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Welcome to Gundungurra and D'harawal Country

We acknowledge the Gundungurra and D'harawal People, the traditional custodians of the land where we now gather and recognise that it continues to be sacred to them. We hail them as guardians of the earth and of all things that grow and breed in the soil; as trustees of the waters (the seas, the streams and rivers, the ponds and the lakes) and the rich variety of life in those waters. We thank them for passing this heritage to every people since the Dreamtime. We acknowledge the wrongs done to them by newcomers to this land and we seek to be partners with them in righting these wrongs and in living together in peace and harmony.

The Southern Highlands

AVOCA

ALPINE

AYLMERTON

BALMORAL

BELANGLO

BERRIMA

BOWRAL

BRAEMAR

BULLIO

BUNDANOON

BURRADOO

BURRAWANG

CANYONLEIGH

COLO VALE

EXETER

EAST KANGALOO

FITZROY FALLS

GLENQUARRY

GOODMANS FORD

HIGH RANGE

HILL TOP

KANGALOO

JOADJA

MANCHESTER SQUARE

MANDEMAR

MEDWAY

MERYLA

MITTAGONG

MOUNT MURRAY

MOSS VALE

NEW BERRIMA

PADDYS RIVER

PENROSE

RENWICK

ROBERTSON

SUTTON FOREST

TALLONG

WATTLE RIDGE

WELBY

WERAI

WILDES MEADOW

WINGELLO

WOMBEGAN CAVES

WOODLANDS

YERRINBOOL

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Welcome to Our Backyard

A local, a yokel, a clean energy vocal. A weekender, manufacturing vendor, big cashed-up spender. A dreamer, be-seener, tree-changing believer? Whatever your life's plan, the Southern Highlands of New South Wales is an artist's palette of pristine places, community-minded people, prosperity, and great promise waiting to be unpacked.

Never been but like to come? Well, think mountain eyries, teetering escarpments and bush wilderness national parks that hide cascading waterfalls. Rich organic soil farming land alive with horse studs, vineyards, olive groves and ruminating cattle. Then there are busy country towns and villages hemmed by streets of lifestyle shops, eateries and urbane business communities, hungry to innovate and collaborate, particularly in the clean energy space. This is a place where rumbling tractors bump along dusty roads,

unhurried by the school buses, hay trucks, SUVs and software billionaires that follow in their wake.

Only a 90-minute drive from Sydney and Canberra, our unique parcel of NSW, with its four seasons in one day, is that enigmatic 21st century paradox: an unspoilt piece of rural Australia that meets cosmopolitan shared platter, rich in adventure, history, experiences, possibility and opportunity.

So Close, A World Away ... welcome to the uniquely special Southern Highlands of New South Wales. [SH](#)



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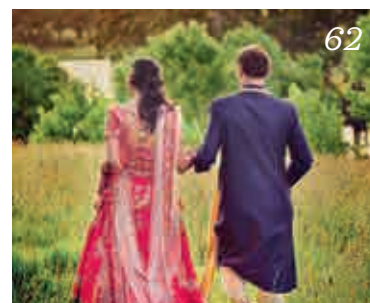
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COVER IMAGE - Elise Hassey
Red Cow Farm, 7480 Illawarra Hwy,
Sutton Forest. www.redcowfarm.com.au

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OUR TOWNS *and Villages*

BERRIMA

This picture postcard 1830s sandstone village, recently named NSW Top Tourism Town, also boasts some serious history and Georgian colonial architecture. Want to introduce the kids to our convict heritage? Make a date with Berrima Court House and the National Trust-listed Harper's Mansion. Afterwards, choose where to eat from a plethora of cafes, a pub and restaurants including loved locals Josh's, Eschalot, Berrima General Store and the Surveyor General Inn, Australia's oldest continuously licensed inn. Stock up on local goodies to take home at Berrima Village Pottery, Mrs Oldbucks Pantry, The Brown Shutter and The Little Hand Stirred Jam Shop. **Must Do:** Wander the Wingecarribee River and learn how World War I German internees lived. Keep your eyes peeled for the resident platypus. Please the kids with a visit to The Lolly Swagman, the sweetest proposition in town, or if you have teenagers in tow, book a Ghost Hunt at the historic and spooky Berrima Court House.

BOWRAL

Watched over by Mount Gibraltar, where precious rock, trachyte, was mined for 100 years; Bowral is the largest town in the Highlands. Home to historic buildings, this year's 60th Tulip Time celebration, grand estates, parks and wide, tree-lined streets, this thriving hub is loved for its vintage, interiors, antiques and homewares stores, and precincts such as Green Lane and Dirty Janes as well as galleries and boutique stores. Bowral's dining scene is a smorgasbord of winning stalwarts such as Onesta Cucina, Caffe Rosso, Harry's On Green Lane, Eccetera Trattoria Pizzeria, The Royal, Gumnut Patisserie and a raft of other locals' favourite restaurants, cafes and pubs. **Must Do:** Visit cricketing legend Don Bradman's boyhood home in Shepherd Street, then walk around the corner to the celebrated Bradman Museum and International Cricket Hall of Fame. Looking for something more up tempo? Take a hike along one of seven tracks up Mount Gibraltar Reserve, the highest point between Sydney and Canberra, lovingly restored by the local Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare Group.

BUNDANOON

Full of old-world charm, Bundanoon is a vibrant town of cafes, tearooms and committed locals. In 2009, Bundy became the first community in the world to ban the sale of plastic water bottles. Market days are the first and third Sundays, and bushwalkers and cyclists are drawn to the nearby Morton National Park, with its culturally significant sites such as Fairy Bower Falls and Erith Coal Mine walk. Stay at the newly refurbished Bundanoon Hotel, Bundanoon Country Inn Motel or The Bundanoon Guest House and eat at DeliLicious, Potter's Pantry or for Italian fare, Bottega B Ristorante. For body and soul, book a retreat at Quest for Life with renowned teacher and speaker Petrea King, and don't miss the great community event, Bundanoon Winterfest in July for fabulous family fun. **Must Do:** Brigadoon, the great Bundanoon Highland Gathering, in April 2022, is the largest (and bagpipe noisiest) gathering of Scottish diaspora in the Southern Hemisphere.

BURRAWANG

Upmarket and historical, Burrawang is a little community with a fabulous vignette. Make a date for lunch or dinner at the Burrawang Village Hotel, where the terrific outdoor beer garden has rolling hill views, or at the Burrawang General Store Cafe across the road, with great food and all-day breakfast. The 1883 School of Arts plays host to events, and don't miss the village's annual Easter markets. **Must Do:** Specials night at the Burrawang Hotel: a great chance to meet the local potato and dairy farmers and shuck \$1 oysters on Friday with a side order of Aperol Spritz or Margarita for \$10 a pop. Take a drive through the back roads of nearby Wildes Meadow and Robertson and breathe in the beautiful surroundings.

CANYONLEIGH

Made up of large rural properties, Canyonleigh sits at an altitude of 700 metres and is fast gaining a reputation as a wine and olive oil producing area of the Highlands. Situated on the drier western edge of the region, it is a unique place to bushwalk or spot native wildlife in the spectacular Bangadilly, or the newly acquired Guula Nugurra National Park, bought by the NSW Government in 2019 to secure the future of the Southern Highlands' 3000-strong koala population. **Must Do:** Walk the Mount Penang Loop Walk in the newly opened Guula Nugurra National Park. A challenging trek of approximately three hours, this three kilometre unmarked hike will transport you over steep hills to 360-degree summit views.

COLO VALE

Take a walk back in history and discover this village that started life as a station on the Main Southern Railway. Settlement from Sydney increased during the early 1860s thanks to the rich soil derived from volcanic rock, which continues to aid local small holding farmers today. **Must Do:** Make a date with Colo Vale Markets the first Saturday of every month (except January) and stock up on fresh local produce.

EXETER

The Village Hall and its adjoining park, oval and nearby historic railway station lie at the heart of lovely Exeter, a village of leafy streets and unhurried pace. Exeter General Store admirably performs its role of meeting place, post office, gourmet cafe and local produce store. Check out Village Pump Antiques and Quintessential Exeter at Halcyon Cottage for some special finds. Exeter Village Market, held on the first Saturday of each month, is a veritable feast of more than 50 local producers, makers and sellers. **Must Do:** Take an Exeter turn on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 9am, and watch the locals strut their form at the Southern Highlands Croquet Club at the centre of the village.

FITZROY FALLS

The tiny village of Fitzroy Falls, surrounded by farmland and wilderness, takes its name from the 81 metre cascade in adjoining Morton National Park. Nearby Belmore Falls are equally spectacular. Head to the Fitzroy Falls picnic area for great views of the falls and bird watching opportunities. **Must Do:** Listen out for the calls of the local Superb Lyrebirds. Lyrebirds are masters of mimicry and can imitate kookaburras, whipbirds, traffic noises and even chainsaws.

JOADJA

A fascinating area of farms and bushland, Joadja is steeped in history: it was once home to more than 1000 Scottish immigrants who mined shale oil in the late 1800s. The success of Joadja Estate winery, halfway between Joadja and Berrima, and more recently Joadja Distillery, has firmly put Joadja on the map. Valero and Elisa Jimenez from Joadja Distillery do a fascinating old township and distillery tour not to be missed. **Must Do:** When you've soaked up some of Joadja Distillery's fascinating history, head to the cellar door and taste test some of its delicious single malt whisky and gin.

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 or the walk to 40 Foot Falls) to wineries (including Artemis Wines and Winery and Tertini Wines). There's also the treasure trove that is the Mittagong Antiques Centre, fab vintage glamour and fashion at Twisting Vintage and fabulous craft and design at Sturt Gallery and Studios. Choose from a veritable feast of places to eat such as The Shaggy Cow cafe, vegan and veggie Four Seasons Bistro, Mittagong Hotel's La Cantina Mexican and Toshi's Japanese Restaurant, and don't forget to call in at boutique brewery Eden Brewery for a beer tasting. **Must Do:** Stop off at Southern Highlands Welcome Centre and get informed about what's on locally. A great place to buy local produce. 62-70 Main Street, Mittagong.

MOSS VALE

Moss Vale is known for being a down to earth, busy place. The annual agricultural show in March is one of the largest locally, and the main drag, Argyle Street, has undergone a recent revamp, with many independent shops and eateries upping Moss Vale's shopping and eating credentials. Spend a couple of hours strolling in search of some local lovelies at the many design, lifestyle and homewares stores and dine at local favourites. Got your dog in tow? Visit the fabulous five-hectare Seymour Park off-leash area and let your pooch get up close and friendly with the locals. **Must Do:** Interested in the true rural workings of a country town? Visit the Southern Highlands Livestock Exchange (the saleyards) on a Wednesday and teach your kids where their meat comes from. Love finding vintage and pre-loved bargains? Visit the Reviva Centre, a social enterprise that works with our local Wingecarribee Council to help other people's trash become your treasure and keep it out of landfill.

ROBERTSON

Robertson combines a rolling pastoral setting with acclaimed locally grown potatoes, truffles, pears, cheese and paddock-raised eggs. The Robertson Show is a much-loved annual event, and The Robertson Hotel is a perfect for a weekend stay. The iconic Robertson Pie Shop is a favourite with passing motorists and bikies and if you want to improve your kitchen prowess, Moonacres Cooking School offers a range of classes with all produce supplied by the nearby award-winning organic Moonacres Farm. And pop into Southern Highlands Artisans Collective to see original works on show. **Must Do:** Mingle with green-finger gardeners at Crop Swap every Saturday morning at the Bowling Club and witness community spirit in action.

