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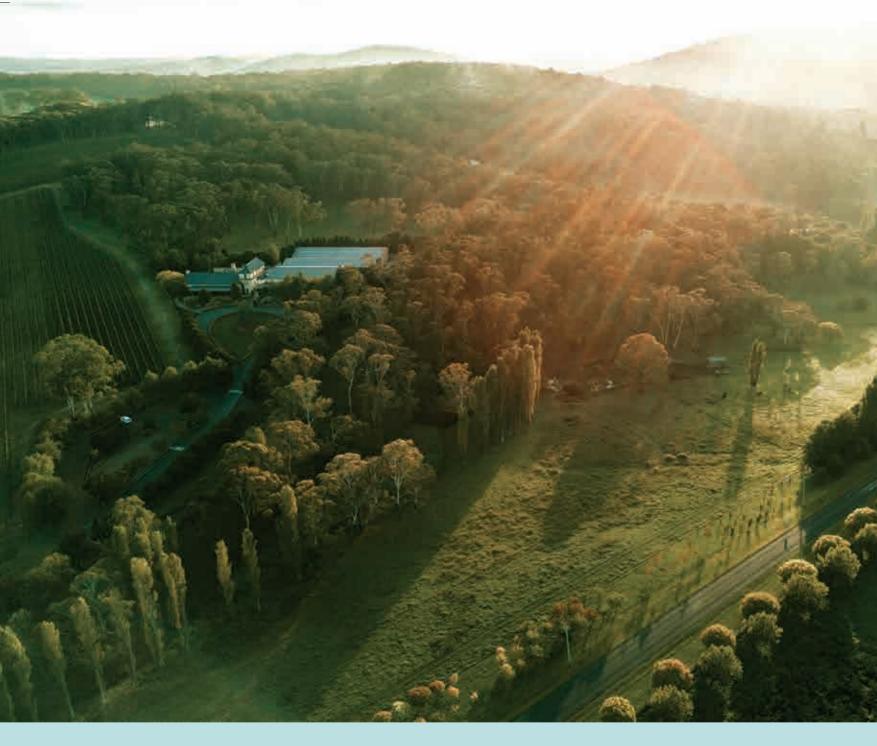
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www.centennialvineyardsrestaurant.com.au 02 4861 8701 info@cvrestaurant.com.au Woodside, 252 Centennial Road, Bowral NSW, 2576 **f** cvrestaurant **c** cvrestaurant



traditional darkroom techniques and digital technology. Opening 13 December at 6pm by Peta Seaton AM.







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#### ELEGANCE HAS ARRIVED



Summer pink Simply elegant...

Discover the elegance of the Southern Highlands through the PepperGreen Estate Rosé collection.

Our latest wine release includes the stunning PepperGreen Estate Sparkling Rosé and Berrima Blush Rosé Single Vineyard grown in our own vineyard and created to be loved and create memories.

Think pink - think glamour - taste elegance

CELLAR DOOR & TASTING ROOM

13 Market Place, Berrima Southern Highlands NSW 2576

peppergreenestate.com.au/sparkling-rose



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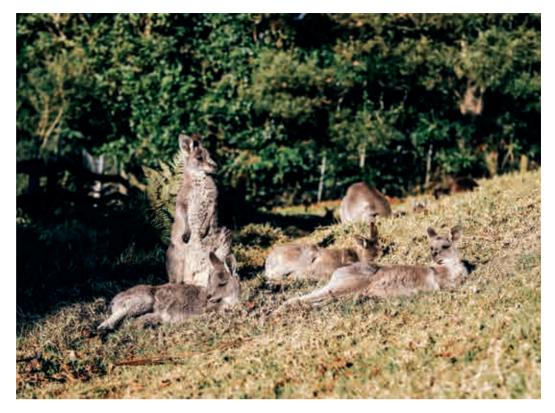
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COVER IMAGE - Elise Hassey Banjo's Run, Cuttaway Hill Wines, Exeter



#### Editor's welcome

It's been a tough year for many in the Southern Highlands. As the drought continues to bite, and farmers are hand feeding stock, many businesses, retailers, restaurants, accommodation venues and, of course, local families, are feeling the pinch as the rains stay away and we all keep one eye on the global economic situation.

Still, as summer and the festive holiday period arrives (phew) there are highpoints and highlights to look back on in 2019 and to look forward to in 2020.

Record numbers of visitors came to the Southern Highlands this year, and they brought their money with them. Tulip Time attracted 54,500 in this its 59th year, a 14 per cent increase from last year, according to figures from Destination Southern Highlands. Pie Time in June also attracted record numbers. More than half a million pies were baked and eaten with an estimated economic injection to the Wingecarribee of \$6 million. And according to Tourism Research Australia's quarterly domestic and international visitor survey results, for the year ending June 2019, there were 2.05 million visitors to the Southern Highlands, a record 1.34 million visitor nights stayed and an estimated record visitor expenditure of \$369 million in the past 12 months. Other great events and destinations such as The Bowral Classic, SH Food and Wine Festival, Bradman Museum (which celebrated its 30th birthday this year) and the

International Cricket Hall of Fame, also continued to attract big crowds.

Outdoor visitors continue to come, attracted by our national parks and state forests and the opportunities they afford for walking, canoeing, fishing, camping and exploring. Inside, four of our outdoor experts, give their advice on how to get off the beaten track. If glamping is more your style, read about luxury glamping with Me Jane Camp Out at Banjo's Run, Cuttaway Hill Wines, Exeter, which is the location of our beautiful cover shot this issue.

Also inside meet singer Jimmy Barnes and artist Tim Storrier and book in to Fairway dairy Farm, Wildes Meadow for a real country stay. Your kids won't want to leave. Mine didn't. We also go on a 13 kilometre bush walk in the Bungonia State Forest, meet Sutton Forest Wine Estate vintners Nick and Santina Lo Russo and talk scents with some of our local flower farmers.

So, as the end of 2019 rolls around to welcome in 2020, here's hoping those rains come soon and you and yours have the chance to enjoy some downtime together over this festive, holiday time in our beautiful backyard.

Enjoy your Escape Southern Highlands.  $\blacksquare$ 

Alex



STANWELL TOPS

Lake Cataract

BULLI

e Cordeaux

## SQUTHERN Explorer HIGHLANDS Map

Wollongong

PORT KEMBLA

Lake Illawarra

SHELLHARBOUR

**JAMBEROO** 

KIAMA

GERRINGONG

GERROA

South Pacific Ocean



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## Our Towns & Villages

The Southern Highlands is made up of many towns and villages, each with its own unique character, charm and attractions. Use our cheat sheet to 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)

#### **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 Shaggy Cow cafe. 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 a beer tasting.

#### **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 Bendooley Larder, 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 shops 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 an abundance of award winning vineyards nearby, such as Centennial Vineyards, to visit for some tasting and buying.

#### MOSS VALE

Centred around the Victorian era railway station in Argyle Street, Moss Vale is known for being a down to earth country town. The annual agricultural show is one of the biggest in the area, and recently the main street has undergone a revival with the opening of many independent artisan and homewares shops. Fantastic cafes and eateries such as Bernie's Diner, The Vale, Highlands Merchant and II Pranzo offer delicious eating choices. Southern Highlands Brewing Kitchen & Taphouse, Birch and the Wine Mosaic Lounge have brought some well received glamour to old favourites such as Seafood Affair, and Briars Country Lodge and Historic Inn just up the road, whose kitchen and bar will hopefully be back in action soon after a fire closed them. Fabulous place for some homewares shopping in the likes of Hunter & Gatherer Collections, Made by Others, Country Homes & Interiors, Suzie Anderson Home, The Mossy Store, Bowerbird on Argyle, Nest & Burrow, Honey and the Maine Store.

#### **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, Quintessential Exeter at Halcyon Cottage is great for homewares and fashion finds. The Exeter Village Markets are held on the first Saturday of each month in the grounds of the village oval, or get along and watch croquet on Tuesdays, Friday and Sundays from 9am.

#### HILL TOP

This northern village has a rich history as a former railway town and is now the gateway to Australia's largest rail museum, Trainworks at Thirlmere. Take along the Cave Creek walking track too.

#### **BUNDANOON**

Packed with old world charm, Bundanoon is a bustling vibrant town with cafes and tearooms. 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 Hotel, or eat at tasty DeliLicious, the new Potter's Pantry or newly renamed Bottega B Ristorante down the road. For body and soul, book a retreat at Quest for Life. Don't miss Brigadoon, the great Scottish celebration in April, and the fabulous Winterfest community event with all its activities in July.

#### **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). Australia's oldest continuously licensed inn, the Surveyor General, is also there and 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.

#### ΙΟΔΟΙΔ

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. Val from Joadja Estate does a fascinating old township and distillery tour not to be missed.







#### **CAPITAL**

Athol Salter, daughter Jane and son-in-law Bob Crowley are one of our best and most-loved local success stories. Together, the trio is emporium Dirty Janes Bowral and apart from having an eye for antiques, vintage and pre-loved, they are also of some of the most down to earth, hardworking people about. Which is why the news Dirty Janes Bowral is expanding its family and opening Dirty Janes Canberra is such great news. Canberrans and visitors to the nation's heart will now be able to get their fix of Questacon, the War Memorial and the art galleries before heading to Fyshwick for some serious business of wandering and shopping and eating and enjoying at the new Dirty Janes. "Athol started out in Canberra with Hall Antiques in the 1970s so I grew up in Canberra and later came here to the Highlands as a boarder at Frensham," says Jane, who started in antiques at The Shed in Mittagong where she, Athol and Bob were based for 20 years until Dirty Janes Bowral opened in 2009. Today she buys and finds her pieces from all over the world, in Europe, the UK and North America. "This idea of opening another Dirty Janes has been percolating around our heads for the last two years so in a way this is a sort of homecoming," Jane says. Like Dirty Janes Bowral, which will remain the family's flagship store with its 80 stallholders and a warehouse always packed with delights for locals, visitors and design and home buffs, Dirty Janes Canberra will be succour to the soul. It will feature more than 90 stalls with dealers, collectors and artists, artisans, makers and collectors from Canberra, Jugiong, Cootamundra, Bathurst and NSW's central west. Outside there will be chooks, and ducks, gardens and vegetable beds. Salvaged Turkish beach huts will be turned into stalls and there will be a restaurant and a big takeaway lawn for picnics and lazing about. Says Jane: "We really want to turn Dirty Janes Canberra into a community hub where people can come and do classes, have a family picnic or buy something beautiful from an artisan that is handmade, bespoke, recycled or upcycled. We have always been about re-loving and discovering vintage, and antiques. About consuming without leaving a footprint." With an emphasis on helping artisans get a leg-up and find a retail presence, Jane says to date Dirty Janes Canberra has buy-in from artists and collectors who will sell vintage clothing, retro movie props, industrial lighting, heirloom jewellery, painted furniture, records. There will also be a fabulous kids playground. Jane says: "We've done so well in Bowral and the community has been so accepting of us that we looked at Canberra and thought 'why not spread the vintage love?'. "I think our new premises are going to build a beautiful community in Canberra. It's exciting days." dirtyjanes.com

Dirty Janes Canberra opens in March 2020 seven days 10am to 5pm.

Dirty Janes Bowral, 13-15 Banyette Street, Bowral seven days 10am to 5pm.

## The Loch







 $\sim$  Open Sundays  $\sim$  10am to 4pm

Lunch Open Garden Veggie & Flower Stall Antiques

Luxury B&B Accommodation
Open 7 Days

#### <sup>C</sup> Events at The Loch <sup>→</sup>

Christmas Lunch Sunday, 1 & 8 December

Jimmy Barnes, Up Close & Personal,

Sunday, 15 December

An intimate garden concert with

Jimmy and his family

Gift vouchers available for upcoming events – the perfect Christmas gift!







581 Greenhills Rd, Berrima www.theloch.net.au info@theloch.net.au | 0411 511 244



#### CHRISTMAS WITH THE BARNES'

Jimmy Barnes, our Instagram Star this issue on page 128, is a much-loved icon and local you might see about the place; EscapeSH last spotted him at the Southern Highlands Regional Gallery's Community Day lending his support and belting out some gorgeous tunes with supremely talented singer and daughter Mahalia. If you missed that occasion, you could get on the front foot and give yourself, or someone you love who loves Barnsy, a really special Christmas present. Jimmy Barnes, Up Close and Personal, is a pre-Christmas twilight concert for 200 lucky people at chef Brigid Kennedy's The Loch, Berrima. Says Brigid, chef and owner of The Loch with husband Kevin: "This is a really special local event where Jimmy plays here with Jane his wife and his children. Jane and their daughters are the back-up singers and his son is on the drums and his son-in-law is on the cello. It is an unplugged and acoustic concert during which Jimmy talks about his memories and his journey, his early traumatic life and how his family helped him survive and not become a rock and roll statistic.' Tickets to this very special evening include complimentary drink on arrival. There will be comfy lounges to chill out on during the performance as well as food stations and bars serving Loch tasting platters and beer, wine and cocktails for purchase. Sunday December 15 from 4pm, The Loch, 581 Greenhills Road, Berrima. theloch.net.au



## Rockin' Green Day You gotta give it to John Large, owner of Centennial Vineyards, Bowral. A less determined person may have given up yes ago from ongoing battles with neighbour local council to see the return of his succ

determined person may have given up years ago from ongoing battles with neighbours and local council to see the return of his successful open air music concerts. But John is not man to let go of a dream lightly, and now his fight to see the return of Michael Gudinski of Frontier Touring and Michael Newton of Roundhouse Entertainment's Day on the Green concerts kicks off in October 2020 with none other than rockin' Rod Stewart. The consummate performer, Scotsman and Celtic supporter (nice tie-in with the green) Sir Rod, who has sold more than 250 million records including four number one singles and seven number one albums in Australia, will join the likes of other global music supremoes who have rocked the award-winning Bowral vineyard's stage. Says Michael Newton: "We're thrilled to return to Bowral with one of the biggest superstars in the world. "Some of the most memorable shows in A Day on the Green history were at Centennial Vineyards, with music icons Leonard Cohen, Alicia Keys and Lionel Richie, so it's appropriate we return with an artist of Rod's renowned

Stature." Sunday October 25, 2020. ticketmaster.com.au adayonthegreen.com.au





#### **GO QUIETLY UNDER THAT RADAR**

Tim Storrier is one of Australia's most esteemed and brilliant artists but he is perhaps also one of our most reticent; not for Tim mixing it at local openings and exhibitions or stepping out in the social pages. Instead, as he tells EscapeSH on page 103, he is happiest "painting like a man possessed" in his studio, The Arcadian Repose, named after his 2017 watercolour painting of the same name. However, if you are lucky and know your artists, you may spot Tim in Aldi on occasion, passing as unnoticed in the vegetable aisle as the next shopper. Do people know, you have to wonder, that this man's artworks adorn the walls of every major gallery and collection in Australia, and many overseas to boot and often sell for around \$400,000 a pop? The youngest person ever to win the Sulman Prize at 19 years in 1968, the now septuagenarian also tells EscapeSH that to this day "I've still got no idea whether I deserved to win". Tim and wife Janet recently opened Hopewood House, their magnificent 1884 Bowral property and acres of gardens to weddings, and are planning to add Open Gardens and Open Gallery events to the 2020 calendar. A solo show with Philip Bacon Galleries will take place at Hopewood House on September 12, 2020. The show will then move to Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane from September 15 to October 10 so keep an eye out. And take it from us, the chance to see some of Tim's iconic works hanging in his personal gallery, or to meet the artist, is something quite special.

storrier.com. hopewoodhouse.com.au





#### Cellar Door - 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 surrounded by the Sally Beresford collection of antiques.

The architecture of the building is a blend of French provincial and early Australiana, 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.







## The Ultimate Highlands Escape

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS LEADING LUXURY HOTEL AND SPA



Fet apart on it's own secluded estate, just East of Bowral, Milton Park Country House Hotel and Spa offers luxurious accommodation, award winning restaurants and impeccable yet discreet service in an atmosphere of relaxed sophistication.

## WHAT'S ON Summer

Summer is here and there are loads of things to do. We've picked a few events locally we think you'll love. But with so much to choose from, keep a look out. For our updates @escapesouthernhighlands and check out southern-highlands.com.au

DEC.

#### **JINGLE BELLS**

If you love Christmas and carols, don't miss Bowral Family Carols on Thursday December 5 from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Pull out your daggy Christmas jumper, pack a rug and a picnic and bring your sense of fun and community to Bradman Oval in Bowral for a memorable night of live performances, a nativity parade with horses, donkeys and camels and St. Jude's Choir. The evening starts at 5.30pm and carols start at 7.30pm. Expect a visit from the big guy in the red suit, too. If you miss Bowral's carols, get along to Moss Vale the week after for Carols in the Park at Leighton Gardens, on Saturday, December 14. The evening kicks off at 6pm and singing starts at 7pm. There will be food stalls and a BBQ, fairy floss and face painting for the kids and lots of merriment.

Bowral, Thursday December 5, 5.3 opm to 8.45pm Bradman Oval, St Jude Street,

Bowral Moss Vale, Saturday December 14, 6pm onwards. For info, call Deb 0407 907 699

#### IF I WERE A RICH MAN...

If you like your stage productions full of drama, music and locally grown talent, then make a date with Frensham's public performance of Fiddler on the Roof. Revisit the famous production, first performed on Broadway in 1964, that tells the tale of a Jewish father with five daughters, struggling to maintain his culture and custom against a backdrop of Imperial Russia and impending persecution. Friday December 6 at 7.30pm, Clubbe Hall Frensham, Range Road, Mittagong

#### **SANTA SELFIES**

Got a pooch more prized than a mere pet? Then it must be selfie time! Friends of Wingecarribee Animal Shelter (FOWAS) and We Know Pets Bowral are giving your precious pooch the chance to make their Christmas wish by sitting on Santa's knee this year, while you take a snap. All kinds of pets are welcome. No booking is required. Pets need to be on leads and payment is a \$10 donation to the Wingecarribee Animal Shelter. Opened in Moss Vale in 2000, the shelter is managed by our local council and run by a small group and more than 20 volunteer members of FOWAS. On average, the shelter holds 10 to 15 dogs and seven cats plus three litters of kittens at any one time. With a minimal euthanasia policy in place, it manages to rehome nearly 400 animals a year.

Snap with Santie, Saturday, December 7 from 10.30am to 1.30pm, We Know Pets, 4/72-76 Station Street, Bowral

#### PICNIC IN THE PARK

Southern Highlands Botanic Garden, whose appeal for funds to help the building of its education centre continues, and where work for the all-ability playground is under way thanks to a grant from My Community Project, is holding its annual Christmas picnic on site. Come along and see how work is progressing on the 15 hectare site, which, in time, will become a beautiful park for all the community. Sausage sizzle and wine available or BYO picnic. Entry by gold coin donation.

Saturday December 7, from 4pm to 7pm. Cnr Old South Road and Kangaloon Road, East Bowral.

#### MIDSUMMER DREAM

A new experience is afoot for those in search of song, celebration and food. Midsummer Gospel Brunch celebrates the power of the sun with choir, The Cafe at the Gate of Salvation, at historic Hillview Heritage Hotel, Sutton Forest. Enjoy a breakfast buffet including coffee and cooked brekkies as well as a Bloody Mary and Virgin Mary Bar to really get you humming. On the longest day of the year, fairies may be about so feel free to dress for the occasion. \$75 to \$135.

Sunday December 15, 10.30am to 1.30pm, Hillview Heritage Hotel, 7277 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest highlandharvestfeasts.com

#### FORAY AND FIND

Late night shopping and festive fun comes to Argyle
Street, Moss Vale again for the annual Moss Vale Festive
Foraging. Get along and shop at some of our favourite
local sweet spots such as Made by Others, The Mossy
Store, Suzie Anderson Home, Bowerbird on
Argyle, Nest and Burrow, Hunters and Gatherers
Collection, Doggy Barber ... the list goes on. Shoppers
will have the chance to pick up exclusive offers and lucky
foragers who follow the Christmas map and collect the 12
Christmas stamps in any of the participating businesses
will go into a draw to win a Festive Forager prize pack on
the night, from a total prize pool of \$3000.

#### **BOWRAL LATE NIGHT SHOPPING**

Thursday December 12, 4pm to 9pm, Moss Vale

Thursday December 12th and 19th until 7:30pm ▶



## WHAT'S ON Summer

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Snap with Santie, Saturday, December 7 from 10.30am to 1.30pm, We Know Pets, 4/72-76 Station Street, Bowral

#### PICNIC IN THE PARK

Southern Highlands Botanic Garden, whose appeal for funds to help the building of its education centre continues, and where work for the all-ability playground is under way thanks to a grant from My Community Project, is holding its annual Christmas picnic on site. Come along and see how work is progressing on the 15 hectare site, which, in time, will become a beautiful park for all the community. Sausage sizzle and wine available or BYO picnic. Entry by gold coin donation.

Saturday December 7, from 4pm to 7pm. Cnr Old South Road and Kangaloon Road, East Bowral.

#### MIDSUMMER DREAM

A new experience is afoot for those in search of song, celebration and food. Midsummer Gospel Brunch celebrates the power of the sun with choir, The Cafe at the Gate of Salvation, at historic Hillview Heritage Hotel, Sutton Forest. Enjoy a breakfast buffet including coffee and cooked brekkies as well as a Bloody Mary and Virgin Mary Bar to really get you humming. On the longest day of the year, fairies may be about so feel free to dress for the occasion. \$75 to \$135.

Sunday December 15, 10.30am to 1.30pm, Hillview Heritage Hotel, 7277 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest highlandharvestfeasts.com

#### FORAY AND FIND

Late night shopping and festive fun comes to Argyle
Street, Moss Vale again for the annual Moss Vale Festive
Foraging. Get along and shop at some of our favourite
local sweet spots such as Made by Others, The Mossy
Store, Suzie Anderson Home, Bowerbird on
Argyle, Nest and Burrow, Hunters and Gatherers
Collection, Doggy Barber ... the list goes on. Shoppers
will have the chance to pick up exclusive offers and lucky
foragers who follow the Christmas map and collect the 12
Christmas stamps in any of the participating businesses
will go into a draw to win a Festive Forager prize pack on
the night, from a total prize pool of \$3000.

#### **BOWRAL LATE NIGHT SHOPPING**

Thursday December 12, 4pm to 9pm, Moss Vale

Thursday December 12th and 19th until 7:30pm ▶



## GREEN LANE

BOWRAL



#### WE'RE CELEBRATING SUMMER IN GREEN LANE

Come and join us in celebrating the Summer season in **Green Lane**. Relax and enjoy a glass of wine or cocktails on Harry's Terrace, stroll through our gardens and shop for plants, gifts, clothing, homewares and vintage treasures.

We now also have a new licensed cafe **'Plantation'**, which is open for coffee, fresh pastries and delicious breakfasts daily from 8am ... and a fresh, summery all day menu from 10.30 till 4pm. Next door, **Harry's on Green Lane** is open from 10am for coffee and snacks, then lunch from 12 and dinner Friday and Saturday nights.

Green Lane, 21 Banyette Street, Bowral (next to Dirty Janes).

