine. When the kids are older I'd like to do an artist residency overseas. And I'd also like to put together a book one day. **When it comes to my work...** I never miss a deadline. **And finally, please finish this sentence: a piece of work by me is...** from my heart and completely off the wall! ■





# (RE)TREAT YOUR SELF!

IN NEED OF SOLACE,  
SOLITUDE OR STIMULUS  
FOR MIND, BODY OR SOUL?  
THESE HIGHLANDS RETREATS  
WILL HELP YOU WITHDRAW  
FROM THE WINTER WORLD  
FOR A WHILE.

## WHEN SILENCE IS GOLDEN

### Sunnataram Forest Monastery, Bundanoon

#### What is it?

A Buddhist monastery in beautiful surrounds that adheres to Dhamma teachings, where the main purpose is to find inner peace through a healthy mind and body. Retreats here are held mostly in silence, with every moment the cultivation of awareness and mindfulness.

#### What's the deal?

This site was donated by local practising Buddhist Elizabeth Gorski in 1989. It had long been her wish to set up a forest monastery in Australia so she bought the land, which sits five minutes' drive from Bundanoon, and donated it to the Sangha (a Buddhist monastic order) she supported.

#### What's the site like?

On 100 acres of beautiful bush on the edge of the Morton National Park. At 700 metres above sea level, the monastery includes bush, hills and cliff faces with panoramic views of Kangaroo Valley and Nowra. Each morning the sun rises through a sea of cloud. There is also a giant Gratitude Pagoda built over many years and completed with the help of the Thai and local community.

#### Who retreats here?

People looking for inner peace. All retreats are two to three days long and participants usually number between 35 to 55 people and include IT professionals to school teachers, students and stay at home parents. Days start at 5am with a

program of Buddhist teachings such as chanting, breathing techniques, guided walking and seated meditation. Attendees make a donation towards the upkeep of the monastery. Accommodation is simple male and female dormitories with bunk beds or single huts, and food is vegetarian.

#### Who can come?

There is an online application form to complete for approval. These retreats are for anyone seeking inner peace and coping mechanisms for our busy stressful world.

#### When over winter?

June 7-10 (long weekend), July 12-14, August 9-11  
225 Teudts Road, Bundanoon; [sunnataram.org](http://sunnataram.org)

## WHEN LIFE IS HURTING

### Quest for Life, Bundanoon

#### What is it?

Started by the inspiring Petrea King after she survived acute myeloid leukemia, Quest for Life sits on the outskirts of Bundanoon within nine acres of landscaped gardens, including a labyrinth people can walk. After she beat the odds and survived, Petrea turned her formidable sights on helping others battling through life's traumas. A schedule of professionally run support programs incorporates the latest healing strategies and neuroplasticity (the ability to change our brain through conscious choice).



### **What's the deal?**

Quest for Life operates retreat workshops year round for people facing the challenges of life's five Ds: a diagnosis, death, divorce, depression or disaster. In these workshops professionals provide the tools to help create emotional resilience and peace of mind. Quest for Life is based on the principle that unexpected and unthinkable things happen, but healing and peace of mind can come.

### **What's the site like?**

Petrea started Quest for Life in Sydney in 1989 but moved to Bundanoon in 1998 after benefactors bought the little town's longest running guesthouse. After a major facelift it opened in May 1999 with 15 en suite rooms for 25 guests on a single and shared basis. There are lots of light filled chill out places inside and out, and an on site chef who creates organic menus from local producers and Quest for Life's veggie garden.

### **Who retreats here?**

Those in search of hope, healing and peace of mind. Day, weekend or five day residential programs are conducted by a team of psychologists, counsellors, massage therapist, naturopath and a yoga teacher who provide a holistic program to address mind, body and spirit. Each program usually has about 20 participants. The retreat has become a leader in the treatment of people living with post traumatic stress disorder.

### **Who can come?**

Anyone 18 and over. 'Our programs address the mind, body and spirit of every participant,' says Petrea. 'On every program, a team of experienced professionals shares their knowledge and compassion with each participant in a respectful, safe environment.'

### **When over winter?**

Heart of Yoga Retreat, June 14-16; Reclaiming Your Brain Retreat, June 24-28. **Quest for Life, 13-33 Ellsmore Road, Bundanoon; [questforlife.com.au](http://questforlife.com.au)**



## **WHEN ONLY LUXURY WILL DO**

### **Milton Park Country House Hotel, Bowral**

#### **What is it?**

One of the most famed and smartest hotels in the Highlands, the Milton Park Country House Hotel also has a pretty swish day spa within its grounds. The Wellness Spa offers good old fashioned pampering for hotel guests and visitors, and also hosts Heidi Horne's Yoga & Wellness retreats.

#### **What's the deal?**

The three day yoga retreat with Sydney instructor Heidi Horne includes four 90 minute classes in wellbeing, Hatha and Vinyasa yoga and meditation, three nights' accommodation, gourmet buffet breakfast and seasonal two course dinner daily, pre dinner drinks and Milton Park's five star accommodation in triple, twin or single deluxe suites.