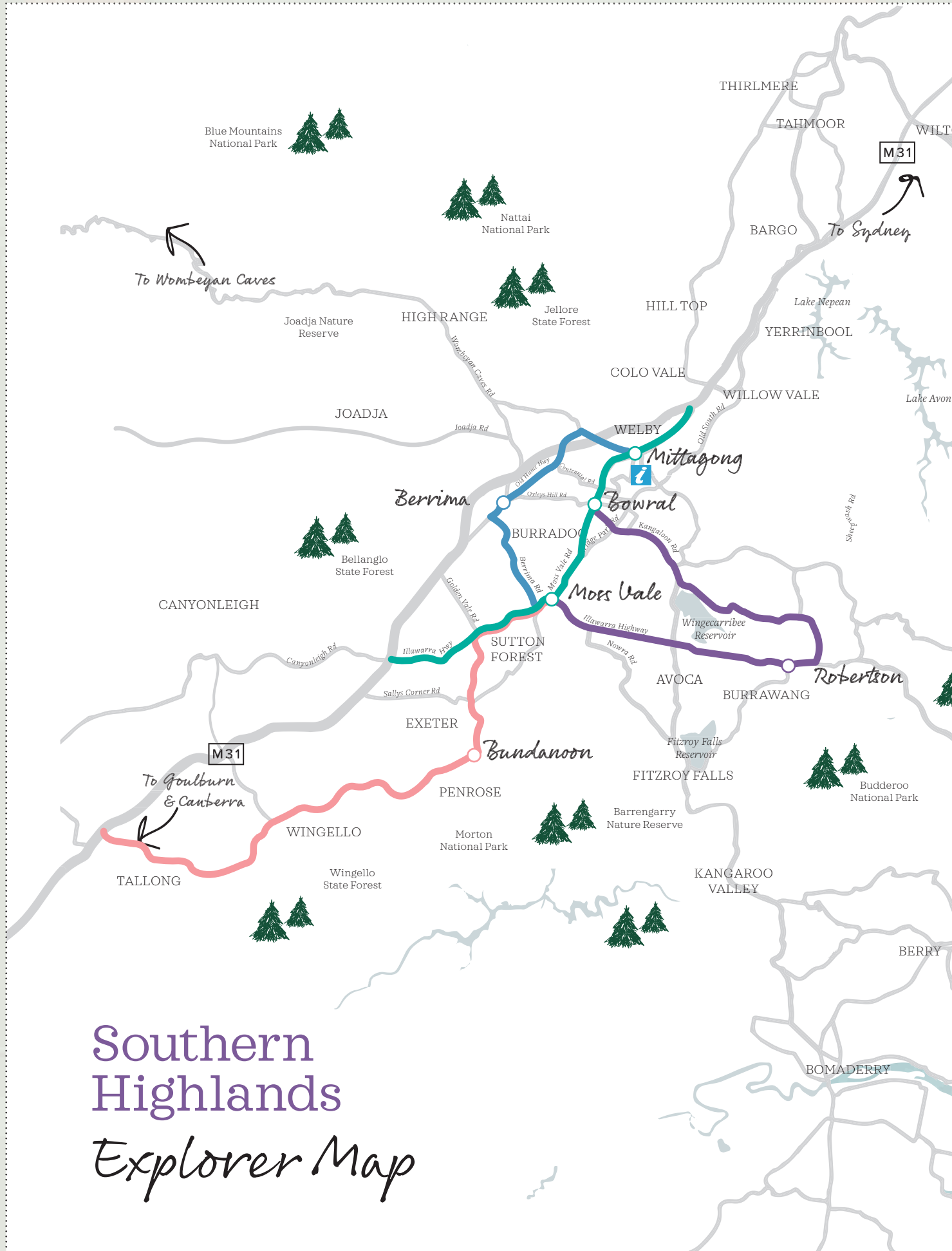
SUTTON FOREST

The Everything Store lives up to its name selling everything from antiques, fresh farm eggs and Akubra hats and just along the road, you will find the extraordinary Red Cow Farm Garden (the location of our cover shot). Definitely worth a visit. **Must Do:** Take the kids to ImaginArta's puppet show every Sunday morning at 11am just up from The Everything Store.

WINGELLO

This village, equidistant from Sydney and Canberra, is based around the railway station, surrounding farmlands and national parks. A mecca for cyclists, horse riders, trail runners and dog sled competitors, The Wingello Village Store is an excellent cafe and post office to the local community and is the hub for annual events such as the Wingello Forest Endurance Horse Ride. **Must Do:** Feel nostalgic for those childhood days of choosing 20 cents worth of mixed lollies from behind a glass counter? Wingello Store has them all in what it touts as 'the longest lolly bar in Australia'. [SM](#)





Southern Highlands Explorer Map



Tourist Drive 14

Mittagong > Sutton Forest via Moss Vale > 28km

ALONG THE WAY

Mittagong: Fitz Roy Iron Works Historic Site, Sturt Gallery and Studios, Southern Highlands Welcome Centre & Lake Alexandra

Bowral: Bradman Centre, Galleries, Specialty Shops & Corbett Gardens the home of Tulip Time, Retford Park, Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens & Ngununggula Regional Gallery

Moss Vale: Leighton Gardens & Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve Historic Walk

Tourist Drive 15

Bowral > Moss Vale via Robertson & Fitzroy Falls > 63km

ALONG THE WAY

Bowral: Wingecarribee Reservoir, Villages of Kangaloon & Glenquarry, Wildes Meadow & Burrawang

Robertson: Robertson Nature Reserve & The Big Potato

Fitzroy Falls: Belmore Falls & Hindmarsh Lookout, Bushwalks & great photo opps

Moss Vale: Leighton Gardens & Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve Historic Walk

Tourist Drive 16

Sutton Forest > Goulburn via Bundanoon > 75km

ALONG THE WAY

Sutton Forest: Red Cow Farm Garden

Exeter: General Store

Bundanoon: Morton National Park, Glow Worm Glen, Bushwalks & Cycling

Wingello & Penrose: Orchards, fruit and flowers in season roadside stalls and some great local store cafes

Tourist Drive 17

Mittagong > Moss Vale via Berrima > 24km

ALONG THE WAY

Mittagong: Lake Alexandra, Fitzroy Iron Works Historic Site, Winifred West Park, Local Wineries & Cellar Doors, Boxvale Walking Track, Southern Highlands Welcome Centre

Berrima: Bendooley Estate, Craft Shops & Galleries, The Berrima Courthouse & Berrima Museum, Harper's Mansion National Trust Property

Moss Vale: The Moss Vale Saleyards, Leighton Gardens & Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve Historic Walk



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Sutton Forest Inn. Image Elise Hasssey

Four *Upfront*

New to the Highlands and short on time? Here are a few ideas to get your curiosity firing and your feet discovering ...

NATURE NATURE

A growing body of epidemiological evidence has found spending time outside, in nature, is good for us, body and soul. Great! You want open space, we've got it. From Fitzroy Falls in one corner and Bundanoon in the other, Morton National Park, one of the largest in NSW, spreads its spectacular way across the Highlands. A tapestry of well-marked walking trails, it traverses rugged bushland and lush rainforests, containing spectacular waterfalls such as Fitzroy Falls, Belmore Falls and Carrington Falls and hidden gems such as Erith Coal Mine and Fairy Bower, near Bundanoon, and makes up much of the Wingecarribee Shire's 270,000 hectares of bushland.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM

Koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, platypus, wombats, echidnas, possums, and more than 260 species of birdlife. To see our native species, head to special places such as Mansfield Reserve, east of Bowral; Lake Alexandra or the Box Vale Walking Track, Mittagong; the Bong Bong Track, Moss Vale or the nearby bird sanctuary, the Cecil Hoskins Reserve; the Berrima River Walk, Berrima, or the



Eastern Yellow Robin. Image Helen Evelyn Birdlife Southern Highlands

lovely Clover Hill Trail down Macquarie Pass. Take a tour with Platypus Dreamin Aboriginal Cultural Educational Programs & Bushwalks and learn of the local Gundungurra people, how they used native plants for food, medicine and to construct tools.

GOOD GRUB

The success of any visit to somewhere new requires sustenance. And what better way to taste test the Highlands than dining on some of our great homegrown pub nosh? Think Mexican at the Mittagong Hotel, gourmet grub at The Royal Hotel, Bowral, or a schnitz and chips at The Bowral Hotel. Then there's the newly revamped Bundanoon Hotel with its wood-fired pizzas or The Burrawang Village Inn, with the best beer garden in the district. Or the Robertson Public House and Kitchen, with its wide outdoor deck, or how about the Sutton Forest Inn with its terrific kids' playground? Or join in celebrating the long-awaited reopening of Highlands institution, Briars, Burradoo. Whatever your choice, a wintry pub lunch in front of a roaring wood fire, or outside, summer sun on your back, is a Highlands go-to to seek and relish.

TREES PLEASE

Lucky us: we also have a lot of trees. Not just the beautiful native silver and silky gums you'll see everywhere but also magnificent northern hemisphere species such as elms, oaks, beeches and cedars. These were planted by early nurserymen such as Patrick Lindsay Shepherd in the 1880s and Arthur Yates of Exeter in the early 1900s. Dynastic local families such as the Horderns (who built historic houses, Milton Park and Retford Park) were also keen gardeners. If you are a tree lover, our annual Open Gardens and treasures such as Red Cow Farm at Sutton Forest and the Cherry Tree Walk, Bowral, are musts, as is the newly emerging Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens and some of our numerous local tree nurseries. Take a walk along our bike and walking trails, or through the streets of our towns and villages, and enjoy these superb longtime Highlanders in situ. **SH**



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Save the Date

The Southern Highlands is a unique cool climate microcosm ... four seasons in one day. Winter, spring, summer and autumn all before lunch? Highly possible. But when you know, it's easy. The trick to keeping cool and comfortable, or cosy and classy (if that's your thing) is layering up ... so it's easy to strip off. Simple. Now that we've got your wardrobe sorted, here are some important dates for your diary visitsouthernhighlands.com.au/whats-on

Winter

Average temp 3-12 °C

PIE TIME

TRUFFLE SEASON

FEAST OF THE BEAST

BUNDANOON WINTERFEST

STURT WINTER SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS IN JULY ACTIVITIES

AGRISHOW SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

KITE FLYING DAY, SH BOTANIC GARDENS

SIBERIAN EXPRESS SLED DOG RACING



Blair Richardson on Pu Pu Pu at Warrumbidgee Hills 3 Day Eventing event, Robertson. Image: Stephen Gubarev

Spring

Average temp 8-19 °C

TULIP TIME

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC, SH BOTANIC GARDENS

ROBERTSON OPEN GARDENS

BOWRAL CLASSIC

THE HIGHLAND VALLEY FORAGE

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WRITERS' FESTIVAL

BUNDANOON GARDEN RAMBLE

SH FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

SH ARTS TRAIL

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS EXPO

BERRIMA INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS

HARPER'S IN BLOOM 2021

BONG BONG PICNIC RACES

L'ETAPE AUSTRALIA

BRADMAN CHILDRENS CRICKET CLINICS



Feast of the Beast. Image provided by Experience Nature

Autumn

Average temp 8-19 °C

- BERRIMA INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS
- BOWRAL AUTUMN MUSIC FESTIVAL
- ROBERTSON SHOW
- MOSS VALE SHOW
- WINE HARVEST FEAST
- DAY ON THE GREEN WITH ROD STEWART
- BRIGADOON, BUNDANOON
- GUNDUNGURRA MIRROR FLASH
- BURRAWANG EASTER MARKET
- SH BOTANIC GARDENS OPEN WEEKEND
- WINGELLO ENDURANCE HORSE RIDE
- SH BOTANIC GARDENS OPEN DAY & PLANT SALE
- SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS JAZZ FESTIVAL



Drum Major Clarry, Lemmie, NSW Police Pipe Band, Brigadoon at Bundanoon. Image: Roy Truscott

Summer

Average temp 13-25 °C

- WALLABY HILL 3 DAY INTERNATIONAL
- CHRISTMAS PICNIC, SH BOTANIC GARDENS
- WINE HARVEST FEAST
- STURT SUMMER SCHOOL
- WALLABY HILL EQUESTRIAN EXTRAVAGANZA
- AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS IN BERRIMA

Tulip TIME 2021

Spectacular displays of **75,000 mass planted tulips** & blossoming mature trees in Bowral's picturesque **Corbett Gardens...** in the heart of the Southern Highlands

ENTERTAINMENT DAILY

HANDCRAFTED WARES & STALLS

REFRESHMENTS & LOCAL PRODUCE

17 SEPTEMBER to 4 OCTOBER

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PRE-PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE

tuliptime.net.au



HIGHLAND *Highlights*

Some things are worth setting the alarm for.

