

Escape

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS *Oct/Nov 2020*



STAY, PLAY, EAT, DRINK & EXPLORE

ACCOMMODATION
REVIEWS & DRINKS
TRAIL MAP

SOUTHERN
HIGHLANDS'
MAKERS

LOCAL
PRODUCERS
& FOOD



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Animals: Please note that while the animals generally join guests as shown, no guarantee of their attendance or length of attendance can be given.



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JAMALA
WILDLIFE LODGE



TRAIN of dreams

Travel back in time to an era of elegant glamour ... then step outside for hiking or mountain biking

WORDS ALEX SPEED IMAGES ELISE HASSEY



Writer Agatha Christie was an ardent champion of the delights of early 20th century train travel. Her continental train trips and the works they inspired helped add a Grand Tour, E.M. Forster glamour to railroad excursions.

But it was the legendary Orient Express, the vehicle for the English author's most celebrated mystery, *Murder on the Orient Express*, that really stole her heart. Christie first boarded the luxurious art deco Parisian locomotive in 1928 to travel from London to Istanbul and across the Middle East to Baghdad. She later called it 'the train of my dreams'.

"All my life I had wanted to go on the Orient Express," she wrote in *Agatha Christie, An Autobiography*. "When I had travelled to France or Spain or Italy, the Orient Express had often been standing at Calais and I had longed to climb up into it."

Fast forward to 2020, and today's homegrown experiences of train travel are probably a far cry from Christie's glamorous expeditions but stay a night in Carriage 343, a meticulously restored train carriage, and you may discover a little of her magic.

Carriage 343 is the lovechild of acclaimed sustainable farmers Katrina and Sam Sparke. The couple and their four children live on Redleaf Farm, 110 hectares near Fitzroy Falls. The Sparkes raise free-range pigs, sheep and cattle, which they supply to some of the Southern Highlands' and Sydney's smartest restaurants. With a farming philosophy of 'nose to tail', they are also keen up-cyclers, forming alliances with other local producers such as Eden Brewery in Mittagong to use food waste otherwise destined for landfill, to feed their stock.

Katrina is a graphic designer by trade and a multi-tasking dynamo in practice. Carriage 343 is her baby. She discovered the unloved guard's and passenger carriage four years ago, lying in a junkyard in outer Sydney. Needing to generate off-farm revenue and never one to shy away from a challenge, she had Carriage 343, which was built in 1890 loaded on to a semi, carried 150km down the road and unloaded with the help of a crane into a top paddock at Redleaf Farm.

Today, this unique accommodation portal sits still and beautiful next to state forest on its original wheels and track. Overlooking a towering Scribbly gum wood, in a clearing metres from the carriage, sits a vintage French bath on a platform. It adds a thrilling touch of Australian gothic to the whole scene. Here's betting Agatha Christie would be straight in.

Inside, the specialness continues. Katrina worked for months to restore and retain as many original features as possible. The carriage is wood panelled and has a beautiful 1890s tin-pressed ceiling. Where necessary, original cedar was replaced "with a silky oak my father Peter pulled out of the Kangaroo River", says Katrina (pictured right).

The carriage opens on to the living room with original sash and case windows and delicate seashell handles. An Early Kooka stove is gas lit, and the original guard's fuel stove is fed by precisely sized pieces of firewood, chopped by the Sparkes' boys to warm the whole carriage. A snug kitchenette is stocked with tea and coffee essentials, and a breakfast basket with granola in ribbon-tied jars, fresh eggs, milk, homemade jam and a loaf of fresh bread awaits new guests. Monogrammed Redleaf Carriage wine glasses sit on shelves ready for a 2015 Unwooded Clare Valley Chardonnay for Redleaf Carriages





Suits: *City-siders looking for a digital detox. Couples with curious kids. Train enthusiasts. Outdoor bathers. Lovers.*

Don't miss: *Try a tippie at Mount Ashby Estate Vineyard, Moss Vale. Buy an original artwork or sculpture from the Southern Highlands Artisans Collective (The SHAC), Robertson. Breakfast at Burrawang General Store Cafe, Burrawang. Delight in a Portuguese tart from Lucinda's Pantry, Robertson. Take a bushwalk at nearby Fitzroy Falls.*

vintage to be cracked open. Suede armchairs in front of the fire beckon. Fur throws in deep sea jade promise extra warmth.

The original freight van is now the master bedroom. It has Juliette balconies through parcel doors and also antiqued mirror walls. A chandelier and a netted canopy hang over the king size bed, resplendent in white cotton, sheepskin rugs and cosy layers. But think boudoir rather than bedroom; this is one spicy space where the heaving bosoms and swooning passions of some of the mystery queen's more ornamental characters would be at home.

Move through the carriage into the dining area, where an original table with bench seats covered in fallow deer hide await. The wide recess leads along to an adult-sized double bunk, also perfect for smaller sleepers. The roof is sloping here like a ship's cabin and there are remote control candlesticks for those who like to snuggle under the covers and read as the night rolls on.

At the end of the carriage, there is an original guard's water closet with enamel sink and flushing loo. Take a shower in the large bathroom recess, hung with sumptuous bath sheets and monogrammed robes. Carriage 343 is solar powered and off the grid, so luxuriate under the steaming water and look out on to the scribbly gums, revelling in the *au naturel*. The sheep won't mind.

This is a private and beautifully restored getaway. Book with a couple of friends or take the kids and let them explore Redleaf Farm's creek with its jetty, tyre swing, flying fox and canoe and beautiful waterfall. There are also masses of animals to visit and bushwalking and mountain tracks to explore just outside the door. Or go with the one you love, and spend a day or two taking each other places you've never journeyed before.

Escape SH was a guest of Redleaf Carriage 343

redleaf-farm.com ■



DRINKS
trail

Follow our drinks trail

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

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

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

4. Joadja Estate
110 Joadja Road, Berrima.
Weekends 10am-5pm. Thurs,
Fri & Mon 12-5pm.
4878 5236
- 5. Joadja Distillery**
1760 Joadja Rd Joadja.
Open for private group tours
& bookings. 4878 5129

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

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

8. SH Brewing Company
Kitchen & Taphouse 490 Argyle
Street, Moss Vale. Thurs 5.30-
10pm, Fri & Sat 12-10pm,
Sun 12pm-7pm. 4899 7100
- 9. Mount Ashby Estate**
128 Nowra Rd, Moss Vale.
Open Thurs-Sun & public
hols. 11am-5pm. 4869 4792

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

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

12. Sallys Corner Wines
257 Sallys Corner Rd, Exeter
Open Sat-Sun & P. Hols
10.30am-4.30pm. 4883 4999
- 13. Sutton Forest Estate Wines**
21 Black Horse Ln, Sutton
Forest. Open Fri-Sun
& Public Hols 10am-5pm.
4878 9278

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

15. Cherry Tree Hill Wines
12324 Hume Hwy, Sutton
Forest. Open 7 days.
Thurs-Mon 10am-5pm.
Tues & Wed 12pm-4pm
- 16. Tractorless Urban
Winery & Brewery**
3/11 Pikkat Drive, Braemar
Open 10:30am - 4:30pm.
Thurs-Mon. 4858 1788
0402 217 907

17. Peppergreen Estate
13 Marketplace, Berrima.
Open Thurs to Mon until 5pm.
4877 1070



With locals like Nic and Keith...

*You can dine with the stars at the
refurbished Sutton Forest Inn.*

WORDS ALEX SPEED IMAGES ELISE HASSEY



Earlier this year, Luke Dryland, new operator of the recently revamped Sutton Forest Inn, and wife Lucy upped their city sticks and moved to the Southern Highlands.

"We came for the space, the lifestyle and the chance for our growing family to have more freedom," Luke (*above*) says of the move, which comes after a lifetime of working in hotel hospitality for others.