Home to:

THE ORANGERY • THE POTTING SHED • HARRY'S • PLANTATION • DIRTY JANES • SUZIE ANDERSON HOME • CAMPBELL & SPEARMAN

www.greenlanebowral.com @@greenlanebowral @@harrysongreenlane @@theorangerybowral

For dinner bookings at Harry's, please phone 02 4862 2983



#### **SCHOOLS IN**

Many Highlanders will be taking a well-earned breather in January but craft and design centre Sturt is still at work, presenting its Summer School. Now in its second decade, with a bumper program of 24 courses for adults and children, Sturt is the place to be. So if you're looking for a present, or you have some time free and want to give you and/or your children's creative sides some love, check out Sturt's wonderful schedule of classes, which include weaving, ceramics, jewellery, sculpture, basketry, photography, print making and painting. Also don't miss Sturt's great Christmas Artisan Market, Friday Dec 13 3pm-9pm.January 4 to 8, Cnr Range Road and Waverley Parade, Mittagong sturt.nsw.edu.au

#### SHOW TIME

Step right up, step right up ... it's show time again and Bowral show has a beauty of a line-up this year: a twoday showjumping program, pet show, dog high jump and a Family Day on Sunday which includes mini trot races, Down Under Working Dogs, Hobby Horse Race and Hobby Horse Best Dressed. Also all the loved pavilion exhibits with arts, crafts, cooking, photography and preserves. Camping for the night and stalls available. Saturday January 11 and Sunday January 12, **Bong Bong Picnic** Racecourse, 460

#### SPIN THAT RECORD

Love the 70s, 80s and 90s and still got the records to prove it?

Looking for something new to try on a Saturday night during the school holidays? Then gather friends and family around, bring your records and hotfoot it to Artemis Vineyard for the return of Artemis Vinyl Nights. Here you can let loose your inner boogie on the dancefloor and have your vinyls played on classic 70s speakers. Or set up camp on the lawns around the cellar door and enjoy your complimentary cheeseboard served on arrival. Woodfired pizzas and wine, beer and cider are available for purchase. No BYO grog or food please. Dance and party the night away until 11pm.

Saturdays from now until March 7, 2020, 6.30pm to 11pm Artemis Wines, 46 Sir Charles Moses Lane, off the Old Hume Highway, Mittagong. Bookings artemiswines.com.au



#### **LEATHER ON WILLOW**

Summertime is cricket time and there's nothing like a family knockaround at the beach or in the backyard. If your kids are a bit more serious, book them into the Steve Waugh Cricket Clinic for Kids at Bradman Oval in Bowral. The clinic, held over three days, includes 18hours of skill development, strategy and tactics talk, and kids get to play on the famed field. The fully supervised clinic is for girls and boys aged six to 16. January 6, 7 & 8, 2020 from 9am to 3pm, Bradman Centre,

St Jude Street, Bowral info@stevewaughcricket.com.au bradman.com.au

Kangaloon Road, Bowral



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St Jude Street, Bowral info@stevewaughcricket.com.au bradman.com.au

Kangaloon Road, Bowral

#### MAKE A FIELD DAY OF IT

Whether you own one acre or a couple of thousand, or just like to check out a tractor or two, The Small Farm Field Day caters for all who love the agri-sector. There will be two days of exhibitions, demonstrations, workshops, presentations and displays of all things pertaining to the land and life on it. We especially love the sound of the Hawkesbury Kelpie Show, and the award-winning Boggy Creek Show, with horse riding, whip cracking and sheep shearing as well as the Reptile Awareness Displays. Lots of kids rides, free face painting, jumping castle, jeep rides and food and beverages. And see displays by the Berrima District Old Machinery Club. Leashed dogs are welcome and free onsite parking is available.

February 1 and 2, 9am to 4pm, \$5pp, kids under 15 free. Bong Bong Racecourse, 460 Kangaloon Road, Bowral smallfarmfieldday.com.au



*February* 



#### **CHEERS TO THAT!**

The annual Highlands Craft Beer and Cider
Festival is back, this year at Bong Bong
Racecourse on the same day as the Small Farm
Field Day. This year's festival will include 10
local, Australian and New Zealand breweries
and cideries, who will come together to showcase
more than 100 varieties of craft beer and cider
on tap. With live music and local food and
producer stalls, this is a fun day out.
February 1 and 2, from 11am.
Keep an eye out for more details
@highlandsbeercider or
tanya@ttgevents.com.au
Bong Bong Racecourse,
460 Kangaloon Road, Bowral

## Talks, Tours, Workshops, Classes & Clubs...

So much to try and do this Summer.

#### **CHEESE PLEASE**

Join cheesemaker and local farmer Lucy Nias at her Mittagong farm and meet her friendly bovines, learn to make your own cheese, and experience the small holding lifestyle for a day. Participants can learn the secrets of Camembert, how to develop and mature the bland rubbery curds of cultured, renneted milk into a creamy elegant and fragrant delicacy. Says Lucy: "This is a hands-on workshop, in which you will make three types of cheese and will take them all home with you to care for, mature and ultimately enjoy." Bring an Esky or large waterproof box to take home your cheeses. Bookings essential. Six-hour making workshops include all equipment, ingredients and a light lunch. Private classes are also available. lucynias@hotmail.com

#### **KIDS IN STITCHES**

Threading a needle is a life skill we reckon every kid should have. Artist and teacher Lucy Turner agrees. Her three-day Sewing and Making Workshops in her private garden studio in Mittagong will teach children how to sew a huge variety of felt toys, make miniature toy shops and sew clothes for a loved bear or doll as well as other crafts. For kids aged eight to 14 years. Kids will use 100 per cent woollen, as well as wood, artists' quality paint, and papier mache. Dec 11, 12 and 13, 9am to 4pm, \$370pp includes all materials and afternoon tea (A \$100 deposit is due when booking). Contact Lucy for details and bookings at lucyturner@ozemail.com facebook.com/lucysholidayworkshops



#### **TROPHY**

Acclaimed Friesian ewe-milk cheese producer Pecora Dairy at Robertson continues to gain more accolades for its cheeses, especially for its Australian-first raw milk cheese.

Learn more about producers Michael and Cressida McNamara's farming practices and methodology at its Cheese Making and Appreciation Masterclass and learn to make Camembert, fresh curd and mozzarella. A perfect Christmas gift for foodie loved ones.

Catered morning tea and lunch provided.

Sunday, January 12, 9am to 3pm pecoradairy.com.au

#### **CHRISTMAS HEALING**

Founded and run by the inspirational Petrea King, Quest for Life's Healing your Life fiveday summer residential retreat programs in Bundanoon are for those suffering challenging emotions such as a diagnosis, divorce, death, depression or disaster. These professionally run programs aim to educate, empower and encourage within lovely accommodation and tranquil gardens. December 9 to 13, January 20 to 24 and February 17 to 21 questforlife.com.au

#### **CHILLED OUT TUNES AND VINO**

Luxury glamping outfitter Me JaneCampout is teaming up with Cuttaway Hill Wines at Exeter to offer some evenings of Movement, Meditation, Tunes and Vino. These yoga to music evenings in December will encourage people to "connect their breath to beat", says Jane. "We invite people to drop some sweat and stress on the mat .... and join us for some smooth moves and varied tunes to help you flow ..." Finish off with a tipple at Cuttaway Hill Cellar Door.

Thursday December 12 and Sunday December 15, 10.30am to 11.30am. \$35pp includes class, yoga mat, wine-tasting, water and communal grazing board. Bookings mejanecampout.com and cuttawayhill.com.au



#### **CUTTING IT CLINIC**

Farm Club Australia at Werai is a great place to visit – what with its family Sunday Farm walks from 10am, its café, farm shop and a range of farmstay options. Now the family-owned and run agritourism farm is hosting horsemanship clinics featuring some of Australia's best trainers in cutting, reining, campdraft and youth clinics. Keep an eye out for its clinics, which kick off again in January, farmclubaustralian.com.au

#### **SCREEN SAVIOURS**

Need a little help working out that new iPad, tablet or smartphone you're hoping might be under the tree this year? Get along to the Robertson Community Technology Centre, which runs a weekly support group for nontechie types with a qualified trainer and other assistants on hand to help.
Thursdays 1.30 to 3pm, 58-60 Hoddle Street, Robertson. \$5 to join and \$5 per visit.

#### •

**WORKSHOP IT** 

Married makers Mr and Mrs Munro continue to share their love of making with a terrific schedule of workshops at their new creative home, The Workshop Room (part of the Southern Highlands Art Collective, aka SHAC, in Robertson). This February, give an old chair a new lease on life and learn the skill of upholstery with Reign of Chairs' Fiona Edmeades two-day upholstery workshop. BYO chair. The cost for workshops includes all materials and morning or afternoon tea.

Sunday Feb 15 and 16, 10am to 5pm, The SHAC, Hoddle Street, Robertson theworkshoproom.com reignofchairs@gmail.com

# COMFORT COOKING Kangaloon cook Helen Vlahakis' Greek grandmother taught her as a girl to love food and the joy that cooking for others can bring. Now she's sharing this love through her Mumma's Country Kitchen cooking classes. Held on Helen's 100-acre property, classes include Paddock to Plate lessons throughout February, where Helen will teach budding cooks to use what's in the vegie patch. Celebrate the last days of summer with a moussaka, an authentic Greek salad, zucchini fritters, fresh ricotta, cherry tomato confit and that perfect pud for warmer days. All classes include a light lunch, a glass of Highlands red and a little gift from Helen to take home. mummascountrykitchen.com.au

#### **KEEP ON TRACK**

Head to Thirlmere this January and February to the NSW Rail Museum for railmotor rides at the museum. Get aboard a 40-minute ride from historic Thirlmere station to Buxton and return along the Thirlmere Heritage Railway. It's a great morning out with the family. The NSW Rail Museum will be open every day over summer except December 24 and 25 December.







### Solo me-oh... Live the Links luxe

Links House, a boutique hotel in Bowral, has a quiet grace and sits very happily in its charming skin. Alex Speed checks in and checks out for a night.

WORDS ALEX SPEED IMAGES ABBIE MELLE

Details: Links House Hotel
17 Links Road, Bowral
enquiry@linkshouse.com.au
linkshouse.com.au

ant to know what I think is the most underestimated and unattainable facet of modern life? Solitude. Trumpeted through the centuries by scholars and poets as an essential means of achieving mental balance and serenity, solitude is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as 'the state of being alone' from the Latin root word solus. But by God if you work, have a partner, children, aged parents, responsibilities, worries or live in the 21st century, it's hard to achieve these days. Shakespeare got it. Writing in Twelfth Night he says: "I myself am best. When least in company." But then he didn't have to keep up the mortgage repayments or spend hours every week trying to separate truculent teenagers from their devices. I think about solitude now, and the luxury it affords as I am shown to my Queen Superior room at Links House. This small boutique hotel sits in a scenic position opposite the fairways of Bowral Golf Club. I am here for a night. Alone. Tonight there will be no sparring siblings to separate, no animals to feed and no reluctantly agreeing to watch reruns of QI. Oh the joy. Links House is run by locals Joey Pfahl and Vanessa Legge, who are also founders of Rustic Table Catering. Built in 1928 as a country guesthouse, Links was the first hotel in Australia to have ensuites. Have no fear, I won't be picking up any soggy bath towels left by others on my ensuite floor tonight. My room is perfect. It has a Queen bed with fine linen in a sunken room that adjoins a living area with a sofa,

fridge bar, desk, TV and an ensuite shower bathroom. Designed by local PieceByPieceHome designer Liz Pilkington, it is a cosy ode to English country house chintz with original art on the walls, kilims on the floor and a well-stocked mini bar to be investigated. In his essay The End of Solitude, writer William Deresiewicz says technology, and society's increasing desire to be connected and visible, threatens our capacity for solitude. "The quality that validates us is being seen by others, so we live exclusively in relation to others, and what disappears from our lives is solitude. Technology is taking away our privacy and our concentration, but it is also taking away our ability to be alone." Not this duck. It's immediately apparent Links Hotel would also be a fabulous place for a romantic staycation, or to recommend visiting friends to stay but I'm not one to look a gift horse in the mouth. I have a dinner reservation for 7pm. At 6.30pm I happily wander through Links' pretty gardens, enjoying its outside paved terrace with water fountain, boules pitch and front lawn - perfect for wedding canapes and champagne. There's also a sumptuous private dining room with private catering available for occasions. Guests can also take over the entire hotel for a weekend or a week. I make my way back inside for a G&T. The lounge area has a charming Art Deco bar at one end, loads of armchairs and settees to fall into and a huge open fire at one end.





It's dinner time, and I have no worries eating alone. There are about seven other tables full of diners in tonight. The newly re-launched restaurant ETHOS, intimate with original cornices, arches and windows is a gourmet find, and is open for dinner Monday to Saturday. The food by chef Jason Hughes, formerly of Bendooley Estate and Harry's on Green Lane, is fabulous. From a seasonal menu, I start with Jason's chicken liver parfait with piccalilli, sourdough and cornichon, followed by the Atlantic salmon with cauliflower puree, broccolini, radish and beurre blanc. There is a good wine list with lots of local choice. I go for a glass of Exeter winery Dawning Day's Merlot Noir. The meal is a feast and the joy of not cooking or having to clean up afterwards is bliss. I am already looking forward to the complimentary breakfast included with my stay. A choice of continental (fruit, cereals, pastries and toasts) or a cooked breakfast. I'll be opting for the eggs benedict.

I retreat happily to my room with another glass of merlot. Away from the circus of life at home, for a few hours I get to listen to my inner voice, switch off physically and mentally and hone the skills needed were I ever to become a solitudinarian (it's a thing). Wouldn't be a hardship at Links House Hotel. \*Escape SH was a guest of Links House Hotel.







### BULWARRA BEES IS GIVING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A BEE KEEPER!

HOW IT WORKS Harvest your own signature honey! Help save the bees and teach your children something valuable; where their food comes from and the important role bees play in the production of our food. We will set up a hive anywhere between Braemar and Bundanoon. We can regularly monitor your bee hive and you can experience the joy of keeping bees! Be as involved as you like.

**BENEFITS** Increased pollination of your vegetables and garden! Your honey will have its own unique flavour, sourced from your own bees! Get tips on planting bee friendly gardens. Help the planet! Save the bees!

**WHO WE ARE** A family owned business, Bulwarra Bees are based in Bowral on beautiful Mt Gibraltar. We have been producing award winning honey since 2012 (Sydney Royal, National Honey Show) We produce our own range of honey based skincare and promote regenerative agriculture by planting bee friendly gardens.

To arrange a site inspection contact us on **0422 735 677** hello@bulwarrabees.com.au | www.bulwarrabees.com.au

Bulwarra is proud to have partnered with the Humane Society International (HSI) Wildlife Land Trust Sanctuary. Certificate IV Training and Assessment.

Certificate III Conservation and Land Management



## Accommodation in tranquil gardens

Our Quest for Life Centre in 9 acres of beautiful grounds in Bundanoon is available for **exclusive hire**. Accommodating 25 guests, Quest for Life can also provide mindfulness, meditation, yoga sessions and delicious food for your next event.

Call **1300 941 488** or visit

www.questforlife.com.au



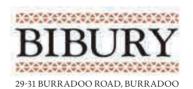






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At the top of the wish list for many visitors to the Highlands is to experience life on a farm. Particularly children, and understandably so. A recent survey found one third of Australian kids struggled to identify fruit and vegetables, and where produce comes from. Don and Judy Warner took the bull by the horns 20 years ago with their farmstays.

#### WORDS ALEX SPEED IMAGES ABBIE MELLE

It's a sobering thought that many Australian kids haven't the foggiest where their eggs, meat or milk comes from. And as drought and deregulation bite, it probably doesn't help that the number of dairy farming families in the Highlands has plummeted from 60 in 2000 to just six today.

Not a moment too soon, then, for my youngest, who is eight, to spend a night with me at the Warner's dairy, Fairway Farm, at Wildes Meadow. Don Warner has been a dairy farmer for pushing 60 years. He came to this 130 acres of rolling hills at age 18 and has been bringing the cows in morning and night ever since. Judy joined him as a young bride and they raised a family here. And for the past 20 years the hard working couple have offered accommodation to give visitors a taste of farming country life.

"We're not flash here, but people seem to like it and we have some guests who have been coming back every year for 20 years," says Judy as we are greeted by border collie working dogs, Skye and Misty.

We arrive after a school day and it's action stations as Don brings the cows in for milking. Two years ago, the 74-year-old had a heart attack so he sold off much of his 80 strong herd. Today he keeps 11 of

his favourites, to keep the business ticking over and little guests to the property rapt. Mine is.

"Mum,' he says. "I never knew a cow was so big."
These girls weigh nearly a tonne and in a bad mood can give a good kick, says Don, who's worn a few over the years. They are also prolifically productive: each gives on average between 40 and 50 litres a day. His best cow ever, "never had another like her" says Don, gives 70 litres a day. "Our biggest drawcard is we are a working dairy farm, so children can see milk does not come from a bottle," says Judy.

They can also get up very close with the animals, which my son loves. Straight after milking, we do the rounds with Judy, bottle-feeding Shaun the Sheep, a pushy little Suffolk lamb and feeding about 15 young Holstein calves. There are also chooks to feed, eggs to collect, peacocks to see, Candy the miniature pony to pet and Judy's homemade cupcakes demolish.

As the cows are taken back to their paddocks and the other animals settle for the night, we take a twilight walk up a lane to the top of a hill overlooking Wingecarribee Reservoir. Land here is some of the most expensive in the Highlands so it is nice to see many of the Warner's neighbours are still farmers.

"Don won't ever sell," Judy says when I ask later about any retirement plans. "He could never give up farming." Our nights' accommodation is a self-contained unit with a private stairs entrance off the main house. Sleeping five, it has two double beds and a single, and opens on to a verandah with settees that overlooks Judy's beautifully kept garden, resplendent with hydrangeas and mature trees.

The homely kitchen and living area are spotless and comfy with everything you could need including an oven, microwave, coffee machine, television, DVD player and kids' books and toy basket. A complimentary country breakfast containing cereals, fresh farm eggs, bread, conserves, tea and coffee and of course, milk, is included for your first morning. Later we treat ourselves to a pub dinner five minutes up the road at the Burrawang Village Hotel. We sleep the sleep only fresh farm air can bring and awake early to sounds of the roosters crowing. It's 6am. Outside, Judy and Don are already busy bringing the cows down and before I know it, my youngest is out beside them, taking Shaun his early morning feed.

EscapeSH was a guest of Fairway Farm. highlandsnsw.com.au/fairwayfarm

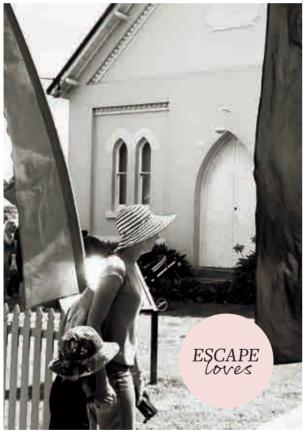




#### **DEAR DIARY**

Keep a diary and one day, when you are older and famous, someone might want to publish your scribbles. Just think of Samuel Pepys, Charles Darwin, Mark Twain, and more recently Helen Garner. Or keeping a journal might simply serve as a cathartic way to unload at the end of the day. We love Bespoke Letterpress's beautiful offerings. These linen-bound journals feature gold foil printing, gilt edges, satin ribbon markers and 200 pages printed on chlorine-free pure wood fibre paper to let your wildest, more secret thoughts take flight. The perfect gift for anyone who loves words and writing them.

5 Bong Bong Street Bowral and The Strand Arcade, Ground Floor, 412-414, George Street, Sydney bespokepress.com.au



## Support Festive Local

Our local villages and town markets are a magnificent source of unique, one-off locally made and homegrown products from farmers and makers (details page 100) so look to our local makers, artisans and producers to buy what's going under your tree and on your table.



#### SMELL OF CRIMBO ....

Zoe Waters has got the right idea with her new brand of luxury, gift packed coconut and soy candles, Zoco. Subtle and sophisticated fragrances in an elegant white glass jar, these candles are hand poured in Robertson and complement any style of interior. Zoe's new luxury Christmas candle, Yule, is long burning and gentle in the air. Notes of frankincense, lemon zest, cinnamon, ginger, clove and star anise give off a fabulous Christmas feel. And it comes in a sparkly silver mercury glass jar. Perfect for dressing up any home. Available at Halvorsen Interiors, Shop 8, 79-81 Hoddle Street, Robertson and Cashmere Essentials, Shop 3, Corbett Plaza, Bowral or zococandles.com.au





#### WATER OF LIFE

Val and Elise Jimenez show what perseverance and hard work can achieve. The couple, who bought the old Joadja township on a whim a decade ago with the dream of beginning the Highlands' first single malt whisky distillery there, have done exactly that. Made from barley and water on site, and matured in one-time sherry barrels from Jerez, Spain, Joadja Distillery's limited releases of Joadja Distillery Single Malt sell out fast. So if you've got a whisky lover in your house, give them the water of life. Job done. Available at Destination Southern Highlands Visitors Centre, Hume Highway Mittagong and Joadja Distillery Cellar Door, 10am-5pm Saturday and Sunday, 1760 Joadja Road, Joadja joadjadistllery.com.au



#### **BOUNTIFUL BIRDIES**

Want to attract some more birdlife to your summer garden? It can be hard to find hanging bird-feeding tables with roofs to keep away cats and bigger birds but Berrima Village Pottery, run by master potter Paul Bruce and wife Lou, has just the thing. These rustic feeders, made from upcycling old timbers, come in a range of sizes to encourage all sorts of natives to set up shop in your backyard. Also, there are lots of fabulous mugs, bowls, plates and platters for those who appreciate hand made. 17 Old Hume Highway, Berrima; berrimavillagepottery.com

#### ELEMENTAL MY DEAR ...

Jess Crook is a clever Highlands businesswoman who couldn't find the product she was looking for, so started her own label. Universal Elements is an organic skincare range, which Jess, a hairdresser who lives in Moss Vale, started in 2016 after suffering skin allergies caused by the nasties in other products. Inspired by the four Greek classical elements (fire, earth, wind and water), Jess is now concentrating on developing her own haircare range starting with Universal Elements Miracle, a hair oil made of argan, avocado and rose geranium oil. Just the ticket for nourishing and restore beach-tangled summer hair.

universalelements.com.au

#### **CUTE AS**

MIRACLE

Emma Stuart is another of our creative locals who grew up making things. "Dream catchers made out of old horseshoes, macramé wall hangings, wind chimes and little wall hangings made from beads, succulent arrangements." Emma started making button earring jewellery for a friend's birthday, and then for another friend and soon everyone was saying 'I should sell' them so I did". Emma makes her button dome rings and earrings, bookmarks and fabric hair ties and clips out of scrap material she finds lying about so most are one-off pieces. We particularly love her personalised ring, created thanks to her daughter. "My favourite piece is the drawing of our family my daughter did for me that I set behind glass as a ring." It is a beautiful keepsake."

Find Emma @buttonmeup\_designs and Berrima School Yard Market, fourth Sunday of the month 9am to 2pm (except January) and the second Sunday in December.