PIE TIME

Pie Time includes hundreds of ways to enjoy pies, including Pie Teas, Pie on a Plate, Pie and Pinot as well as Pie-themed events at distilleries, restaurants and bakeries, and this year's newbie, the Great Southern Highlands Pie Drive, which takes in the famed Robbo Pie Shop, Heatherbrae's Pies on the Hume Highway at Sutton Forest and, of course, Gumnut Patisserie, which won the Royal Easter Show President's Medal in 2021. Download the Pie Trail at anytime of year visitsouthern-highlands.com.au/trip-ideas/pie-trail. Pie Time, June 1 to 30. pietime.com.au

BUNDANOON WINTERFEST

This community event offers an opening night street party, a skating rink, a bucking bull ride, face painters, magicians and clowns, food stalls, live music, and lots of burning braziers. Winterfest is back thanks to a grant from the CommBank Bush Fire Recovery Fund. All proceeds go to Bundanoon community projects. July 3 to 11, 2021, Bundanoon Oval, 70 Erith Street, Bundanoon. bundanoonwinterfest.com

SIBERIAN EXPRESS SLED DOG RACING

Dog-sled racing returns to Belanglo State Forest for the NSW Siberian Express Sled Dog Racing annual. Competitions range from pee wee (kid racers aged seven and under) to adult. Rather than a sled though, dogs, in this case huskies, malamutes and samoyeds, pull their owners on bikes or other wheeled carriages. Mush! July 30 to August 1, 2021 and August 27 to 29, 2021 Belanglo State Forest. siberianexpress.org

FEAST OF THE BEAST

Fancy dressing up in feathers, fur and face paint and quaffing mulled wine and spit-roasted meats with others also channelling their inner Viking? Experience Nature Group brings you Feast of the Beast, at a secret forest location in June. For other great adventures such as Truffle Hunt tours, The Highland Valley Forage and Wine Harvest Feast experiencenaturegroup.com.au

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

With more than 50 musicians drawn from all over our region, the Southern Highlands Symphony Orchestra, founded in 2014 is a much loved local orchestral affair. Conducted by Dr Allan Stiles, it performs four concerts a year. Concert Series 3 will include music from stage and screen including *The Mission*, *Les Miserables*, and *Raiders of the Lost Arc*, as well pieces performed by local, tenor Richard Lane and soprano Judith Rough. For details of Concert Series Four in November and 2022's program shso.org.au SHSO Concert Series Three, 18 September at 7.30pm and 19 September at 2.30pm, McGrath Hall, Chevalier College, Burradoo.

THE BOWRAL CLASSIC

Welcome back to more than 3500 cyclists for this year's Bowral Classic, which starts from Bong Bong Street, Bowral. Sign up for the 160km Maxi Classic, 125km Challenge Classic, 90km Rouleurs Classic or the 35km Social Classic, which invites participants to stop off at a few of our cellar doors and cafes. Saturday and Sunday, October 16 and 17. bowralclassic.com.au

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

This weekend festival returns to a new venue, Moss Vale Showground, to showcase our producers, farmers, vendors, restaurants, wine makers and distillers. Expect a great day out with live music, covered and open air dining spaces and cooking demonstrations. A fabulous showcase of local produce and dedicated producers. Saturday and Sunday, October 30 and 31, Moss Vale Showground, Illawarra Highway, Moss Vale. southernhighlandsfestival.com.au

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS EXPO

The Southern Highlands Expo showcases everything from outdoor recreation and adventure to rural and agricultural, local produce and family entertainment including an animal nursery and jetpack/flyboard stunt shows. November 12, 13 and 14, 9.30am to 4pm. Moss Vale Showground, Illawarra Highway, Moss Vale. expo.com.au

BONG BONG PICNIC RACES

One of the biggest social events on the Highlands' spring calendar, Bong Bong Picnic Race Day is always great fun. Friday, November 19. Members and guests welcome. Bong Bong Racetrack, Kangaloon Road, Bowral. bongbongprc.com.au

ROBERTSON SHOW

Enjoy horse events, cattle judging, miniature goat displays, pet shows, farmyard dog jumping, hay stacking, chook washing (yes, it's a thing), and the Spud Olympics and Potato Races. Enjoy garden and maker displays in the pavilions, a sideshow alley, lots of food and a fireworks finale. Friday and Saturday March 11 and 12, 2022. Robertson Showground, 2315 Kangaloon Road. robertsonshoworg.au

WINGELLO FOREST ENDURANCE RIDE

Horse and riders compete in the Wingello Forest Endurance Ride, held in Wingello State Forest on marked horse trails. This event comes with a choice of distances from five kilometres to 40 kilometres. Open to anyone who can ride from four years and up. Spectators welcome. Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, 2022. Wingello State Forest. highlandsendurance.com

DAY ON THE GREEN

Rod Stewart makes his long-awaited appearance at Centennial Vineyards, Bowral. Day on the Green promoter Michael Newton says: "We're thrilled to return to Bowral with one of the biggest superstars in the world. Some of (our) most memorable shows 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, March 27, 2022. ticketmaster.com.au adayonthegreen.com.au centennial.net.au **ST**



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SANNE, MARK AND ANTON BALOG,
Artemis Wines, Mittagong

What's so hot about our cool climate wines?

"The Southern Highlands is one of the coldest and highest wine growing regions of Australia, and because of altitude, our grapes are some of the latest ripening. Late ripening equals delicate, concentrated flavours like you find in our pinot noirs and pinot grigios. Add to that our unique topography, and the microclimates it causes and that ensures great diversity. Vineyards 20 minutes from each other as the crow flies have rainfall and soil that are poles apart. This means there are lots of grape variants like shiraz or cabernet sauvignons which simply won't do anything 15 kilometres away. Factor in our sensational countryside and what you have is a wine region that grows some excellent vinos and looks superb."

RINA HORE, Executive Director,
Bradman Museum, Bowral

Why is Don Bradman, and The Bradman Museum, such a sporting hero and a cricket mecca?

"The Don's achievements put Australia on the world stage. Statistically extraordinary, with a batting average of 99.94 that remains unbeaten since his retirement 73 years ago, Bradman's excellence inspired a nation, and acted as a beacon through the Great Depression and World War II. The Bradman Museum, in its picturesque setting, is a marvel. It tells the story of a brilliant life, one so much broader than simply the skill for which he is most renowned."

DON WARNER, dairy farmer and Fairway Farm farmstay, Wildes Meadow

You've been a dairy farmer for decades. What surprises you when children come to stay?

"It seems incredible but many kids are amazed where milk comes from! They have no idea so they love watching us milk the cows, and the milk going into the refrigerated vat. Feeding the baby calves, collecting the eggs and brushing

the pony are always favourites, too. But the highlight is always giving the paddy lambs a bottle."

DIEGO ARATA, Berrima General Store & Cafe and Baked in Berrima, Berrima

Handy for grabbing a coffee and picking up milk, how else do our village general stores from Tallong to Exeter, Penrose to Wingello and to Berrima add to our community's distinct flavour?

"Seeing the same faces day in and day out when you walk in to get your coffee, or pick up your post, builds great ties and bonds between people. And while our general stores are important in being a friendly face for our locals, we also support our homegrown producers and growers who supply us regularly."

ANGUS REYNOLDS, Aussie Fly Fishing, Moss Vale

Cycling, bushwalking, wild swimming, trail running, rock climbing, caving, mountain biking, bird watching, horse-riding, bush bashing, even dog sledding, our nature wildernesses are known for it all. But flyfishing?

"Absolutely! And such a diverse range of species and locations in close proximity. The trick to flyfishing in the Highlands is do your homework and research what fish are where, and how to target them. Then go with a good attitude; the hunt is the enjoyable part. Any fish is just a bonus."

ALEX TOWNSEND, Wallaby Hill Equestrian Centre, Robertson

Apart from being magnificent creatures that look splendid grazing on our green paddocks, why are horses important to maintaining our rural future?

"As land values skyrocket, smaller rural holdings become uneconomical options for anything other than small holding farmers and horses. Fast becoming the new horse capital of Australia, the Highlands' has a horse



Sanne, Mark & Anton Balog



Rina Hore



Don Warner



Diego Arata

population that spans everything from racing, carriage driving, polo, polocrosse, pony club to performance horses. And with the horses come the jobs which will ensure our green Babe-like pastures will be here for generations to come."

GILLIAN HERNE
Twisting Vintage, Mittagong

A vintage two-piece suit. A French armoire. A bespoke couture wedding dress. A solid handmade hardwood table. A locally grown Alpaca jumper. Delicious produce to take home. What is it about our retail scene that makes shopping here a little bit special?

"It was Yves St. Laurent who said, 'fashion fades but style is eternal', and in my book the trick to looking stylish, and decorating like an individual, is to find the unique places to shop ... those independent boutiques and emporiums, who support local and Australian makers, and have their own thing going on. The Highlands is full of 'em ... a shopping hotbed of timeless fusion, modernist vibe and ecological integrity."

VANESSA STOCKARD, artist, Bowral

You moved to the Highlands from Sydney a decade ago because you wanted more room and creative space to paint. Did you find it?

"In spades, although I can hear the train at the end of the paddock, which I like because it makes me feel connected to town, otherwise I would feel pretty much in the country. We are surrounded by cows grazing, and the neighbour's chickens and sheep wander up the road and since planting hundreds of native trees, our garden brims with native fauna. With a five year old obsessed with nature, it's ideal. I work in a blueberry coloured studio, which is pretty on the outside and chaotic inside but I keep very busy in there. We live a good life here. We cook a lot and the local produce is fabulous. Life just keeps getting better."

LEO BERKELOUW, founder, Bendooley Estate, Berrima

You bought Bendooley 40 years ago and with your son Paul have created a unique destination with antique books, food, wine, wedding venues and designer accommodation. Are the qualities that drew you to the Highlands still attracting people today?

"When we came here the Highlands was all paddocks and farms, and you would drive into Bowral, leave your keys in the car and your windows open and know everybody you saw. It has changed a lot since then, and it's vitally

important for our future that we work with our Wingecarribee Shire Council to safeguard our wide open green spaces, and to make sure everything doesn't become a subdivision. We don't want to become another outer western suburb of Sydney. On the book front, book selling has improved over the past few years because of Covid-19. We've been forced to revert to the basics, and for a book lover like me, that's heartening."

RICK SHEPHERD, head gardener, Retford Park, Bowral

In 2017 James Fairfax of the famed media family left his beloved home of nearly 50 years to the nation through the National Trust. Why is Retford Park such a special Southern Highlands destination?

"Primarily because we get to show visitors that a large and beautiful garden can be managed without the use of harmful chemicals. Also, I came to work at Retford Park as head gardener in 2011, and I am still learning the stories of its century old trees to its signature features, heritage buildings, mossy paths and flora and fauna. It is a magical place to work and visit." **SH**



Gillian Herne



Vanessa Stockard



Angus Reynolds



Leo Berkelouw



Alex Townsend



Rick Shepherd

Outdoors

The Southern Highlands is a nature-lovers' paradise: thousands of hectares of national parks to explore with cool rivers and waterfalls to discover.



“My favourite thing to do is to roll out into Morton National Park and enjoy the endless tracks and trails in complete solitude.”

Local Brad McGee: Olympic gold medallist and the Australian cycling team's technical road director.
twinfallsbushcottages.com



Fitzroy Falls, Image Tony Sheffield



Below are a few of our favourite bush trails and no matter the season, grab your daypack, your walking shoes, or your mountain bike if you prefer, and go.

TOOTH'S WALKING TRACK TO BUNDANOON CREEK, BUNDANOON

Trek down to Bundanoon Creek through the stunning scenery of Morton National Park to the swimming hole at the base to cool off. It's a steep walk, three kilometres total out and back, so this one's for the cardio-fit.

BERRIMA RIVER WALK, BERRIMA RESERVE, BERRIMA

On this walk, read the plaques about the German internees who lived along this part of the Wingecarribee River during World War I. Or launch your kayak and slowly paddle downstream. Keep your eyes peeled for resident birds and wildlife such as water dragons, platypus, wallabies and waterfowl.

BOX VALE TRACK & LOOKOUT, WELBY

This walk travels along a historic tramline, passes through rock cuttings and a tunnel more than 80 metres in length. Originally created to bring coal up the steep Nattai Gorge rockface, this is a delightful meander. Follow the right hand spur down to Nattai Gorge lookout. For the more adventurous and the fitter, this is part of a larger circuit of walks including 40 Foot and 60 Foot Falls. Pick up maps and information from the Southern Highlands Welcome Centre, Mittagong.

Cascading waterfalls your thing? Don't miss Belmore Falls, Carrington Falls and our most visited attraction, the 81 metre high Fitzroy Falls and its smaller companion, Twin Falls. Marvel at the majesty of nature.

FORTY FOOT FALLS, MITTAGONG

This seven kilometre walk from Lake Alexandra, Mittagong, requires grit and good fitness as there are many steep sections and flights of stairs. When you've broken a sweat and worked up a thirst, salvation is at hand: navigate rocks downhill to reach the waterfall. Take plenty of water and snacks. It's a long walk back.