Now, with his name as lessee firmly above 'The Sutto's' door, Luke's reasoning sounds much as you might imagine his famous neighbours', Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban, just up the road to be.

The celebrity couple recently returned from Nashville to their 1878 Highlands estate, Bunya Hill. Accompanied by daughters Sunday and Faith, the Kurbans purportedly returned home to Australia for the production of *Nine Perfect Strangers*, based on the best-selling novel by fellow Aussie Liane Moriarty. Kidman reportedly acquired rights to the book and will star in the television series alongside Melissa McCarthy, Welsh actor Luke Evans and Aussie Samara Weaving, niece of Hugo, who are currently filming in Byron Bay. David E. Kelley, legendary writer, and longtime husband of Michelle Pfeiffer, has reportedly co-adapted the book for television.

This is all good news for Luke, and the new look Sutton Forest Inn. Even international stars take breaks from filming and need weekends away at home, and the pub is just five minutes down the road from the Kurban's Georgian home here. Always happy to offer a heads up, *Escape SH* ventured out to Sutton Forest to check out the makeover and give the new menu a whirl.

There is history in Sutton Forest, one of the oldest settlements in the area. It was established by Europeans in the 1820s as hundreds of wretched convicts worked in road gangs to build the South Road, which originally passed through. Later, convicts were indentured to free settlers to clear land and build estates, such as Bunya Hill and the lovely Boscobel, a stone's throw to the south, towards Exeter. If history is your thing, it's fascinating to spend some time before lunch wandering through the cemeteries of local historic churches, All Saints and St Patrick's and to see the gravestones of the Highlands' founding colonial families.

Messing about with history, though, doesn't always go down so well with locals, and the gentrification of a Highlands icon such as the Sutton Forest Inn, which opened in 1936, could be a difficult proposition. Far from attempting to teleport an inner-city pub to the Highlands, however, Luke and the inn's new owners have completed their project with taste and quiet restraint.

"We carried out some renovations and just cleaned it all up a bit," says Luke. "We gave the whole building inside and out a lick of paint, got some new furniture and tidied and freshened it up."

The front public bar with its classic wall tiles, bar stools and the dogs on the telly has remained untouched, as has the next door lounge area, with its wood panelling and open fire. The biggest changes are out back in the restaurant. There is some new high bar seating and there has been a complete kitchen overhaul, including a large bread oven that takes pride of place. Chef Simon Stoker, formerly of Centennial





Vineyards Restaurant, offers an alluring menu of affordable, quietly sophisticated pub grub. For the daintier eater, small plates of lemon pepper calamari, miso ginger fried pork riblets and the homemade focaccia with smoky baba ghanoush are a true find. Those ready to tackle heartier dishes should try the pie of the day or the butcher's cut ribeye steak with red wine jus. The pan-roasted barramundi with lemon butter and veg is top shelf.

"Best barramundi I've tasted this side of Humpty Doo, Northern Territory," one happy fellow diner volunteered, referencing the home of the Big Barra, Australia's most fighting and most flavoursome fish.

Also on the all-day menu are three great sounding burgers (buttermilk chicken, wagyu beef and mushroom) and a kids' menu that might actually entice them to eat more than just the chips: Mac n cheese, cheeseburger, popcorn chicken and margherita cheese pizza. All kids meals are \$14 and include chips, fruit and ice cream cup. Let the kids take their ice cream outside to the smart new playground with its swings and slides and swathes of space to chase about in. Or book a table to eat outside on the verandah and keep an eye on the tin lids while you finish up your drinks. Why not order another bottle? Nic and Keith and the kids might be down soon. suttonforestinn.com.au 📍



ESCAPE
loves

Weekend pub lunch or dinner with friends sound good? Try these other great local pubs out for size...

The Surveyor General Inn, Berrima, is the oldest continually licenced public house in Australia. New owner Peter Durney and chef Alex Watts have breathed new life into this pub and its Bushrangers Bistro, loved by locals and visitors. Eat in or dine al fresco in the charming beer garden and soak up the charm of historic Berrima.

Burrawang Village Hotel, Burrawang: Want to give village life a whirl? Book a table outside in the lovely beer garden this spring, go with friends with kids, enjoy the bar menu and see for yourself why Burrawang life is too good to merely road-test. If you are really serious about a tree change, rock up on a Thursday or Friday and meet some of the locals.

Bundanoon Hotel, Bundanoon: This big-hearted establishment is recently renovated and retains its original art deco features and, importantly, the front bar for the locals. Book a table in fine weather outside in the beer garden, with its swimming pool and live music. Or bags a seat on the courtesy bus that runs from Penrose, Exeter, Wingello and Moss Vale to Bundanoon on Friday and Saturday, and leave the car at home.



Braving it at Berrima with a ghost called Brad

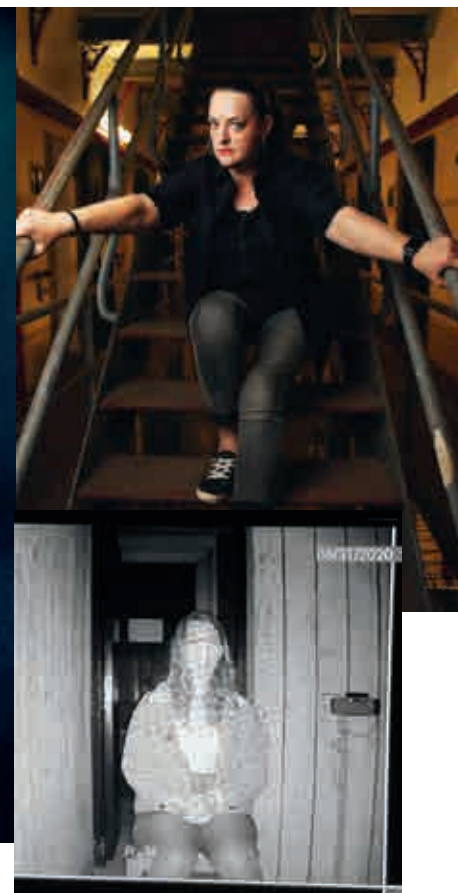
Fancy learning some horrid Highlands history and giving yourself the heebies to boot? This one is for you then, and your brave teenagers!

WORDS ALEX SPEED

It's 8pm on a Friday when we arrive at Berrima Court House. Paranormal presences apparently prefer the dark such as ghastly 177-year-old tenants Lucretia Dunkley and her lover Martin Beech. This grisly duo was tried and sentenced here in 1843 after Dunkley enticed Beech to dismantle her sleeping husband with an axe. After the murderous couple went to the gallows at the jail across the street, their heads were sent to the University of Sydney for study. They were buried upright in the jail's graveyard so they could never find eternal rest. Or perhaps tonight we'll hear from bushranger John Lynch, who was hanged in 1842 for murdering 10 people he happened upon while out pilfering and cattle-duffing. Not a happy chappy, he, too, is said to haunt this historic sandstone building, opened in 1839. Or so Peta Banks believes. A Sydney civil servant, Banks is also a paranormal investigator and founder of APPI Ghost Hunts and Tours. She often operates her ghostly goings-on here.

"I've always been one of these people who has had a dark side," Peta says. "Ever since I was a child, I've loved ghost stories and scary stories."





I, however, am a wuss from way back. But I have come on tonight's Interactive Ghost Tour with an open mind and a secret weapon; my fearless 15-year-old daughter. There are eight of us on the tour this dark and rainy night and as Peta guides us through the judges' robing room and the prison holding cells, she begins to set the scene.

"There were trials of 12 convicted murderers held here in Berrima Court House," Peta says. "Six offenders met their death by hanging at the jail across the road and we believe that some of them are still here today."