#### **What's the site like?**

There are 44 deluxe rooms and suites set in elegant gardens and centred around a garden courtyard fountain. Expect all the trimmings of a luxury hotel including Horderns a la carte restaurant, a swanky bar, lots of eating options and a beautiful indoor swimming pool. When you're not participating in Heidi's yoga or wellness classes, play a game of tennis, rug up and wander the winter gardens, enjoy a glass of local red in front of an open fire, catch an afternoon nap or wander about the beautiful mansion and soak up the relaxed sophistication.

#### **Who retreats here?**

Yogis, fitness buffs, yoga and wellness devotees, brides to be and their hens, those who like to retreat to five star luxury.

#### **When over winter?**

July 26-28 inclusive, triple share \$800pp, twin share \$925pp, single \$1380pp. Cost includes two nights' accommodation, all yoga, meditation and wellness sessions, and gourmet breakfast and two course dinner each day. **200 Horderns Road, Bowral; [miltonpark.com.au](http://miltonpark.com.au); [heidihorne.com.au](http://heidihorne.com.au) ►**







## WHEN IT'S ALL ABOUT CREATIVITY

### Springfield Farm, Avoca

#### What is it?

A private luxury retreat set on 20 acres of prime land in Avoca that specialises in writing, creativity and wellness. The former home of designer Colette Dinnigan, Springfield Farm is now owned by Peter Barge and Kinchem Hegedus, who also runs a wellness retreat in Bali.

#### What's the deal?

Generating a creative ecology is the foundation of all Springfield Farm's retreats. Whether guests come for writing, yoga, sleep or learning to cook, the food and luxury accommodation is a big part of the experience. Menus are designed by a nutritionist using foods from Springfield's vegetable gardens as well as locally grown produce.

#### What's the site like?

Very smart. This barn style Highlands house has five bedrooms and a three bedroom groundkeeper's cottage with views over the rolling Avoca countryside. There is a tennis court and a new outdoor pool with decking and beautiful views. Retreat guests can stay onsite or nearby in other holiday accommodation options. As Springfield Farm is situated close to Fitzroy Falls, guests can spend free time bushwalking there. Prices start at \$2750pp for a week's retreat staying at Springfield Farm.

#### Who retreats here?

For those wanting to take a true Highlands break from life's hustle and bustle, and to be stimulated mind, body and soul. New to the Southern Highlands retreats scene, Springfield Farm has a stimulating schedule on offer. Groups are intimate, with no more than 12 people.

#### Who can come?

Some of Springfield's writing retreats specify a certain level of writing experience, but other retreats are designed for absolute beginners to give them the skills and confidence. Each retreat is consciously curated to nourish and support each guest's creativity.

#### When over winter?

July 26-28, Return to Nature. Renowned local Kangaloon weaver Penny Simons hosts this nourishing women's weekend retreat where guests will rediscover their love of making and nature. Early bird prices start from \$900pp, including accommodation and wholesome meals. August 2-9, The Intuitive Writer. Hosted by writer Charlotte Wood, award winning Australian author of The Natural Way of Things. This seven day writers' workshop will focus on Charlotte's nine creative processes to help unleash the creative writer within. From \$2500pp.

[lifeatspringfield.com](http://lifeatspringfield.com) 



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nature and the freedom  
in which to enjoy it...  
**naturally!**



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River Island Nature Retreat

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# SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS markets

*Our regular Highlands markets are a great way to gain real insight into the creative and growing side of our beautiful region, and to find yourself some unique and delicious winter warming goodies. From fresh produce to home furnishings, art, plants or fashion, you'll find everything you are looking for, so get marketing! For further information and details, see [southern-highlands.com.au](http://southern-highlands.com.au)*

## 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, and items for the mind, body and spirit. Stallholders include Stones Patisserie, Jack's Country Honey, Meeko Beauty, Lake Duck Food and Robertson Potatoes Hill Family Farming. Details 0424 096 195

## BOWRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL MARKETS

**Second Saturday of the month 8am-1pm (except January) Bendooley Street, Bowral**

A lively and eclectic market with local produce and plants, handcrafted toys and children's clothing alongside fabulous food stalls to suit every taste. Stalls include locals Bulwarra Bees, Cuttaway Creek, Berrylicious, Dunollie Rare & Heritage Poultry, Kookaburra Skincare, Billy Chan the Dumpling Man and Sutton Forest Olive Company. Details [enquire@bowralpsmarket.com](mailto:enquire@bowralpsmarket.com) [bowralpsmarket.com](http://bowralpsmarket.com)

## RAILWAY STREET FARMERS MARKET

**Thursdays 3pm-last light  
Old Bowling Club Green, Railway Street, Moss Vale**

This popular produce market now in its third year boasts everything from fresh seasonal vegetables, eggs, fish, bread, quiches and pies, jams and pickles, and fresh cuts of beef, to compost, plants and seedlings. Get along to see some of the best homegrown produce in the area, including Phil Lavers' award winning veg from Moonacres Farm, Pigs Fly cider, Dewsburys Free Range Pork, Tractorless Vineyards wine, Moss Vale Community Gardens produce, and Prestige Oyster & Prawn Company seafood. Details 0468331738