GOODMANS FORD & WOLLONDILLY RIVER

Reaching this fabulous spot on the way to Wombeyan Caves takes tenacity, especially since the 2019-20 bushfires and floods. To reach it today, enter via the Mittagong side of Wombeyan Caves Road. Whether you camp at the nearby private campsite, Wollondilly River Station, or visit for the day, the cool water of the Wollondilly River is deep, and slow moving. Pack your kids, swimming cossie, fishing rods, lilos and life jackets.

BONG BONG TRACK, MOSS VALE & BURRADOO

This loved public green space follows the Wingecarribee River along its lovely winding way. Take the family or enjoy some wide open time out alone. Start your experience at either Railway Road, Burradoo or Moss Vale Road, Moss Vale.

BANGADILLY NATIONAL PARK, JOADJA

A little visited treasure on our doorstep, Bangadilly National Park has the four Ws: wilderness, wildlife, walks and the Wingecarribee. Look up: koalas live here.

Being outdoors is a great way to enjoy the Highlands' distinct seasons but many of these trails are in isolated locations, so it's always a good idea to tell someone where you are going, and to pack a topographic map, a compass or a GPS. Don't rely on your mobile phone, as reception is limited. For more trails and maps, go to visitsouthernhighlands.com.au or nationalparks.nsw.gov.au or call in at Destination Southern Highlands Welcome Centre, 62-70 Main Street, Mittagong. While there, pick up a copy of Gillian and John Souter's *Best Walks of the Southern Highlands*, a little gem of a book that gives detailed information on 45 local walks.

FAIRY BOWER FALLS, BUNDANOON

Travel down Bundanoon Creek Track through rainforest scenery and take the left turn along Nicholas Pass to these magical falls. Depending on water levels, you can stand *Blue Lagoon* style under the falls, and swim, paddle or at the very least get your feet wet. Take care, though: the mossy rocks are slippery.

ERITH COAL MINE, MORTON NATIONAL PARK, BUNDANOON

This walk leads to an old coal mine, operational from the 1860s to 1915. A track downhill to steep metal stairways goes past the old mine to the waterfall below. Paddle and frolic in the shallows of the waterfalls.

MOUNT PENANG WALK, GUULA NGURRA NATIONAL PARK, CANYONLEIGH

In the newly created Guula Ngurra National Park (the traditional owners' name Guula Ngurra translates to koala country), take the three kilometre loop walk for more experienced walkers, and keep your eyes peeled, upwards, for the eponymous arboreal locals. **SD**



Harper's Mansion & Retford Park



The best of heritage meets the magic of nature

Harper's Mansion in Berrima is set in two acres of gardens made for strolling, full of cool climate heritage plants and featuring one of the largest hedge mazes in Australia.

Located in Bowral, Retford Park's grand Victorian Italianate mansion is surrounded by stunning formal gardens, a vast arboretum featuring century-old trees, and a significant collection of sculptures.

Plan your visit: nationaltrust.org.au/nsw



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Gardens

If you love gardening, or love to wander in magnificent gardens, come celebrate our brilliance.





Tulip Time, Corbett Gardens, Bowral. Image Elise Hassey

Most of the Southern Highlands sits at more than 640 metres above sea level, so we live the ebb and flow of the seasons. Spring is fragrant. In summer, if the rains have come, life is abundant. Autumn puts on a show, and in winter, we rest, and prepare for spring.

TULIP TIME, BOWRAL

Bowral's Tulip Time is one of the oldest flower festivals in Australia. Its roots were planted in 1910 after local gardening lover Ada Corbett pushed council for empty land in Bowral to become a public park. This year's 60th festival includes 75,000 tulips and 15,000 annuals planted in Corbett Gardens, as well as 30,000 more tulips planted at Leighton Gardens, Moss Vale and the Southern Highlands Welcome Centre, Main Street, Mittagong. The festival also includes live entertainment and stalls. Two daily entry sessions per day. September 17 to October 4. Corbett Gardens, Wingecarribee Street, Bowral. Pre-purchase tickets online at tuliptime.net.au

HARPER'S IN BLOOM, BERRIMA

Harper's Mansion is a National Trust colonial Georgian house with more than 100 varieties of heritage roses, a woodland walk, a pond and a hedge maze. What was once the home of James Harper, the first publican of Berrima, is now beautifully maintained by Berrima locals, who are organising the event, which also includes stalls selling local arts and produce. November 14, 10am to 5pm.

Open 1st & 3rd weekends 11am to 3pm. Cnr Wilkinson Street & Old Hume Highway, Berrima. nationaltrust.org.au

ROBERTSON OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND

Robertson green thumbs open their gardens for a weekend including three village gardens and three country gardens rarely open to the public. These include Spring Creek, a park like garden with superb trees and rainforest, and Murray's Glen, an acre with many different species. Saturday and Sunday October 9 and 10, 10am to 4pm. Tickets online at robertsonopengardens.weebly.com

Want more SH gardens? Grab a copy of *Jaqui Cameron's Beyond the Garden Gate: Private Gardens of the Southern Highlands* from The Bookshop Bowral, Bong Bong Street, Bowral or see *Highlife* magazine, highlifemagazine.com.au which each issue explores more local private gardens.

BUNDANOON GARDEN RAMBLE

The Bundanoon Garden Ramble is a much-loved event run by the Bundanoon Community Association and volunteers. Stroll around town to visit the eight gardens on show, or hop on and off the complimentary shuttle bus. And keep an eye out for front yard entrants in the Lions Club's scarecrow competition. Tickets will be on sale at the Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall. The entry price to all eight gardens is \$20 per person, or \$5 per single entry. Kids under 16 are free. Saturday October 30 & Sunday October 31, 9.30am to 4.30pm. For group bookings email info@bundanoongardenramble.org.au

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANIC GARDENS AUTUMN OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND, BOWRAL

The Autumn Open Garden includes five private Highlands gardens not usually open to the public and a plant fair. All funds raised go towards the dream of propagating the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens and visitors centre. Entry is \$10 per garden or \$35 for five. Saturday 23 & Sunday, April 24, 2022, 9am to 4pm. Cnr Old South and Kangaloon Roads, Bowral. shbg.com.au

RED COW FARM, SUTTON FOREST

Red Cow Farm is the life's work of Ali Mentesh and Wayne Morrissey. Garden 'rooms' here include a monastery and abbess's garden, a woodland and beech walk, a lake, a rose garden, a bog garden, an orchard and a kitchen garden. A nursery and shop stock local produce and gifts. 7480 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest. Entry fees apply. Opens September 17 to late May, 10am to 4pm. redcowfarm.com.au

MILTON PARK COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL SPRING AND AUTUMN OPEN GARDENS

Milton Park opens its gardens during Tulip Time to fundraise for the Bowral & District Hospital Auxiliary Club. Built in 1911 by Anthony Hordern, the gardens were designed and developed largely by Anthony's second wife, Mary Bullmore, with a nod to the English School of Landscape, which swept away strict geometric construct. The gardens are home to elms and weeping beeches, 400 rose bushes, 2000 metres of hedges and a bluebell wood. Devonshire teas are available in the Conservatory Restaurant, and there's lunch in the Orangerie, and self-guided and guided garden tours with Milton Park's head gardener Peter Buerckner. Bookings are essential for lunch and guided tours, on 4861 8100. September 17 to October 4 & April 23 & 24, 2022, 9.30am to 4pm, 200 Horderns Road, Bowral. miltonpark.com.au

RETFORD PARK, BOWRAL

The former home of the late media baron and philanthropist James Fairfax, Retford Park is a rare example of an intact agricultural village. The mansion, workers' cottages, stables, even a schoolhouse all within the curtilage of manicured gardens and cattle pastures. The gardens consist of century old trees, hedged gardens and a pool and pool house by Guildford Bell. The site of Ngununggula, the new Southern Highlands Regional Gallery, Retford Park launches its Family Garden Trail from July 3 to help children discover the garden's highlights. The gardens are open the first weekend of every month 10am to 4pm. Bookings essential.

nationaltrust.org.au **SH**



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Arts & Culture

According to the Australia Council for the Arts, 80 per cent of Southern Highlanders attend cultural venues or events, and more than 30 per cent of adults and 95 per cent children, are actively engaged in creative activities. Come let our vital artistic community colour your life.

NGUNUNGGULA, SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGIONAL ART GALLERY, BOWRAL

Ngununggula opens Spring 2021 with an inaugural exhibition by acclaimed photographer and artist Tamara Dean. Built within the grounds of Retford Park, Ngununggula (meaning 'belonging' in the traditional language of the Gundungurra First Nation People) the old dairy is now the gallery, and the vet clinic, a cafe run by Robertson's Moonacres Farm and Kitchen. Ngununggula is the culmination of a long-held dream by art loving locals, reinforced by supporters including artist Ben Quilty, gallery director Megan Monte and assistant director Milena Stojanovska (pictured above). Their vision? To bring more art and major touring exhibitions here. Art Gallery Lane, Bowral. ngununggula.com

RETFORD PARK, BOWRAL

When James Fairfax bequeathed his Bowral home to the National Trust, he helped create three new art spaces. The mansion, Retford Park, with its precious collection of Australian works by artists including Brett Whiteley, Grace Cossington Smith and Sidney Nolan, and Ngununggula. Retford Park's stables are also used as exhibition space by collective Artists of the Round Yard. Retford Park's gardens are open to the public 10am to 4pm first weekend of every month. 1325 Old South Road, Bowral. nationaltrust.org.au/retfordpark

STURT GALLERY AND STUDIOS, MITTAGONG

Celebrating its 80th birthday, Sturt is the oldest craft and design teaching centre in Australia. Established in 1941, it runs a busy schedule of exhibitions, winter and summer schools and weekly classes. It is also home to the acclaimed School for Wood, which has produced some of Australia's finest furniture makers. Peruse the gallery with its mouth-watering design pieces; enjoy ever-changing exhibitions by leading makers; and enjoy coffee and cafe in the courtyard cafe. Daily 10am to 5pm; cafe open; Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Cnr Range Road and Waverley Parade, Mittagong. sturt.nsw.edu.au

BOWRAL ART GALLERY, BOWRAL

This busy gallery has more than 500 active members and cheerfully supports the local arts community through 31 year-round exhibitions as well as evening, weekly and weekend workshops. It holds five prize exhibitions a year, including the John Copes Watercolour Prize Exhibition and the Bowral Sculpture Prize Exhibition. Daily 10am to 4pm. 1 Short Street, Bowral. bdasgallery.com



Sturt Gallery & Studios, Mittagong. Image Elise Hassey

THE MILK FACTORY GALLERY AND EXHIBITION SPACE, BOWRAL

This Bowral gallery was opened in 2005 as an exhibition space for Australian and international artists. A light, airy space with high ceilings and characterful charm, it is a great supporter of locals and runs a yearly program of mixed and solo shows in every medium. Gallery and shop open Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm. 33 Station Street (rear), Bowral. milkfactorygallery.com.au


THE SHAC, ROBERTSON

It started life as a sorting station for spuds but in 2019 the Old Potato Shed became the Southern Highlands Artisans Collective (The SHAC). Home to more than ten artists including James King, Ric Abel, Lily Cummins and Penny Simons, there are also galleries and workrooms with creative workshops at Green Door Studios, run by Zoe Waters, featuring leading Australian artisans such as weaver Natalie Miller. 10am to 4pm Friday to Monday. 74-76 Hoddle Street, Robertson. theshac.com.au, greendoorstudios.com.au

WHITEWALL ART PROJECTS GALLERY, BERRIMA

Sculptor Thomas Bucich opened his Whitewall Art Projects at the previously famed Bell Gallery, opened by artist Roberta Bell-Howland in 1989. Bucich is already filling Whitewalls with shows and events and recently announced Into the Light, a \$5000 non-acquisitive exhibit prize to mark Mental Health Week in October. 10am to 4pm Friday to Monday. 10 Jellore Street, Berrima. whitewallartprojects.com.au

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ARTS TRAIL

A creative highlight, the Arts Trail is held in numerous venues with 70 artists and 50 studios involved. Get your hands on some original works and see our artists and makers in their studio environments. November 6 & 7 and November 12 & 13. For program and maps. artsfile.com.au 

Holiday Rentals & Property Sales ~ 4pm Check Out Sundays



ALPINE LODGE

🛏 5 🚿 4 👤 10

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- Bush views



AYLMERTON HOUSE

🛏 7 🚿 4 👤 14

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Holiday Rentals & Property Sales ~ 4pm Check Out Sundays



MIRRIYINDI

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- 3 luxury cottages
- 2 acre garden setting
- Short drive to Berrima