Gripping to my teenager's hand tightly, I follow the crowd until we come to the court room. This building, commissioned by Governor Richard Bourke, is colonial Georgian with iconic Doric columns and was designed by architect Mortimer Lewis.

Peta continues. "Lucretia Dunkley is our most frequent ghost and she loves the men. She's not terribly fond of us ladies but she will charm the pants off you if you are a male," she says, adding that instances of men having their face, leg or even bottom touched are not uncommon.

The wooden pews are hard and the wind is howling outside. The hairs on the back of my neck stand up as I imagine a cold hand touching my face. The room is in almost total darkness but I catch my daughter's pitying look as I inch closer to her. At the front of the court room, there is a television screen and recording equipment and I have the nasty realisation that at any moment Peta will start asking for volunteers. I sink down lower.

I'm right. The Ganzfeld experiment is a sensory deprivation experiment favoured by paranormal pursuers. Cameras record any visitations from lifeless lurkers. The way it works? Four minutes, alone in a holding cell. Pitch black. Doors closed. Volunteers? Not on your Nellie. My brave teenager acquiesces but like others, reports nothing odder than a trepidation of what might happen.

The next of the night's undertaking is electronic voice phenomena, or EVP. It's a process that records sounds, possibly spirit voices, electronically. We are each asked to send a question out into the blackness.

"Hello. My name is Jac. Are you guilty or innocent?" "Hi. I'm Stephen. Did you murder anyone?"

The silence that comes back is deafening, and although playing back the audio reveals no garrulous ghost, I'm beginning to feel quite unnerved.

"We call it getting the scares," says Peta. "It's when you really start to feel

anxious. I wish you could have come last month, because activity here was off the charts. The door stopper on the court room door went flying with no one anywhere near it so the door slammed shut. Every single person took part in the Ganzfeld experiment and they all reported being touched on the leg or the face."

The only person to opt out of the Ganzfeld experiment tonight, I give the last experiment my full attention. This involves using a so-called Ghost Box Portal to try and pick up any high range radio frequencies, apparently favoured by apparitions to communicate.

"This portal is a ghost box that continually scans through its frequencies like a car radio searching for a channel," Peta says. "But unlike a car radio that stops when you hit a channel, this one keeps going. The theory is spirits talk to you through the white noise and will use the radio voices to try and communicate. We are going to try and reach someone now," she says taking a breath and projecting her voice up and out.

"Is there someone with us tonight?"

Her question floats above us until unexpectedly a screeching, shocking violin chord pierces the blurring white noise of the court room. We collectively jump.

"Give us a nice clear answer please," commands Peta. "Is there someone with us?"

"Brad," comes a voice back through the static. I hold my breath.

Brad? Is your name Brad? Were you in the jail here Brad?"

Muffled static again followed by another startlingly loud, far-off violin shriek. "Yes."

Can this be right? We are all holding our breath now and my hand is tight in my daughter's. If I could shrink down any more into the floor, I would disappear "What town are we in Brad?" says Peta.

"Berrima," comes the clear reply through the faraway static.

An audible gasp runs through our group. We all stay stock still as Peta tries to entice the monosyllabic Brad to converse some more. But he is no longer in the mood to chat and suddenly it feels like it's getting colder in here by the second. Time to leave and take the teenager home to the land of the living.

Escape SH was a guest of APPI Ghost Hunt & Tours.

appighosthunts.com 





DIRTY JANES *If you haven't visited a Dirty Janes market (now located in Bowral and Canberra) you really are missing out on the best of vintage. Over 150 individual stallholders at both locations. With such a vast array of unique items you'll have your Christmas shopping sorted in record time. Opening throughout December for curated twilight Christmas evenings. Open 7 days 10am–5pm. For details visit dirtyjanes.com*

Art, Antiques and COLLECTIBLES

For lovers of antique, vintage and collectible wares, the Southern Highlands is a treasure trove waiting to be unpacked. Follow our roadmap, and spend some time unearthing some your own delights to take home.



WHITEWALL ART PROJECTS

Bringing a new contemporary Australian and international art experience to the Southern Highlands. Our current group exhibition of artists includes works by: Ferruccio Babarcich / Thomas Bucich / Aurelio Costarella / Meg Cowell / Daimon Downey / Tim Georgeson / Clayton Hairs / Belynda Henry / John Lacey / Wendi Leigh / Olivier Rasir / Elisenda Russell / Steve Salo / Tanya Stubbles / Leanne Thomas / Ria Vlavianos / Libby Wakefield / along with our Masters Etchings Collection. Open Friday through Monday 10am–4pm and by appointment. 10 Jellore Street, Berrima (Previously the Bell Gallery). Tel 0420 718 775 @whitewallartprojects www.whitewallartprojects.com.au

VISIT **LYDIE DU BRAY ANTIQUES** AND YOU COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR THINKING YOU ARE SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE. HOUSED IN THE EXQUISITE PROPERTY 'KAMILAROI' YOU'LL FIND THE MOST DELIGHTFUL ORIGINAL FRENCH ANTIQUES AND MORE – ALL FOR SALE AT REASONABLE PRICES. LYDIE WAS BORN IN PARIS AND HAS HAD OVER 35 YEARS IN THE ANTIQUE BUSINESS. HER FRENCH INFLUENCE ON THE PRESENTATION OF ANTIQUES AND DÉCOR IS COMPLEMENTED BY THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS SURROUNDING THE PROPERTY. 117 Old Hume Highway Braemar. Open 10am–5pm, 7 days. lydiedubrayantiques.com.au



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FINE FURNITURE, ANTIQUES, DECORATIVE PIECES, UNIQUE OBJECTS, SOURCED GLOBALLY FOR THE MODERN INTERIOR.

Shop 3/1-3 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral
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SOUTHERN Explorer HIGHLANDS Map

SPECIAL
edition

Art, antiques and collectibles

BRAEMAR

1. Lydie du Bray Antiques
117 Old Hume Highway,
Braemar.

Open 10am–5pm, seven days
lydiebubrayantiques.com.au

BOWRAL

2. The Bronte Tram
Shop 3/1-3 Wingecarribee
Street, Bowral.

Open Monday to Saturday
10am–5pm & Sunday
10am–4pm.
@thebrontetram

3. Dirty Janes Bowral
13-15 Banyette Street, Bowral.

Open 7 days 10am–5pm.
dirtyjanes.com

BERRIMA

4. Whitewall Art Projects
10 Jellore Street, Berrima
(previously the Bell Gallery)

Friday to Monday 10am–4pm
& by appointment
0420 718 775
@whitewallartprojects
whitewallartprojects.com.au

ROBERTSON

5. Gallerie Tetu
Shop 4/74-76 Hoddle Street,
Robertson.

Friday to Monday 10am–4pm
& by appointment
0407 683 739
gallerietetu.com.au

**6. Southern Highlands Artists
Collective (The SHAC)**
74-76 Hoddle Street,
Robertson.

Friday to Monday 10am–4pm
theshac.com.au

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Arts Trail
40 studios and 8 galleries
throughout the Southern
Highlands area.

First two weekends in
November 7th / 8th / 14th / 15th.
10am - 5pm.

artsfile.com.au



Sauvage, Oil on canvas, 1500mm x 1500mm

Galerie Têtu, a brand new contemporary art space situated within The Shac art complex in the village of Robertson NSW. Showcasing local, interstate and international artists.

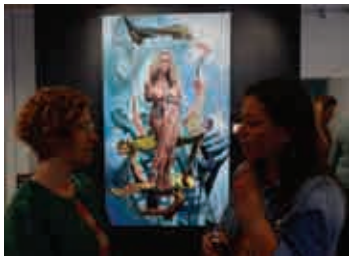
Our aim is to enrich the art culture flourishing in our region by offering a curated collection for the astute collector and art lover alike. Come and visit us.