## ROBERTSON MARKETS

**Second Sunday of the month 9am-2pm  
(except January) Hoddle Street, Robertson**

A variety of stalls, food and refreshments at the School of Arts in the busy, engaged community of Robertson. Great trash and treasure finds and, of course, lots of local produce, including famed Robbo potatoes by the Donovan and Hill families. Details 0408 238 575

## Exeter VILLAGE MARKET

**First Saturday of the month  
9am-1.30pm. Exeter Village Hall  
and Oval, Exeter Road, Exeter**

Held at the local hall beside the community oval, with 45 stalls including eight new ones. Enjoy the high quality wares from local producers, artisans, foodies and local craftspeople, including Lady Bucket's Kitchen, Black Hen Kitchen, Denmar Olive Products, Bungonia Creek Wines, Curly's Compost, Willobar Designs, Belisa Cashmere, Driven By Fabri and many more. There's also a fabulous playground for the kids within the oval picket fences. Details 0419 808 022 [info@exetervillagemarket.com](mailto:info@exetervillagemarket.com) [exetervillagemarket.com](http://exetervillagemarket.com)

## CROP-SWAP

**Saturday 9.30am-10.30am**

**Robertson Bowling Club, Hoddle Street, Robertson**

Bring your excess veg, fruit, magazines, empty or full jam jars, eggs, egg cartons or plants along to this great community healthy living initiative and swap with other local green thumbs, gardeners and Robbo folk for whatever is on offer or in season in other people's gardens. All welcome but please be aware excess produce is swapped; no money exchanges hands. A lovely chance to sit down and meet more of the local community while you enjoy egg, bacon or sausage in a bun, or a coffee or tea if you fancy.

## Berrima Schoolyard Market

**Fourth Sunday of the month 9am-2pm (except January)  
and second Sunday in December. Oxley Street, Berrima**

50 stalls with everything from fresh local produce including fresh produce grown in the school's veggie garden 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 live music, and the fabulous Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Cafe and a BBQ run by dedicated Berrima Mums and Dads. Details 0488 004 421 or [info@theschoolyardmarkets.com.au](mailto:info@theschoolyardmarkets.com.au)

## COLO VALE COMMUNITY MARKETS

**First Saturday of the month 8.30am-1.30pm  
(except January) Colo Vale Village Hall,  
Railway Avenue, Colo Vale**

With lots of old and new stallholders, including handicrafts, handmade goods, jams, fresh local produce, as well as a Justice of the Peace on hand to help locals out with legal matters, this cornerstone of the community is thriving and is a great market often with monthly themes. Stock up on freshly grown produce from Jack's Eggs & Honey, Lilly's Olives and handmade treasures from the Colo Vale Community Association Craft Table. Barbecue on the go from breakfast through to lunch. Details 4889 4129 (for Monster Garage Sale, 0414 633 077)

## Moss Vale COMMUNITY MARKETS

**Fourth Saturday of every month 8am-1pm  
(except January) Moss Vale Showground,  
Illawarra Highway, Moss Vale**

Dealers and private sellers set up stalls with trash and treasures including homewares, books, records, clothes and furniture. Perfect for treasure hunters and those looking to unearth a bargain. [markets@mossvaleshow.com.au](mailto:markets@mossvaleshow.com.au)

## BUNDANOON MAKERS MARKET

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

Sewers, knitters, woodworkers, photographers; leatherwork and silver jewellery; fresh fruit and vegetables, freshly baked bread, strudels and bagels, Thai dishes, honey and eggs, cakes and pies, all make this market well worth the scenic drive to Bundanoon. Details 0411 297 963 ■





FAR LEFT Slavica Zivkovic, *Within the Wisdom*

LEFT Margaret Fegent, *Arriving at Banksia*

# ARTS FOR ALL

IF 'ART IS A GUARANTY OF SANITY', AS ARTIST LOUISE BOURGEOIS WROTE, I THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE OKAY. AT LEAST UNTIL SPRING. BOWRAL ART GALLERY ALONE IS HOSTING NINE EXHIBITIONS THIS WINTER AND THERE'S PLENTY MORE TO SEE, HEAR, CREATE OR BUY ACROSS THE HIGHLANDS. SO READ THESE IDEAS FROM **AMANDA MACKEVICIUS** AND HEAD OUT TO EXPLORE WHAT'S ON OFFER IN OUR CREATIVE SPACES.

## **Bowral Art Gallery & BDAS (Bowral District Art Society)**

The exhibition RSVP in Print (June 13-25) is an innovative exchange between the Southern Highlands Printmakers and Firestation Print Studio in Melbourne. Artists were invited to create two unique prints; one reflecting their own practice, the other responding to another artist's work. Showcasing 92 recent graphic works by 46 contemporary printmakers, the results incorporate a variety of techniques and mixed media elements, and continues the tradition of cultural exchange and collaboration that features strongly in contemporary printmaking. Another exhibition not to miss is the popular annual Pirtek Still Life Prize exhibition (June 29-July 7). **Contact BDAS for details of other exhibitions. 1 Short Street, Bowral, 10am-4pm daily; bdasgallery.com**

## **Retford Park Gallery, Bowral**

Visiting this stunning National Trust property is an experience in itself. The grand pink Italianate mansion is filled with original art and reproductions from the incredible collection of the Late James Fairfax. A retrospective exhibition featuring Southern Highlands artist Robert Curtis, intriguingly titled *A Few Mad People*, will be held on July 6 and 7, and August 4 and 5. A painter, art teacher and sculptor who exhibited with artists including Ian Fairweather, Eva Kubbos, John Olsen, Stanislav Rapotec, John Coburn and Brett Whitely, Robert Curtis has been painting for more than 50 years and has many fascinating stories to share. A dinner with the artist will be held on July 20.