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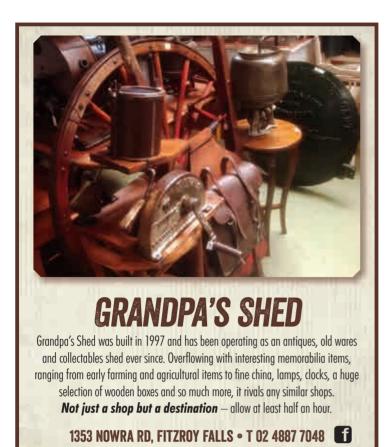






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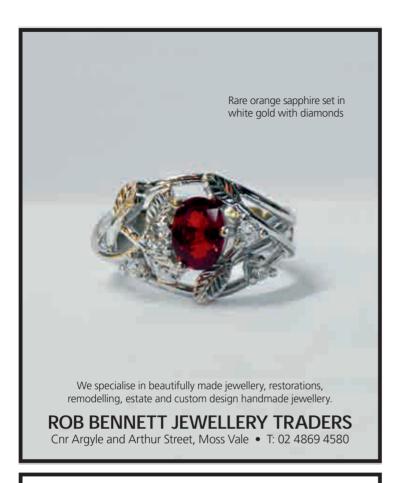
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# Berrima's Natural Australia

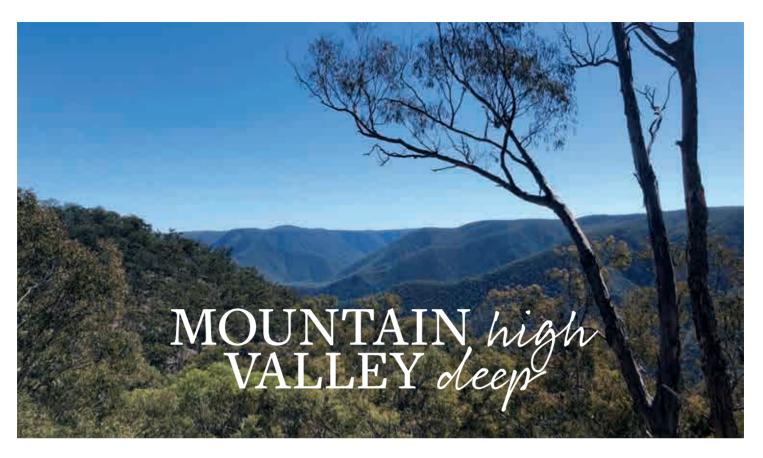
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Bush-bashing is so much better with fit, friendly and informed guides walking by your side. words & IMAGES ALEX SPEED

When I was a teenager, my father took my brothers and I on a bush walk in the Freycinet National Park in Tasmania. We trekked up mountains and along the coast to Wineglass Bay. It's a place of world heritage beauty but sadly, it's not the place that stands out in my memory: what I remember is how I whinged incessantly on the way up, until Dad gave me a gob full to "shut it". Which is why, were he alive today, he'd probably be surprised to see me slogging happily up the nearly 500 metre ascent to the top of the Trestle Track in Bungonia State Forest.

It's been a day to remember. Today I stepped out of my comfort zone and went on a 13 kilometre bushwalk with the Southern Highlands Bushwalkers Club. Before coming along, I was suspect. Would all the members be Anorak-wearing weirdos or Kumbayasinging happy clappers? Like most suppositions, mine were miles off. What I found was a group of interesting, outdoors-loving locals who enjoy walking in the stunning national parks and state forests on our doorstep.

The club has 70 members. Its charter states its purpose is to provide a variety of walks and activities, a forum of discussion on walking and environmental issues, a means for people of similar interests to meet socially and basic training in bushwalking skills. All of which I've had a taste of today. The Trestle Track walk is a goodie if you are in good shape and up for a challenge. It's a 25-minute drive from Sally's Corner on the Hume Highway. In the summary

provided beforehand, it is described as "extremely difficult and strenuous, steep and exposed to vertical drops. Wet Shoalhaven River crossing. Exploratory and off track to chimneys and mine shaft. Fit walkers only." It soon becomes clear walk leader Greg McCroary, a teacher at Bundanoon Public School, who wrote the summary is not joking. The descent is steep on a winding goat track. It takes two hours to get to the bottom.

But I have a bounce in my step. The weather is perfect and The Shoalhaven River, although in need of a good flush out, is beautiful. We are headed for Tolwong Mine and a book "Fitzroy Falls and Beyond: A Guide to Shoalhaven-Extreme Wilderness Bungonia State Recreation Area" sheds light on its intriguing history. "The Depression of the 1890s caused a dramatic increase in prospecting for gold. The Shoalhaven Valley was inundated with hopefuls," it reads.

In 1904, John Sivewright, a prospector who struck gold at Yalwal, also found evidence of silver, gold, copper, tin, lead and zinc near Tolwong. The Tolwong Mining Company leased the land and by 1910 it was carrying out extensive mining with two tall furnaces and chimneys, as well as an electric generator and crushing plant to smelt iron ore. But the ore it mined was too hard to smelt and in 1912 the company went into liquidation after spending 23,000 pounds ... more than \$4 million today. The chimneys are all that remain. At the top of our descent we stop at the remnants of a flying





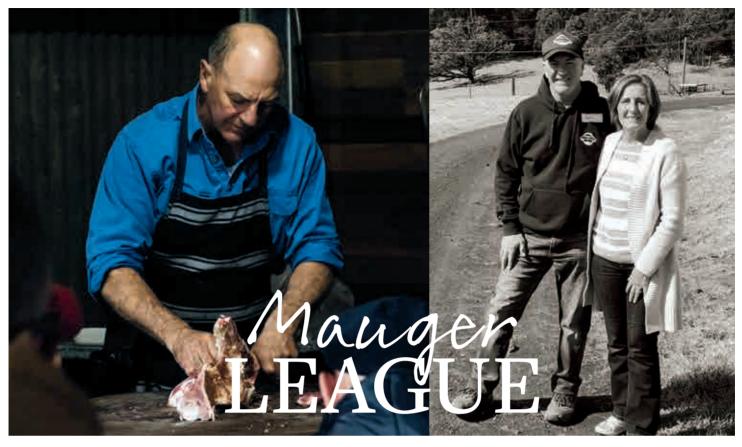
At the evening's completion of our seven-hour walking day, I am hot and tired but happy. I have loved seeing this wild part of my backyard and chatting with the others, who are generous with their knowledge. Above all I have relished a day outside, putting one foot in front of the other and being truly in the moment.

shb.org.au 🖪









Paddock to plate. Farm to fork. John Mauger and his Maugers Meats lived this farming philosophy long before it became ethically fashionable. Escape SH goes along to one of the Burrawang butcher's on-farm tours to learn more.

#### WORDS ALEX SPEED

I f you are old enough to remember when meat was bought from a butcher's shop, you may also recall butchers were genial, smiley men in striped aprons with a twinkle in their eyes and a volley of chatter on their tongues.

John Mauger, like many of his old-school shop-floor contemporaries, has the gift of the gab. A third generation Robertson beef farmer who buys his weaners at the local saleyards and fattens them up for his butcheries, John has been keeping his customers happy with service and a smile for 40 years. And come retirement a few years ago, John decided he had no intention of letting all that knowledge, and oratory charm float off into the ether. Golf was never an option.

Which is why for the past two years, John and wife Vicky have been running Maugers Paddock to Plate Tours on Laurel View, the red soil property where John spent his childhood, and where he runs and rotates his 300 plus head of cattle.

It's also where eight of us, a Sydney barrister and teacher and their two children, a marketing professional and a retired butcher and his wife, presumably meat eaters, find ourselves one bright and breezy Saturday.

"Welcome to John and Vicky Maugers Paddock to Plate tour," John starts

after we have all been fed and watered thanks to Vicky's exceptional baking skills. Well known to locals after 30 years of cooking 20kg beef butts for functions and weddings alongside John, Vicky has culinary talents that are so good Maugers has now bottled them.

Says John: "My Dad started off as a bush butcher and in 1972 he opened his first butcher shop in Burrawang and starting buying and fattening weaners, which are young cattle. We have been grass feeding our cattle, which we sell in our shops since then, and now others are all trying to do what we have been doing all along. We know how to grow it, cut it up and cook it and what I've always wanted people to say about me is 'he sells bloody good meat'."

John went into his Dad's business as part time wash-up boy when he was eight. At 16, on the afternoon he finished the Leaving Certificate at Moss Vale High, he joined the firm fulltime.

"When I was 18, Dad had a heart attack and the only medication back then was blood thinners so he couldn't be in the cool room anymore because he couldn't stand the cold, so I took over. My father taught me to be a butcher and I taught my son Mat."

Today Mat runs the family's shops in Burrawang and Moss Vale, and is now gearing up for the festive season rush on Maugers prized Christmas hams. This leaves John free to concentrate on his grass-fed cattle on his 300 acres. Due to the drought, he is in caretaker mode but is chuffed that recent tour participants have included chefs, TAFE students, former butchers, families and fellow farmers, who all seem interested in what he has to say.

"Eighty per cent of meat sold in supermarkets today is from grain-fed, intensive farming. It requires a lot less land, the cattle fatten quicker and the meat will be tender because they are not moving but the cattle have



## MAJOR ON TASTE, SMALLER ON PRICE

John says that Bolar of blade is a cut of meat not used today as it once was "and it's a crying shame". "Found on the shoulder, it can be used as a roast and has more flavour than a round or topside round, and is not as dry. It's also much better value for money than a more costly sirloin or scotch fillet, which is very useful when you are feeding a lot of people this festive season." This recipe for slow-cooked Bolar of blade is cooked for six to eight hours and once cooked will shred as it is sliced. "It makes wonderful pulled beef burgers."

#### **INGREDIENTS**

2kg bolar roast beef 3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil

1½ cups red wine

1 bay leaf

1 tsp black pepper, crushed

1 garlic clove, crushed

1 large onion, quartered

2 large carrots diced

1 cup sliced mushrooms

#### METHOD

Pat the meat dry, then brown in the oil in a heavy fry pan. Combine the browned beef, wine, onion, carrots, mushrooms, bay leaf, pepper and garlic in a slow cooker or crockpot. Cover and cook on low for six to eight hours. Test with a fork to see if the meat pulls apart and remove from slow cooker, crockpot, oven. Shred the meat and place on large crusty buns with homemade coleslaw, horseradish, caramelised onions and a relish of your choice.

"We like our own Maugers Beetroot Relish, made by Vicky and available at our Moss Vale and Burrawang stores," says John. Bon Appetite, Maugers. no quality of life," he says. "There is a lack of shade, greater chance of disease due to close confinement and the animals are not free to move around at all. It's an unhappy lifestyle. Here we have troughs and trees and creeks and 10 acre paddocks and to me that is the way nature intended. Our goal with these paddock-to-plate tours is to educate meat-eaters on the choices they make with their buying power, and to explain why pasture-fed meat is better tasting and more ethical than grain fed."

The tour includes a presentation and recollections of John's life growing up on the farm, including the time a Massey Ferguson tractor fell on him when he was just four. "'He's a goner' my Dad said."

We take a trip down the farm's stockyards where a herd of cattle bound for the abattoir tomorrow, are penned. To the untrained eye they look fat and relaxed.

Afterwards, John's boning-out butchery demonstration and lunch are highlights. Butchery is a dying art, and ambidextrous with his knife, it is fascinating to watch John begin work on the hindquarter of a carcass.

"In these modern days, people generally only eat the very best cuts like the sirloin and the eye fillet," he says. "But these cuts are not the most flavoursome and a whole generation have lost the knowledge of other cuts and how to use the whole beast.

"We are being desensitised to flavour and to how animals are raised these days. I want people to see how we do it here, and how we believe grass-fed is better for our cattle and our customers."







The Next Chapter

With a fusion of passion and creativity, Matty Roberts and Cassandra Wallace, new owners at Eschalot, are creating an exciting new chapter in the story of this iconic restaurant.

WORDS KYLIE MATTHEWS

As we enter Eschalot's famous stone cottage restaurant on a sunny Friday afternoon, maître d' and co-owner Cassandra Wallace gives a warm welcome, seating us in one of the Berrima restaurant's newly renovated, intimate dining rooms.

We are here to meet Cassandra and her husband, chef Matty Roberts and savour an eight-course degustation menu with matching local wines. Renowned for exceptional service, innovative cuisine and impeccable wine pairings, this celebrated restaurant has been attracting foodies to the Southern Highlands for more than a decade. When former owner and head chef Richard Kemp decided to hang up his apron last year after 12 years, he entrusted Eschalot to Matty and Cassandra. And in just a few short months, the couple have injected a new vitality into the place, while remaining loyal to Richard's legacy.

Our first course has serious wow-factor, setting a high precedent. We devour a flavoursome dry aged sweet potato with cashew cream, wild rice dukkah and pickled brillig carrots, matched with local vineyard Tertini's Sparking Blanc de Blanc. Our other culinary highlights are pork ar jard with a spiced kimchi in a chrysanthemum broth, paired with Cherry Tree Hill Riesling 2018; and lavender-smoked duck breast, kohlrabi kimchi, carrot, panisses and burnt honey, paired with Artemis vineyard's Pinot Noir.

My favourite course is the almost-too-pretty-to-eat wild mushroom harvest of exotic varieties (from Mittagong's Li Sun Exotic Mushroom tunnels), set on a bed of truffle polenta that I matched myself with an Eden Brewery Pale Ale. We complete our degustation with a sensational salted chocolate delice with honeycomb, ginger sponge and buttermilk gelato matched effortlessly with a Joadja Pedro Ximénez from Joadja Distillery.

Matty's dishes are wonderfully creative and expertly executed and his passion for his craft is evident in every dish. He says his grandmothers were responsible for sparking his interest in food. "My dad is Anglo-Indian and my grandmother made all her curries, rotis, breads and naans from scratch and would spend all her time in the kitchen," he says. "On my mum's side, Nan was involved in catering and she played a big role in me developing an appreciation for food and fresh ingredients." Matty worked with chefs including Enzo Leone at La Bella Vita in Camden and Tom Laws at Relish on Addison in Shellharbour, and more recently he and Cassandra headed up Violets and Vinegar, a local wedding and events caterer. Since moving to the Highlands five years ago, his food is all about fresh, local and seasonal. "My philosophy on food is 'work with what you have because the ingredients are going





Keep an eye out BYO Thursday nights and 'Quick Lunch' on a Friday (lunch time) 2 courses and a glass of wine for \$45

to be at their best when they are in season'."

To this end, Matty and Cass worked hard to invigorate the existing kitchen gardens and to develop strong relationship with local producers.

"These producers, they're not just farmers or growers, they're small businesses passionate about their food, just like us, so we work to support each other," he says. "What I can produce in my kitchen is pretty much dictated by the success or failure of their harvests, which can be challenging but it keeps me on my toes." Settling into their new life with two-year-old daughter Odessa, Matty and Cassandra are enjoying being a part of Berrima's vibrant, supportive community. "I had complete confidence in Matty and I to make this work," says Cassandra. "I knew he would come into this kitchen, and just shine. But what was daunting is we didn't know how we'd be received but we've had a great deal of support from the community and overall, the reception has been very positive. We intend to let the restaurant organically evolve along with us. It'll be interesting see where it takes us."

Christmas Eve Special - 5 course shared plate feast \$95pp / +\$55pp with matching wines.

Eschalot Restaurant, 24 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima Open Thursday to Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday lunch only. eschalot.com.au 🗈



# Lady Bucket's Kitchen

If the name isn't enough to get your attention ... "Hyacinth Bouquet, Lady of the House", then the cooking of Biddy and Jean-Pierre Maupin of Lady Bucket's Kitchen should be.

A speciality of this couple (who make the best local pates, in our humble opinion) are their fruit cakes with no butter, eggs or sugar. Perfect for vegans and people with food allergies. They also make a gluten free version.

This French-Australian couple, who work out of their Moss Vale home, are the real deal, chef de cuisines. Jean-Pierre was born near Giverny in France and after he met Biddy in 1968, the couple lived in Paris before coming to Australia in 1975.

Says Biddy: "We produce about 17 jams, relishes and chutneys plus chicken and duck pates and pork rillette. "Our fruit cake comes in three sizes and is our most popular item. It's a great alternative to a traditional



Christmas pud or cake if you have food allergies or other requirements. Warmed up with brandy butter or custard, it's a treat."

Another of their beauties is Biddy's bestselling Green Mango Chutney. Slather it on prawns on the barbie, or on turkey, chicken or or your locally bought ham (Maugers Meats smokes hundreds every year for December). Find Biddy and JP at Berrima Schoolyard Markets and Mittagong Markets (see page 100).





## Biddy's bestselling Green Mango Chutney

#### Ingredients

- 1½ mangoes peeled and chopped
- 1 tablespoon coarse salt
- 1¾ cups sugar
- 2 1/2 cups brown vinegar
- 3/4 cup chopped dates
- 3/4 cup chopped raisins
- 2 tablespoons grated fresh ginger
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 teaspoon chilli powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin

#### Method

Place mangoes in large bowl, sprinkle with the salt and barely cover with water. Stand overnight.

Next day, drain mangoes.

Combine vinegar and sugar in large saucepan, stir until sugar dissolved, then stir in mangoes and all the remaining ingredients.

Bring to boil and simmer, uncovered, until mixture thickens.

Pour into sterilised jars. Makes about eight cups.

Delicious with cold summer meats, especially Christmas hams, but also with curries. Try it on sandwiches made with leftovers on Boxing Day.

Bon appétit!



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If you usually find yourself elbow deep in stuffing wishing you'd booked to eat out in the festive season, check out these fabulous local restaurants and chefs doing the hard yards for us. Cheers to that!

WORDS JILL DYSON

#### THE INAUGURAL FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

Get into the Christmas spirit and head to the Bong Bong Racecourse for the inaugural Festival of Christmas. With more than 100 exhibitors, you will have your shopping list marked off in no time. Enjoy local wines, beer and ciders. And there are cooking demonstrations, entertainment and loads of other activities and family fun. Sat 7 and Sun 8 December, 9am to 5pm. 460 Kangaloon Road, Bowral festivalofchristmas.com.au

#### LIGHTING OF THE **CHRISTMAS TREE**

Visit Robertson for the lighting of the giant Christmas tree in the car park of the Robertson Public House and Kitchen. This is a free community event, with a visit from Santa, Iollies for the kids and live music by local band, Rusted Track, December 6. from 6pm. 89 Hoddle St, Robertson. robertsonpublichouse.com.au

#### Pre-Christmas Lunches

Start your festive celebrations at THE LOCH, BERRIMA. It's the perfect place to gather with friends and family if catching up on the 25th is out this year. Enjoy Christmas lunch in the stunning garden while soaking up the summer sun on chef Brigid Kennedy's delightful verandah. The three courses feature traditional Christmas fare, with a twist to suit the season, all sourced directly from The Loch or from other nearby sustainable suppliers, and producers. While there, stock up on gourmet treats and vegies for the big day from the abundant farm stall, or order flowers for your table. Sundays December 8 and 15. 581 Greenhills Rd. Berrima, theloch.net.au

On Sundays during December there will be a festive carvery

at the ROBERTSON PUBLIC

HOUSE AND KITCHEN with all the traditional trimmings, roast meats, roast vegetables as well as salads, condiments and rolls. 11.30am to 3pm. \$28pp. 89 Hoddle St, Robertson robertsonpublichouse.com.au

#### THE BURRAWANG GENERAL

STORE, in the charming village of Burrawang, has developed from a traditional store to a culinary destination for locals and visitors. The store, built in 1867, is having a traditional Christmas dinner with turkey and all the trimmings, as well as festive cocktails. Saturday, December 21. Bookings open November 21. 11 Hoddle Street, Burrawang info@ bgsc.com.au 02 4886 4496

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE BURRAWANG VILLAGE HOTEL** will

be a relaxed family friendly evening with usual trading for lunch and dinner plus a special treat with a visit from the big man himself and Iollies for the kids. Always a great night and popular with the locals. burrawangvillagehotel.com.au

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE ROYAL**

HOTEL, BOWRAL, with live music from 8pm, is also always a popular night. 255 Bong Bong Street, Bowral royalhotelbowral.com.au

#### Christmas Day Lunches MILTON PARK, BOWRAL

Start the day with a glass of Veuve Clicquot or a summer fruit cocktail, followed by a six-course meal. Executive chef Thomas Ege has put together two very elegant menus for Christmas lunch. The main menu includes dishes such as pancettawrapped turkey breast and black pepper honey-glazedpork ham terrine, star anis jus, apple and walnut slaw; and a Vegetarian Menu with dishes including lemon myrtle marinated asparagus, cauliflower mash, crispy kale and curry oil. Children's meals for 12 years and under are also available. Meals from the traditional menu are \$190pp and from the children's menu. \$85. Milton Park Country House Hotel. 200 Horderns Road, Bowral miltonpark.com.au 02 4861 8100

#### **FEAST AT BERRIMA**

The popular Christmas Day lunch buffet at Feast at Berrima is on again this year. Start with canapes and a complimentary drink. The buffet includes a range of seafood options such as king prawns, oysters, smoked salmon and seared ocean trout skewers. There is also a rare roast beef fillet with horseradish and mustards; and roast turkey breast with orange and port demiglaze. Finish with traditional pudding with brandy anglaise or berries, meringue and cream. Spaces are limited.

\$140pp adults \$90pp children (12 and under). 1 Market Place, Berrima (Australian Alpaca Centre) feastatberrima.com.au 02 4870 1268.

#### PEPPERS CRAIGIEBURN, BOWRAL

There are two options for lunch on Christmas Day at Peppers Craigieburn, a shared platter with three-hour beverage package in Hickory's Restaurant; and a hot and cold buffet selection and three-hour beverage package at the Christmas Day Carrington buffet lunch. Lunch in Hickory's Restaurant costs \$199pp. Christmas Day Carrington buffet lunch is \$189 per adult, \$55 per child (four to 12), and \$85 per young adult (13 to 17). Centennial Rd, Bowral

sales.southernhighlands@peppers.com.au 02 4862 8013

## PEPPERS MANOR HOUSE, SUTTON FOREST

Peppers Manor House's Christmas lunch includes a large range of cold selections, followed by several hot main dishes and many enticing desserts. Most dishes are gluten free and many are also dairy free. The lunch includes two and a half hour beverage package. Bookings from midday; \$199 per adult, \$85 per child and children under five are free. Kater Road, Sutton Forest. sales.southernhighlands@peppers.com.au 02 4862 8013.

#### **BOWRAL BRASSERIE, BOWRAL**

Bowral Brasserie will be open for lunch on Christmas Day serving a four-course traditional Christmas dinner for \$120pp. Shop 2/1 Wingecarribee St, Bowral bowralbrasserie.com.au 02 4861 2277



New Year's Eve

**BOWRAL BRASSERIE** will be open on New Year's Eve for dinner only.

#### **BURRAWANG VILLAGE HOTEL**

New Year's Eve, with a special limited menu, great live music and outdoor bars, is a big night of celebration at the Burrawang Hotel.

menu on New Year's Eve hosted in its beautiful Hordern's Restaurant. The price of \$145 per person includes a glass of Veuve Clicquot. The Polo Bar will be open for post-dinner beverages with live coverage of the fireworks on television.