Stephanie Tetu
Artist / Curator / Owner
GalerieTêtu

Shop 4, 74/76 Hoddle St, Robertson
+ 61 407 683 739 | Open Fri to Mon 10am to 4pm
f i galerietetu | www.galerietetu.com.au

Galerie TÊTU

A dozen reasons to visit The SHAC in Robertson.



The SHAC Gallery

Regular exhibitions in two galleries plus new, young artists are featured in The Annex



Spud Lane

Ric Abel is an established oil painter whose work explores the viscosity of paint and life.



Printmaking Sisters

Sisters Robin Ezra and Annie Day are passionate advocates of environmentally friendly printmaking techniques.



Gallerie Têtu

Stephanie Têtu, Artist, Curator: "Come to be inspired and moved. Life, art, inspiration... conversation."



Bob Lenton

Bob's painting is primarily abstract, based on forms that are not figurative or formal.



Penny Simons

Penny Simons is an award-winning Sculptor/Weaver



James King

James King's oil paintings are quirky, sometimes dark and often humorous.



Ashley Mackevicius

Ashley's stunning photography is an ongoing study of the landscape and natural forms.



Bronwyn Berman

Bronwyn's art incorporates public art, landscape installation, sculpture, drawing, painting and jewellery design.



Grant Parker

Grant creates bespoke jewellery using 19th and 20th century glass, celluloid and Bakelite buttons.



Shaz Collyer

Shaz is inspired by the colours, textures and patterns in nature, vintage textiles and found objects.



Lily Cummins

Lily works across drawing and installation using spatial experiences and memory as a trigger.

The SHAC ~ Southern Highlands Artisans Collective ~ is a not-for-profit organisation, which has built a vibrant creative hub in the old potato shed (next to The Big Potato) in Robertson NSW, bringing together some of the most talented artists and artisans in the Highlands under one roof.

Nowhere else in the Highlands can the public come and see these creative people working their trade, purchase one-off hand-made items, and



commission work from them.

The SHAC includes four art galleries and ten working studios that are open to the public Friday to Monday from 10am to 4pm.

The world-class Moonacres School is also located at The SHAC, adding to the ever-growing creative buzz in Robertson.

The SHAC is next to The Big Potato, 74-76 Hoddle St, Robertson. theshac.com.au



DEBBIE BIDDLE



Southern Highlands

ARTS trail

MAX MILLER



JULIE GLENN

**JOIN US ON THE TRAIL ...
FIRST TWO WEEKENDS
OF NOVEMBER**

10am to 5pm

7th & 8th/14th & 15th

ELAINE MUSGRAVE



ROSA FEDELE



MAURIZIO NANNETTI

In November 2020, over 80 artists will be exhibiting in 40 studios and 8 galleries across the Southern Highlands.

Don't miss this once-a-year chance to wander the Highlands experiencing the work of local creatives, meeting artists in their studios, seeing where and how they create their work, and buy something wonderful for yourself or a friend.

Enjoy rest and respite at participating gallery cafes or explore the diverse food and drink offerings the Southern Highlands is known for - including cafes, fine dining, gourmet picnics, breweries and cellar doors.



DANIELLE HEWITT

SAVANNA STORM



JANE CAVANOUGH

artsfile.com.au

Southern
Highlands
NEW SOUTH WALES

Wingecarribee
SHIRE COUNCIL

Southern Highlands
ARTSfile



KNIT *one,* PURL *one,* GROW *one.*

Greer Worsley turned her desire to keep her children cosy into a homegrown knitting success and a darn good yarn.

WORDS ALEX SPEED **IMAGES** ELISE HASSEY & GREER WORSLEY

Ask her daughters, Lola and twins Pearl and Stella, says Exeter local Greer Worsley, and they will tell you they are a little mortified today about the starring roles they had in her creative start-up, Typically Red.

In 2012, Greer, a professional food photographer and recipe writer, decided she needed to supplement her income. Always a knitter, she found inspiration in the chunky rib wool hats she was making for her girls, then aged five and three, for the chilly Highlands winters.

"This was back in the day when everyone seemed to have a blog so I started one and began posting about the woolly hats I was knitting to keep my girls warm," Greer says.

Greer found a vintage pattern online and adapted it for "fatter, chunkier wool" and posted photographs on her blog of her girls wearing their new hats.

"And what started as a trickle snowballed from there," she says.

"My readers would share a picture and people would ask 'where can I get some of those cute hats for my kids?', and other people would repost and so on. So I just started knitting every second and got a lot knitted up and got myself an Etsy site and started selling from there."

Typically Red, which now sells exclusively through Greer's website, produces three bonnet designs: the Chubby Pixie, Bumpy, and Betty Bonnet. Hats are knitted in 12 ply for toddlers up to big kids aged 10-plus and in 10 ply for babies from newborns to 18 months.

"My hats are handknitted in really sturdy, beautiful wool, which is a point of difference I guess, because traditionally, baby knits are made using very fine 4 ply wool," says Greer.

"They are also very old-fashioned but as anyone who has tried to keep a hat on a toddler will tell you, they are a great design because they cover the head, the ears and the cheeks and can tie under the chin."

In 2015 and with her global customer bases growing to include several wholesalers in England and Japan, Greer expanded her knitting circle. Her 'knitting ladies', local Highlanders Dallas de Brabander, Joanne Scarlett and Ann Clipsham now work with Greer and produce more than 20 hats each a month. These hats are posted around the world and are photographed on tiny tots and toddlers and shared online from Michigan to Manchester to Melbourne.

Greer says while she never intended to give up photographing food, Typically Red has provided valuable extra income, and home-based creativity. She is staying small, and local.

"To upscale to a commercial level would involve having my hats manufactured overseas by machine and that's something I've never wanted to do," she says.

"But I am very proud of this little business and the energy and positivity around it. People seem to love the hats we make, and I in turn love seeing photos of children wearing them because these days it's harder and harder to photograph my kids in them. In fact, I think the last time I tried was about three years ago and I had these three surly faces staring back at me."



Our Highlands home is a hotpot of creatives carving out a living in the homemade textile and design space from their studios, kitchens and websites, and our weekend markets from Exeter to Robertson to Colo Vale are fabulous places to find local makers creating up a storm. As more of us search for better work from home/life balance, here are a few others on our radars and their domestic practices...



Sunday Woven: Bundanoon maker Hannah Cooper hand weaves uniquely domestic textile goods such as throws, cushions and children's blankets. Weaving is a slow process, so Hannah produces just a limited run of products.



Weave & Burrow: Ange Longbottom works from her studio in Mittagong to create sustainable homewares, prints and gifts using natural dyeing techniques and fabrics. Also available at The SHAC Handmade Market, Robertson.



Stitchbirds: Louisa Engle sews children's clothes in cottons and linens in a 100-year-old barn in the garden of her Exeter home. Louisa moved to the Highlands five years ago, inspired by the beauty of the region's gardens and our four distinct seasons. Stitchbirds is also available at Mossy Store, Moss Vale. 🐦



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HOT *to* TROT

Mark and Erika de Riviere's wedding at Bendooley Estate, Berrima was a hot affair amid last year's bushfires. Photographer Hilary Cam was there to capture their joyous wedding heat.



Some love can take years to smoulder, flicker and catch alight. Ask Mark and Erika de Riviere.

"We met in Year 9 and started off as best friends," recalls Erika, a clinical nurse educator.

"We always kept in contact, even after we graduated and we were about 19 when we realised there was something more and that was that."

The couple, who live in western Sydney, found their budding union was helped by their commonalities.

"We soon realised we are each other's perfect match," says Mark, general manager of ABC Products, an industrial fabrics company.

"We had the same love for travel and the same goals for the future."