**Contact Retford Park for booking details. Retford Park, 1325 Old South Road, Bowral; nationaltrust.org.au/places/retford-park**

## **Sturt Gallery, Mittagong**

If you're quick you might still nab a spot in one of the popular art courses offered at Sturt's fabulous annual Winter School, from July 8-12. Classes include wood carving, metalwork, basketry, papermaking, painting and printing. *Circling Back*, an exhibition of sculpture woven in fibre and salvaged metal by local weaver and sculptor Harriet Goodall opens at Sturt Gallery on June 9 – July 28 (see our profile on Harriet page 95). Cadence is a group show (August 4-September 22) inspired and responding to patterns and rhythms in nature curated by artist Phoebe Middleton that will feature the work of 15 artists.

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

## **Southern Highlands Artisans Collective (SHAC), Robertson**

The latest artists to join this burgeoning collective include photographer Ashley Mackevicius, painter James King, ceramicist Neil Broughton and milliner Di Kirkpatrick. Accomplished weaver and sculptor Brooke Munro will be holding regular weaving and basketry classes in her beautiful workshop space ([mrandmrsmunro.com/contact](http://mrandmrsmunro.com/contact)). Read more in *Movers & Shakers* (page 16).

**SHAC, The Old Potato Shed, 74-76 Hoddle Street, Robertson; theshac.com.au**

## **Artheart, Blues for Bob Art Competition, Moss Vale**

The second annual Blues art competition and exhibition opens at 2pm on June 8 at the Millis Gallery in Moss Vale, established by artists Sonja Millis and her late husband Bob. Archibald winning artist Cherry Hood is this year's judge, with a \$1000 prize for the winning blue hued artwork in any medium. Entries close June 3 and funds raised will be donated to Carrie's Beanies 4 Brain Cancer for brain cancer research. Enquiries to Arthead, 278 Argyle Street, Moss Vale, 4868 2000 or [sales@arthead.com.au](mailto:sales@arthead.com.au).

**Millis Gallery, 484 Argyle Street, Moss Vale**

## **The Milk Factory Gallery and Exhibition Space, Bowral**

An exhibition of artist Greg Hyde's Mostly happy paintings, etchings and prints, old and new will run from July 5-31. Greg's quirky, humorous and whimsical work has been described as 'Leunig without the angst'. New works from artist Elizabeth Burton, inspired by the natural world and her recent travels in Italy, will show from August 2-September 2. Liz works with paint, ink and collage materials to create different surfaces and textures in her artwork, traversing realism to abstraction in subject matter.

**33 Station Street, Bowral, open seven days 10am-5pm; milkfactorygallery.com.au**





**Melissa Wiya is the Community Aboriginal Development Officer at Wingecarribee Shire Council. She is a proud Arakwal Bundjalung woman of Byron Bay on her mother's side, and her father is from Papua New Guinea. As the Southern Highlands prepares to celebrate NAIDOC week, July 7 - 14, she talks to Escape.**

**Where did you grow up in the Highlands?** I moved to Moss Vale at the age of four with my mother and brother, and have remained here.

**Tell us about your childhood, and connection to country and culture?** My mother was removed at six weeks old and brought up by a lovely Christian family. We as a family didn't know anything about our culture, and it wasn't a conversation I felt confident to have with my mother. Growing up in the Southern Highlands, Aboriginal culture was never taught or even spoken about. It wasn't until I moved to Sydney in my early twenties that I met other Aboriginal people and they would ask, 'Where you from, Sis?' This is what sparked my questioning. 'Where am I from? Who am I?' Then I started to ask my mother questions about what she knew of her family. After 50 years my mother and I found her family, and reunited 10 years ago. We are lucky!


**Through hard work with government, Aboriginal groups and agencies, you've developed some wonderful programs to help us understand our indigenous community's heritage, tradition and history. Tell us about that.** From Community and Culture Responsive Training, Food Security, Elders Driving, Song and Dance, Connecting to Country, NAIDOC celebrations, Reconciliation Week, Go 4 Fun, Clinton's Walk for Justice; all of these programs have been delivered in and around the Southern Highlands. Also,