Head to the  ${\bf ROBERTSON\ PUBLIC}$ 

**HOUSE** for a New Year's Eve dress-up Country Party with live music until late.

**THE ROYAL HOTEL BOWRAL** is open for dinner on NYE but closes by 10pm.



CHEESE ETC. at The Mill, Bowral has an extensive range of cheeses and condiments that would make excellent Christmas gifts for those who don't have a sweet tooth or prefer to go the wine and cheese route. A range of Christmas hampers is available and can be ordered online, or visit Hugh Nicholas at The Mill from Wednesday to Sunday. Hampers can be customised to suit the lucky recipient.

The Mill Bowral, Stall 10 B, 210-224 Bong Bong St, Bowral Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm and Sundays 10am to 3pm. cheeseetc.com.au 0479 197 331.

THE LOCH near Berrima (as mentioned above) is open every Sunday and has a plethora of great festive gifts on offer. For foodie friends, there are house-made jams, chutneys and spiced salts. Browse the huge range of farm-restored antiques in the stables, or purchase a gift voucher for The Loch's performance events, foodie field days or boutique accommodation.

Sundays, 10am to 4pm. 581 Greenhills Rd, Berrima theloch.net.au

GINGERBREAD HOUSES are made to order at the Burrawang General Store and there will be festive specialties on offer all December. 11 Hoddle Street, Burrawang. bgsc.com.au

CENTENNIAL VINEYARDS has put together three enticing hampers featuring their highly rated wines (including sparkling for the festive season) and selected local products such as Cuttaway Creek jam and Kangaroo Valley Tapenade. Or customise your own. Ring Natalie or Kate on 4861 8722. Hampers can be delivered in a Centennial branded box (freight \$12) or collected from the cellar door. Order by 16 December to ensure Christmas delivery. 252 Centennial Road, Bowral. admin@centennial.net.au

FEAST AT BERRIMA offers gift vouchers for its Cooking School as a perfect Christmas present. Feast at Berrima's Annie Holloway is a talented local chef. 1 Market Place, Berrima. feastatberrima.com.au



# Bellissimo Pranzo

THERE CAN'T BE MANY LOCAL CAFES TO HAVE OPERATED IN THE SAME PLACE UNDER THE SAME NAME FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES. IL PRANZO WEARS THAT BADGE PROUDLY.

Started 26 years ago by two Italian brothers in the thoroughfare arcade joining Argyle and Clarence streets in Moss Vale, Il Pranzo (which means "to lunch" in Italian), is now owned and run by Scott and Sarah Dennett. And it's Sarah, with her ready smile, and booming welcomes and goodbyes, "bye Marilyn, bye Deb, hey Lucy ...", the locals come to see. A hospitality natural, Sarah knows and loves this community, its people and their "usuals" like few others. Sarah says: "We came here from Sydney more than 20 years ago because we loved the area and funnily enough I actually worked here after the original owners Bruno and Paul had sold Il Pranzo to another local." The cafe has its own artisan coffee blend, served by long-standing manager and barista Morgan Rook, and prides itself on

the quality of its coffee. Sarah and her staff serve breakfast and lunch six days a week. Il Pranzo's all-day breakfast menu is an enduring favourite, as are its daily specials, its soup and its excellent risotto dish of the day. Chef is David Tamehana, formerly of The Briars and Fraccaro's Pizzeria. Sarah says: "I did interior design and then moved back into hospitality working at Southern Highlands Winery's cellar door and in a few other cafes. I came back about five years ago to work for Kim and Jane, who owned II Pranzo then and we bought it three years ago." The cafe is a family affair. Husband Scott does the books, and Sarah's father Roger, 80, comes in a couple of times a week to help out. "He loves seeing everyone and being out. It keeps him active and happy," says Sarah. "I love making a difference to a person's day. People come in and I remember their coffee, I remember if they've got a new job or their mum is sick. They feel a connection.' II Pranzo, which seats up to 40 and also does catering, is not flash or particularly styled, says Sarah: "But David's food is fantastic. We have great staff and our atmosphere is always friendly and lively. People know when they come in that I am never having a bad day. My customers want to come in and be uplifted." ilpranzo.com.au



Image by Annabelle Hickson

#### **FROMAGE**

A summer without a cheese platter is no summer at all. So next time you're thinking cheese, think local and seek out Pecora Cheese Shop and Providore in Robertson. The shop, opened just weeks ago by local farmers and cheese-makers Cressida and Michael McNamara of nearby Pecora Dairy, is opposite the Southern Highlands Artisan Collective just up from the Robertson pub on Hoddle Street. "Robertson has a real zing to it at the moment," says Cressida, who got her Friesian ewes to milk and make cheese nearly 10 years ago. "Moonacres is doing amazing things, as is the SHAC, so we just thought the idea was right for us and to hopefully give the community an offering of local cheeses." Pecora Cheese Shop and Providore will sell its own cheese range, Jamberoo Mountain Blue, Curly Red, Bloomy, Fresh Curd and yoghurt as well as Yarrawa, Australia's first noncooked raw milk cheese. There will also be other cheeses from NSW producers on offer including The Pines, Kiama, Marrook Farm, Willowbrae Chevre goats milk cheeses, Burraduc Buffalo cheeses as well as produce from other producers and farmers the McNamara's know. The couple's award-winning cheeses are also served in some of Australia's most acclaimed restaurants, including Biota, Bowral and Quay, and ARIA, Bennelong and Automata in Sydney. Their cheese shop is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. And if you find they are out, drop by The Robertson Cheese Factory Cafe, with its cheese counter just up the road that Escape SH hears has also been given a new lease of life by new owner Venetia Hendry. Says Cressida: "We are starting very small and hoping it will all begin to tick over. "What with our new cheese shop and full-time farming, it's going to be a busy Christmas." pecoradairy.com.au robertsoncheesefactory.com.au





# Country-style catering with a Southern Highlands flavour

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#### LINKS HOUSE

a small hotel

Built in 1928, Links is celebrating 90 years and new ownership.

diverse event and dining options | bespoke menus | garden | courtyard exclusive spaces | accomodation | cosy sitting room | bar | in-house events

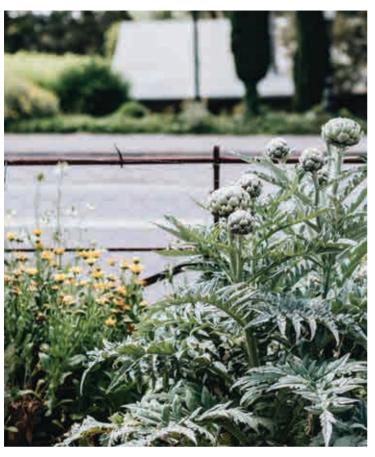
17 Links Rd, Bowral 02 48611977 www.linkshouse.com.au

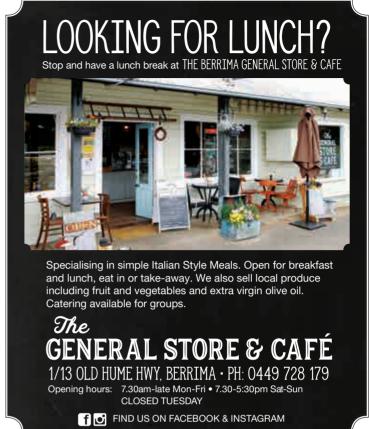
# The BOSTON

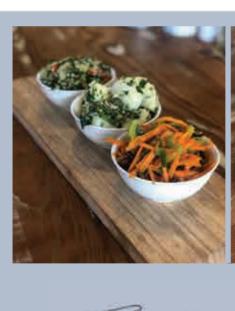


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Deli Catering Coffee

101 Hoddle St, Robertson(02)48852425 lucindaspantry.com



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

& 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. 48618722

#### 8. Southern Highlands Brewing Company Kitchen & Taphouse 490 Argyle Street,

Moss Vale. Thurs 5.30-10pm,

#### 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

10.30-4.30pm. 4883 4999 13. Cuttaway Hill Wines

# 212 Sally's Corner Rd, Exeter Open Fri-Sun 10:30am -

4:30pm. Other times by appointment 0409 902 982

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

15. Eling Forest Winery & Cellar Door 12587 Hume

### 12324 Hume Hwy, Sutton Forrest. Open 7 days.

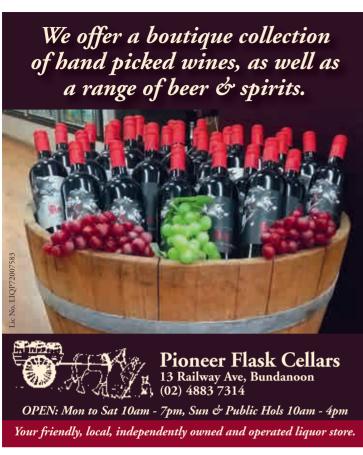
Thurs-Mon 10am-5pm. Tues & Wed 12noon-4pm

#### 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









Internationally awarded Pinot Noir and Riesling headline at Tertini Wines. With a focus on producing small batch, handcrafted wines our premium, cool climate range includes rare Italian varieties. Our newly released Arneis, Lagrin, Refosco and Corvina are delicious examples of these. We host seated, friendly and informative tastings 7 days a week. Bookings are essential for Groups of 6 or more.

# Thirst First!

docally grown

Tis the season for kicking back and sipping a few locally grown delights from our talented vintners, brewers and distillers. Here's what tipples they've been cooking up recently.



#### **GODDESSES**

Anton and Mark Balog aren't ones to rest on their laurels, and their Artemis pinot noir has been winning those on the international scene. Most recently it won gold at the Vienna International Wine Challenge, where more than 12,000 wines by 1750 producers from 42 countries were on show. Another for the Christmas stocking is their Artemis Eau De Vie Pinot Noir, with its strawberry, raspberry and kirsch cherry notes. Or try a bottle of Artemis Goddess Gin and pick up its notes of juniper, rose and citrus, combined with underlying pepper Shiraz characters. Heavenly. artemiswines.com.au

#### **BOTTOMS UP**

Boutique vineyard Bendooley has also done well. It won plaudits for its Pinot Gris 2018, which won silver at the Australian and New Zealand Boutique Wine Show. A delightful drop on a hot day, especially while imbibed on the verandah while lunching at Bendooley Estate, near Berrima. bendooleyestate.com.au

#### **EWE BEAUT**

Jeff Aston has the gift of the gab. This inventive and resourceful wine maker is an interesting and eloquent speaker about his life's work. He recently moved to his new Urban Cellar Door at Braemar. You can visit Jeff's biodynamic vineyard in Berrima, where his resident sheep keep down the weeds and prune the vines, all part of the biodynamic, sustainable winemaking plan. Meet the sheep, taste the wines and enjoy a gourmet grazing board in the paddocks. Tours one hour \$25pp tractorlessvineyard.rezdy.com/index

#### POP THE CORKS

It's champagne time, so think local and stock up on Centennial's NV Blanc de Blanc Chardonnay, which recently won Best Sparkling Wine at the Australian Highlands Wine Show at PepperGreen Estate, Berrima, for NSW vineyards above 500m altitude. Tertini Wines won Best Other Single White Variety of Show with its 2018 Pinot Blanc. Centennial also took out a trophy for the best Pinot Noir with its 2018 Reserve. The show, which also attracted entries this year from Orange, Mudgee, New England, Tumbarumba, Hilltops and Canberra district, is hosted by the Southern Highlands Food and Wine Association. southernhighlandsfoodandwine.com.au

#### BREW

Our brewers continue to do themselves, and us, proud, taking home a swag of medals recently at the Independent Beer Awards.

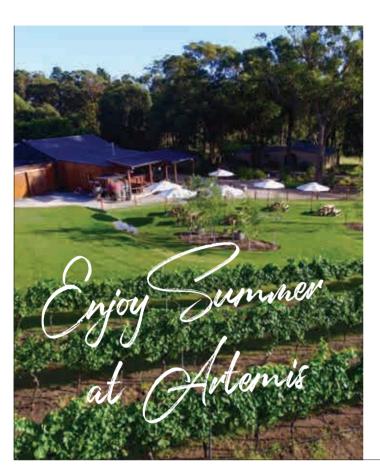
Jacob, Kelly and Deb at Eden Brewery in Mittagong received three bronzes; Ben and Cam at Southern Highlands Brewing Co walked away with two silvers and a bronze. Keep an eye out for Eden's new Gingerbread Ale made in collaboration with Gumnut Patisserie across the road. Made with NSW grown barley from Voyager Craft Malt this beer

is made with gingerbread measured by the square metre, with a big citrus and ginger nose and a nutmeg and star anise finish. Yes please Santa. edenbrewery.beer & southernhighlandsbrewing.com.au



#### **HEART SPRINGS**

Chris Cloran of Heart Spring water listened to his customers and is now delivering some of his Burrawang spring water, drawn from a secret spring in a fault in basalt rock in Wildes Meadow, in a new five litre demijohn glass bottle. Chris says it is good to be more sustainable. "Some of my clients are not able to handle the larger 15 litre bottles and others would prefer to receive their water in glass." With thanks, says Chris, to his wife Deb for the bottle design. heartspring.com.au



Summer is the perfect time to enjoy the best of what Artemis Wines has to offer. The luscious green lawn in front of the vineyard is the perfect place to take in the scenery with a wood fired pizza or a locally produced tasting platter and a glass of wine, cider, mead or beer.

Everyone is welcome at our Cellar Door, it doesn't matter how much or how little you know about wine, just sit back and enjoy personalised service from our friendly cellar door staff.

From October to March we hold various events such as Vinyl Nights & Movie in the Vines. Check out the events page on our website for more info and tickets.



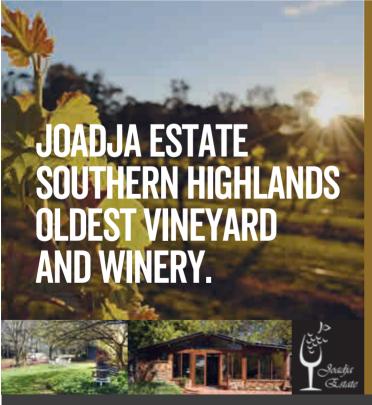
46 Sir Charles Moses Lane, Mittagong 2575

5 minutes from Mittagong - 8 minutes from Bowral

Ph: 0401 199 075

www.artemiswines.com.au

Please note wood fired pizzas are held every Sunday, but are set up outdoors and therefore weather permitting



#### Joadja Estate hosts

## **'SUMMER CHILL OUT SESSIONS' 1-4PM**

Enjoy a relaxing summer's afternoon with our wood-fired pizzas, antipasto plates and wine accompanied by free music performed by outstanding solo artists and duos:

4/1/20 Paul Hodgkinson

11/1/20 Nyssa Bunyan

**18/1/20 Lucy Mills** 

26/1/20 MUSIC IN THE VINES – Scissors, Paper, Rock

1/2/20 Paul Hodgkinson

8/2/20 Lucy Mills

15/2/20 Paul Hodgkinson

22/2/20 Lucy Mils

29/7/20 Mountain Dew Band

For more details, visit www.joadjaestate.com.au

Joadja Estate Vineyards Cnr Greenhills and Joadja Roads, Berrima For more information, visit www.joadjaestate.com.au or call 4878 5236



Enjoy a taste of Italy in the Southern Highlands at Sutton Forest Estate Wines, where the Lo Russo family's tradition in viticulture spans continents and generations to produce exceptional wines, served with a uniquely la dolce vita flavour.

Tucked behind the Hume Highway, near the village of Sutton Forest is one of the Southern Highlands best kept secrets, Sutton Forest Estate Wines and Cellar Door. It is here that Nick and Santina Lo Russo have been growing and handpicking grapes to produce award-winning wine varieties since 2002.

The estate's impressive selection of premium pinot noir, pinot grigio and chardonnay is testament not only to the Southern Highlands' cool climate and rich soil but to the family's ancestral traditions and experience in viticulture in central Italy, a couple of hours inland from the Amalfi

"Growing grapes is in my blood. My Italian grandparents grew grapes and one made wine for the people in our village, Anzano," says Nick, 78.

Nick's father was a skilled bootmaker and after being imprisoned in World War II, he emigrated to Australia.

"My father arrived in Sydney in 1954 and I followed him in 1958 when I was 17," Nick says. "Then my mother emigrated here the year Santina and I were married in 1962."

The Lo Russos chose Sutton Forest for its similarities in climate and landscape to their ancestral Italian village.

"Our property was originally part of Black Horse Farm and we bought it in 1980 as an escape from city life, and because it reminded us of home," Nick says.

With Nick's parents, the couple built a cottage on the property and in the days before the construction of the Hume Highway bypasses, would make the long three-hour drive from Sydney most weekends with their three daughters.

"My parents spent quite a bit of time down here but back then I was still running my hairdressing business in Beverly Hills, Sydney," Nick says.

"In 1990, after 29 years of business, I finally said 'That's it. I've had Enough', and then we started coming down here more often."

In retirement, Nick decided to try his hand at growing grapes. "When I found myself with more time, I said to Santina, 'well you know, vineyards are moving in the area, let's put a few in'. We chose the grapes that produced the wine varieties we liked and agreed that if we didn't sell it, we'd just drink it ourselves."

During those early days, the couple consulted one of the area's leading viticulturists, Darren Corradi from Southern Highlands Winery.

"I knew what I wanted to do, but there's a method of doing it and Darren was very helpful in the setting up phase," Nick says. 'During those first couple of years, I'd ring him up and say, 'Darren, what do you think ofthis?', and he'd give some advice, which was great."

In 2002, Nick and Santina planted five and a half acres of vines with chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot grigio grapes, and produced their first vintage in 2005.

Since then, the estate has gone from strength to strength, producing some exceptional vintages that have won Sutton Forest Estate Wines a strong consumer following and local, regional, national and international wine awards.

But success hasn't come without its challenges.

"It has a lot to do with the weather, which can be pretty unpredictable in the Southern Highlands," Santina says.

"In 2007, our second year of harvesting, we had three major frosts in early November when there were new shoots on the vines, and it killed about 1500 plants."

As Sutton Forest Estates Wine's vines have become more established, so, too, have the quality and unique flavours of its wines and the Cellar Door offers an impressive variety of options to taste.

The celebrated Pinot Noir Three Daughters 2015 Black Label Reserve has been lovingly matured for 18 months in French and American oak barrels, which ensures a fullbodied taste with ripe cherry and strawberry flavours, with notes of forest floor. Another favourite, the delightful 2018

Chardonnay, is a perfect accompaniment to warm summer days with its velvety palate and vanilla, marzipan and fruity aromas.

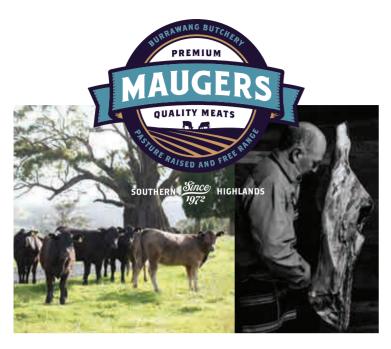
Other varieties include the Italian style Pinot Grigio 2017, which boasts an impressive depth of fruit-driven flavours, and the limited Sparkling Chardonnay Pinot Noir in an Italian Prosecco style. Port lovers will enjoy Nick's 10-year-old rich Liquor Tawny Port. His Botrytis dessert wine has dried apricot and passionfruit characters and a deliciously lush and vibrant palate.

The Lo Russo family open their Cellar Door most weekends and welcome wine tastings, served with traditional Italian food pairings in their Italian-style courtyard.

"We have a lot of guests come and visit us for wine tastings from all over and some come back over and over again," Nick says. "We know a lot of our return customers by their names now and over the years so many of them have become our friends.

"Every time they come they say 'Oh, it's like coming home' and that means everything to me." ■





# IMMERSE YOURSELF IN AN AUTHENTIC PADDOCK TO PLATE EXPERIENCE

Hosted by renowned Farmer and Butcher John Mauger, the three-hour tour will introduce you to a Southern Highlands working farm. You'll meet the mob and learn about grass fed beef and lamb production as well as the importance of knowing where your meat comes from. Experience the unique 'Art of Butchery' demonstration breaking down a side of beef, explaining each cut and its uses. With a sumptuous morning tea on arrival and a light lunch of slow roasted Maugers beef to finish, our tour is a true journey from Paddock to Plate.

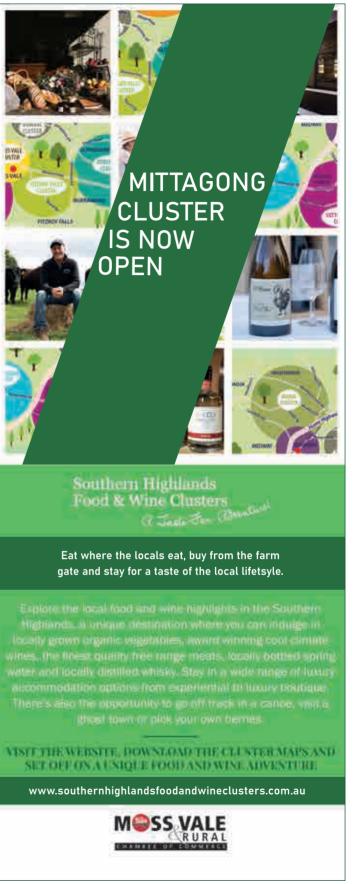
Tickets \$85 per person. Bookings essential.



#### **STAY WITH US**

Laurel View Farmstay is full of old world country charm. An ideal getaway for families and small groups looking to immerse themselves in country living. Set high on a 300 acre working farm amidst rolling green hills with some of the most picturesque views in the Highlands, the grand old farmhouse offers a timeless escape with all the comforts of home.

maugers.com.au | info@maugersmeats.com.au | 0488 499 442



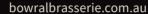


# THE BOWRAL BRASSERIE

FINE FRENCH FOOD

...for delicious French-inspired food at the 'Paris' end of Bowral...

#### Call today on 02 4861 2277









12 minutes from Bowral Dog friendly | Groups Welcome For Bookings bgsc.com.au

#### **Traditional Christmas Dinner 21 Dec**

OPEN 8AM - 4PM • 7 DAYS A WEEK 12 minutes from Bowral • Fully licensed Breakfast all day • Lunch until close

11 Hoddle St, Burrawang NSW 2577 Phone: 02 4886 4496 bgsc.com.au



@burrawanggeneralstore1867 Available for functions





# heart of the Highlands...

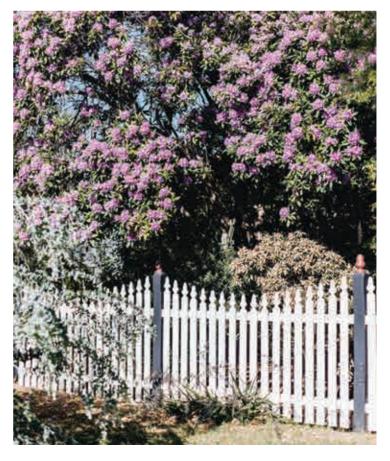
Comfortably sleeping up to 8 adults, Saint Eloi is an oasis of calm & charm. A short one & a half hour drive from Sydney, escape for a romantic retreat or luxurious soiree with friends. Surrounded by leafy gardens, secluded enough to feel at ease, close enough to town to explore local curiosities & all the Highlands has to offer.