On New Year's Day 2019 in Paris under the Eiffel Tower, Mark proposed to Erika. After saying 'yes', her thought soon turned to Bendooley Estate.

"Years ago, probably in 2014/15, I came across a wedding photo that Hilary Cam took of the Book Barn at Bendooley Estate. I instantly fell in love and throughout the years, I never felt the same about any venue," Erika says.

"After Mark and I got engaged, I started looking at other venues and nothing really hit it for me. We knew we wanted to have a convenient wedding for our guests in one location where they didn't have to travel or wait between the ceremony and reception. We also wanted to make sure everyone was fed straight after the ceremony."

The couple made a visit to Bendooley Estate, just two months after becoming engaged, and seeing The Stables sealed the deal.

"We wanted an open, rustic and barn-like feel for the reception and The Stables ticked all the boxes for us," says Mark.

"It felt warm and didn't need much décor to make it look beautiful. We also wanted a good meal and had heard nothing but great things about

Bendooley's wedding menu. We looked at The Stables while we were at Bendooley and that was it. Erika fell in love! We knew it had to be it."

At the time they booked their wedding date for December 22, Erika and Mark gave little thought to the possible summer weather or conditions, rather "we thought it would be a good time as guests wouldn't need to take work off as it was Christmas break", says Erika.

However, as they travelled to prepare for their Sunday wedding, the Southern Highlands was in the grip of catastrophic fire conditions on several fronts.

"The Saturday before the wedding, it was more than 40 degrees and the roads were closed because of the bushfires. We had rehearsals and could barely breathe in the weather. We were so shocked because we thought the Southern Highlands never gets that hot," says Mark.

"But in the evening the roads opened up and on the day of the wedding, it was a nice 23 degrees day. It was actually a little bit chilly, so everything just worked out for us."

Despite the fiery conditions, the couple's 121 guests, including five international attendees, all arrived safely and were on hand to see Erika, in a stunning Pallas Couture dress, walk down the outside courtyard aisle to Mark.

"Mark and I will always remember the ceremony and despite having more than 100 people present, we genuinely felt like time stood still and it was just us," says Erika. Mark was crying hysterically, which made everyone else cry and I think keeping it unplugged, by asking everyone to put away their phones and devices, really helped everyone be in the moment with us."

Ceremony over, Mark and Erika's guests mingled and enjoyed champagne and canapes and outside games, while the bridal party had

DETAILS

Venue
The Stables, Bendooley Estate, Berrima
bendooleyestate.com.au

Photographer
Hilary Cam
hilarycam.com.au

Bride's Dress
Pallas Couture
pallascouture.com

Bridesmaid's dresses
White Runway
whiterunway.com.au

Groom's suit
M.J. Bale Australia
mjbale.com

Wedding cake
Black Ribbon Desserts
@blackribbondesserts

Florist
Rochelle Buttenshaw Florals
@rochelle_florals

Celebrant
Married by Matty
marriedbymatty.com.au

Music
Savvy Entertainment
djsavvyentertainment.com

Videographer
Captured Frames
capturedframes.com

Makeup Artist
Bless Khin Beauty BKB
@blesskbeauty

some shots taken with some of the more rural neighbours. "No, the cows were not fazed by any of us at all," laughs Erika. "If anything, we were scared of them. They were so calm." Mingling over, the wedding guests dined on Atlantic salmon, slow-roasted lamb or roast pork belly and a Bendooley dessert bar with eight choices including prune and Armagnac custard tarts, vanilla bean panna cotta and spiced blueberries and pistachios. "Bendooley offers a menu tasting for the bride and groom free of charge so we were able to customise the menu as we wanted," says Mark. After dinner, the wedding party got down to the serious business of celebrating. "We had an excellent DJ and we just loved how everything was in one place," says Erika. "We were able to just step out of the reception for the sunset shots we wanted and we also loved how open The Stables is, which allowed for some great dancing into the night." Later, the couple spent their first night as Mr and Mrs at Bendooley's Patrick White Cottage. "I will never forget the day," says Mark, "in particular the moment Erika got to the end of the aisle and stood beside me." On Boxing Day, the newlyweds travelled for their honeymoon to the Maldives, where they spent New Years' Day. It was a perfect ending to a wonderful start to their married life. "Our wedding day was everything we ever dreamt of," says Erika. "From my dream dress, to the florals, to the venue, to the music and the food. Everything was the way we wanted it to be and Bendooley was absolutely amazing and made sure it was the wedding of our dreams."



For more magical
Highlands weddings visit:

ESCAPESOUTHERNHIGHLANDS.COM.AU









MY NAME IS *Brad McGee*

Olympic gold medallist and track world champion Brad McGee is a legend on two wheels. The Southern Highlands track and road cyclist began his competitive career at age 16 in 1993 when he won his first junior world title. He later went on to win five Olympic medals and five Commonwealth gold medals and became the first Australian to wear the leader's jersey in three Grand Tours.

Today, when Brad is not mentoring his charges as head coach for NSW Institute of Sport Cycling Program and coach for Cycling Australia's National team for the Tokyo Olympics or spending time at his Fitzroy Falls home, he lycra-ups and hits the open road.

 @bradley_mcgee

My name is... Brad McGee. **My life in five words is...** Loving. Diverse. Thoughtful. Satisfying. Physical. **We moved to the Southern Highlands in...** 2010. My wife Sharni and I bought here in 2005 and moved from Europe to raise our kids here. **I love the Highlands because...** The green space, the seasons, the people, the cycling and the sense of community. **My favourite thing to do here is...** Roll out into the Morton National Park on my single speed and enjoy the endless tracks and trails in complete solitude. **Followers of my Instagram see pics of...** My gardening and cooking, cycling, friends and family. I would like to start including my actions and aspirations on permaculture living. **When it comes to cycling, this is one truth I know...** The pain is worth it. **I started cycling when...** I was 10. I followed my older three brothers into the sport. **Being the youngest quickly taught me...** To push hard on the pedals if you want to keep up! **When it comes to being a cyclist the thing that has always driven me is...** The freedom. As a teenager growing up in the suburbs of Sydney I felt free to roam, go fast, have my own time to think. **The first thing I always say to kids who tell me they want a life in competitive cycling is...** It hurts. If you don't love it, need it, then find something else. **Winning Olympic gold and Commonwealth gold was** Fulfilling. **These days I keep my medals and winning jerseys in...** Ahh! They are around somewhere. A mate has one in France as a souvenir. I'm thinking of hanging them in the 'pool room' but it's not a priority. **The hardest cycling event I ever competed in was...** Giro d'Italia 2004. Three weeks and three and half thousand kilometres racing over all the biggest climbs of Italy. **World cycling has evolved since I last competed in 2008 because...** Business and accountability. Everything is measured and predicted and therefore expected. Ouch! **Being national coach for the Tokyo Olympics is ...** Suitably challenging with a sense of national service. I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back to the sport I gained so much from. **The things I hope to achieve include...** Enabling our best cyclists to fulfil their journeys in a way that will benefit our communities and culture. This calls for the goal posts to be moved beyond the medal