recently some schools have participated in Song and Dance, Language, Bush Tucker and Medicine Garden programs, NAIDOC ceremonies and locality signage. The Wingecarribee Reconciliation Group has also been instrumental in advocating for Aboriginal rights and recognition with events like Reconciliation Week, the Mirror Flashing and Flag Raising at Gibbergunyah Reserve, and Sorry. **What's new in this space?** Recently the State government announced the new national park at Tugalong Station. Gundungurra Elder Aunty Sharyn Halls is excited about the area as there are significant Aboriginal cultural sites in the area relating to the Gundungurra Dreaming story Gurangatch and Mirragan. **How is the Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Mittagong assisting people?** The Springs Reserve building became a permanent Aboriginal Cultural Centre in July 2012. It was established for the Aboriginal community and groups to access and conduct programs, training, community events and employment opportunities or as a meeting place. Local Gundungurra community elder Aunty Val Mulcahy is available to meet, answer questions and provide cultural advice over a cuppa and cake on Monday and Tuesday, and schools and businesses have visited for language programs. On Thursdays, in partnership with Red Cross and Oz Harvest, we now run the Dhungung (Food) Share program, which delivers excess food from Woolworths and Harris Farm to the centre for distribution. This day is also for services and organisations to provide outreach in a nonthreatening and welcoming environment. Southern Highlands Homelessness Services, Centrelink, TAFE, NDIS, the Highlands Community Aboriginal Family Worker, New Horizons and Ability Links attend on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. **Aboriginal Elder Aunty Wendy Lotter seems to do a great job with her Platypus Dreamin tours locally.** Cultural tourism is

always a topic of interest to the wider community and visitors to the Southern Highlands. We would love more established groups or individuals to conduct cultural tours in the area.

**What are the sacred places in the Highlands?** Jubilee Rock (Ngununggula), the first Aboriginal sacred site in the Wingecarribee, was gazetted under the Aboriginal Place Program on 20 February 2015. Gundungurra Lookout at Gibbergunyah Reserve ('nin garang thurree currohung' or the Place Between the Rocks) is where the mirror flash from Gundungurra Lookout at Gibbergunyah to the Blue

Mountains is held. This is to commemorate that this land is and forever will be the spiritual home of the traditional owners, the Gundungurra and D'harawal peoples. There are many sacred sites around the Wingecarribee, though Aboriginal people are resistant to showing them all as they would like those places to be protected and not damaged. For those places to be a tourist destination much more work and funding needs to be done to protect Aboriginal heritage. **What NAIDOC events can people get involved with?**

The annual flag raising ceremony and art exhibition opening will launch NAIDOC week at the Wingecarribee Shire Council Civic Centre on July 8. The exhibition is of the recent Poetry in First Languages project. Other events will include an On Country Experience day at Berrima Scout Grounds where Aboriginal elders and leaders will share stories, cultural knowledge and understanding about bush medicines, and hold a smoking ceremony. And there is the NAIDOC Family Fun Day. **Do you hope Australia's indigenous, colonial and post colonial history will soon be taught in schools?** Definitely. I think we are slowly moving towards that, but there is still a long way to go. After working with a lot of local schools in the past four years, I definitely see change. Schools are embracing Aboriginal culture and history, and are implementing various programs. [naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au) 



# ESCAPE STOCKISTS

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The Watershed, Robertson

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# STEAM TRAIN

## SUNDAY



Take a 45-minute ride back in time on a heritage steam train at the NSW Rail Museum (operates most Sundays, check website for details). It's a fun, unique experience for the whole family!

NSW Rail Museum  
10 Barbour Road, Thirlmere NSW

**1300 11 55 99**  
**nswrailmuseum.com.au**



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## MEND, BEND & BASH & MAKE BETTER

Got a tween or teenager who could do with taking some of that pubescent angst on an innate object (rather than the rest of the family?) Book the little darling onto one of 1910 Ironwork's Beginners Blacksmith Course with smithy Stephen Hogwood in his Wildes Meadow shop. It's a full day of learning the fire/heat control of the forge, hammer control, equipment run down, riveting, drawing out, forge welding, upsetting and hot forging .. and banging.. lots of banging it all out with a heavy hammer. A great thing for any child aged 10 or over to do with Dad, Mum, Grandpa or even older sibling. And who knows, they may just learn something, enjoy themselves and come home happily exhausted?

**10.30am-4.30pm with all safety gear, equipment and refreshments with 30 mins for lunch. \$250 per student June 22 and July 6 & 20. 1910bc.com**

## KIDS AT PLAY

THESE IDEAS FOR WINTER FUN WITHOUT SCREENS, PHONES OR SOCIAL MEDIA AND WILL GET YOUR KIDS INVOLVED AND ACTIVE, OUTSIDE OR IN.

### DRAMA QUEENS

Get 'em early, and a love of acting and the stage may never leave them. And if nothing else, the experience of talking and performing in front of others is said to help grow self confidence and a positive self and body image. Southern Highlands Youth Arts Council (SHYAC) is a not for profit, volunteer based organisation that has been facilitating performing arts projects for Highlands youth for more than 25 years, recently under the excellent stewardship of Mandy Bransgrove. ACTcelerate is a one day event over the June long weekend for budding scriptwriters, directors and actors aged 8 to 25 years to come together and produce a performance in just three hours. Think eight plays, eight directors, 40-60 actors and three hours rehearsal before showtime in front of a live audience. For all details and how you can get your kids involved look at SHYAC's website – registrations open now. Planning is

also underway for SHYAC's annual production so keep an eye open for performance dates late in the year. SHYAC's last production, The Addams Family, saw talented local thespian, writer and Year 12 Moss Vale High student Travis Neale win Best Youth Actor in a Feature Role in a Play in the prestigious Canberra Area Theatre (CAT) awards. **ACTcelerate 2019, June 9, Chevalier College Performing Arts Centre & live performance at 5pm. Cost \$20 per child to take part. To register your child email office@shyac.org.au with ACTcelerate Actor in subject lineshyac.org.au @SHYAC**