NARRAN

🛏️ 2 🚿 1 👤 4

- Art deco cottage
- Luxuriously furnished and restored
- Swimming pool



NETLEY LODGE

🛏️ 5 🚿 3 👤 11

- Idyllic rural setting on 25 acres
- Bush and farmland views
- Generous living areas



NORMANDIE PARK

🛏️ 6 🚿 4 👤 15

- Modernist pavilion style home
- 200 acre cattle farm setting
- Short drive to Exeter & Sutton Forest



REDWOOD COTTAGE

🛏️ 2 🚿 1 👤 4

- Convenient Burradoo setting
- Original cottage with period features
- Surrounded by gardens & lawn



THE CASA

🛏️ 6 🚿 4 👤 20

- Stunning Kangaroo Valley setting
- Luxurious, Mediterranean inspired interiors
- Beautiful views of the escarpment



THE TOR

🛏️ 3 🚿 1 👤 6

- Charming country cottage
- Set amongst manicured gardens
- A short drive to Burrawang



WEMBLEY HOUSE

🛏️ 4 🚿 3 👤 11

- Swimming pool with glass sided spa
- Luxurious, stunning home
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WITHYCOMBE

🛏️ 6 🚿 3 👤 12

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Historic Highlands

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JUBILEE ROCK (NUNGUNGNUNGULLA) ABORIGINAL PLACE

Nungungnungulla is a sacred place and cultural landmark to the local Gundungurra people. Located outside Bundanoon, in 2014 it was declared the 100th sacred Aboriginal site by the NSW government's Office of Environment and Heritage. Aunty Val Mulchay, Gundungurra senior elder, says the site has Aboriginal engravings, paintings and stencil and grinding grooves "that are so smooth you could mix a cake in them". These features record some of the ways the Gundungurra and the coast Tharwal, Dhurga, Waddi Waddi and Yuin people used the area when travelling the traditional pathways from the south coast to the Wingecarribee. Wingecarribee is a Gundungurra word that has two meanings, "a flock of birds" and "a beautiful woman", says Aunty Val. Today, local elders teach local school children details of traditional knowledge, such as how parts of the rock formation were utilised to process food and how fire markers were lit to assist groups travelling through at night. "The site is on private land but can be visited with a permit which is obtained from National Parks and Wildlife," says Aunty Val. nationalparksnsw.org.au

BERRIMA GENERAL CEMETERY, BERRIMA

This is the final resting place for many German internees housed at Berrima Gaol during World War I. Also, of naturalist Dr Charles James Meller, a veteran of the famous Dr David Livingstone's expeditions on the Zambesi in Africa from 1860 to 1863. In 1868, Meller returned to Australia and settled in Berrima but, afflicted with recurrent fevers from his African adventures, he died aged 33. The inscription on his grave gives no hint of an extraordinary career. **583 Berrima Road, Berrima.**

GRAVE TIDINGS

Do you have Highlands' heritage? Wingecarribee's Gundungurra and D'harawal people have lived here for 60,000 years, with the first Europeans arriving in the Southern Highlands in the 1830s from Sydney as explorers and expansionists. Bong Bong, near Moss Vale, was the first European settlement, then Berrima, where inns provided accommodation to travellers passing through to Goulburn and Melbourne on horseback and coach carriage. If you are interested in finding out more about our First Nations peoples' history and culture, Melissa Wiya, Wingecarribee Shire Council's Aboriginal Community Development Officer is a great starting point. If you are researching the history and family tree of your European descendants, call into the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society in Market Place, Berrima. Archivists have documented every person buried in the Highlands from the 1830s. A register is available for public viewing. wsc.org.au/berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

ROBERTSON CEMETERY, ROBERTSON

During World War I, more than 200 young men from the Southern Highlands lost their lives fighting on the Western Front. One was Bertie Vandenberg, from a large Robertson farming family, who was killed at Pozieres in France. His body was never found but his parents, Henry and Mary Ann, erected a memorial in Robertson Cemetery, a beautiful site that overlooks the hills of Bertie's home. **151 Missingham Parade, Robertson.**



HARPER'S MANSION, BERRIMA

Harper's Mansion, a heritage listed house that overlooks Berrima, is one of Australia's finest examples of colonial Georgian architecture of its size. It was built by Australian-born James Harper and his freed convict wife Mary in 1834. James was also the first publican of Berrima at the Surveyor General Inn, fully operational today and the longest continually licensed pub in Australia. The house was restored over seven years during the 1970s and 80s by the National Trust and is furnished in colonial style. Take a tour about the house before taking in the acres of English gardens, heritage roses and one of the largest hedge mazes in the Southern Hemisphere. Saturday and Sunday, 11am to 3pm. **9 Wilkinson Street, Berrima.** harpersmansion.com.au

JOADJA DISTILLERY, JOADJA

Uisge Beatha translates as water of life from Gaelic and refers to that most ancient of Highlands spirits, scotch whisky. If history with whisky is your thing, take yourself to the end of the road at Old Joadja Town and visit Joadja Distillery. Learn about the 1200 Scottish miners who lived there and mined kerosene shale from the surrounding hills between 1878 and 1911 and imbibe some true Highlands spirit from the award-winning whisky made by locals Valero and Elissa Jimenez. Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm. **Western end of Joadja Road, Joadja.** joadjadistillery.com.au

MAPPED OUT

Go online to visitsouthernhighlands.com.au and download its very detailed and extensive Heritage Trail for the history of every village and town in the Southern Highlands plus walking trails, site details and locations. This comprehensive resource was put together with the help of the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society and includes significant buildings, monuments, conservation areas and memorials. Get in touch with the museum's researchers and archivists, who have an extensive archive and research collection, including more than 10,000 photographs. The team, which includes eminent historian Linda Emery, can carry out family and house history research for a nominal fee. berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

CHRIST CHURCH, MOSS VALE

The Highlands has more than 30 graveyards and cemeteries. Some are private, but most are open to the public. Christ Church, Moss Vale was built near the site of Bong Bong in 1845 by English architect John Verge. The land was given by Charles Throsby, who inherited it

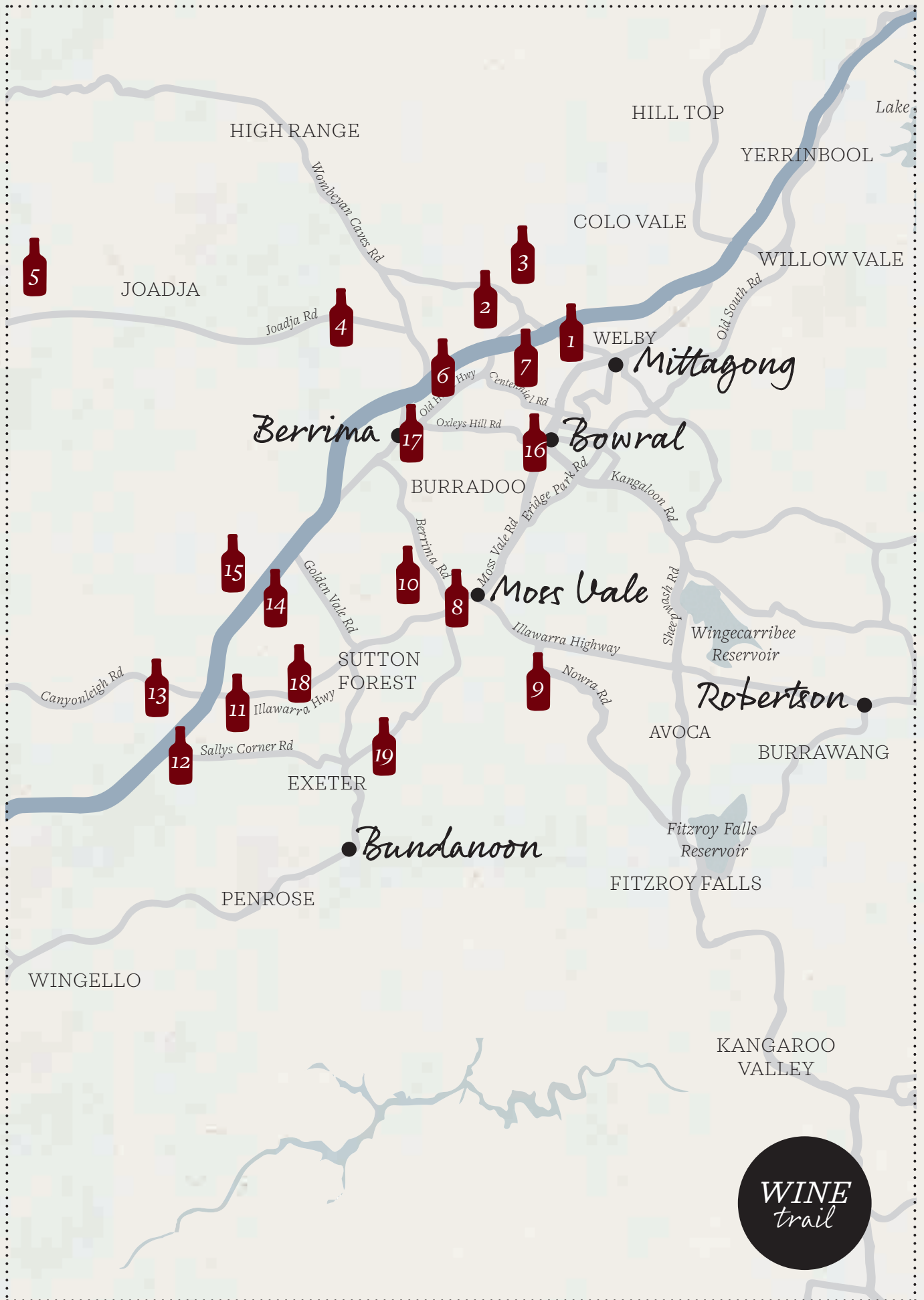
from his uncle, explorer and naval surgeon, Dr Charles Throsby. Throsby Jnr built Georgian manor house Throsby Park, which looks over Moss Vale to this day. Christ Church is the final resting place of Charles, his wife Betsey, who was one of only five survivors of the Boyd cannibal massacre of 1809 in New Zealand's Whangaroa Harbour, and many of their 17 children. Etienne de Mestre, who trained two-time Melbourne Cup winner Archer, is buried here, as is Emmanuel 'Bernie' Benardos, grandfather of Ioannis Benardos, owner of the ever popular Bernie's Diner in Moss Vale. Bernie migrated to Australia in 1913 from Greece, moved to Moss Vale in 1925, and opened his milk bar on the site of the current Bernie's. When Bernie died in 1954, 500 people attended his funeral. Check out photos of him on the walls of Bernie's Diner and enjoy a Pastrami and Reuben house special sandwich at 402-404 Argyle Street, Moss Vale, named in his honour. **Christ Church, cnr Church Road and Argyle Road, Moss Vale.** www.christchurchmossvale.com.au



Berrima General Cemetery, Berrima. Image Elise Hassey

Liquid Views

Take a tour around our unique cool climate region and discover cellar doors, vineyards, breweries and distilleries.





Fine vines & excellent wines

You've got the map. Here's the lowdown.