ceremony to transitioning to whatever their next role will be. **The young Australian riders to watch out for at Tokyo include...** Rohan Dennis (SA) and Amanda Spratt (NSW) medalled at the most recent World Championships in 2018 and 2019. Kaarle McCulloch (NSW) is also a medal hopeful along with our men's and women's Team Pursuit squads on the velodrome. **The biggest threat to success at the Tokyo Olympics is ...** The heat! It's very hot and humid for outdoor cycling that time of year. Beyond climatic conditions, the Danes and the Dutch are consistently performing very well. **The things cycling gives its riders and fans is ...** Connection. Riders and cycling fans are in an open environment on public roads in close proximity. A challenge in these COVID times but something that is unique and highly valuable to the sport. **My favourite route in the SH is...** My road loop is Fitzroy Falls to Wildes Meadow and back via Avoca. Throw in a detour to Moonacres Kitchen in Robbo and it's a cyclist's dream ride. Feeling adventurous after a second strong flat white? Swing back via Tourist Road and take the 'cardiac' climb up out of Kangaloon. **The SH is a favoured cyclist destination because...** Mostly quiet roads and respectful local drivers mixed with challenging climbs and endless loop combinations. Let's not forget what cycling is really about; the coffee stop. Again we have endless options. **When we have friends visiting we always take them to...** The many waterfalls, our secret spot, Bernie's Diner, Moss Vale and either the Robbo or Burrawang pubs. **The most precious piece of cycling advice I ever received was...** Be selfish. The great Bruce McAvaney passed on these wise words during an Atlanta Olympics celebration in Sydney and I'll never forget them as they had huge impact. All these years later, I feel I took that advice in the healthiest of ways with a right time/right place appreciation. **The most precious piece of advice I can offer anyone looking to achieve cycling success is...** Never give up. Success is being able to hold on for five minutes longer. **And finally, please finish this sentence... Old cyclists never die, they just ...** Allow the stories to flourish. ■

S | H | W

SOUTHERN HIGHLAND WINES

Southern Highland Wines offer a large range of award winning wines. We have won many awards locally, interstate and internationally, including Best Sauvignon Blanc in the world at the Hong Kong International Wine & Spirit Competition.

Our Restaurant is situated at the cellar door and is modern, spacious and fresh. Take in the spectacular views Thursday through to Monday whilst enjoying our award winning wines over lunch or dinner.

We can offer the perfect venue for your wedding or function. Imagine your special event at a venue that encapsulates the magic and beauty of the Southern Highlands.



Corner of Oldbury Rd & Illawarra Hwy, Sutton Forest NSW 2577
P. 02 4868 2300 | F. 02 4868 1808
E. functions@shw.com.au | www.shw.com.au



*“Let us lead you down
the garden path”*

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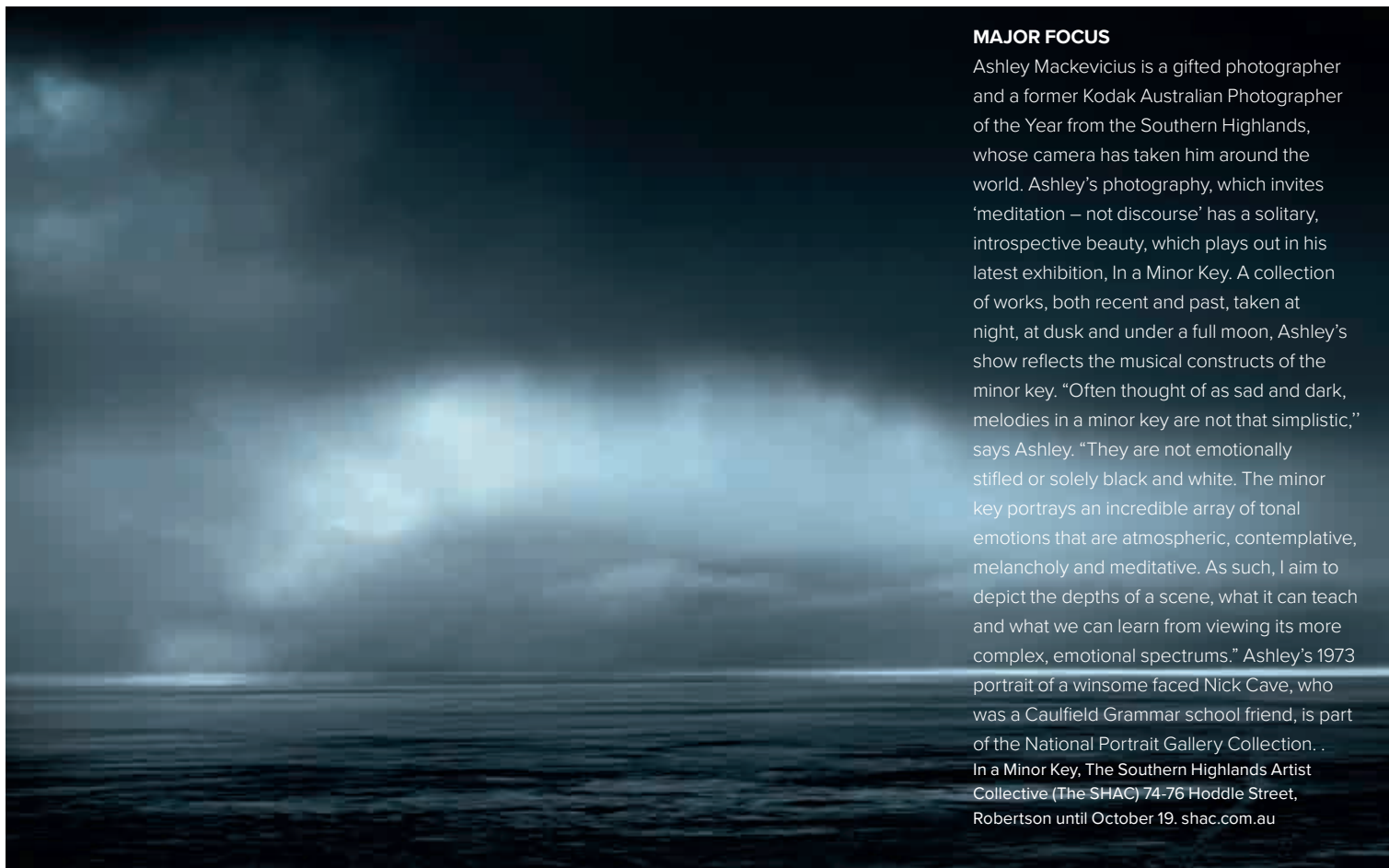


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MAJOR FOCUS

Ashley Mackevicius is a gifted photographer and a former Kodak Australian Photographer of the Year from the Southern Highlands, whose camera has taken him around the world. Ashley's photography, which invites 'meditation – not discourse' has a solitary, introspective beauty, which plays out in his latest exhibition, *In a Minor Key*. A collection of works, both recent and past, taken at night, at dusk and under a full moon, Ashley's show reflects the musical constructs of the minor key. "Often thought of as sad and dark, melodies in a minor key are not that simplistic," says Ashley. "They are not emotionally stifled or solely black and white. The minor key portrays an incredible array of tonal emotions that are atmospheric, contemplative, melancholy and meditative. As such, I aim to depict the depths of a scene, what it can teach and what we can learn from viewing its more complex, emotional spectrums." Ashley's 1973 portrait of a winsome faced Nick Cave, who was a Caulfield Grammar school friend, is part of the National Portrait Gallery Collection. . In a Minor Key, The Southern Highlands Artist Collective (The SHAC) 74-76 Hoddle Street, Robertson until October 19. shac.com.au

TOP things

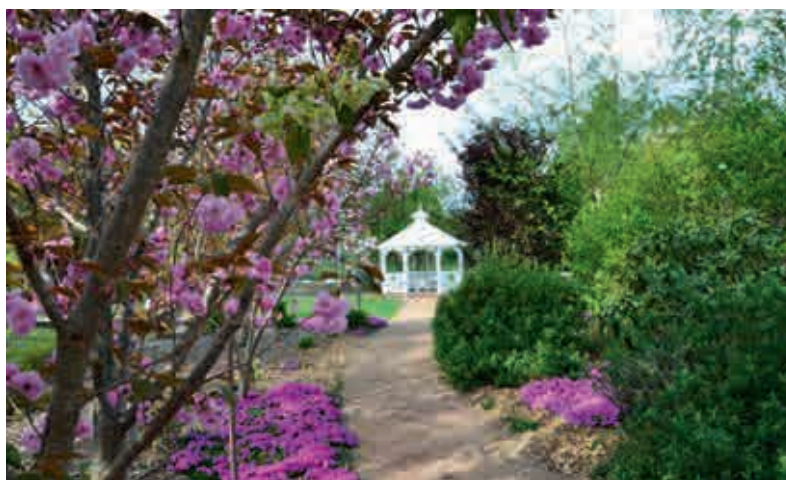
With spring here and summer on the wind, check out these fun local ideas to get out, explore and enjoy.