### CENTRE COURT

If acting isn't their game, there's always tennis. Sergio Rojas Tessel, head coach of Highlands Tennis Academy, has three winter tennis holiday camps for 7 to 12 year olds at the Moss Vale Tennis Club courts. An acclaimed coach, Sergio has helped young players in Australia, the US and South America, most recently coaching youngsters in New York. Each camp is for five days and includes three hours per day of tennis and sports activities with full supervision and 50% discount for second siblings.

**July 1-5, 8-12 & 15-19. Camps start at \$60 a day or \$250 weekly, with early bird discounts available. highlandstenniscommunity.com; info@highlandstenniscommunity.com**

### LET'S GET 'EM PHYSICAL

The research is clear: our kids are not doing enough outdoor stuff. So get them moving but make it not feel like exercise by booking them into one of the Outdoor Education Group's Adventure Holiday Camps. Their headquarters are in Moss Vale, but OEG's camps are run at Camp Wombaroo on Wombeyan Caves Road, 15 minutes' drive from Mittagong. It's a fabulous place to run around, be free and be a kid on 125 acres of bush and cleared land. Day camps can include a host of outdoor activities such as flying fox, raft building, archery, giant swing and

bushwalking. For kids aged 8 to 14 (7 year olds can come if accompanied by an older sibling). Kids can be dropped off for day camps from 8am and collected as late as 6pm, and the cost includes hot lunch and morning and afternoon tea. **July 15-19; 1-2 days, \$70 per day; 3-5 days \$60 per day. oeg.edu.au/territory/nsw/**



### FARM TO FORK

Robertson meat farmers and butchers John and Vicki Mauger continue their fabulous foray into farming tourism with the extension of their Paddock to Plate tours to include school groups. The three hour visit to their beautiful property, Laurel View, includes a presentation by John on the family's farming, meat producing and butchery history, a stock inspection, farm tour and butchery demonstration by John, in which he chops up a side of hanging beef. The experience also includes morning tea with Vicki's famous baking, and a light lunch such as a Maugers' slow roasted lamb or beef with their family recipe chutney. Particularly suited to young kids who don't get a chance to see a working farm in action, and high school students studying agriculture and food technology. Fully accredited and fabulous. Or just join one of the Maugers' tours over winter as a family. **June 22 (with a special Pie Time theme), July 20 & August 17. maugers.com.au/paddock-to-plate-tour/**



# HIGHLANDS ESSENTIALS

A QUICK LIST OF USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE HIGHLANDS

## EMERGENCY:

**Bowral Fire Station** 16 Merrigang St, Bowral, 4862 1446

**Mittagong Fire Station** 10 Bowral Road, Mittagong 4871 1002

**Moss Vale Fire Station** Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1288

**Bowral Police Station** 53 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral 4869 7899  
(stations only open Saturday 8am-4.30pm)

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

**State Emergency Services (SES)** 13 25 00

**Emergency Bush Fire** 000

## HOSPITALS / HEALTH:

**Bowral Public Hospital** Mona Road, Bowral 4861 0200

**Southern Highlands Private** 99 Bowral Street, Bowral 4862 9400

### Doctors:

**Bowral Street Medical Practice** 70 Bowral St, Bowral 4861 3183

**Mittagong Healthcare Centre** 58 Bowral Road, Mittagong 4872 3933

**Southern Medical Centre** 61 Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 1500

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

## VET CLINICS:

**Bowral Vet Hospital** 78 Station Street, Bowral 4861 1444

**Mittagong Vet Hospital** 109 Main St, Mittagong 4872 2028

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

## AUSTRALIA POST:

260 Bong Bong St, Bowral 13 13 18

3/63 Main St, Mittagong 13 13 18

9/15 Clarence St, Moss Vale 13 13 18

## TRANSPORT:

**Southern Highlands Taxis Hire Cars & Coaches** 21 Lyell St, Mittagong 4872 4800

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

**Berrima Bus Lines** 90 Old Bowral Rd, Mittagong 4871 3211

**Highland Chauffeured Hire Cars** 4872 3038 or 0400 921 239

**Highlands Personal Transport.** Call And Book 0408 211 267

**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 Centre,** Elizabeth St, Moss Vale 4868 0888

**Resource Recovery Centre** Open 7.30am – 4.30pm

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

**Wingecarribee Animal Shelter** Berrima Road, Moss Vale 4868 1520

**WIRES** 13000 94737







# OPEN MORNING

# AT OXLEY COLLEGE

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO OUR OPEN MORNING FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES ON FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 11.00AM. ALL WELCOME.