1. EDEN BREWERY AND DISTILLERY, MITTAGONG

Necessity is the mother of invention. Just ask Jacob Newman, who at age 18 was too young to buy beer in his home state of Texas, so created his own brew. Now Jacob and wife Deb own and run Eden Brewery, Mittagong, where they brew 11 beers; run a burger van, Boozy Burgers (made by chef Nathan West, each ingredient of every burger contains Eden beer in some form) and recently took delivery of a 200 litre still to start Renegade Spirits, which will produce four gins, a vodka, a bourbon and a lime limoncello, all made with local ingredients and Australian botanicals. Eden Brewery also supplies more than 70 local venues from the Mittagong RSL and the Moss Vale Services club to fine dining venues Birch, Moss Vale and Eschalot, Berrima. Deb and Jacob also have an ongoing relationship with Tracy and Vicki Nickl across the road at Gumnut Patisserie, where there is a steady exchange of ingredients, such as gingerbread from Gumnut for Eden's Gingerbread Ale and beer from Eden for Gumnut's ever popular Eden Pie. The brewery also offloads its spent mash grains to local farmers, who feed it to their livestock (lucky cows). Try Eden's Birch Wit or the bestselling Phoenix D Kottbuser with a Boozy Burger's Double Double Cheeseburger on the side. Wednesday to Sunday, 12 noon to 8pm. 1/19 Cavendish St, Mittagong. edenbrewery.beer

2. ARTEMIS WINERY, MITTAGONG

Named after the Greek goddess of hunting and the earth, Artemis Winery is run by winemaking brothers, Anton and Mark Balog and Mark's wife, Sanne. Artemis Pinot Noir 2015 is stocked nationally by Dan Murphy's, allowing the Balogs artistic licence for other varieties, their Close Vine Pinot Noir, Sparkling Riesling and Pinot Grigio. Order a bottle of Artemis 2019 Saignée Rose from the cellar door, pair it with a local cheese or charcuterie tasting board or a wood-fired pizza and pull up a pew under the umbrellas on the lawn to enjoy some live music. Or sign up for a tasting; be sure to include Artemis Goddess gins and rums on your wishlist. Seven days, 11am to 4pm. 46 Sir Charles Moses Lane, off Old Hume Highway, Mittagong. artemiswines.com.au

3. TERTINI WINES, MITTAGONG

This James Halliday five-star rated cellar door, home of acclaimed winemaker Jonathan Holgate, is a relaxed, understated affair with an emphasis on a premium tasting experience. For tastings, sample a range of Tertini's award-winning wines, including its Pinot Noir, Chardonnays and Rieslings, and new additions, rare Italian red varieties, Lagrein and Refosco, which are grown on Tertini's two Southern Highlands vineyards. Seven days, 10am to 5pm. Bookings essential. Kells Creek Road, Mittagong. tertiniwines.com.au

4. JOADJA ESTATE WINERY, BERRIMA

Siobhan Maloy and Matt Toomey left their city lives seven years ago to become winemakers on Joadja Estate, the Highlands' oldest vineyard, with the help of Siobhan's parents, Maureen and Paul Maloy. The region's first vines were planted here more than 30 years ago and they put the Highlands on the map of Australian cool climate wine regions. Matt and Siobhan harvested their first vintages in 2017 and 2018 and Joadja Estate's Summer Rosé, made from predominantly cabernet grapes, is a crowd pleaser. Its 2019 Pinot Grigio is a classic cool climate variety, perfect with seafood. Joadja Estate holds Music in the Vines sessions every long weekend and has food on site, including woodfired pizza and Vietnamese street food, provided by local favourite, Ms Pho Canteen. Monday, Thursday and Friday, 12pm to 5pm; weekends 10am to 5pm. 110 Joadja Road, Berrima. joadjainery.com.au

5. JOADJA DISTILLERY, JOADJA

Take a trip out to what surely must be one of Australia's most fascinating distilleries (book a tour around the historic site before you go)



and get your stock of liquid gold sorted. Joadja's Single Malt Whisky Cask Strength, described by Tasting Australia Spirit Awards 2020 as 'restrained perfection' is one of distillers Valero and Elisa Jimenez's first paddock to bottle offerings, made using their own water, barley and yeast. Or if you're looking for a something with a fruitier nose, grab a bottle of Joadja Pedro Ximénez. This is a fortified wine with a 15 per cent alcohol kick, drawn from the sherry barrels the Jimenezes import from Jerez, northern Spain, to mature Joadja's single malt whisky. If gin is your poison, Joadja Dry Gin, with botanical notes of juniper, lemon myrtle, cardamom, angelica root, coriander and aniseed, comes highly recommended. Saturday and Sunday 10am to 5pm or by appointment. End of Joadja Road, Joadja. joadjadistillery.com.au

6. BENDOOLEY ESTATE, BERRIMA

Books have been at the heart of this bibliophile mecca for 100 years. More recently, weddings, and a focus on viticulture and paddock to plate have added to the experience. Bendooley's new cellar door is a bigger stage for local winemakers. Book in for a wine tasting and enjoy a relaxed lunch in the sun-kissed courtyard. Open seven days. 3020 Old Hume Highway, Berrima. bendooleyestate.com.au

7. CENTENNIAL VINEYARDS, BOWRAL

Winemaker Tony Cosgriff has created a cellar of breadth and pizzazz at this renowned pinot noir and chardonnay vineyard including Centennial's celebrated 2017 Reserve Shiraz Viognier and Brut Traditionelle. Book in for a wine tasting on The Terrace or get more grass roots and take a guided tour through the vines. Want more? Take the Centennial Pinot Flight and taste your way through eight different styles of Centennial's Pinot, learn about wine appreciation, wine making and food and wine pairing. If you have worked up an appetite, book in for lunch by chef Robin Murray at Centennial Vineyards Restaurant. And if you love live music, book to see Rod Stewart strut his stuff at Centennial's Day on the Green, March 27, 2022. Open seven days. 252 Centennial Road, Bowral. centennial.net.au centennialvineyardsrestaurant.com.au



8. SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BREWING AND TAPHOUSE, MOSS VALE

This watering hole was started by locals Ben and Genevieve Twomey and head brewer Cameron James, and was born from a shared love of rugby, decades of home brew experiments and a timely move away from corporate stress. With their brewery located in Sutton Forest, the friends opened their charming beer meets food tasting experience in 2018. Their signature beers include, Naked Harvest (a refreshing Australian blonde) and Tighthead (a strong and reliable IPA) as well as the award-winning Goodfather Porter. The Taphouse's menu includes a range of French inspired brasserie meals and the casually elegant interior makes this a great setting for lunch with friends. Wednesday and Thursday, 5pm to 9pm; Friday and Saturday, 12pm to late; Sunday, 12pm to 9pm. 490-494 Argyle Street, Moss Vale. southernhighlandsbrewing.com.au

9. MOUNT ASHBY ESTATE, MOSS VALE

The vineyard of Chris and Sally Beresford sits by the French inspired La Palette Café, and Sally's Antiques and French Farmhouse showroom. Enjoy a French inspired lunch (confit duck à l'orange, green beans, fennel orange salad) with a bottle of 2019 Mount Ashby Pink Diamond Rosé in the paved courtyard and watch the resident geese strut their stuff. Thursday & Friday, 11am to 5pm; Saturday & Sunday, 8.30am to 5pm. Lunch service each day, 11.30pm to 3pm. 128 Nowra Road, Moss Vale. mountashby.com.au

10. SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WINERY, SUTTON FOREST

Winemaking is in Eddy Rossi's northern Italian blood. The vintner of 12 hectares of grapes, Eddy makes Southern Highlands Winery's Oldbury Reserve and SHW wines on site. Book a table at the restaurant and savour lunch by chef Marco Salvestrin. Our favourite drop? The 2016 Oldbury Reserve Pinot. Cellar door seven days 10.30am to 4.30pm; Lunch Thursday to Sunday, 12pm to 3pm. Dinner Friday & Saturday, 6pm to 9pm. Cnr Oldbury Road and Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest. southernhighlandswinery.com.au



11. ST MAUR WINES, EXETER

Nerio and Mara Panizzutti planted the first vines on their then dairy farm in 1998. Today, their son, St Maur winemaker Marco, credits some of the vineyard's success to the cows and their fertilisation of the soil. Those vines are now 20 years old and help Marco produce two ranges, the single estate Lot 41 from the mature vines, and the Saint Series. The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot, with its velvety texture and plum and chocolate flavours, is a lovely winter drop. Marco holds a monthly long lunch exclusively for members, for 18 guests around the dining table. All food is sourced within a 50km radius and is prepared by local chefs to complement the wines. There's no membership fee, only a commitment to buy two cases of wine a year. Cellar door seven days, 10am to 4.30pm. 238 Old Argyle Road, Exeter. stmaur.com.au

12. SALLYS CORNER WINES, EXETER

Dawn and Allen Davies planted their vineyard in 1998 and are practical owners and vintners, doing all their viticulturist work by hand. A former solicitor of 53 years, Allen has an eye for detail that helps ensure consistency and excellence in their vintages, which have won a gold medal in the 2018 Canberra & Region Wine Show for its 2016 Chardonnay and a gold medal in the 2018 Australian Highlands Wine Show for its 2016 Merlot. Saturday & Sunday, 10.30am to 4.30pm 257 Sallys Corner Road, Exeter. sallyscornerwines.com.au

13. SUTTON FOREST ESTATE WINES, SUTTON FOREST

Winemakers Nick and Santina Lo Russo have been growing and handpicking grapes to produce award-winning wine varieties since 2002. Their varieties include the celebrated Pinot Noir Three Daughters 2015 Black Label Reserve matured in French and American oak barrels, the Italian style Pinot Grigio 2017, and the limited Sparkling Chardonnay Pinot Noir in an Italian Prosecco style. Port lovers will enjoy Nick's Liqueur Tawny Port. The Lo Russo family open their cellar door most weekends

and welcome wine tastings, which are served with traditional Italian food pairings in their Italian-style courtyard. Cellar door Friday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm. Sutton Forest Estate Wines cellar door and cafe, 21 Black Horse Lane, Sutton Forest. suttonforestwines.com.au

14. ELING FOREST WINERY, SUTTON FOREST

A historic property and homestead on 72 rolling hectares with a winery, cellar door and cafe just off the Hume Highway makes Eling Forest a great place to stop for a spot of lunch, hold your wedding reception or function for up to 180 seated bodes, or stock up on the Highlands' signature pinot noir. Cellar door seven days, 10.30am to 4pm. Cafe seven days 8am to 3pm. 12587 Hume Highway, Sutton Forest. elingforest.com.au

15. CHERRY TREE HILL WINES, SUTTON FOREST

Winemaking runs through the veins of the Lorentz family, whose viticulture heritage spans four generations and goes back to regional Hungary. Patriarch and owner, Gabriel Lorentz, bought the Cherry Tree Hill property in 1980, to farm Murray Grey cattle. In 2000 Gabriel and son David planted Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Chardonnay and Merlot grapes and have 14 hectares under vine. The vineyard also has Pinot Noir and Grüner Veltliner grapes. The 2018 Off Dry Riesling or 2016 Reserve Pinot Noir Hayden, named after Gabriel's grandson, are the perfect accompaniment to a locally sourced tasting board, available on weekends for \$35. If there's sun, enjoy a glass at the outdoor tables overlooking the vines and soak up the lovely surroundings. Cellar door open seven days, 10am to 5pm. 12324 Hume Highway, Sutton Forest. cherrytreehill.com.au

16. TRACTORLESS VINEYARD, BOWRAL

Jeff Aston, maker of Tractorless Vineyards wines and Bowral Brewings, recently moved his Urban Cellar Door and tasting room to The Mill Courtyard in Bowral. Taste the gammit of Jeff's wines, ciders and beers accompanied by smoked meats he has on offer. Lots of other food options are available nearby at The Mill. Friday to Saturday, 11am to 3pm and 5pm to 8pm and Sunday 11am to 3pm. The Mill Courtyard, Shop 10C, 6 Bundaroo Street, Bowral. tractorlessvineyard.com.au

17. PEPPERGREEN ESTATE, BERRIMA

Hank Chiu and Katrina Liao are Sydneysiders who made a treechange to start PepperGreen Estate, a vineyard at Canyonleigh and a tasting room and restaurant in Berrima. Located in the former PepperGreen Antiques building, recent vintages include the unreleased 2019 Tempranillo, which won a gold medal in the London Wine Competition 2021. The restaurant serves French inspired food with sharing platters and boards. A perfect launch position post lunch to explore Berrima. Weekdays (except Tuesdays), 10am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 5pm. 13 Market Place, Berrima. peppergreenestate.com.au

18. VINEYARD², SUTTON FOREST

Organic vineyard Rotherwood Estate Wines and Far Ago Hill Wines, which has used biodynamic practices since 2010, joined forces last year to start Vineyard² and opened a tasting room in Rotherwood's Sutton Forest heritage stable building. Book a tasting by appointment only and choose six wines from an offering of 15. Bookings on 0418 418 441

19. DAWNING DAY FARMS, EXETER

Happy news to see the birth of a new vineyard, Dawning Day. Michael and Katrina Archer bought in Exeter and planted a micro three acre vineyard in 2015 and have already produced a 206 Merlot Noir from the Highlands, have a Skin Contact in the barrels, and have planted less well grapes such as Gamay. The Archers have also made The Bandit Gin handcrafted from their smoke tainted grapes from the 2020 bushfires and a share cheese and pickles plate for \$15 per person. To book dawningday.com.au **NI**



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Facebook @SallyBeresfordAntiques

On your plate

Meet some of the Highlanders fuelling our lives and plating up for visitors.

Top Table

Where to dine out or take visitors? It's a difficult question given how spoilt we are for choice but here are some local restaurants that sit at any top table.