OUTSIDE BUSYNESS FOR LITTLES THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION GROUP IS PUTTING ON ANOTHER WEEK OF THEIR POPULAR SCHOOL HOLIDAY DAY CAMPS AT THE GREAT CAMP WOMBAROO IN HIGH RANGE, A 15-MINUTE DRIVE FROM MITTAGONG. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE ARCHERY, CANOEING, ORIENTEERING, MAKING JEWELLERY, BUSHWALKING, A GIANT SWING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, ZIP LINING, TEAM CHALLENGES AND ABSEILING. ALSO, LEARN HOW TO BUILD A FIRE, A SHELTER AND A RAFT. IT'S A GREAT CHANCE FOR KIDS TO CHALLENGE THEMSELVES OUTDOORS AND TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS. FOR AGES EIGHT TO 14, OR SEVEN IF ACCOMPANIED BY A SIBLING OVER EIGHT. DAY CAMPS RUN FROM SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 2 AND OCTOBER 5 TO OCTOBER 9. \$50 PER CHILD PER DAY OR \$40 PER DAY IF BOOKING THREE OR MORE DAYS. Book at experiences.oeg.edu.au/day-camps-september-october-2020

SPRING SHOW

The Secret Garden is exactly that: a hidden Highlands treasure nestled down a country lane in the stunning countryside of Wildes Meadow. The home and lovechild of horticulturist Kathy Finigan, founder of *My Productive Backyard*, which aims to inspire home gardeners to learn to grow organic vegies, provides a magic way to spend a few hours outdoors. Amble your way around two hectares of formal and relaxed garden rooms, including the fountain garden, memorial garden, a birch walk and a cottage garden. The Secret Garden also features large expanses of lush, green lawn, a cherry blossom walk, banks of rhododendrons and azaleas, a gazebo overlooking an ornamental lake, a 20-metre long wisteria walk, a natural woodland, several quaint bridges spanning a number of small creeks and one of the best displays of Alpine phlox (flowering purple and white perennials, for non-green thumbs) in the Highlands. There is also an extensive kitchen garden, a cutting garden and an orchard. Also, happy news that Retford Park, the National Trust treasure bequeathed by James Fairfax to the nation has reopened. Retford Park manager Ann Frederick says, "The garden at Retford Park is a delight to wander through at any time of the year, but is particularly beautiful in Spring. There is fresh new growth on the deciduous trees and the peonies, rhododendrons, arum lilies, dogwood, clematis, tulips and flowering cherries are all competing for attention. With almost 100 acres of grounds, there is lots of room to spread out and enjoy a picnic on the lawns or under one of the lovely big trees." Bookings are essential at nationaltrust.org.au. The Secret Garden, Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4 from 10am to 4pm. Entry \$10pp. 51 Blencowes Lane, Wildes Meadow. thesecretgarden.events



CAN'T DANCE?

The original 'You know I can't dance' Highlands resident and singing superstar Leo Sayer is pulling on his disco shoes and giving his famous staccato voice a workout for one special weekend this spring at The Loch, Berrima. Leo will perform two shows in the lovely outdoor surrounds at these events, which also include a welcome drink and a three-course picnic meal by The Loch's chef/owner Brigid Kennedy. Now a Berrima resident, Leo fell in love with Australia in 1974 during his first tour here from England. He recently recorded a new album in his home recording studio and will perform some new tracks as well as many of his all-time greats, such as *You Make Me Feel like Dancing*. Sure to be a fabulous celebration of life and Leo. Saturday, October 10 at 6.30pm and Sunday, October 11 at 12.30pm. Book at theloch.net.au



GIDDY UP BEER O'CLOCK BEEN DREAMING OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL RECENTLY, MAYBE WISHING YOU COULD FLY OFF TO MUNICH FOR A SESSION OF BEER HALLING? NO PROBLEM. BURRAWANG VILLAGE HOTEL IS HOLDING ITS ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST WITH STEINS OF BEER SERVED FROM THE NEW OUTDOOR BAR IN THE BEER GARDEN, A MENU WITH A DISTINCTLY GERMANIC FLAVOUR (WE'RE THINKING BRATWURST AND SAUERKRAUT, SCHNITZEL, APPLE STRUDEL AND PRETZELS) WITH LIVE TOE-TAPPING AND LEDERHOSEN-SLAPPING MUSIC. THERE WILL BE PRIZES FOR THE BEST-DRESSED FRAULEIN AND FRITZ. PROST! MEANWHILE, AT THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BREWING TAPHOUSE IN MOSS VALE, FRESH FROM A GOLD MEDAL WIN FOR ITS PORTER AT THE LONDON BEER COMPETITION, OWNERS BEN AND CAM ARE GEEING UP FOR THEIR ANNUAL MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH. THE COVID-COMPLIANT, TICKET-ONLY EVENT WILL INCLUDE A THREE-COURSE SIT-DOWN LUNCH WITH CHAMPAGNE. THERE WILL BE ONSITE BETTING FACILITIES, A BIG SCREEN, A SWEEPSTAKE AND A FASHION IN THE FIELD COMPETITION WITH PRIZES FOR THE BEST DRESSED WOMAN, MAN AND COUPLE. BURRAWANG VILLAGE HOTEL, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, HODDLE STREET, BURRAWANG. To book a table, email info@burrawangvillagehotel.com.au burrawangvillagehotel.com.au Southern Highlands Brewing Taphouse, Tuesday November 3, 490-494 Argyle Street, Moss Vale. southernhighlandsbrewing.com.au

PLATFORM PIX

It's mind-blowing but every day, one billion users post 95 million photos and videos on Instagram. If you don't know your exposure from your aperture, how then to ensure your shots gain traction? Enterprising locals and Insta experts, photographer Abbie Melle, stylist Georgia Ashdown of Chelsea Gardens Events and Camilla Creswick, accommodation provider at Bunya House, Bowral are here to help. Their Styling & Photography for Instagram Workshop at the lovely Bunya House, Bowral includes talks from Abbie and Georgia on how to style, take and edit those killer Insta pix with a focus on interior, homewares and food styling. The day will also include opportunities to use props to set up shots and get first-hand feedback and advice. When the snap chat is over, enjoy a champagne three-course lunch by Alex Watts, chef at Berrima's Surveyor General and partner of Georgia. Perfect Instagram fodder.