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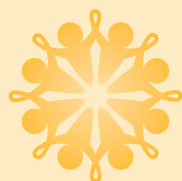
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WAC1343 ESCAPE/JAS





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# FRENSHAM

Boarding & Day School for Girls

## HEAD'S TOUR

Saturday 31 August 2019

### PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

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Visit our website for details and sign up

[www.frensham.nsw.edu.au](http://www.frensham.nsw.edu.au)

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*Where broad experience meets  
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# GIB GATE

Preschool & Primary Education

Gib Gate is the Southern Highlands' leading academic primary school and preschool. A proven specialist in Gifted and Talented Education, Gib Gate offers boys and girls a personalised, broad-ranging learning experience.

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Visit our website to sign up for a tour

[www.gibgate.nsw.edu.au](http://www.gibgate.nsw.edu.au)



FRENSHAM SCHOOLS

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# TAKE A LOOK AT US NOW

A co-educational school for students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6, Tudor House students benefit from a global education in the picturesque Southern Highlands of NSW.

A campus of The King's School, Tudor House offers boarding for boys and girls in Years 3-6.

Our learning programmes develop students to show respect for others, take responsibility for their learning and value relationships with others. Small class sizes enable us to cater for the needs of each student.

We invite you to visit us in 2019 and experience life as a boarder at The King's School, Tudor House.

## Boarder sleepover experiences in 2019:

- Friday, 21 June
- Friday, 30 August
- Thursday, 21 November

Register to attend at:

[www.tudorhouse.nsw.edu.au](http://www.tudorhouse.nsw.edu.au)

For further information contact the Enrolments Office by email: [enrol\\_tudor@kings.edu.au](mailto:enrol_tudor@kings.edu.au) or Phone: **02 4868 0008**.



**THE  
KING'S  
SCHOOL**  
Tudor House



A large, gnarled pine tree with thick, dark bark and dense green needles stands in a grassy field. The tree's branches are twisted and spread out, some reaching towards the sky. The background shows a clear sky and distant hills.

*Time for a tree change?*

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**For enquiries or to arrange a tour contact Anna Younan 1800 269 725 Mon-Sat 8am-6pm or email [live@gibraltarpark.com.au](mailto:live@gibraltarpark.com.au)**



THE VISTA RESIDENCES



3



2



2

  
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Oak Tree Warwick  
resident Carol

# A Gal's Best Friends

*Two much-loved King Charles Spaniels were the key consideration when Carol started looking to downsize into an independent lifestyle community.*

Recently retired from a long career in emergency services communications, the 64-year-old was living in Townsville and looking for a change of scenery.

"I wanted a quieter lifestyle but didn't want to be parted from the dogs that had been an important part of my life for 12-and-a-half years," Carol said.

"The dogs are part of a package deal – if I was going to move they had to come too. Quite a few retirement villages don't allow pets and some only permit one small animal that can't be replaced when it passes away.

"That type of place didn't suit me at all. I wanted to be part of a pleasant community that accepted pets."

Carol found just what she was looking for at Oak Tree Retirement Village.

"I loved the vibe at Oak Tree the minute I walked through the gate," Carol said.

"The added bonus for me was that my daughter, grandson and brother live nearby and other family members are not far away.

"My three-bedroom villa has more than enough room for me. I keep the second bedroom for visitors and the third bedroom is great for storage. There is a fenced yard for the dogs and a ramp was put in so they come onto the raised patio for protection from the weather when I am not home.

**For more information about Oak Tree Retirement Villages phone 1300 367 155 or visit [www.oaktreegroup.com.au](http://www.oaktreegroup.com.au)**

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# IN MY BACKYARD

*Geoff Goodfellow is a much loved local, born and raised in the Highlands. A Moss Vale resident who worked for many years at the Wingecarribee Shire Council, Geoff also wrote a regular column, Across the River, for the local newspaper from 2008 to 2019. He tells Escape Southern Highlands why he loves the region and about the challenges it faces as it continues to grow.*

**L**ike many locals of the post war baby boom era, I was born at Bowral's Yarrum Private Hospital, which is long gone, and I have lived in the Highlands ever since. My great great grandparents, William and Louisa Goodfellow, sailed from England to Australia in 1838 and came to Moss Vale to try their hand at farming.

The Malcolm side of my family travelled from Scotland in 1879 to work in the shale mines at Joadja. Most of my old relatives are resting peacefully under the gum trees at the High Range cemetery, although William and Louisa were buried beside the Bong Bong Church near Moss Vale. (See our feature on graveyards page 91)

I grew up on a sheep farm on the Wombeyan Caves Road at Bullio, west of Mittagong. Dad was a wool grower and Mum was a nursing sister at Bowral Hospital until she married and had to terminate her beloved nursing career.

I had a terrific childhood, with the best of both worlds. Because we were so far out of town, I had to board in Mittagong during my primary school years, then I went off to Sydney to board at Hurlstone Agricultural High School, where life was

all about sport, study, more sport, pigs, cows and good times with mates. And then I had holiday breaks back home with hills, gullies, creeks, interesting critters and wild country.

When I was growing up, the Highlands community was much more farming orientated. Not lifestyle farms with expensive houses and big gates like now, but viable family farms, and lots of them. In 1964, for example, when the population of the Southern Highlands was less than 19,000, this district had 268 dairy farming families sending milk to the Moss Vale and Bowral processing factories. Now there are just a handful of dairy farms and no milk processing factories.