JOSH'S CAFE, BERRIMA

The quiet exemplar of our foodie scene, this Berrima stalwart, and its chef owner Josh Levings is jealously guarded by locals thanks to Josh's Mediterranean inspired talent in the kitchen, the dishes he creates and the quirky, delightful staff who serve them. **9 Old Hume Highway, Berrima 4877 2200**

BIRCH, MOSS VALE

Owners Renee and Glenn Wallace and chef Ben Bamford serve fine dining with meals presented like paintings, fresh seasonal produce and growers menus and local wines. Birch's love of food and attention to detail continues at Birch Store, where the Wallaces display their support of all things local, edible and otherwise. **2/249 Argyle Street and Birch Store, 565 Argyle Street, Moss Vale. birchrestaurant.com.au**

ONESTA CUCINA, BOWRAL

Owner and chef Luke Latimer and front of house wife Gemma have built up a loyal clientele among urbane Highlanders and Onesta is always in top recommendations for eating out. Transport yourself to the Ligurian countryside and go the traditional primi, pasta, secondi route; or try the Parmigiano Reggiano pannacotta with blue swimmer crab insalata, trout roe and Parma ham. **5 Boolwey Street, Bowral. onestacucina.com.au**

TOSHI'S, MITTAGONG

When Jimmy Barnes says he always takes his house guests to eat at Toshi's, it's a godsend because chef Toshi San is not one to blow his own trumpet. Loved in the Highlands for more than 30 years, Toshi's food is produced in his Japanese culture, and diners are treated

like special friends. Sit on the floor in Tosh's authentic dining room and enjoy consummate sashimi, sushi or a wagyu banquet for two. And to drink? Got to be Urakasumi, warm sake.

1/2 60 Bowral Road, Mittagong. toshis.com.au

ECCETERA TRATTORIA & PIZZERIA, BOWRAL

This lively Bowral bolthole is looked after by chef Jonathan Fontecchio, who grew up in Palermo, Sicily; famous for its Italian, Spanish, French and Arab culinary influences and its open air fish market, La Vucciria. Jonathan's food is a love letter to his homeland. Pizza lovers and kids will adore the woodfired pizza calabrese; and the gnocchi al ragu de salsiccia e porcini (gnocchi with slow-cooked ragout of Italian sausages, porcini mushroom, fennel seeds and parmesan) is bellissimo.

2/6 Boolwey Street, Bowral. eccetera.com.au

ETHOS, LINKS HOUSE HOTEL, BOWRAL

Chef Jason Hughes launched Ethos at Links Hotel in 2019 with a fine dining menu driven by sustainable local produce. Complemented by this cosy boutique hotel, Ethos is an intimate, special dining experience with warm service and fabulous, understated food that does what it says on the label, with spirit and quiet character. **17 Links Road, Bowral. linkshouse.com.au**

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WINERY, SUTTON FOREST

Winemaking is in Eddy Rossi's northern Italian blood. His family emigrated to Griffith, NSW from the Tuscany and Veneto regions in the 1950s, and Rossi and chef Marco Salvestrin have bought Italian spirit to Southern Highlands Winery restaurant. Book a table near the floor to ceiling windows with sweeping views and order a bottle of SH Wines Oldbury Reserve Riesling while Marco serves up zuppa di cozze (steamed mussels with chilli and garlic).

Cnr Oldbury Road & Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest. southernhighlandswinery.com.au



salon. Order the blue swimmer crab linguine with garlic, tomato, chilli, white wine, lemon and herbs and a glass of pinot grigio (local of course). Sit outside in the sunny courtyard and watch the passersby. 15-17 Banyette Street, Bowral. harryswinebarbowral.com

Food Heroes

Give it up for our growers

HILLS FAMILY FARM POTATOES, ROBERTSON

When Jack Hill was a boy, dairy farming was widespread in Robertson, Belmore Falls, Avoca, Wildes Meadow and Burrawang. “This was a dairy farming area with farms about 40 to 60 hectares each, and two or three milk trucks collecting daily,” says Jack. “And each of the 60 or 70 local dairy farms had a 10 acre block of spuds as a cash crop, because even back then, dairy farmers were doing it pretty tough.”

Jack’s family is today one of only two commercial growing operations in the area. Says Barbara, the family matriarch: “The day our eldest son, Jon, was born, we bought our first farm and the boys all grew up with potatoes in their blood.”

The Hills farm 48 hectares, producing more than 1000 tonnes of spuds a season on four properties. Sons Jon, Todd and Warwick all work on the farms; their wives and kids, too. The Hills produce gourmet varieties, sebago and kipfler, and standard spuds for making chips.

SUTTON FOREST INN, SUTTON FOREST

Licensee Luke Dryland and chef Simon Stoker have created an alluring menu of affordable, 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. There’s also a kids’ menu that goes beyond just the usual chips. 7390 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest. suttonforestinn.com.au

CENTENNIAL VINEYARDS RESTAURANT, BOWRAL

Scottish chef owner Robin Murray’s style is classical French with Mediterranean influences and his dishes are a fine example of modern Australian a la carte cooked by a deft chef who trained at the Caledonian, Edinburgh and the famed Gleneagles golf and hotel resort. Ask for a table on the sunny verandah overlooking Centennial’s hectares of vines and share a bottle of Centennial’s Pinot Grigio from the cellar door next door while you study the menu. 252 Centennial Road, Bowral. centennialrestaurant.com.au

ESCHALOT, BERRIMA

Matt Roberts and Cassie Wallace had big shoes to fill when they took over Eschalot in Berrima from the many hatted Richard Kemp. But after two years at the helm, this young couple have injected a new vitality and creativity. Menus are influenced by Eschalot’s kitchen gardens and chef Matty brings the real wow factor to his dishes and seasonal sharing plates. Try the cured kingfish with grape, zucchini pickle, cucumber water, oyster cream followed by the 400g reserve ribeye with bloody Mary salsa, compressed celery and peas. Share with friends. 24 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima. eschalot.com.au

MOONACRES KITCHEN, ROBERTSON

It makes sense that a restaurant started by a certified organic farmer (in this case Phil Lavers of Moonacres Farm, Fitzroy Falls) should use the freshest of the fresh from that very farm. And chef Stephen Santucci also supports at least 10 others. He also makes the best cauliflower and bacon pie, with falling apart chunks of bacon, the lightest parmesan pastry and a sensational herb, spinach, fennel and red cabbage salad. 79-81 Hoddle Street, Robertson. moonacres.com.au

HARRY’S ON GREEN LANE, BOWRAL

Inspired by Sir Harry Veitch, the Victorian horticulturalist and founder of the Chelsea Flower Show who motivated a generation of plant hunters, Harry’s on Green Lane is a charming wine bar and dining



Chef Jonathan Fontecchio, Ecoetera Trattoria & Pizzeria, Bowral image Etise Hassey



Todd, Barbara, Jack and Warwick Hill, Hills Family Farm Potatoes, Robertson. Image Elise Hassey

Potatoes were in their heyday in 1968, when local farmers Bert Mauger and Snow Donovan built the Old Potato Shed at Robertson. In 1972, Jim Mauger took over and for nearly 30 years packed and wholesaled more than 200 tonnes a week.

Barbara Hill says the family farming life has been a labour of love. “When I hear other girls say, ‘Oh, I’m terrified when my husband retires, because he’ll drive me mad’. I always think, ‘well, we’ve worked together side by side for more than 50 years, and to me it’s been paradise’.”

The Hills’ potatoes can be had at Bowral, Berrima, Mittagong and Robertson markets (more market information page 79).

THE HONEY THIEF, BOWRAL

Local apiculturists Deborah and Greg McLaughlin of The Honey Thief and their two children moved from Newtown to Bowral in 2011 after watching the UK TV series *River Cottage* with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. Always keen to keep bees, they started with three hives in their orchard, joined the Southern Highlands Apiarists Association and watched YouTube.

Says Deborah: “I remember Greg trying our honey for the first time, and saying, ‘It’s really good!’, and me thinking, ‘honey is honey, it all tastes the same’. If you’ve been buying your honey from supermarkets all your life, it does, because they want consistency, amber colour, mild flavoured. I dipped my finger straight into our honeycomb and it was a serious ‘Wow!’ moment.”

In 2015, after winning first prize at the Moss Vale Show, the couple entered their honey into the Sydney Royal national honey competition. They won first prize for their dark honey. Today, Deborah and Greg keep 40 hives, which at their peak in summer can have more

than 50,000 bees. In June, they opened an eponymous shop in Bowral, The Honey Thief, which sells their products, including a honey skincare range, honey cough serum and, of course, wild honey, including a delicious honey and cinnamon variety.

“Bees are fascinating, intelligent creatures,” says Deborah. “They may appear domesticated, but they are independent and tenacious beings and do what they do with precision. If the moisture content of honey is too high, it will eventually spoil and start to ferment. Bees instinctively know exactly the right proportions, so the honey will never spoil. How wild is that?” The Honey Thief, The Acre, 391-397 Bong Bong Street, Bowral

PECORA DAIRY CHEESE SHOP & PROVIDORE, ROBERTSON

A party table without a cheese platter is no table at all. Next time you’re thinking cheese,

think Highlands local and seek out Pecora Cheese Shop and Providore in Robertson. The shop, opened in 2019 by farmers and cheese-makers Cressida and Michael Cains of nearby Pecora Dairy, is opposite the Southern Highlands Artisan Collective (SHAC) just up from the Robertson pub on Hoddle Street. “Robertson has a real zing to it at the moment,” say Cressida and Michael, who started breeding their East Friesian ewes to milk and make cheese more than a decade ago. “Moonacres Kitchen is doing amazing things, as is the SHAC, so we just thought the time was right for us and to hopefully give the community an offering of local cheeses.”

Pecora Cheese Shop and Providore sells its own cheese range, which includes Jamberoo Mountain Blue, Curly Red, Bloomy, Fresh Curd and yoghurt as well as Yarrawa, Australia’s first non-cooked raw milk cheese. There are also other cheeses from NSW producers including The Pines, Kiama, Marrook Farm, Willowbrae Chevre goats milk cheeses, Burraduc Buffalo cheeses and produce from other producers and farmers the Cains know. The couple’s award-winning cheeses are also served in some of Australia’s most acclaimed restaurants, Quay, Aria, Bennelong and Automata in Sydney as well as to hundreds of politicians and visiting dignitaries to Parliament House, Canberra by executive chef David Learmonth. Cressida, winner of the 2020 NSW-ACT Agri Futures Rural Women’s Award, recently started Dairy Cocoon, an online platform and place for smaller dairy farms to connect, get support and get educated.

Pecora Dairy Cheese Shop & Providore.
91 Hoddle Street, Robertson.
pecoradairy.com.au dairycocoon.com



Cressida Cains, Pecora Dairy Cheese Shop & Providore, Robertson. Image Elise Hassey

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General store cafes

The lifeblood of our smaller communities; they are places where locals connect, and our visitors get a real feel for life here.

EXETER GENERAL STORE

Lauren and Craig Johnston bought the Exeter General Store in 2007 on their honeymoon after marrying at Lauren's parents' property nearby. Says Lauren: "Coffee is our biggest seller, and we serve breakfast and lunch seven days a week, from traditional favourites like pasta, pies and burgers, to recent additions like bowl foods and modern salads. In winter, customers love our whisky porridge with chai poached pears. Our bowl food is popular, too; also our fresh daily scones with beautiful mixed berry jam." 7.30am to 3pm, seven days, 1 Exeter Road, Exeter. mryum.com.au

BURRAWANG GENERAL STORE

Erica Leeming moved home to Australia six years ago from Boston, and straight into her role as general store owner-operator. Purpose built in 1867 for the then privately owned village, the picturesque Burrawang store sells newspapers, eggs, milk, homemade products, coffee and has an all day menu. Says Erica: "We basically make everything on site except the bread we sell. We also have a great upstairs area where we can do afternoon teas, private dinners and groups, as well as garden lunches." The store also runs a Knit and Natter group and provides lunches for the public school across the road. 8am to 2pm, seven days. 11 Hoddle Street, Exeter. bgsc.com.au

HIGHLANDS MERCHANT, MOSS VALE

Lisa Wisken decided to open Highlands Merchant in 2016 after working in hospitality in Bowral. Immediately, she knew her future was in Moss Vale. Today, like her other store and cafe counterparts, Lisa is a big supporter of local producers. "Using small and local may cost a little more but I wouldn't have it any other way. We are supporting local families that work bloody hard and I love that these guys have become our mates along the way." Open 6.30am to 2.30pm, seven days. 405 Argyle Street, Moss Vale.