#### SAINT ELOI GUESTHOUSE 02 4862 5200 | Moss Vale Road, Burradoo www.highlandsholidays.com.au/accommodation/278 569

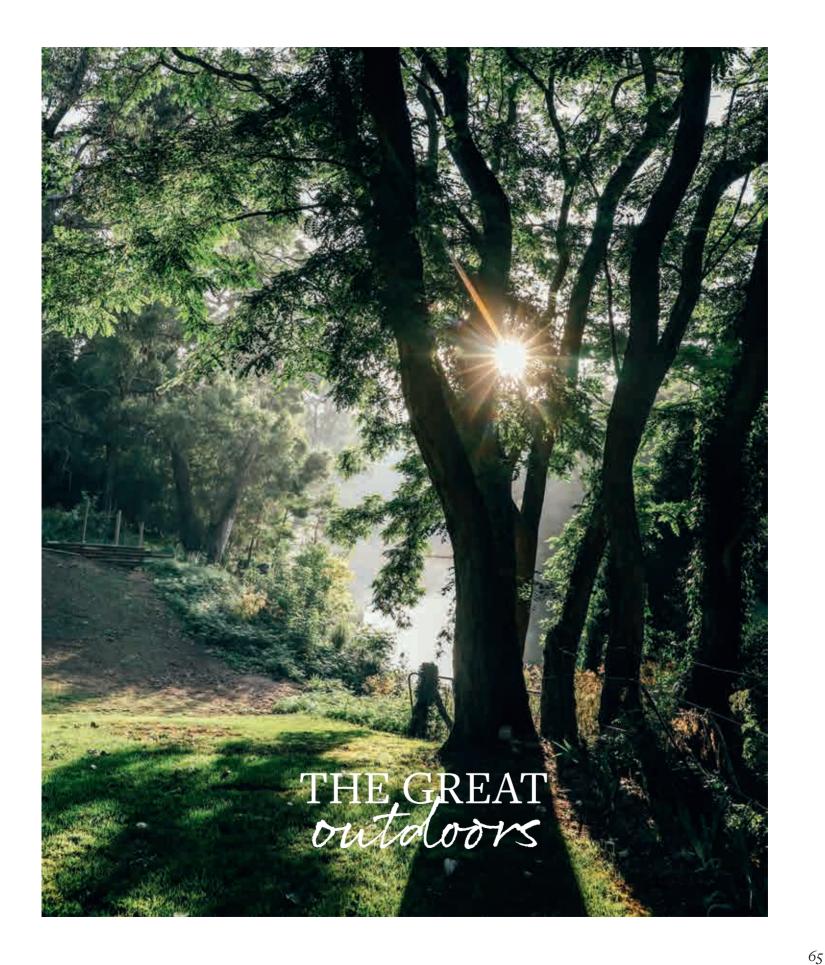


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(pronounced Vari)



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#### WINGELLO FOREST ENDURANCE RIDE

Endurance horse riding is a marathon sport, with a focus on fun, friendship and horsemanship. The sport has broad appeal across generations - if you are over 4 years of age, you can enter a ride! Families often ride together, sometimes with members from three generations in the one competition.

Riders select a distance to suit them and their horse, whether it be a 5km 'fun run', or a challenging 160km championship, or something in between. The goal is to ride at a pace that challenges you, while finishing safely with a horse that has been passed by the vet team as 'fit to continue'. Qualified riders and horses compete at speed for prizes, and for State and National pointscore awards, but must still be passed by the vet team as 'fit to continue' at all vet checks, including at the finish.

The feature endurance event in the Southern Highlands is the annual Wingello Forest Endurance Ride, held on the fourth weekend of May each year in the Wingello State Forest. With a festival atmosphere, equestrian market stalls, food stalls and undercover seating overlooking the vet ring, there is plenty on show to appeal to anyone with an interest in horses.

Spectators are welcome to attend on each of the two event days. Shorter distance rides are held on the Saturday, attracting a wide variety of horses of every size, colour and breed. On Sunday the competitive rides are held, showcasing some of Australia's top teams in peak fitness.

Southern Highlands Endurance Ride Inc PO Box 5070 Wingello NSW 2579 President Bec Hogan (ph) 0412 600 173 bechogan@newmoonstud.com.au #wingelloforestenduranceride

# experience the love of nature and the freedom in which to enjoy it... naturally!



**River Island Nature Retreat** has set a standard of clothing -optional Holiday Park, promoting a relaxed atmosphere in a peaceful and natural setting and accommodation to suit all lifestyles, tastes and budget.

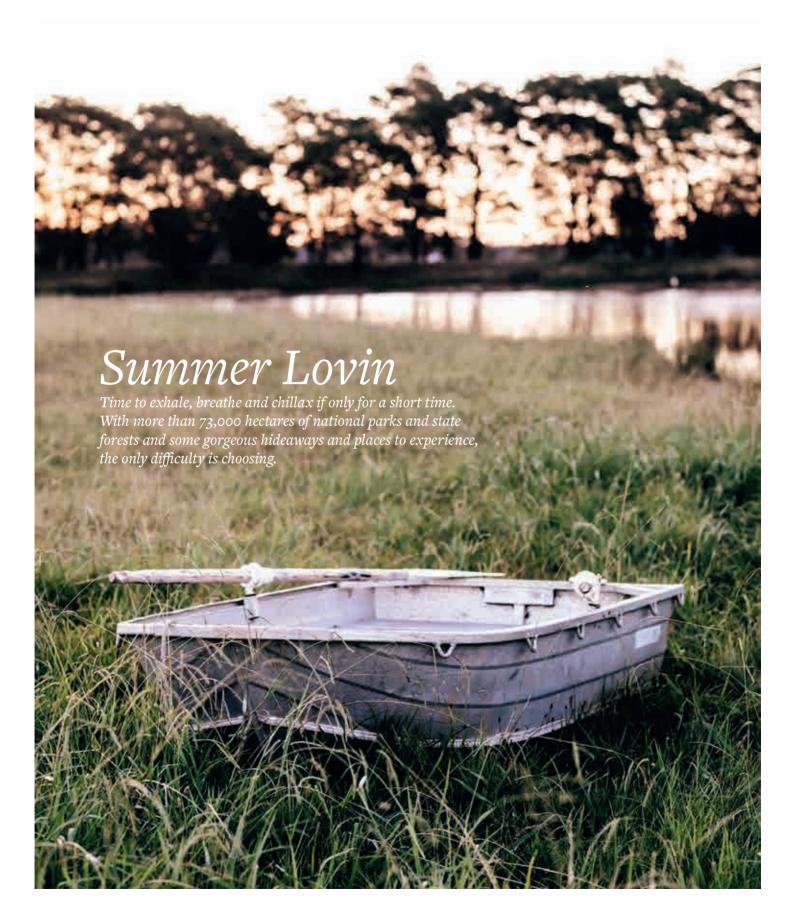
River Island Nature Retreat offers a relaxing social environment, the friendliness of the people, combined with the abundant wildlife and natural beauty of the Australian countryside, makes the *River Island Nature* **Retreat** the perfect place to spend your holidays.

**River Island Nature Retreat** offers accommodation ranging from luxury fully equipped cedar cabins overlooking the valley, quality caravans and grassed camp sites by the river, the park also has amenities blocks, laundry facilities, spas, pools and BBQ areas nestled in 2,000 acres of private, secluded unique property located in the Southern Highlands, 40km from Mittagong, on the banks of the Wollondilly River.



## **River Island Nature Retreat**

Phone: 02 4888 9236 Fax: 02 48889242 e: skinnydipping@riverisland.com.au River Island Nature Retreat PO BOX 456 MITTAGONG www.riverisland.com.au





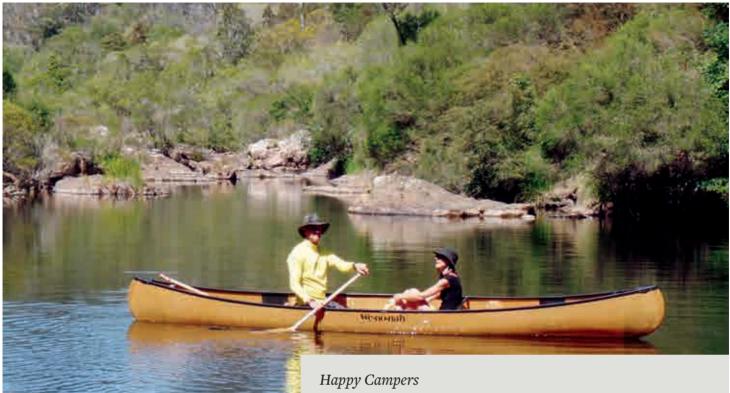
#### Fab Farm Escape

We've had the good fortune to stay at some pretty special places and spaces in the Southern Highlands but we defy anyone to show us a bath tub setting as lovely as the one outside Carriage 343 at Redleaf Farm, Fitzroy Falls. Situated among Silky Gums with a beautiful rural outlook, Carriage 343 is a former guard's van that has been lovingly restored to become a unique, solar-powered holiday stay. Built in 1890, the carriage (now self-contained), sleeps four in a queen bed and two single bunk beds. Seats are upholstered with the hide of local deer. Owners and farmers Katrina and Sam Sparke produce award-winning pork and lamb for local and Sydney restaurants. Also on the property sits Carriage 1238, a former passenger carriage with a dressing room, sitting room and a master bedroom. Both carriages have fine Egyptian cotton bedding and doonas, woolly throws, drapes and strategically placed earplugs for those not acquainted with the early animal wake-up calls of a working farm. "The whole idea behind this project was to make coming to stay at our farm a beautiful rustic experience,' says Katrina. "I want to take guests back to the days of overnight train travel. When catching a train was a true adventure. A journey to another destination." redleaf-farm.com

#### Au Naturel

Another wonderful option for spending a night or two in Nature is booking a glamping escape with Me Jane Camp Out at Banjo's Run with Cuttaway Hill Wines. Exeter, the site of our beautiful cover this issue. Book in for a night or two in sumptuous English bell tents. Tents include luxury bed linen, throws, designer cushions, bedside lanterns with USB connector, a queen mattress on a bamboo bed base, outdoor solar lighting and more. Jane Quinn, owner of Me Jane Camp Out, can also help you plan your own Highlands experience and deliver a pop-up tent to your own secret location. The perfect outdoor experience for those who like the idea of camping but definitely think glamping is more up their street. "I have always been interested in encouraging people to give themselves a digital detox and get back to nature,' says Jane. 'So Me Jane Camp Out is all about fusing that primal need to immerse yourself in the great outdoors without forgoing luxury." Perfect for a romantic escape, or a proposal under the stars neither of you will never forget. And if you need help with that Jane also offers a proposal package that includes luxury tent and extras such as fairy lights, floral arrangement, Cuttaway Hill Sparkling Wine, fire pit, marshmallows for toasting, grazing board, Ms Peacock chocolates. Wild Bush Spa treatments are also available on request. mejanecampout.com cuttawayhill.com.au Cuttaway Hill Wines, 212 Sallys Corner Road, Exeter





#### Wild Wilderness

WILDFest founder Amanda Fry helped the Highlands' great outdoors become much more accessible to us all when she founded WILDFest and her Experience Nature Group and WILDFood Adventures three years ago. With a plethora of delectable outdoor gourmet foodie and community seasonal adventures on offer, WildFest's next Midsummer Feast on December 15 (see our What's On pages) promises to be as much fun, popular and expertly carried off as Amanda's other mouthwatering calendar of events. We particularly love her Winter Solstice Feast of the Beast, and Canoes, Champagne and Canapes with local firm Paddles and Portages Canoes (see Travis and Sarah Frenay, above). The Wild Harvest Feasts and Highland Wilderness Retreat Overnight Glamping as well as others including mushroom forages, wild bathing and star gazing are other fabulous things to get involved in. On page 86 we talk to Amanda and Paddles and Portages' Travis Frenay about their favourite secret places in the Highlands. wildfest.com.au and paddleandportagecanoes.com.au

Looking for a place to start exploring? Try these for starters. They're all in the Southern Highlands. And if you are not confident walking alone, read our story about Southern Highlands Bushwalkers Club page 42

#### **Morton National Park**

Bangadilly National Park
Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve
Bargo State Conservation Area
Blue Mountains National Park
Macquarie Pass National Park
Wollondilly River Nature Reserve

#### Joadja Nature Reserve

Budderoo National Park
Nattai National Park
Robertson Nature Reserve
Wombeyan Karst Conservation Reserve
Macquarie Pass State Conservation Area
Bargo River State Conservation Area
Upper Nepean State Conservation Area

#### Then there are the state forests too...

Jellore State Forest
Meryla State Forest
Penrose State Forest
Wingello State Forest
Yarrawa State Forest
Stingray Swamp Flora Reserve

With our ongoing drought and our parks and forests so tinder dry, NSW Rural Fire Service has a few safety tips for bushwalkers:

- Don't walk in remote areas on Total Fire Ban days
- Always tell somewhere where you are going
- Carry an emergency beacon
- Put a compass in your pack. A GPS can go flat and often remote areas have no mobile reception
- Carry a first aid kit and preferably walk with someone trained in first aid
- Observe fire conditions and bans
- If you see smoke, turn back
- If you see fire, find a cleared area with rocks, hollows, embankments, streams or roads to protect you and avoid hilltops.
- Be prepared and if conditions aren't good, don't go.
- Bush Fire Information Line
   1800 679 737 ■

## Red Cow Farm a garden for all seasons

2-5 hectares and 22 garden rooms brimming with imaginative flair, romance and beauty.

Open 10am to 4pm daily from 20th September to mid May 2020

#### LOCATION

7480 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest NSW 2577 5kms south of Moss Vale

#### PARKING

Car and coach parking in Red Cow Lane adjacent to the garden.



02 4868 1842 • info@redcowfarm.com.au • redcowfarm.com.au





Berrima pet friendly self contained heritage accommodation. Situated close to shops and eateries, the cottages offer the charm of years gone by but with modern comforts and extra touches and guests can relax in the cottage and landscaped gardens.

Jellore Cottage & the Settlers Hut 16 Jellore Street, Berrima jellorecottage.com.au

#### Harper's Cottage

8 Old Hume Highway, Berrima harperscottage.com.au 0404 951 884



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



Bower Cottage 11a Hoddle St, Burrawang (02) 4886 4496 bgsc.com.au

#### Stay & Play

Golf pass Southern Highlands NSW includes 6 rounds x 9 holes of golf totalling 54 holes that can be played at any Southern Highlands golf course plus Kangaroo Valley Golf and Country Resort. The pass costs \$89 and is valid Sunday to Friday until December 31 2019. Purchase the Stay & Play Golf Pass from the Destination Southern Highlands welcome centre in Mittagong

southern-highlands.com.au

# paradise FOR PROS

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

#### **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 Shotz 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**

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

Lessons: \$50 individual. Groups

and beginner clinics catered for. Lessons on demand.

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

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

Kater Road, Sutton Forest

Open to the public seven days

around competitions.

Professional: Larry Canning

weekend \$70. Clubs and carts

available for hire. Lessons: \$50 per

hour. Groups + clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire. Strictly

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

into the wind.

Toughest green: 15th. Slopes

right to left and guarded by two big bunkers Additional facilities: Full driving

range, chipping and putting practice areas. Full club and bar

facilities. Functions catered for by Southern Highlands Winery.

Accommodation available at

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

website for membership specials.

Contact: 4868 3200; mtbroughton.com.au

#### KANGAROO VALLEY GOLF AND COUNTRY RESORT

18 holes – par 71

Mt Scanzi Road, Kangaroo Valle

Open to the public seven days;

both members and visitors are

welcome to play in competitions.

Cost to play: Weekday \$60 &

weekend \$70 includes motorised

cart hire. Clubs and additional carts

available for hire.

Hardest hole: 7th – par 4. Difficult driving hole with narrow fairway

that rolls right to left. Second shot is up a steep incline and the green

has two tiers

Toughest green: 13th. Slopes back

Additional facilities: Practice

fairway, chipping and putting

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See website for Stay and Play

packages. Contact: 4465 0200;

kangaroovalleygolf.com.au



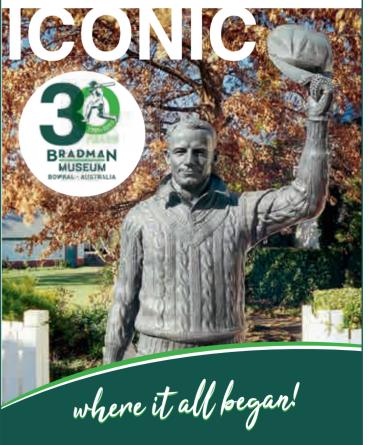
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bradman.com.au







#### New adventure awaits at Gibraltar Park Estate

Jan and Doug Herd are looking forward to enjoying the next phase of their life together at Gibraltar Park Estate. The sprightly septuagenarians recently paid a deposit for a Courtyard Villa in Stage two of Gibraltar Park Estate's Over 55 development in Bowral. Due for completion mid-2020, Stage three will be finished mid-2021.

The couple, who lived in Dubbo in central west NSW for 40 years, moved to East Bowral in 2006. 'We both were feeling our house in East Bowral was getting too big for us,' explains Doug, a former director of environmental sciences with Dubbo City Council. 'Jan was getting sick of cleaning it and I was getting sick of maintaining it. We both felt it was time for our next retirement adventure together.' Fit and active, the couple, who have four children and 11 grandchildren, saw a sign advertising an open day at Gibraltar Park Estate and visited on a whim.

'We took one look and thought 'we've found a place we can moved into without any hassle,' says Jan, who had a career as legal PA.

'Also although we wanted to downsize, we didn't really want to downsize in a big way and the Courtyard Villas here are roomy, and beautifully fitted and finished. They have high ceilings which we love, and there is so much included in the price like all the kitchen appliances. And everyone we've met who already lives here on the estate is so friendly.' Gibraltar Estate Park's Courtyard Villas are priced at \$860,000. Nearly 300 metre square with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and two garage drive-in, they also come with a spacious outside open-to the sky courtyard. At \$800,000, Vista Villas also have three bedrooms, two bathrooms and parking for two cars, one undercover with balconies. Both Jan and Doug are looking forward to moving in to their new home soon. 'We can't wait to pack up together and start a new phase of life,' says Jan. 'There's a great community at Gibraltar Park we look forward to becoming part of and we can't wait to have all kids and grandkids to stay.' Just perhaps not all at the same time,' adds Doug.

gibraltarpark.com.au



#### **Retford Park**

Be enchanted by the magnicent gardens surrounding the grand Victorian Italianate homestead formerly owned by James Fairfax AC. Discover the exquisite swimming pool and pavilion nestled amonst a patchwork of hedge gardens where sculptures demand centre stage. These stunning gardens open on the first weekend of each month (except January) from 10am to 4pm\*. The house will also be open on the first weekend of February - bookings essential. Refreshments available. See website for Calendar of Events.\*If the first of the month falls on a Sunday, that is the weekend the gardens are open.

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





#### A garden wedding at Harper's Mansion

The beautiful gardens surrounding this historic Georgian residence are the ideal setting for your wedding ceremony with a new function area and facilities for small catered events.

Harper's Mansion, Old Hume Highway, Berrima harpersmansion@nationaltrust.com.au www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/harpers-mansion/@nationaltrustau





The Southern Highlands community spirit was strong at the Our Gallery Community Day at the old dairy at Retford Park in Bowral on Sunday 17th November.

Nearly 800 people gathered to celebrate the new Regional Gallery and learn about Ben Quilty's vision for the project. The crowd were treated to entertainment by Jimmy and Mahalia Barnes, The Voice's Michelle Cashman and a host of local artists who gave their time to support the gallery while the dairy itself came alive with creative play for all ages.

The new Southern Highlands Regional Gallery is due to start building next year with an expected open date of early 2021. Money raised from the sell out event will go towards fit out, landscaping and education programs, but there are still more funds needed.

If you would like to help the gallery by becoming a foundation supporter or find out about future events, go to ourgallery. com.au or follow them on facebook @ourgalleryhighlands *All photos by Ashley Mackevicius*.



#### **Our Mission**

To offer excellent and affordable home care and community based social services to individuals and their families in the Southern Highlands.

#### Who We Are

Southern Highlands Home Care is a premier home health care provider for aged and disability services and community-based social services to the Southern Highlands in NSW. We have been in operation since 2016 and have expanded our services and service areas in that time.

Home Care Package Levels 2, 3 & 4. NDIS Approved

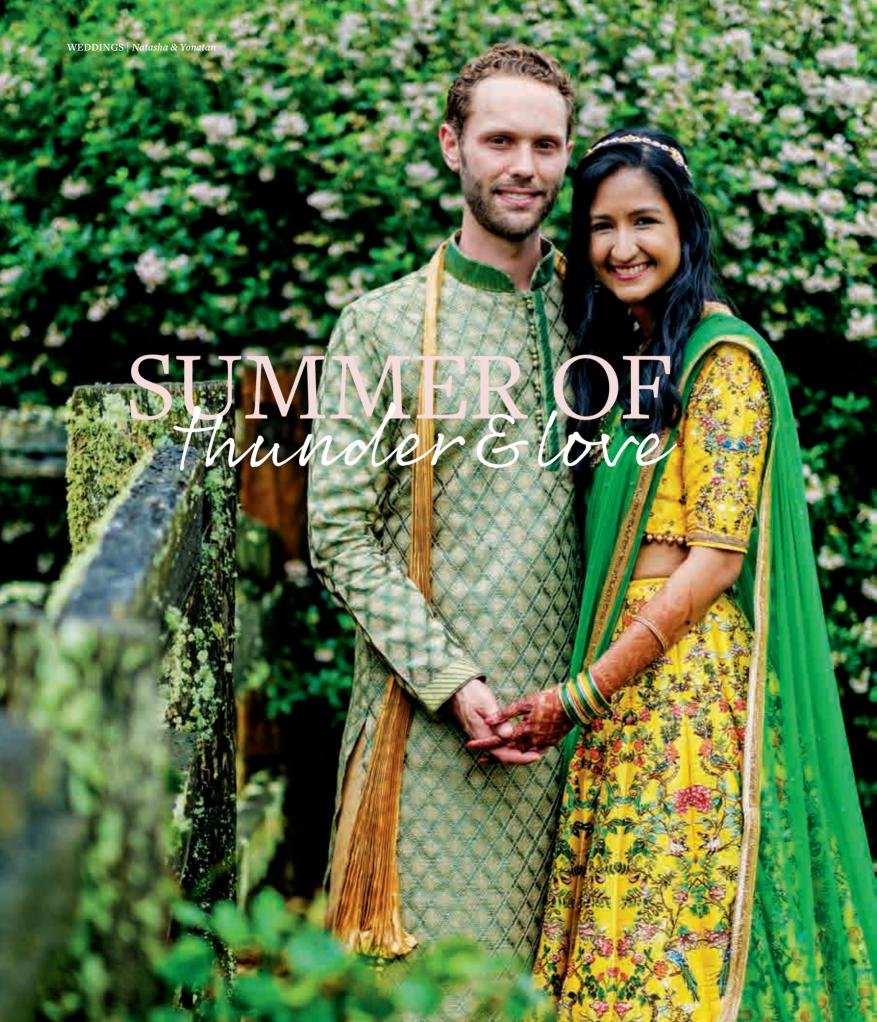
2 Charlotte Street
Burradoo NSW 2576
02 4861 1329
info@southernhighlandshomecare.com.au
southernhighlandshomecare.com.au

#### **Our Goals**

- To be responsive to the needs of our clients, their families and the communities we serve.
- To afford our clients with competent, reliable, caring, and well - trained individuals
- To provide an inviting work environment, and encourage continual education in a constantly evolving industry
- To be overseen by knowledgeable, trustworthy and inviting management









With guests flying in from Germany, New Zealand, Hong Kong, the UK and USA and also from across Australia, Natasha and Yonatan were understandably keen everything went to plan on their big day. But there was one factor completely out of anyone's hands; the Highlands weather.