When I was a kid there were almost 40,000 sheep grazing in that wild Bullio country down to the Wollondilly River. Most of these properties had a shearing shed from which truckloads of superfine merino wool came out along the Wombeyan Caves Road to be loaded on trains for the Sydney wool markets. Today I doubt you would find a single sheep out that way.

I started working at the Wingecarribee Shire Council in 1970, just until I could find a proper job. Forty years later I retired from the same workplace.





In 1983 I married Barbara, a health and building surveyor, and together we set out to see the world. We have left Australia around 35 times since. Along the way we produced Sam and Lizzie, who were dragged to many corners of the planet before they were old enough to embark on their own travels. Unlike their old man, our kids didn't have to board away from home for school, but they did both have to work at a local savoury food outlet to earn some spending money.

Sam is now a teacher and sports master at Tudor House so he lives in the Highlands, and Lizzie works for the British High Commission in Canberra.

The Highlands is a great place to raise a family and live a good life. Fresh air, plenty of trees, bushwalks, stunning gardens, safety, a lazy commute, a terrific choice of schools and a variety of towns and villages, each with something different to offer. Every councillor and town planner I worked with over 40 years agreed unanimously on just one thing: in order to retain the unique features we all love about each town and village, it is vital to keep those towns and villages separated by farmland or bushland, the green between, and not allow creeping development to merge towns together. This goal will be threatened if the state government or developers use their influence to override the wishes of the Southern Highlands community. And that is presently a worrying threat.

As a lover of the outdoors I'm a big fan of our bushland reserves. They are so well managed by the local council, working alongside a small army of bush care volunteers. Gibbergunyah, Mount Gibraltar, Bong Bong Common, Berrima River Walk, Hammock Hill, Mount Alexandra and Mansfield reserves. If you haven't found them yet, look them up. Along with the Morton and Nattai National Parks, there are so many delightful chunks of freely accessible bush on our doorstep.

Among the genuine characters I grew up with was Clive Goodfellow, a magnificent horseman and natural athlete with cat like reflexes who became a local cricketing legend. During the 1920s young Don Bradman knocked up a Bowral Oval record of 214 and a district record of 320, but a decade later Clive smashed both these in a single afternoon with an amazing innings of 333 not out. His batting average in one season was almost 170, including a run of six successive centuries and a double century in 87 minutes. There was a period of eight consecutive seasons during which he was never bowled out. Even though Clive didn't attend practice because he was too busy farming, his bat scored over 5,000 runs with the blade hardly marked, such was his timing.

If I have one tip for anyone living in or visiting the Highlands, it's to venture out along the Wombeyan Caves Road beyond the Bullio tunnel. The road is narrow and winding and looks a tad dangerous, but if you drive slowly to the conditions and make a day of it, the journey from Mittagong down to the Wollondilly River then up the other side to the Wombeyan Caves is spectacular. Pack a picnic to have by the river or up at the caves, then travel home via Taralga and Goulburn.

I think the Highlands is a mighty nice place to be in winter. Paddocks blanketed in white frost, crisp blue skies, warm woollen jumpers, long walks with no pesky snakes lurking in the bush, crackling wood fires, red wine, baked dinners, and cold nights under cosy feather doonas.' ■







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Starting her real estate career with DiJONES in Woollahra over a decade ago, Kate moved to Bowral in 2014- after realising the importance of being near family. She has fallen in love with the place she now calls home. Drawing on her genuine passion for the area and matching people to property, she's been instrumental in establishing DiJONES strong local presence. When Kate's not working she enjoys exploring all that is on offer in the highlands from the wonderful bush hikes to the fabulous shopping and eateries.

Kate's in-depth knowledge of both the Southern Highlands and Sydney markets sets her apart. Her proven success from selling manor houses to cosy cottages, she engages her extensive network to always achieve the best results for buyers and sellers alike.

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# KEEPER OF THE TREES

One day, Mick Pfahl is planning to leave our community a wonderful legacy. Now 70, and the owner of Treekeepers Mature Nursery, when Mick departs this mortal coil he wants to share the use of his five acres of mature trees for our enjoyment, and to safeguard his beloved trees.

‘I’m seriously worried about the plight of trees because all these developments are going up everywhere without a tree,’ says Mick, also widely known for his longterm love and support of the arts, and the old Volkswagen Beetle he gets about in.

‘I live for beauty and find it can only truly be found in nature, especially in the form of trees. So I’m doing my very best now to salvage trees from gardens and promote trees for our future generations, which is, I guess, what I’ve been doing all my life.’

Mick planted all of his 2000 exotic trees nearly 30 years ago, and his nursery is home to more than 90 spectacular species including English oaks, silver birch, chestnuts, London planes, Japanese maples and elms. A collaborative project with co-founder Ronan O’Connor and Fernanda Maia Campos, Mick has always encouraged walkers, dog owners and tree lovers to use and enjoy his land.

‘Seeing people walking through the nursery, treating the trees with respect and reverence gives me as much pleasure as earning the dollar,’ says Mick, looking lovingly around his woody home. ‘In the longterm I hope these trees and woodlands will be enjoyed and shared by our community as so many children today live in yards without a single tree.’ ■



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