Thursday, November 5 and Friday, November 6 9.30am from 10am to 4pm, Bunya House, 57 Shepherd Street, Bowral. To book [@chelsea_gardens](http://chelsea_gardens.com.au) @abbie_melle @chelsea_gardens @bunya_house_bowral

CUPPA LIFE

In our book, there's not much comes close to a good cup of tea. Whether you go for the green, chai or herbal blends, prefer the exotic Darjeelings or Lapsang Souchongs or simply like builders brew (milk with two sugars please), a good cup of tea is one of life's great comforts. Highlands purveyor of fine foods, Mrs Oldbucks Pantry, recently expanded its tea range to include more than 180 varieties of the leafy delicacy to take your tastebuds on a trip from West Bengal to South Africa and China in one sitting. In 1819, tea was included in the rations of the convicts who helped build this Colonial sandstone village. Enjoy viewing their handiwork as you schedule a well-earned break with owner Carol Brown in Mrs Oldbucks' new tearoom. 4/15-17 Old Hume Highway, Berrima. mrsoldbucks pantry.com.au





PhotographBeardy McBead

ON YER BIKE

When it comes to cycling, there must be something in the Highlands water. Tour de France star Caleb Ewan is a Highlander boy through and through and Brad McGee, one of our all-time greatest cyclists, lives and loves here. If you are a road cycling fiend, read about Brad's favourite routes on page 24 or get out on your own bike to find your own ways. With teens, Wingello State Forest and Bundanoon's Morton National Park are favourites and for littlies, especially those on training wheels and learning to ride, the Bong Bong Track, which runs along the Wingecarribee River between Moss Vale and Burradoo, is a special piece of paradise. Need bike help or suggested routes to try? National Parks NSW has many great local suggestions online, as does Destination Southern Highlands, and you can't go past some on-the-ground help from cycling shops, Cycliste in Moss Vale or The Fixed Wheel in Bowral. Happy riding!

Cycliste, 508 Argyle Street, Moss Vale.

WRITING IN SPRING

EXCITING NEWS FOR THE LUXURIOUS AVOCA RETREAT SPRINGFIELD FARM, WHICH IS PARTNERING WITH THE STELLA PRIZE TO OFFER ITS LATEST WEEK-LONG WRITER IN RESIDENCE RETREAT. HOSTED BY ESTEEMED WRITER STEPHANIE BISHOP, WORDSMITHS WILL BUNKER DOWN FOR A WEEK OF CREATIVITY AND WRITING, WHICH WILL EXPLORE BELONGING AND PLACE IN NARRATIVE FICTION AND MEMOIR. SURE TO BE A BESTSELLER, THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR WRITERS AND ASPIRING WRITERS WHO HAVE BEEN TAPPING AWAY ON A WORK, WHICH CAN BE A NOVEL, MEMOIR, SHORT STORY OR PERSONAL ESSAY COLLECTION AND HAVE 5000 WORDS OR MORE WRITTEN. BEAUTIFUL ACCOMMODATION AND HOMEGROWN MEALS ARE PROVIDED. SWIMMING, BUSHWALKING AND RELAXING ARE ALSO ON OFFER. STEPHANIE IS AUTHOR OF THE ACCLAIMED, *THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD*, WINNER OF THE READINGS PRIZE FOR NEW AUSTRALIAN FICTION. THE WORKSHOP RUNS FROM NOVEMBER 8 TO 15.

For bookings and more information, lifeatspringfield.com.au




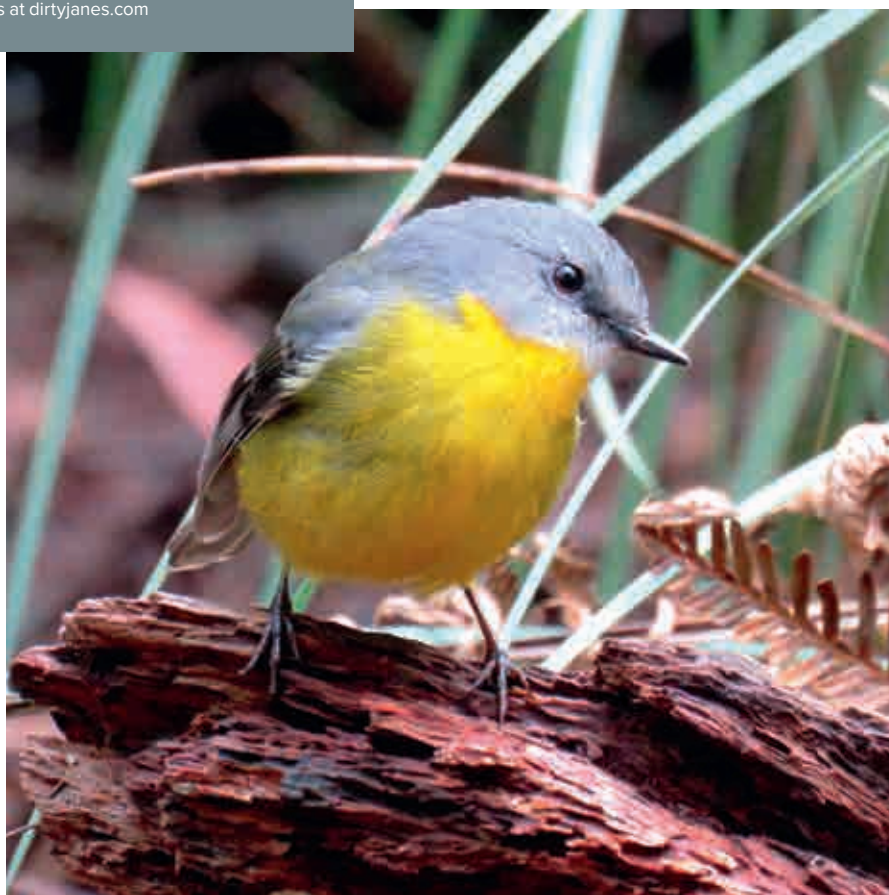


HOW MANY MORE SLEEPS?

Who's counting ... but Christmas is not far away now and Dirty Janes Bowral and Canberra are hosting themed Summer Twilight Christmas Evenings in December to get that wish list sorted out. Nights include bubbles on arrival, free gift wrapping, lucky door prizes, and a goody bag for every shopper. "We promise you an intimate night of Dirty Janes style," says owner Jane Crowley. Numbers strictly limited. Friday, December 4, 11 and 18 at Dirty Janes Canberra and Saturday, December 5 and 12 at Dirty Janes Bowral. Tickets at dirtyjanes.com

FEATHERED FRIENDS

Did you know there are more than 260 species of birds in the Southern Highlands and spring is a great time to spot them nesting, breeding and parenting. But where to find them? Drop into the Southern Highlands Visitor Centre in Mittagong and pick up A Guide to Birdwatching in the Southern Highlands by Birdlife Southern Highlands. This little gem of a brochure has a map with the top 10 best places to catch some of our more common feathered friends (Superb Lyrebird, Eastern Yellow Robin and Red-Browed Finch) and our threatened species (think the Ground Parrot, Powerful Owl and the fascinating Varied Sittella). If you want to go in search with fellow fanciers, Birdlife Southern Highlands holds two field trips a month and all are welcome or get involved with BirdLife Australia's annual Birds in Backyards annual conservation and research program from October 19-25 which encourages us to count and report on the birds visiting our backyards. For more info birdlife.org.au and birdsinyourbackyards.net 





*The Southern Highlands
is in full bloom!*



Plan your escape and **Share the Love** with our beautiful Southern Highlands. With the flowers blooming and the sun shining, Spring brings a colourful new atmosphere to the region. Stroll through our gardens. Spot the baby ducklings on Lake Alexandra. Immerse yourself in nature with a bushwalk. Enjoy our fine food and local beverages.

We support responsible travel and social distancing to ensure a safe region for all our visitors.



Plan & Book

Our accommodation, shops and attractions are open and ready to welcome you to our region. Though please plan ahead to check availability, opening times and booking requirements. We can help you plan your escape.



Visit for the Day

Just a short drive from Sydney, Canberra and Wollongong, it's the perfect day trip! We are so close, but a world away.



Book your Stay

Check out our website for accommodation and experiences in the Southern Highlands. Plan ahead, book online.



Welcome Centre Open

Our Southern Highlands Welcome Centre is open to assist you in planning and booking your visit. Contact our friendly team on **(02) 48712888** or visit our website.

ShareTheLove

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**NOW'S
THE TIME
TO ♥ NSW**

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