'The weather was incredibly unpredictable,' says Natasha. 'The last few days prior to the wedding, we kept a really close eye on the weather forecast, and with thunderstorms predicted all our carefully arranged plans had to be changed to our Plan B.'

Wedding decorator Dee from Shagun Events pulled out all stops to face off the storms by making necessary changing with their planned decorations, and Natasha and Yonatan hired a marquee and bought umbrellas for their guests.

'Dee was absolutely amazing and went above and beyond to change all decorations on the last day but all our suppliers were incredible helping out at the last moment to ensure our day was as perfect,' says Natasha.

Nothing was going to rain on Natasha and Yonatan's wedding at splendid Mali Brae Farm; even looming thunderstorms couldn't dampen the spirits. Photographer Ben Newman captured the couple's beautiful marital festival of culture, colour, and of course, love.

Natasha Daga and Yonatan Blev moved to Sydney from different corners of the world to study. Natasha, who is Indian and grew up in Dubai and Yonatan, who comes from Germany and now works in telecommunications management, first crossed paths more than a decade ago as students at Sydney University's International House. 'We both moved to Sydney in February 2008 and became friends a few months after. We ended up being best friends for about a year until we started dating in August 2009,' says Natasha, who studied medicine and is now a doctor. Friendship was the basis of their growing attraction, recalls Yonatan, although theirs was a partnership that always felt right. 'Having known each other for so long now, looking back it's difficult to pinpoint a specific thing that drew us together,' he says. 'I think though a solid friendship has been our foundation and I feel like we can trust and love each other unconditionally.

Even early on in our relationship, we each felt like we had found the perfect partner.'

During her medical training, Natasha lived a year on placement in the Southern Highlands, and the couple spent weekends together around Bowral and Moss Vale. In November 2016 they became engaged on the Three Peaks hike in Kangaroo Valley. Later the venue for their wedding was agreed upon as easily as Natasha said yes to Yonatan's proposal.

'We just love everything about the Southern Highlands and wanted to have our outdoor two day wedding here,' says Natasha. 'We wanted an outdoor summery wedding so the greenery, the beautiful reception hall, the fact we could hold our ceremony in the stunning grounds and have our photographs taken near the lake, and mostly meeting Mali Brae's owners, Shelley and Greg Dark sealed the deal for us. It was crucial to us to make it as personal as possible and they helped us to achieve that.'



Many of the 85 guests also dressed in traditional Indian saree, kurti, lehenga and sherwani, and Natasha's exquisite wedding dress was bought all the way from India by her Mum, who also picked out her yellow green lehengoa and jewellery for the first day of wedding celebrations, a mehendi (henna) and sangeet function.

'Neither of us are religious so even though we had a Hindu ceremony, the reason we had an Indian wedding was for cultural reasons,' explains Yonatan.

'We wanted lots of colour, music, Indian outfits and really, an excuse to have a two day wedding.'

Natasha says her favourite moment during the whole celebration came early.

'My favourite moment was peeking through the window in the lovely cottage at Mali Brae to see Yonatan being carried by his friends and family to music and Indian drums played by our friends. This is an Indian tradition called Baarat.' Yonatan will never forget Natasha walking into the Pavilion at Mali Brae for their wedding ceremony which was presided over by a Hindu priest on day two.

'We were so unbelievably happy that nothing mattered on the day and our Plan B was absolutely stunning. All our guests had a wonderful time and our families finally got a chance to come together and celebrate which was so important to us. More than anything, I married my best friend, so there is nothing I would change about the day in retrospect, not even the thunderstorms which ended up making our wedding even more spectacular.'

The couple honeymooned in Borneo for two weeks and one year on happily married newlyweds, look back on their summer Highlands wedding with great affection. 'We will always remember the immense amount of effort put in by families, suppliers and our friends into making that day what it was,' says Natasha.







#### details

#### Venue

Mali Brae Farm, Moss Vale maliebraefarm.com.au

#### Photographer

Ben Newman Photography bnphotography.com.au

#### **Bride's Dress**

Day 1 by Binita Tanna, Mumbai. Day 2 (wedding) by Poonam Ahuja and Poonam Bhatiya, Mumbai

#### Groom's suit

manyavar.com

#### Celebrant

Pandit Rami Sivan

#### Makeup & Hair Artist

June Rose bridalmakeup.com.au

#### Music

Bonnie's Yonatan's sister did the playlists. Friend Jacob was DJ

#### **Events Decorator**

shagunevents.com.au





## Eat. Drink. Stay Awhile.

DINING / ACCOMMODATION / WEDDINGS / EVENTS

Robertson Public House and Kitchen is your gateway to the Southern Highlands – and your perfect introduction to the best local produce. Our ever-evolving menu is inspired by small-production providores who supply the highest quality seasonal wares including cheese, milk, olives, meat, fruit, vegetables, source ingredients and spirits. Step inside for an exquisite taste of Southern Highlands hospitality, amid the rustic charm of our historic venue.



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#### **Beyond Expectation**















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Summer in the Southern Highlands is a nature-lover's paradise, our vast bush backyard a place of adventure and wonder. Four local outdoor experts share their favourite places and spaces.

#### TRAVIS FRENAY

Paddles and Portage Canoes, founder & operator

Travis, you spend much of your time on the water, where are your must-see places? I'm a huge fan of waterfalls and the northern rim of Morton National Park and Budderoo National Park has an abundance of them.

Is it true you can reach a lot of special places only by canoe? Yes, and an added benefit is you can bring stuff that you don't need to carry. I teach canoeing and bushwalking as part of a TAFENSW Outdoor Recreation course and the bushwalking course is all about being minimalistic. In the canoe course, by contrast, I often bring an esky and a cast-iron camp oven!

Why do you prefer to explore by canoe? I find it more peaceful. A canoe isn't necessarily a speedy form of transport and it's a really nice experience to meander along the shoreline, spotting lizards and other wildlife. Sometimes the 4WD gets my family and our canoe into an amazing place where we can paddle to a destination and then go for a bushwalk.

Many people like the idea of exploring. But where to start? The Fitzroy Falls National Parks Visitor Centre is a good place. They have maps, guidebooks and friendly staff who can make recommendations. Destination Southern Highlands Visitors Centre, Mittagong is another good source. There are also a few active clubs led by locals with tons of experience and knowledge.

What are our greatest natural treasures? Overall, Morton National Park is the place that is truly unique and full of gems.

#### What kit do you need when you are planning a day out in the wilderness?

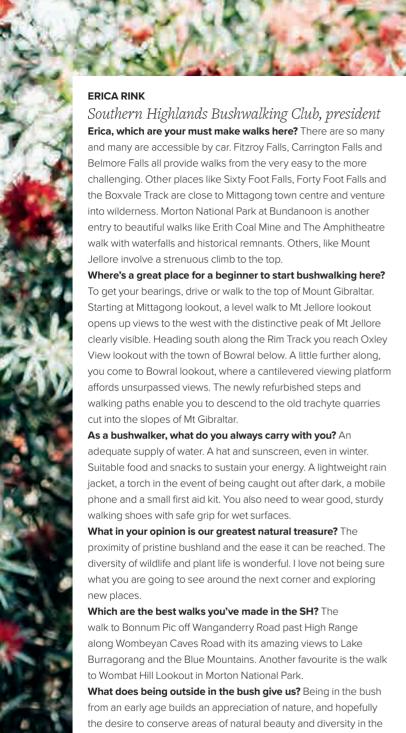
It's about packing the necessary items and being prepared for inclement conditions. Essentials? Solid footwear, clothing appropriate to the conditions, a map, sunscreen, enough food and water, a small first aid kit with at least a compression bandage for snakebite, a raincoat, and a pack to carry all of this. In case things don't go to plan, it's advisable to add an insulating layer like a woollen jumper or fleece, a torch in case you run out of daylight, a bit of extra food/water, and leave a rough itinerary with family or friends so people know where you're off to.

What should everyone experience here – if only once? Standing underneath one of our cold and freshwater waterfalls. It's just exhilarating! As a guide, I can take people to uncrowded places where they can have this experience with a beautiful and educational walk along the way.

What does being outdoors give us? An appreciation of natural places and, hopefully, a desire to protect them. I see many other benefits ... physical coordination, balance, agility, an enhanced sense of observation, a connection with circadian rhythm, increased resilience, a dose of fresh air and vitamin D.

#### And finally, tell us one thing on your bucket list still to do?

My wish list keeps getting longer! The first thing that comes to mind is a waterfall I've seen after heavy rain. It only flows visibly after a good downpour and it must be over 120m high! A shower under that will likely feel like a gurney but I'll give it a go. paddleportagecanoes.com.au



future. As adults, the outdoors makes you appreciate what we have and the need to conserve it into the future. Bushwalking also provides significant physical and mental health benefits.

What resources can help people find places to walk? The Visitors Information Centre in Mittagong is a good starting point. Many members of Southern Highlands Bushwalkers also have wealth of local knowledge and have been leading walks for years; Robert Sloss has written many excellent guide books. Another sound reference is Best Walks of the Southern Highlands by John and Gillian Souter.

What's still on your bucket list? To walk from Mittagong to Katoomba would be a great achievement but the logistics would require much planning and organisation. shb.org.au







#### **ANGUS REYNOLDS**

Bong Bong Fly Fishing, guide

Angus, where are the must-see places here to fish and walk to? We're really spoiled. The Southern Highlands sits between two river systems, the Shoalhaven to the east and the Wollondilly to the west. Both have great trails that will take you to various parts of these systems. A couple of must see places are Bungonia Gorge track to the mid Shoalhaven River and the walking track alongside the Nattai River from the back of Mount Alexandra east of Mittagong.

Many of us love the idea of getting out but don't know how or where to start. Go with someone experienced. Someone who knows the local area will give invaluable advice on necessary equipment and considerations. If you'd rather the DIY approach, start simple to test your equipment and knowledge. Check yourself before you wreck yourself.

Do you need lots of kit? If you plan to fish more than manicured farm dams and stocked ponds, before you spend money on expensive equipment, spend a couple of hundred dollars on an emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB). It's no good trying to fly fish if you've had to saw off your arm with a spork to free it from a rolled boulder.

What does being outdoors in the bush give us? When you're away from the distractions of life, all you have to do is observe and interact with your surroundings.

It's important to see the wilderness to gain the respect needed to consider nature in our daily lives. For kids, being bush smart is also a great leg-up as it provides a practical sense with things like knives, fire and weather conditions. As adults it helps to keep us young and inspired. Being outdoors feels good, and is generally free. There's no denying the antidepressant properties of engagement with nature.

#### What's the most amazing trip you've made here?

A solo hike from Bungonia gorge. The Morton is largely unexplored due to its treacherous geography, and the melting pot of wildlife can be as dangerous as it is fascinating. Wild dogs, rogue cattle, and snakes in high density among the usual native species. If I was looking for a bunyip, this would be my starting point. But I was looking for some quality bass fishing and it delivered. I found meandering streams not unlike the crystal clear waters of New Zealand. Also, the Budderoo Plateau and its rare ground parrot is a great local gift.

What's still on your bucket list? I'm in pursuit of a rumoured bottomless spring that, according to a drovers journal from the early 1900s, was the size of a round yard and crystal clear. I'm almost certain of the location but it's a hefty three days hike in, and the same back. There are always new places, it just relies a little on the capacity of the explorer. @bong\_bong\_fly aussieflyfisher.com





WILDfest & Experience Nature

Amanda, where are your must-see outdoor places

here? There are three I keep going back to, and each visit is as good as the last. The sunken forest on Lake Yarrunga for its sheer beauty; Wombat Hill for its view over the escarpment and Barren Grounds Nature Reserve

What's a good starter trip for novices? Morton National Park, Bundanoon. It's easily accessible, you can drive up to the lookouts and there are short walks to get you into the groove.

#### What are some of our greatest natural treasures?

Waterfalls and wildlife. Our waterfalls are spectacular and the added benefit is wild swimming on hot days. And the ecological diversity of the Highlands is incredible.

#### What kit do you need when planning a day out?

Water, phone, jacket, sunscreen, lunch and snacks, map, sunnies. Also a compass and medical kit. It's easy to get lost so you need to know where you are and scratches, scrapes and bites can turn a fun day into a hard one. Be prepared and research the area you are intending to hike. Don't forget the camera.

Are there many times you're out in the bush and don't see another soul? Often. In fact, I walked the 14 km Griffin Fire Trail from Meryla Pass to Jacks Corner a few weeks ago and did not see one person. It's a tough walk but so amazing and the journey down is worth the hike back up.

#### What's the best trip you've made in the SH?

Morton National Park from Robertson down to Beehive Point in Kangaroo Valley and paddling Lake Yarrunga and the sunken forest. It surprised me and opened my eyes to the incredible diversity we have in the Highlands.

What's one thing you'd advise every local and visitor to **experience?** Sleeping under the stars in the Highlands in a beautiful bushland setting. It really gives you a feel for a place by day and by night, the Milky Way dazzles.

What resources can help? NSW National Parks website has maps on well-known walks and you can pick up some good books on the region at the visitors centre in Mittagong. And connect to a local guide. They know the best swimming holes, how to find the waterfalls not in the guidebooks and the best vantage points.

#### And finally, what's one thing still on your bucket list?

To spend more time at Wombeyan Caves. There are endless places to explore and the drive down is part of the adventure. wildfest.com.au



#### **Southern Highlands Equine Centre Equine Veterinarians**

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James Arkins, Rosthwaite Farm, Moss Vale

If you want to learn to ride or even jump, or you have a child who does, champion James Arkins has great form. James was a late comer to riding, first getting on a horse at age 13. But what he lacked in experience, he soon made up in passion and commitment. Within years, he was jumping at the highest international levels including the World Cup series as well as the Saut Hermes au Grand Palais Show in Paris. In 2016 he was shortlisted as second reserve for the Rio Olympics, and now has his eyes firmly on the FEI World Cup in 2021 and the Paris Olympics in 2024 when his stallion, Rosthwaite Euro, will be the right age to compete. In 2013, James's parents bought Rosthwaite Farm, near Moss Vale and today James manages and lives there with Elliott Reeves, his partner and fellow international showjumper. When not breeding champions, competing or practising on their own horses, James and Elliott coach and mentor junior and amateur riders up to Grand Prix level, including winning locals Emily Baldwin and Amelia Douglass. And they also teach newcomers the ropes in their riding school. Rosthwaite Farm is home to 90 horses, some owned and others agisted here.

Says James, 27: "There's plenty of top-level show jumping stables, breeding farms and riding schools in the country but not many that combine it all.

"We are top level riders ourselves but also teach kids right from the beginning and coach really promising riders, too, for the Interschools Championships. "We teach and train, coach them, source their horses for them, organise the Shows for them, give them a show programme, take them to the shows, mentor them at the shows and keep the parents in line which, at times, can be challenging,' he laughs.

"But they also mostly respect us and listen to us, which is always reaffirming. It's very hard work running a one-stop shop like we do and there are lots of expenses because horses are expensive. But we do it because we love it and we love our horses."

Rosthwaite Farm, which is fielding a team in the new Australian Jumping Teams League competition, offers lessons from beginners to advanced, holiday camps, trail rides and after-school programs at Tudor House and Frensham schools. It also offers ladies' social lessons

"We give lessons to kids as young as three and teach up to 70 students on a weekly basis. I like to think we can start them off correctly and that sets them in good stead for their future," says James, pictured jumping here on Bling. rosthwaitefarm.com.au







### Here's a selection of our other favourite horsey offerings:

#### **Equestrian Connection at Ashton Park** offers

riding lessons, group riding lessons, pony picnics and trail rides as well as horse agistment. If you have a horse-loving little-un, the Unicorn birthday parties and recently launched Cowboy pony parties are great fun. Kids get to meet and groom the tame unicorn or cowboy steed (a very patient horse in fancy dress) and to share rides with friends. Catering is available for rainbow or cowboy-themed parties.

ashtonparkmossvale.com.au

#### Fitzroy Equestrian Centre Holiday Camps offer

a week-long boarding horse camp for schoolaged kids run by accredited coaches Angus and Neatie Malcolm. The week includes morning and afternoon rides every day as well as lessons, trail rides across paddocks, horseback games and obstacles courses. There are be daily lessons in feeding, rugging, grooming, saddling up and general horse gear. BYO horse, or guests can be assigned a pony or horse according to ability. The camps run in December

and January. Fitzroy Equestrian Centre is also the local home of Moss Vale's Riding for the Disabled. Agistment and lessons for adults and children are also available. Call Angus and Neatie Malcom on 4887 7239 fitzroyeguestriancentre.com.au

Wallaby Hill Farm, Robertson Join in the world-class action at The Wallaby Hill Equestrian Extravaganza on Sunday February 9. Pack a picnic or enjoy local food and drinks onsite by Moonacres Kitchen, Far Ago Hill wines and Southern Highlands Brewing Beer as you watch some of Australia's finest eventers go through their paces. Wallaby Hill also offers tuition and facilities for hire to people riding their own horses.wallabyhill.com.au

#### Shibumi Equestrian Centre, Bundanoon

Sheryl and Kim offer tuition Tuesday to Sunday for riders aged from two and a half, on leads, to 75. There is a new cross-country training course on their 95 acres near Bundanoon. Get along to their next dressage and showjumping Fun Day for beginners to advanced riders on Sunday, February 16. shibumi.net.au

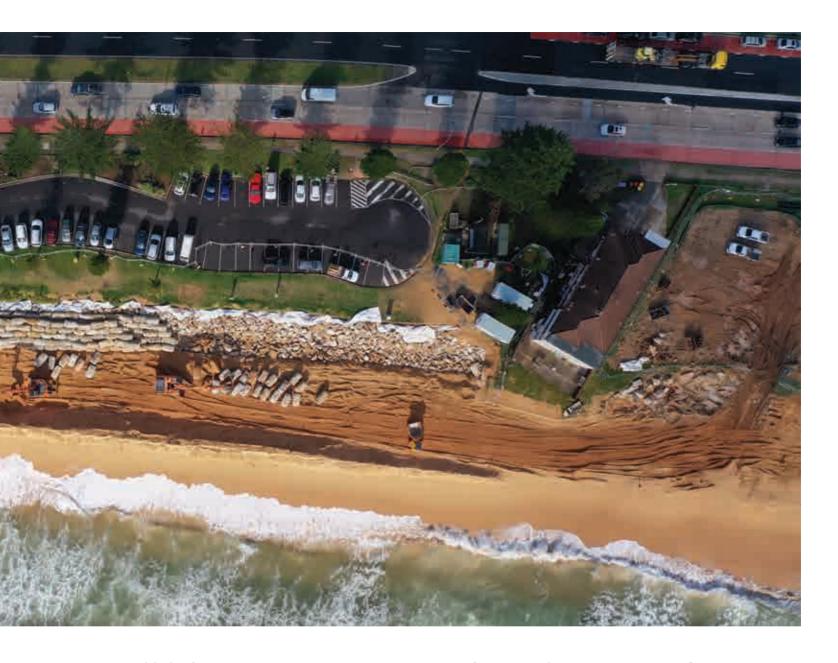
Australian National and SH Shire Horse and Heavy Breeds Horse Show Catch these gentle giants at the Shire Horse Breeders Australia annual show at Moss Vale Show ground. One of the largest of its kind in Australia, competitors and their Shires, Clydesdales, Percherons and other Draught Horses come from all over Australia to compete in ring and other events including harness, working classes and heavy horse dressage. More than 70 horses and 500 spectators are expected. February 22 & 23, Moss Vale Show Ground, Illawarra Highway, Moss Vale. shirehorse.com.au

Pony Clubs Got a horse mad kid desperate to ride? You could do far worse than get them started in the saddle at one of our local Pony Clubs - always fun, sporting and a great place to start that lifelong love affair with horses. Both Moss Vale Pony Club and Berrima District Pony Club welcome new members and Berrima District Pony Club has a registration day on Sunday February 3, 10am-noon, Moss Vale Road, Burradoo. Membership is open to Moss Vale Pony Club throughout the year. BYO pony. bdpc.org.au mossvaleponyclub.org.au



EST. 1850

## BUNDANOON SANDSTONE QUARRY



Established in 1850 as a Government initiative and as a supplementary source of sandstone to the sandstone quarried in Sydney; Bundanoon Sandstone Quarry is now celebrating 170 years of Australian Sandstone Quarrying History.

Given its characteristics, Bundanoon Sandstone has been historically used throughout Sydney and New South Wales for both heritage sandstone buildings and in marine environments including many sea walls around Sydney Harbour, for example Government House at Kirribilli and the 1836 wall at Barangaroo Headland Park.

Most recently, Bundanoon Sandstone Quarry supplied 7200 tonnes of large sandstone boulders to the New South Wales Government for the Collaroy Seawall Project and the construction of the 240m coastal retaining wall adjacent to Collaroy Pavilion.

## HEAVEN, Scent

As demand for native flowers and locally grown blooms flourishes and the grown-not-flown initiative finds a firm foothold with consumers, **Escape SH** talks to three locals about their flower favourites and growing lives.



#### Jonima Flowers

Jonima Flowers, owned and run by Ingrid and John Padovano, sits at the foothills of the Southern Highlands on 15 acres near the village of Yanderra. John is a thirdgeneration flower farmer and Ingrid married into flowers, learning floristry when the couple's four children were small.

"With a young family in tow we began Jonima Flowers in 2006, wanting our place to become a floral oasis. The name Jonima is a collection of all the letters of the names of our family," says Ingrid. The couple knew from the get-go they wanted to farm and grow "seasonably, sustainably and viably for our local market", and now grow more than 100 varieties of seasonal blooms and foliage including sweet pea, flowering gum, perfumed roses, dahlias and ranunculus.

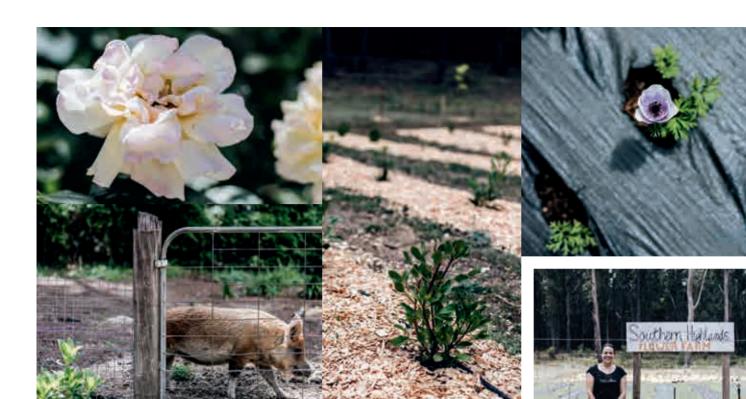
"We began by growing flowers we loved or just could not find in the flower markets," says Ingrid. "Our vision has evolved to educating consumers about the different varieties of blooms and foliage that can be used in their homes, and the joy of having local and seasonal blooms available."

Years of watching their vision come to life has taken grit and perseverance, says Ingrid, who came to flowers from a career in finance. Ingrid says: "John has always worked on the land in the flower industry and the Sydney Flower Market is like his second home. But even with all his experience, there was still a lot of trial and error.

"It's a combination of understanding what will grow in your environment and an idea of what flowers and styles are on trend. As with any gardener, some things can be complete failures no matter how much care you give, while others can become a wonderful surprise." With the special added talent of creating bespoke one-off bridal bouquets with an emphasis on "seasonal and using the special finds we forage from our farm" Ingrid says flowers, like fashion, are cyclical.

"For the past few years we have seen a trend for wild and free botanical mixes with lots of texture and interest giving that 'picked from the garden' look. Now we are seeing a strong move to native flora and the emerging trend of dried flowers with their muted tones."

Jonima's fragrant flowers can be bought locally at Dirty Janes Bowral, where new blooms are delivered every second day. Jonima also sells at markets regionally and from its farm Flower Shed, which is open for sales on Fridays from 9am to 5pm. For local Highlands deliveries, get in touch online for seasonal farm bouquets.



#### Southern Highlands Flower Farm

Jennifer Foster is an industrious local. When she is not making and selling her Little Piggies ice cream, or readying her Penrose property's accommodation, Newbury Cottage for visitors, she is busy with bed preparation and planting work. This month she hopes to have the first of her new Southern Highlands Flower Farm bloomers for sale.

"We made the tree change from Sydney to our five acres at Penrose three years ago," says Jen. "Nature is my happy place and I find our gardens so rewarding. My seven-year-old son wanted a special project with me as he loves flowers, too, so he's been involved, which is really special. While I've been busy with the start-up and labouring hard, I've also been studying horticulture via TAFE online to develop my technical skills."

Jen has also had support from her husband, and a local florist and micro flower grower friend, as well as Penrose locals Margie and Curly of Curly's Compost and another local who drove his tractor across the village to help with her flower beds. "The local support I have received is fantastic. Bed prep and planting is hard work but satisfying, and I am very excited, and nervous to see the rewards it will bring." On a steep learning curve, Jen is currently experimenting with different annuals and is

delighted to see her natives are already flowering.
"I am quite obsessed with dahlias ... ever since
they started popping up in my pet mini pigs
enclosure; the dahlias love the food in there. I am
also experimenting with strawflower, paper daisy,
ranunculus, anemone, poppy, cosmos, marigold,
sunflower, black-eyed susan, kale, cornflower, aster
and zinnia. I love natives and wild flowers, and our
sandy soil is perfect for them. Sue at GrowWild
has been so helpful and inspiring with regards to
planting natives and wildflowers"

Jen has a quarter of an acre under cultivation but

plans to expand as she grows. She says: "I have now planted a large variety of natives and wildflowers, focused towards wedding bouquet flowers, which should be ready for sale next year. I am aiming to establish standard lines of annuals, and all going well I expect to have flowers available for sale this month."

Jen plans to sell locally at markets and will also supply florists and via her website for local deliveries. She says: "The grown-not-flown initiative is really gaining traction as people seem to move back to locally grown flowers and want to understand where their flowers come from. There is definitely a strong surge in the demand for native and wildflowers, and I really want to engage with that."

As her business blooms, Jen is also looking at holding workshops onsite to combine her floral, ice cream and accommodation skills. "I have been surprised given the agricultural heritage of the Southern Highlands, and the popularity of Tulip Time and other garden events, there are not more flower farms in the area. It is certainly a growth space." southernhighlandsflowerfarm.com.au





#### GrowWild, Alpine

Thirteen years ago Sue and Peter Stewart decided their 25 acres at Alpine, on the northern side of the Highlands, needed to start providing a return. Cashmere goats had proved delightful but costly...

"Native flowers were the answer," says Sue. "It seemed like a lovely way to use our land so we started GrowWild to sell native cut flowers to a wholesaler at Sydney Flower Market. Native flowers are becoming increasingly popular with florists and brides. They are generally long lasting and vibrant, dramatic while delicate and very appealing."

With no floristry experience Sue and Peter set out learning from other growers and building a reference library about natives suited to their soil. In 2013 they also established their GrowWild property as a wedding venue and to date have seen more than 80 happy couples marry. They are already taking bookings for 2021. "When we started GrowWild we were both still working off site, me as a primary school teacher and Peter a lawyer," says Sue. "Peter retires next year but as the flower farm developed and its demands increased, I retired from school life. I very much miss the children but console myself with the thought at least the plants are quiet."

The Stewarts grow eight different colours of grevillea as well as Christmas bush, eriostemon, leptospermum, Kangaroo paw,banksia and dwarf orange Flowering Gum, and protea. Half of their land grows flowers but the rest is left untouched and joins an expanding wild life corridor which is being developed by the Wildlife Lands Trust along the east coast of the Great Divide. Wombats, wallabies and kangaroos are frequent and welcome visitors.

"We also welcome a steady stream of visitors thinking of having their wedding in GrowWild's beautiful garden or The Barn with their ceremony in Secret Valley, and host about 25 weddings a year," says Sue. "The Barn is used as a wet weather wedding option but is also available for a range of other social activities, parties and celebrations. We work closely with local firm YES Events for our wedding infrastructure and have one of their beautiful marquees on site permanently for wedding receptions."

Sue says that like any business venture, flower farming in the Southern Highlands requires hard work and commitment but can be rewarding, spiritually as well as financially. "My day is a mix of planting, pruning, cutting and bunching, watering, mulching, weeding and mowing. Winter is the quiet months but from September to May, I am out on the farm. To anyone considering this life further south than we are in the Highlands, frost is something to consider when planting. We are frost free in Alpine but further south frosts can be a problem."

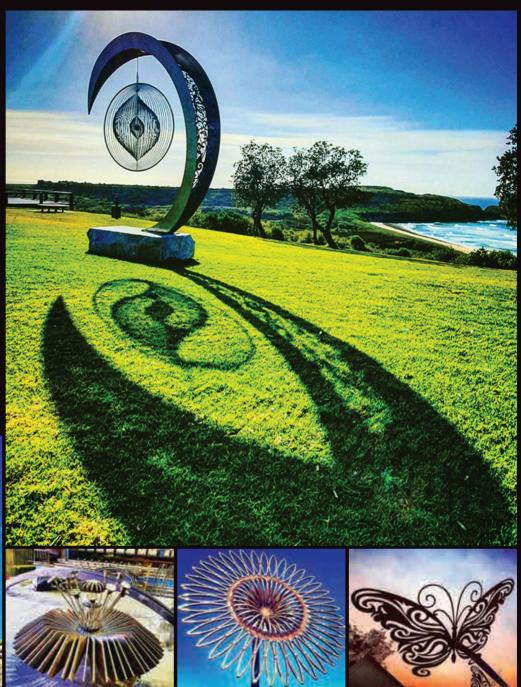
Life at GrowWild is an ever-changing, beautiful scene. "Things change with the seasons of course, but also some species that work better than others need to be replaced from time to time. Also, demand for flowers fluctuates and sometimes decisions have to be made about which plants stay in the ground and which come out to make way for more popularvarieties. All our flowers go to the Sydney Flower Market, which is an amazing place to see." growwild.com.au

#### Myles Naylor, Sculptor and Artist.

Designed to compliment their surroundings in a range of beautiful Australian landscapes, Myles Naylor's work plays homage to both the rustic ruggedness of these spaces, and the contrasting delicacy of nature. Floating compositions make the works feel light and airy, despite the heavy materials used, while other, more solid works are boldly grounded in their environments.

The range of shapes and constructions used in Myles' work means there's a piece for everyone.







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## Localmarkets

Love exploring in the summer sunshine discovering locally made and homegrown produce, especially in the run-up to the festive season? Then look no further. The regular Highlands markets are a great way to gain real insight into the creative and growing side of our region, and to unearth unique and delicious goodies and gifts. From fresh fruit and veg produce to home furnishings, art, plants, fashion and handmade marvels, you'll find everything you are looking for here ... and more! For further information and details, see southern-highlands.com.au

#### **ROBERTSON MARKETS**

Second Sunday of the month, 9am to 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 lots of local produce including spuds from local Robbo farming family, the Hills. robertsonsofa1885@gmail.com

#### **RAILWAY STREET FARMERS MARKET**

Thursdays, 3pm to last light. Old Bowling Club Green, Railway Street, Moss Vale

This popular micro market has a focus on organically produced food. Get along to the old bowling club green in Mossy and take home awardwinning fresh fruit and veg and organic breads and pastries, local honey, jams, preserves and cider, as well as meat, fresh flowers, seedlings and pasture raised eggs @RailwayStreetMarketMossVale onthegrowmossvale@gmail.com

#### **MITTAGONG MARKETS**

Third and fifth Saturday, 8am to 2pm
Corner Albert and Alice streets, Mittagong
This bustling market is held in the grounds of the
Uniting Church and 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,
Lame Duck Foods, Lady Bucket's Kitchen and
Robertson Potatoes Hill Family Farming.
s.colyer@bigpond.com

#### MOSS VALE COMMUNITY MARKETS

Fourth Saturday of every month, 8am to 1pm (except January) Moss Vale Showground, Illawarra Hwy, 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

#### **EXETER VILLAGE MARKET**

First Saturday of the month, 9am to 1.3opm
Exeter Village Hall and Parkland, Exeter Road, Exeter
This country market with a vibrant community of
more than 50 makers, producers and sellers has
something for everyone such as plants, bread,
fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, great coffee and
cakes, honey, jams, olive oil, relishes, sauces and
preserves, bric-a-brac, knitwear, leatherwear and
much more. Relax at an outdoor table between
strolling and shopping. info@exetervillagemarket.com
exetervillagemarket.com

#### **CROP-SWAP AT ROBERTSON**

Saturday 9.30 to 10.30am

Robertson Bowling Club, Hoddle Street, Robertson
Bring your excess veg, fruit, magazines, empty
or full jam jars, eggs, egg cartons, jars, herbs or
plants along to Robertson Alternative Local Food
Exchange (R.A.L.F.E). Swap with other green
thumbs and Robbo folk for whatever is on offer or
in season in other people's gardens. Please be
aware that excess produce is swapped; no money
changes hands. It is 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 from Peggy's Bistro at Robertson Bowling
Club. @R.A.L.F.E

#### **BUNDANOON MAKERS MARKET**

First and third Sunday of the month, 8.30am to 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 and Malaysian curries, honey and eggs, cakes and pies all make this market well worth the scenic drive to Bundanoon for visitors from outside town. lisakookaburra@bigpond.com

#### COLO VALE COMMUNITY MARKETS

First Saturday of the month, 8.30am to 1.30pm (except January) Colo Vale Village Hall, Railway Ave, Colo Vale With lots of established and new stallholders, including handicrafts, handmade goods, jams, fresh local produce, as well as a Justice of the Peace 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 fresh produce from Jack's Eggs & Honey and Lilly's Olives and handmade treasures from the Colo Vale Community Association Craft Table. Barbecue on the go from breakfast through to lunch. jrps161@bigpond.com 4889 4129

#### **BOWRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL MARKETS**

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

The oldest and largest local market, this gem has more than 90 regular stall-holders and is bursting with an assortment of fresh seasonal farm produce, homemade goodies, organic plants and seedlings, books, rare chook and duck eggs, lovely linens, multicultural delicacies, abundant artisan creations from jewellery to the local 'Iron Mongrel', displaying his old-style iron forging. Chat to the local potato farmer; gain a garden hint from the compost makers; sample regional produce; and learn about our endangered wildlife from the regional wildlife rescue crews. enquire@bowralpsmarket.com

#### **BERRIMA SCHOOL YARD MARKET**

Fourth Sunday of the month gam to 2pm (except January) and second Sunday in December, Oxley Street, Berrima
There are 50 stalls with everything from fresh local produce (including vegies grown in the school's 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. Also there is the fabulous Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Cafe and a barbecue run by dedicated Berrima mums and dads. info@ theschoolyardmarkets.org

Goateyed Fabrications manufactures quality firepits with purpose and is the inspiration of Myles Naylor.

With an eye for detail, design and seeing form meeting function, Myles creates custom firepits and cauldrons that not only create wonderful heat and bring people to together, but also look beautiful when they are not in use. They have a sculptural aesthetic, making them a centrepiece for any outdoor environment. With the addition of custom grills, and rotisseries, the modest pit has evolved into the ultimate outdoor BBQ kitchen, where friends share food and drink and laugh around the ambiance created when gathering around a fire. Myles' imagination also extends into sculptural art and garden water features.

His 'STARGATE' sculpture (pictured at right) recently won the People's Choice Award for both the illumination and daytime entries at the Lake Light Sculpture Festival in Jindabyne. It is the first time in the 17 history of the festival that one artist has won both awards.

Myles is always happy to chat and help make your idea a reality with his custom-made, quality pieces that will enhance your garden and add value to your property.





#### CONTACT:

Myles Naylor m. 0451 155 350

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Artist-in-residence programs have been popping up all over the Southern Highlands during the past few years, some in places you'd expect, like Sturt Craft Centre, others in surprising locations, like Dirty Jane's Emporium in Bowral, where you'll find artist Corinne Dany at her easel (intermittently) until March 2020. It's a great way for artists to increase their visibility and profile and it's also a drawcard for local businesses keen to support artists. Also doing its bit, Wingecarribee Shire Council has launched the Southern Highlands ARTS FILE website, providing arts-related information and event details across all creative categories: visual arts and artisans; music and performing arts; literature; museums; galleries; and creative industries. Keep up to date with who's doing what where by visiting the Southern Highlands Arts File website at www.shaf.com.au

WORDS AMANDA MACKEVICIUS

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

Regenerate, an exhibition of upbeat and refreshingly playful work by Highlands- based painter and sculptor Gordon Richards, can be seen in the SHAC gallery until Christmas Eve. Inspired by nature, food, wine and beautiful women, Gordon swapped his chef's knives for paintbrushes nearly 30 years ago and has painted (and still cooks) almost daily, ever since. SHAC recently welcomed the Printmaking Sisters, Robin Ezra and Annie Day, who will be offering creative printmaking workshops, such as waterless lithography and collagraphs, when they are not teaching 'safer printmaking techniques' in exotic locations around the world. For upcoming classes and bookings or to view their beautiful work, drop into their studio/gallery at SHAC or visit annieday.com.au. 74-76 Hoddle Street, Robertson (next to The Big Potato) Friday to Monday 10am to 4pm www.theshac.com.au

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

Housed in a restored, historic milk factory that is wonderfully spacious (and deliciously cool throughout summer), the Summer Exhibition will showcase a mix of works in multiple mediums by Milk Factory Gallery artists and from various exhibitions held throughout 2019. Expect to see paintings, etchings, photography, sculpture, glass and more. 33 Station Street (rear) Bowral, open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm & Sundays 10am to 4pm. milkfactorygallery.com.au

#### Bowral Art Gallery and Bowral District Art Society, Bowral

Every primary school in the Southern Highlands is invited to contribute to the annual Kids on Show exhibition, which is open until December 8. The results are joyous, adorable and inspiring. Sturt Pottery Group's exhibition, Celebrating Yule Clay, from December 11 to 17, provides a perfect opportunity to buy beautiful handcrafted ceramics for Christmas presents (or gifts to self). The annual BDAS Members Exhibition is on from January 18 to February 4, 2020. There's also a peaceful and interesting sculpture garden to stroll through. 1 Short Street, Bowral, open daily 10am to 4pm. bdasgallery.com.

#### Sturt Gallery, Mittagong

The popular Sturt Artisans market, to be held in Sturt's grounds on Friday, December 13 from 3pm to 9pm is a great place to source original and hand-crafted gifts. An exhibition of photographer Tony Sheffield's work, Land and Sky, will open at 6pm that evening in the Sturt Gallery. Tony, well known locally for his decades of photography for Highlife Magazine, Escape SH's sister magazine, will exhibit new work in film and digital format. The fabulously immersive creative experience that is Sturt Summer School is on again, from January, 4 to 8, 2020 at Sturt Craft Centre in Mittagong. Spend a week learning new artistic skills (weaving, painting, ceramics, jewellery, sculpture, basketry, photography, print making and more) in a lush bushland setting, with amazing teachers and like-minded souls. There are 24 adult courses and five one-day children's courses available. For booking information visit sturt.nsw.edu.au. February at Sturt belongs to the Woodies. The annual Tools and Techniques weekend will be held on February 15 and 16 from 10am to 4pm. This boutique event includes displays and sales by some of Australia's finest toolmakers and specialist timber suppliers, along with woodwork demonstrations by leading furniture-makers. Edge, an exhibition of fine furniture and objects, will open on Sunday, February 16. Admission is free. Sturt Gallery, Corner Range Rd and Waverley Parade, Mittagong. sturt.nsw.edu.au





Tim Storrier is one of Australia's most eminent painters. His figurative landscapes of fire, parched vistas and dripping carcasses speak of loss and the futility of the human condition. In 2013, Tim and wife Janet moved to Bowral's historic Hopewood House, where Tim paints daily 'like a man possessed' while Janet oversees the care of the 1884 property and gardens. Tim spoke to ESH as his thoughts turn to a major show in 2020.

WORDS ALEX SPEED IMAGES GARY GREALY

There have been several books written on you, Tim. Any plans to write your autobiography? No.

My lips always get tied when I write and I haven't got around to that yet. You'd basically have to sit down for 12 months and concentrate and I think a lot of autobiographers tend to mould the information to make them look a bit better do they not?

**Did you have a happy childhood?** Yes. I grew up on a farm called Yumgarlee near Wellington but I was quite an insular child so going away to boarding school at Shore in Sydney was rather a crash course in growing up.

Where did you discover your love of art? My mother was a Sunday painter and I have clear memories of her painting when I was young so it both encouraged me and there was no opposition when I wanted to go to the National Art School. But they were always worried about economic security. In 1968 you were the youngest person at 19 ever to win the Sulman prize for your painting Suzy 350. What was it like to be feted from such a young age? You are subjected to all sorts of curiosities and derisions but you got over that flattery very early, which is a very good lesson. They didn't make the same sort of fuss back in those days and frankly it was a good thing. Also, I've still got no idea whether I deserved to win. They didn't hang the exhibition because they were in the middle of renovations (at the AGNSW) so they only hung the pictures that won. I didn't really

was never a foreign thing in our house. My parents

You've said in interviews before your work is based on your memories and reminisces? It's all an imaginary world. I didn't grow up in one of my paintings. They are imaginary landscapes.

have any body of work, it was just a one-off picture

so it didn't lead anywhere. That took many

more years.

Tasmanian landscape painter Philip Wolfhagen once said that watching his works going off to a show is like watching the kids leave home.

Do you recognise that sentiment? Well, yes, but you can be overly sentiment about that. We have bought back special works over the years, which financially can be hard. We got one back which was so large we couldn't get it through the front door

so now it's here in the gallery.

Hopewood House is now available as a wedding venue, and has four accommodation offerings to boot. You are also planning to open Hopewood's gardens and gallery to the public in 2020. Do you find people who visit are also very curious to see you and your works? People certainly come to visit the gallery and certainly anyone who comes here comes to the gallery to have a look at some pictures. It is a bit unusual.

You have said your work is more interested in the detritus human beings leave than the people themselves .. is that why you feel so connected to Hopewood House? Maybe but I've always just liked very old houses, I don't particularly like modernism. This is the third old house that we've owned.

How do you pull off being well known but also living under the radar here? I watched (Brett) Whiteley become restaurant recognised and it's just a pain in the arse and I've never achieved that, thank goodness. But Whitely pursued it because he wore Vietcong pyjamas and flower brooches and did lots of posturing.

What is your daily art routine? I work every day because if you don't play golf you had better go to work. I go into my studio and hide. 

Tim Storrier at Philip Bacon Galleries opens at Hopewood House, Sept 12, 2020 and then at Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane Sept 15 – Oct 10. storrier.com @timstorrier hopewoodhouse.com.au

### Escape stockists

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GET YOUR KIDS OUTSIDE, ACTIVE AND BUSY DURING THE LOOOOOONG SCHOOL BREAK.



Mike Shepherd reckons all kids today need to learn some basic life skills to grow and live useful, fulfilled lives; things today's grown-ups learnt when we were kids that seem to have gone by the wayside. Like how to light a fire outside, and when conditions are safe to do so. How to dig a hole and put a post in the ground. How to change a wheel on a car and how to use a hammer and nail to make something that lasts. And Mike is offering to teach them. The brother of Jill Dyson, Escape SH's food writer, Mike has been a sheep farmer since 1964. He is also a mad keen yurt builder, a skill he learnt as a younger man on a trip to California. Since then, he's built yurts in Scotland and Ireland and 35 of the tent-like structures on his 1100-acre property near Goulburn.

Mike and wife Jill's five kids have grown up and are living away and sheep farming is proving tougher than ever, so Mike is combining his skills to teach overnight Life Skills Camps for kids aged 12 and under.

### Camps run something like this:

Arrive the evening before with accompanying parent at Mike's property. Choose a yurt. BYO sleeping bag and dinner. The next morning rise and shine. Lesson 1 kicks off at 8am.

Lesson 1: Learn how a cow is milked. Grind some wheat and learn to make your own pancake. Breakfast's up.

Lesson 2: Learn how to plant a potato and how to compost. Visit the chook house. Handle some chicks and collect the eggs.

Lesson 3: Learn how to make a stock whip. Make one. Have a crack at making it crack.

**Lesson 4:** Change the wheels on a car, and learn what a jack, a spanner and a spare wheel are for.

Lesson 5: Learn how to build a fire, boil a billy and make a cup of tea. Also learn when not to light a fire.

Lesson 6: Work with a hammer and nails. Make a paddle and a toy wooden boat.

**Lesson 7:** Use the paddle to get across the dam in

Lesson 8: Learn how to make a wallet with a piece of faux leather and needle. Sew one.

Lesson 9: Dig a hole with a crowbar. Also learn how to wield a shovel.

Lesson 10: Learn how to cook damper. Eat it. Lesson 11: Learn how to wash clothes by hand (maybe to get rid of the golden syrup that's fallen

The day finishes at about 4.30pm when parents and tired kids can head home.

Lunch, all materials and the night's accommodation in a yurt are all covered in the \$100 cost per parent and child. Bring sleeping bags, old clothes for kids to work in, a change of clothes and an extra jumper. Mike's Yurt Farm also has an obstacle course, horse riding, and lots of farm animals to feed as well as more than 1100 acres of property to rush

around in. If you are looking for more reasons to get those kids here, check out Mike's list of "100 ways to discourage kids from watching too much television" - and presumably off other screens - on his website.

"We need to teach kids to get off their phones and look around them," says Mike. "Generally, their parents learn something too and everyone seems to enjoy themselves."

Outdoor Centre and Back to Basics Camps, Goulburn Yurtfarm, December 7 and January 28. yurtfarm.com.au

### **OUTSIDE!**

If you are looking for something a little longer to occupy your girls and boys aged seven to 14 these school holidays, Tallong Outdoor Education and Retreat Centre is holding a five-day and four-night holiday camp. This camp at Barbers Creek, the Highlands retreat for Sydney girls school Santa Sabina, includes masses of outdoor activities such as self-defence, mountain biking, archery, flying fox, abseiling, foot golf and arts and crafts. Accommodation is in on-site cabins and there is an option for your kids to spend one night in a tent. The cost includes accommodation, all meals and equipment. Day and short stays are also available. January 20 to 24, \$435pp for five-day package (bookings close January 10, 2020) Early price \$405pp until December 13. For more info,

email tallong@ssc.nsw.edu.au or call 02 4841 0439

### 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

### **Southern Medical Centre**

61 Elizabeth St, Moss Vale

#### 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

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;

Militagong 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 2

Telstra Emergency 13 22 03

Wingecarribee Shire Counc

Open 8.30am – 4.30pm

(Monday to Friday) Civic Centre

Elizabeth St, Moss Vale

4868 0888

### Resource Recovery Centre

Open 7.30am - 4.30pn

(Rubbish Disposal Centre

117 Berrima Rd, Moss \

4868 0555

Wingecarribee Animal Sh

Berrima Road, Moss Vale

4868 1520

WIRES 13000 94737









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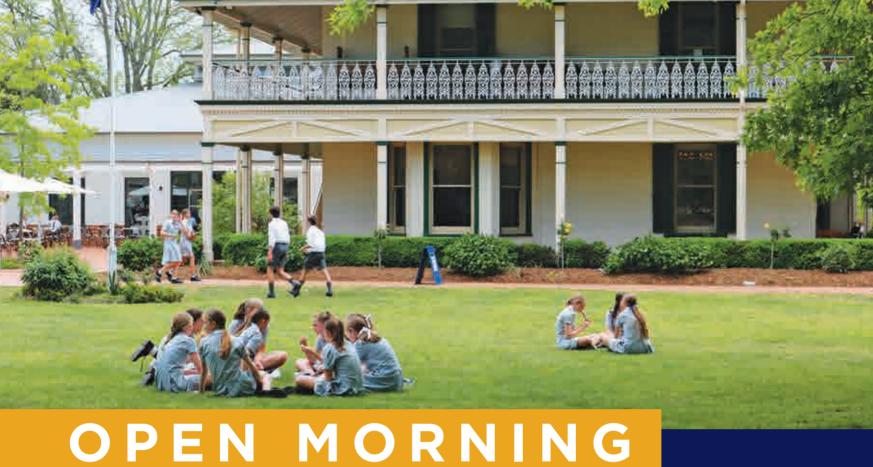
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Saturday 4 April 2020 or book a school tour with Jenni Woods today!

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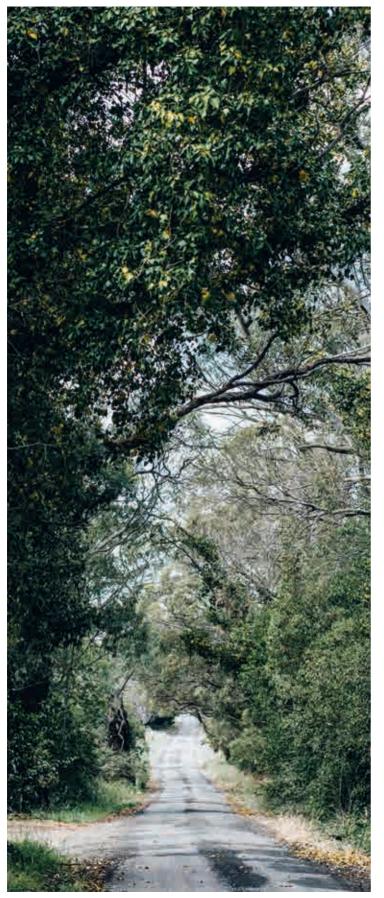
E: office@oxley.nsw.edu.au W: www.oxley.nsw.edu.au

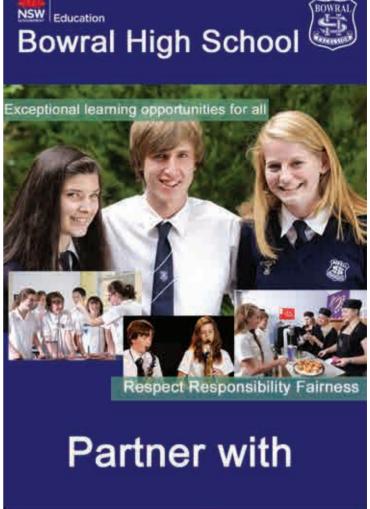
to think

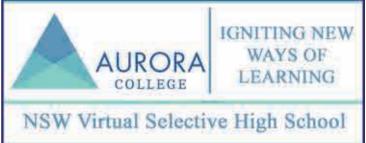
to dare

to dream









### For more information:

bowral-h.schools.nsw.gov.au Bowral-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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- Term 2: Saturday, 30 May
- Term 3: Wednesday, 12 August
- Term 4: Wednesday, 28 October



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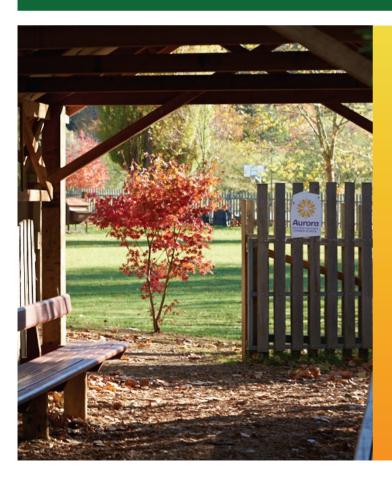


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or



Injured raptors have a true friend in Peggy McDonald, who nurses them back to health in her purpose-built Fitzroy Falls rehab centre. words ALEX SPEED IMAGES MARK KELLY

It's a measure of Peggy McDonald's dedication to her life's work, running Higher Ground Raptors, that when she started looking for a patron, she wrote to Sir David Attenborough. "I wrote how much I admired him and what a wonderful advocate he has been for our environment and the animals in it and would he consider being our patron please," says Peggy, from her Higher Ground Raptor headquarters at Fitzroy Falls.

"I'm not sure if I expected him to reply really but one day not long after, I received one. He said that while he loved what we are doing and how important our work is, he sadly must decline given his many other commitments and the distance. "He did, however, give me some very helpful pointers so I am currently on the lookout. I'll find the right person in time." Anyone who knows Peg doesn't doubt that for a moment. Made a Churchill Fellow in 2017, she is a respected authority in Australia on the rehabilitation of raptors, our predators of the skies. She has nursed and rehabilitated more than 1000 of the birds. For the fellowship, Peggy travelled to the US, the UK, the United Arab Emirates, Canada and South Africa

to learn more about raptor rehab. At Fitzroy Falls, eagles, kestrels, falcons, kites, goshawks and owls come to her hit by cars, shot by farmers, injured by flying into windows or caught in barbed wire. Her first was 30 years ago.

"It was when I had that bird in care that I realised what bright and sensitive creatures birds are, and none more so than our raptors,' says Peggy.

"They have amazing intelligence and are an absolute joy to look after."

Higher Ground Raptors, the rehabilitation and education campus of Australian Raptor Care and Conservation Inc, sits at the end of a quiet country road. Hundreds of sick and injured raptors are brought each year to the facility, which is also a research and training facility for vet students.

"I did my first internship at the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital in 2012 and it was at that point I realised we really could and should be doing better for these birds when they come into our care," says Peggy.

The result is the Peter Spitzer Aviary, the biggest raptor rehabilitation facility of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.



It was named after the late local doctor and founder of Clown Doctors, who died in 2014. He was a dear friend.

"This aviary allows the bird continual flight rather than just going back and forth or perch to perch like typical rectangular aviaries that are standard in Australia,' says Peggy.

'It contains a central pavilion that stops the birds from seeing an end point when they are flying, particularly the faster flying birds. It allows them to do what they need to do and allows them to recover at their own pace.

"Once I can see them performing naturally and well, then those birds are released with hopefully the best chance to survive back out in the wild again."

Peggy is currently raising funds for an education centre she hopes to build at Fitzroy Falls. She works with her governing body, NSW National Parks and Wildlife, to implement her Churchill findings, which include the necessity for pre-release conditioning appropriate to species.

"According to the leaders in the field, raptors are an umbrella species, which basically means if there are no raptors there is not a good biodiversity," says Peggy.

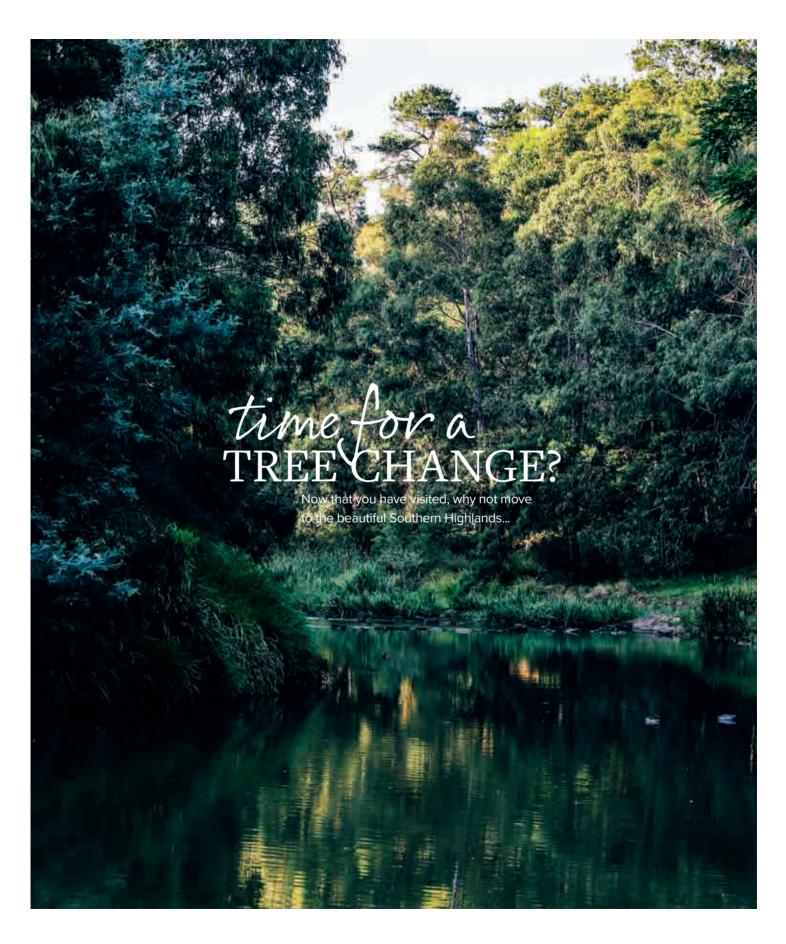
"Probably a third of our raptor species are now listed, which means they are in trouble and they are in trouble all over the place. Even our beautiful white bellied sea eagles became listed as vulnerable in NSW just a few years ago."

Largely self-funded for many years, Peggy has also been assisted by Wingecarribee Shire Council and several charities. She plans to devise an extensive training program and online manual to assist other raptor carers.

It's time now in Australia to embrace the knowledge we have and start doing the very best by these birds. Places like the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital and the Minnesota Raptor Centre at the University of Minnesota in the US have vets on board. It's a whole raptor rehab centre.

"They have learnt over decades what works and what doesn't work, and we don't have that here. My perfect dream would be that this would all turn into that one day." highergroundraptors.com







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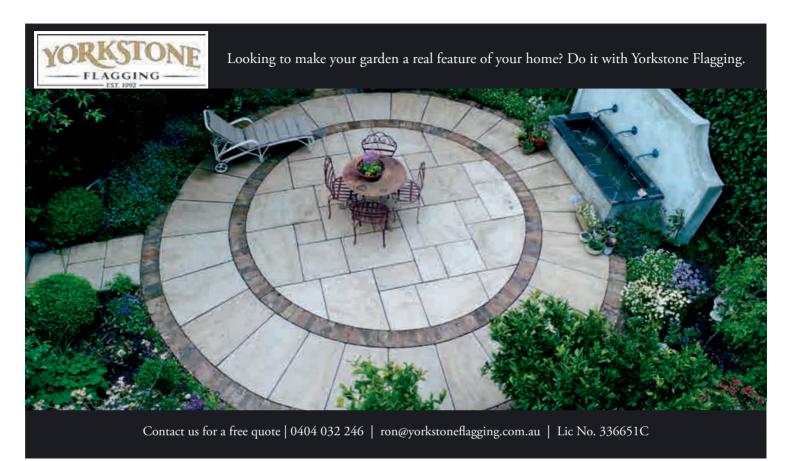
Modern kitchen and comfortable living area with central heating. 3 spacious bedrooms, fully fenced back yard. Enjoy the sunsets from the front verandah. Surrounded by beautiful gardens.

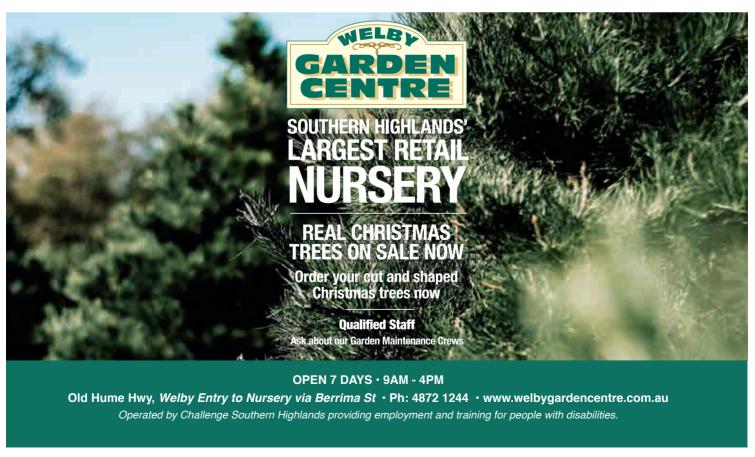
RATE: From \$390 per night

CONTACT: Shena Jackson 0418 448 552 shenajackson@jacksonwall.com.au or Greg Wall 0427 887 429 gregwall@jacksonwall.com.au

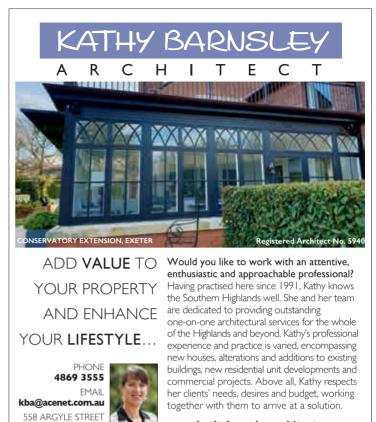






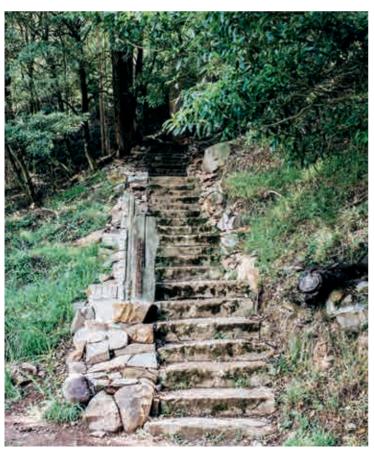






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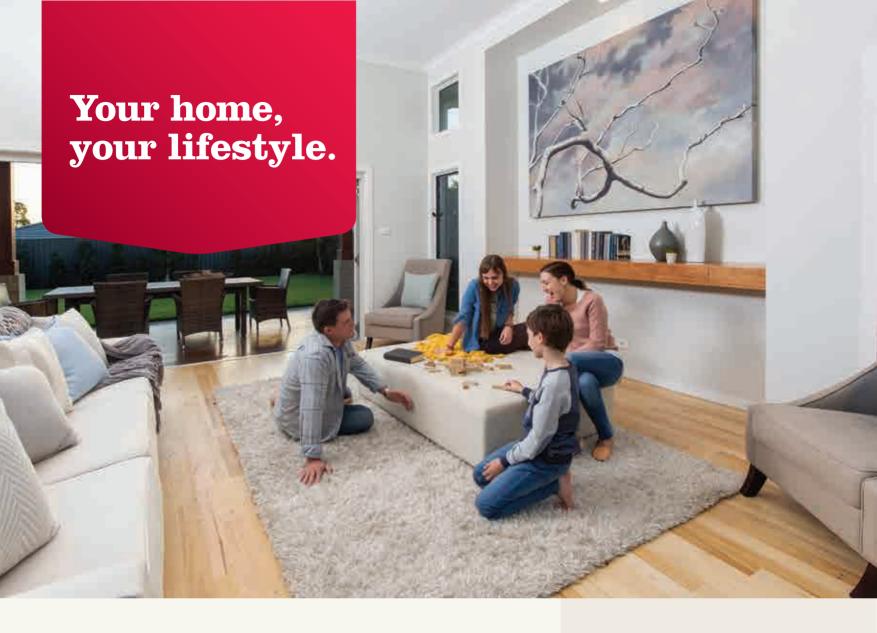




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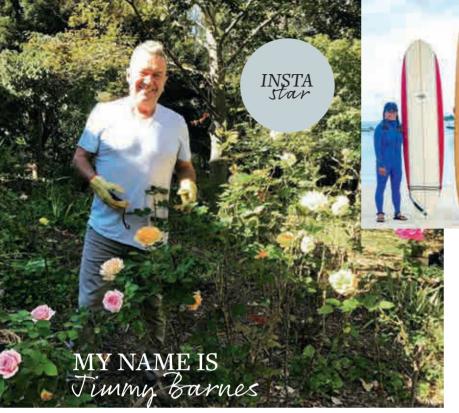
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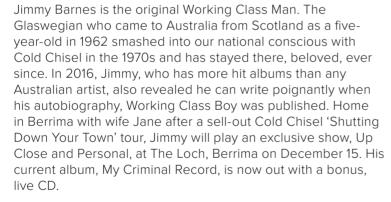
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### @jimmybarnesofficial

My name is... Jimmy Barnes. My life in five words is... Love, life, music, food, family. We moved to the Southern Highlands in... 1984 because I wanted to have some sanity in my life as Jane and I had a young family. The music business is a hectic place and in the city, we were surrounded by it 24-7. So we both thought a little place within striking distance of Sydney would allow us some peace. We were right and have loved living there ever since.

**We love the Highlands because...** It is beautiful and you can experience the four seasons. It gets very cold in the winter and being a Scotsman I love the cold. The autumn turns the place into what looks like a beautiful painting. The spring brings flowers and blossoms and it gets hot in the summer so we can swim in the river but it still gets cool enough at night to sleep. It is perfect.

**My favourite thing to do in the Southern Highlands is...** stay home with my darling Jane and cook and eat great food.

**Followers of my Instagram see piccies of...** I look after the roses but Jane is the real gardener. She knows what she is doing and I'm just the help.



When it comes music, there is one truth I know... you can feel it if it is real. I've been in the business of... touring, writing, singing and playing professionally for 46 years but music has always been in my life.

The first thing I always say to people who tell me they want a life in music is... If you love it, do it. If you just want to be famous, you might be in the wrong business.

In a sentence, my philosophy to finding contentment and fulfilment is... keep growing, learning and changing. Life changes every day and you have to adapt.

When it comes to fronting Cold Chisel, singing solo or now with my family, the thing that has always driven me has been... my love of music. Music set me free. When I sing I feel complete.

Even after all these years, touring again and putting out a new album with Cold Chisel is like... the first. We want it to be the best work we could do and we want it to reach out and touch people.

Writing the story of my life has been... painful but liberating.

**The most precious piece of life advice I ever received was...** follow your heart. **My most precious loves are...** My family and my Jane.

I deal with the intense interest from the media and the public in my private life by... When I work I am open to talk to the media but when I am spending time with my family I like to be left alone.

If there's one thing I know about fame it's this... it's not healthy. You have to keep grounded if you can.

**Away from the recording studio and the stage, I love to...** spend time with my girl.

When we have friends staying with us in the Highlands, we always take them to .... Toshi's Japanese restaurant. We like to take them on walks along the river and sometimes we visit the Buddhist monastery in Bundanoon.

**My special place in the Highlands is...** Home. I love getting back home. It doesn't matter where we go, nowhere beats home. My house, my bed, my family.

The lessons I hope my kids learn from me are... Work hard and be good people

The things I hope I can give to people who listen to my music and read my books is .... lift their spirits and I hope they forget about their troubles for a while. Music can transport you if you let it.

And finally, please finish this sentence... Famous rockers never die, they just... write articles for magazines.



# Nina Léon's Shoe Boutique





WORDS ALEX SPEED
IMAGE ABBIE MELLE

no Meaghan Stanton, champion mountain biker and maths teacher, her exacting disciplines have much in common. 'Completing a maths exam and a mountain bike race are actually not so different. Although some natural talent is helpful, it's more important to practise to develop technical skills, to be optimistic about tackling obstacles and to have the determination to keep going.' Meaghan teaches at Oxley College, Burradoo and is Australian Masters Cross Country and Marathon Nationals Champion. She also coaches Oxley's burgeoning MTB program with Peter Dowse, her partner and mechanic for MTB team Australia and Bowral bike shop, The Fixed Wheel. Peter is also owner of Trek Shimano Australia, the elite team Meaghan rides with. 'I'm happy to be working at a school progressive enough to allow me to set up a mountain bike program. We've had several big wins this year and the kids we coach are a fantastic group of very keen riders.' Daughter of nutritionist Rosemary Stanton and a bike rider since a kid, Meaghan started mountain biking 12 years ago.

'Racing began as a family thing with my three daughters and I all riding competitively. Zoe was Under 15 National Champion in 2017 and I borrowed her bike for the Australian Nationals, which I won. Over time the girls gave up but I kept going, stepping up my training about three years ago.'

In 2017 Meaghan placed fifth in the Masters World MTB Championships in Andorra, and has won the Australian Masters XCO and Marathon Nationals for the past three years. "It's a logical step to race the Masters World Championships again but I couldn't go in 2018 or this year because I had a senior advanced maths class and I wouldn't want to leave my students right before their HSC.' When she's not explaining calculus or at home in Bowral, Meaghan can be found out shredding it up. 'I love racing for the excitement of whizzing through the forest as fast as I can, for the fitness it brings and the satisfaction of giving it everything. Mountain biking is one of the fastest growing sports in Australia, and we are lucky to have good trails at Welby and Wingello. There is so much potential to develop more trails in the Highlands.'

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