BERRIMA GENERAL STORE & CAFE

Diego Arata is so much part of Berrima's scene it's hard to believe he arrived only five years ago. Diego lists his roles as 'chef, trouble-solver, troublemaker' and is renowned for using his Italian heritage to wow the locals. Diego says: "Shakshuka (baked eggs with capsicum, tomato, cumin, coriander and sauce, finishing with goat's cheese, dukkha and smoked paprika) is our menu best seller. Our lasagne, porchetta and tiramisu are also popular." Diego

is big on buying and using local. "Berrima has a great energy and if I've cooked a 25kg porchetta from Frank and Anne Marie at Taluca Park Free Range overnight, it's your lucky day. We serve it with homemade focaccia and you don't want to miss it," says Diego. 7.30am to 4pm, seven days.

1/13 Old Hume Highway, Berrima.

PENROSE VILLAGE GENERAL STORE

Penrose's store is buzzing thanks to the efforts of new owners Simon and Ellie Bathgate. Fresh from a new lick of paint, the store is now serving all day lunch and brekkie, stocks oodles of in house baked goodies as well as jams and pickles (we love Michael and Katrina's from Dawning Day vineyard) as well as hosting local community events and music nights. Electric car charging station outside store available free of charge. 7.30am to 3.30pm, seven days. 901 Penrose Road, Penrose.

DELICIOUS, BUNDANOON

Local Bundy boy Byron Norton Figtree is the chef and owner of DeliLicious along with wife Liezel. Always ready with a strong coffee, delicious homemade pies and soup or maybe an affogato (ice cream with a shot of coffee with biscotti.) DeliLicious is the locals' haunt. With homemade takeaway meals always on offer for those busy 'what to cook nights', and shelves full of delectable condiments, sauces, biscuits and gifts, DeliLicious is a treasured Bundy fixture. Open seven days 5.30am to 3pm, 5 Railway Avenue, Bundanoon.

WINGELLO VILLAGE STORE

David and Lana Bruggeman and their eight children have lived in Wingello since 2000. Their general store and cafe has also been a licensed post office for more than 100 years. Says David: "We also provide fuel and gas



Lisa Wisken, Highlands Merchant. Image: Elise Hassey

refills, banking, local produce, and business college training for many of the young people in the village. We are a local employer, a local news source via our newsletter and noticeboard, a free lending library and local centre of information." Famed for its enormous mixed lolly bar, the general store is big on local produce in its all day breakfasts and dinner. Try the Wingello Burger with The Lot or the Wingello Grande Breakfast; local sausages, two free range eggs, baked beans, hash browns, fried mushrooms and onion, local bacon, toast and fried tomatoes. 6.30am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Weekends 8am to 3pm. 67 Railway Parade, Wingello. bruggies.com.au



Exeter General Store, Exeter

Shop, *shop*

Jane and Bob Crowley, and Athol Salter, are Dirty Janes, Bowral seen here with Ripley, Jazzy and Gruber.





Suzie Anderson Home, Moss Vale. Image Elise Hassey

Our retail landscape is a rich bag of independent design, vintage, homewares, clothing and lifestyle boutiques. Here's just a few to help with your signature Highlands style.

BERRIMA

Berrima Village Pottery

Master potter Paul Bruce works in his studio while partner Louise adds paint detail and runs the shop (she also fronts local band, Ella's Holiday). There are hand-thrown mugs, bowls and platters as well as charming bird feeders and homewares, not to mention beautiful one-off dinner sets made to order to set your entertaining apart. Seven days, 10am to 4.30pm. 17 Old Hume Highway, Berrima. berrimavillagepottery.com

Australian Alpaca Barn

You'll see these curious creatures around the Highlands but did you know alpacas are reportedly five times harder than sheep to shear? Get yourself some of that attitude by investing in a pair of alpaca socks, or a wrap, a jumper or pair of gloves from the Australian Alpaca Barn, which also sells alpaca knitting wool. Seven days, 10am to 4pm. The Market Place, Old Hume Highway Berrima. australionalpaca.com

Mrs Oldbucks Pantry and Tearoom

In 1819, tea was included in the rations of the convicts who helped build Berrima, one of Australia's most intact colonial Georgian villages. Good thing, too, because whether you go for the blends, prefer the exotic Darjeeling or Lapsang Souchong or simply like builders' tea (milk with two sugars, please) a good cuppa is one of life's comforts. Mrs Oldbucks Pantry stocks 180 varieties of the leafy beverage, so take your tastebuds on a trip from West Bengal

to South Africa and China. Seven days, 9am to 4pm. 4/15-17 Old Hume Highway, Berrima. mrsoldbucks pantry.com.au

Sticky Beaks Vintage Emporium

Vintage and retro homewares, fashion, china, memorabilia and one-off pieces abound in this seven-room emporium opposite Berrima Market Place Park. In a treasure trove of antiquated home and office favourites, popular wares include vintage telephones, china wash basins and still life oil paintings; or how about an enamel kettle with matching jug to stir up happy memories? Friday to Monday, 10am to 5pm.

18 Jellore Street, Berrima.

@sticky_beaks_vintage_emporium

SUTTON FOREST, EXETER, BUNDANOON, PENROSE, WINGELLO AND TALLONG

The Good Yarn, Bundanoon

For 46 years, volunteers at The Good Yarn, Bundanoon, have given local makers an outlet for their wares, selling everything from children's smocked pinafores to woolly jumpers. This gem also stocks homemade jams and relishes, local eggs and honey. Most of the takings go back into community charities such as Bikes for Humanity, run by volunteer Hans Radowitz and his team at the Moss Vale Reviva Centre. Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm, Saturday 9am to 3.30pm, Sunday 9.30am to 2pm.

3 Railway Avenue, Bundanoon

Quintessential Exeter

Owner Rachael Norman brings her fashion vitality to life in her pretty 150-year-old cottage via a wide range of labels, sourced from her

overseas travels, including Miss June, Ruby Yaya, Marco Polo and 365 Days as well as jewellery, bags, puffer jackets, jumpers and vests. Thursday to Sunday, 10am to 4.30pm.

2 Exeter Road, Exeter. @quintessential_exeter1

The Everything Store, Sutton Forest

An apt name for this 1830s building, which has operated as a general store of some description all its life. Michelle Hall started working part-time in the store in 2004 and when the opportunity to take over the lease came up, she grabbed it. This place is full of collectibles and antiques and wares, such as vintage wedding gowns and is now a stockist for Akubra hats. Thursday to Monday, 10.30am to 5pm. 7404 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest.

BOWRAL

Bespoke Letterpress

Keep a diary and one day, someone might publish your scribbles; think Samuel Pepys, Mark Twain, Helen Garner. Bespoke Letterpress's diaries and its other stationery including gift cards, notebooks and double-sided wrapping paper, are elegant affairs with gold foil printing, gilt edges, and satin ribbon markers. Founded by local Alischa Herrmann, Bespoke Letterpress is the place for people who love words, paper and writing. Seven days, 9am to 5pm.

Shop 2B, 310-213 Bong Bong Street, Bowral.

bespokepress.com.au

Dirty Janes

Athol Salter, daughter Jane Crowley and son-in-law Bob are Dirty Janes Bowral and Dirty Janes Canberra, where Athol started out in antiques in the 1970s. Today, Dirty Janes Bowral is a vintage and antique-lovers paradise with more than 75 dealers and stallholders and a warehouse full of everything from heritage kitchen essentials

to vintage baskets, linen, cushions, books, sterling silver, French antique furniture, vintage clothing, 1950s paintings and luggage, fresh flowers, original artwork. Seven days, 10am to 5pm. 13-15 Banyette Street, Bowral. dirtyjan.es

Bare Body Beauty

Launched by local Donna Jennings in her Joadja kitchen, the Bare Body Beauty organic range is handmade in Bowral. BB & Co recycles all its packaging and customers are given a discount when they bring in refillable tubs. Our favourites? The rose hand cream smells good enough to eat. Also, visit Bare Bites Bowls & Brew, Donna's vegan eatery at The Mill, Shop 1 & 9/210-224 Bong Bong Street and 356 Bong Bong Street, Bowral. barebodybeauty.com

Sandy Short Style

Sandy Short Style and talented local designer Michelle Donohoe have come up with a clever solution to those 'what to wear?' moments. Go in store for their bespoke service and experience a beautiful range of Italian silks with more than 20 designs in blouses, pants, dresses, and coats in all sizes to try. Then it's as easy as a) choose your fabric b) choose your garment style and c) place your order. Sustainable Fashion. Nothing better. Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm and Sunday 10am to 3pm. Shop 1, 389 Bong Bong Street, Bowral. sandyshortstyle.com.au

Nina Leon's Shoes

It's no easy feat keeping the well-heeled Highlands finely shod but Paul Hiscocks and Kirstie Findlay have been managing it for years. If you like your loafers, boots or sandals overwhelmingly European, hotfoot it into one of their two stores. 292 Bong Bong Street, Bowral and Shop 1/366 Argyle Street, Moss Vale. @nina_leons_shoes

The Bookshop Bowral

Remember the days bookshop owners called you by name, recommended new authors and were a font of literary knowledge? Meet Marie and Tony Fitzpatrick, owners of independent The Bookshop Bowral. These bibliophiles are also partly responsible for the much loved Centennial Supper Club events at Centennial Vineyards Restaurant, which bring best-selling authors to Highlands bookworms. Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm; Saturday 9am to 4.30pm. 309 Bong Bong Street, Bowral. thebookshopbowral.com.au

MITTAGONG

Zynska

Creative tour de force Fiona Budzynski is a local designer inspired by the natural world. Her unique and beautiful fabrics, linens and wallpaper collections, formerly made under 4LeafClover and now branded as Zynska, celebrate our botanical beauty and Highlands flora and fauna and include banksia, kookaburras, wattle and the elusive lyrebird. Suite Recovery, 96A Main Street, Mittagong. zynska.com.au



Made By Others, Moss Vale



Rachael Norman, Quinnescentia Exeter, Image: Elise Hassey

Ms Peacock

Classically trained local chocolatier Lisa Morley, aka Ms Peacock, sources all her chocolate from some of the oldest makers in the world in France and does everything by hand. "I don't have machines because I don't want to lose touch with the chocolate, and for it to become a process. It would be like an artist putting down her paint brush to create digital prints." Unit 2, 6-10 Owen Street, Mittagong. mspeacock.com.au

Mittagong Antiques Centre

A vast emporium selling vintage, collectibles and antiques with multiple vendors under the one roof. Owners Darren and Lori Lewis act as caretakers for the wares of 45 dealers who showcase here. Browse for hours through the cabinets of collectibles, estate jewellery and bric a brac, with everything from vintage posters to 1960s fashion. Visit on the hour, when the assortment of longcase clocks in Shop 31 chimes with each clock tolling to its own slightly different schedule. Seven days, 10am to 5pm. 85-87 Main Street, Mittagong. mittagongantiquescentre.com.au

Southern Highlands Welcome Centre

Looking for a piece of the Highlands to give as a gift or to take away? A memento of our food and wine bowl, perhaps? Quick march then to Southern Highlands Welcome Centre, Mittagong, where you'll find an impressive selection of locally made goods to eat, drink and wear. Order a Highlands hamper and have it home delivered. Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 4pm. 62-70 Main Street/Old Hume Highway, Mittagong. visitsouthernhighlands.com.au

ROBERTSON

The Cool Room, Robertson Cheese Factory

Find a cornucopia of new and pre-loved goodies from clothing, books, jewellery and toys to homewares including Tamarind Lane Ceramics and the wonderful Zoco Home with its great range of clothing, accessories and bags. Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday, 9.30am to 4pm. **107 Illawarra Highway.** robertsoncheesefactory.com.au

MOSS VALE

Mossy Store

Mossy Store stocks an array of furnishings, ceramics, and botanical bath wares. Genevieve Furzer and partner and furniture maker Simon Kenny are big on supporting local and Australian makers who create pieces that are useful and enduring. As Genevieve puts it: “We sell heirlooms, not landfill.” Seven days, 10am to 4pm. **394 Argyle Street, Moss Vale.**

@mossystore_mv

Whytes Clothing

A true family classic that has served our community for 126 years, Whytes stocks leading women’s and mens label’s such as RM Williams, Gant and Tommy Hilfiger and also sells local school uniforms, and offers a tailoring and alterations service on site, hire wear, dry cleaning, and shoe and boot repair. A long loved local. Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm; Saturday, 9.30am to 12pm. **426 Argyle Street, Moss Vale.** whytesclothing.com.au

Made By Others

Anna Byng and Ursula Armstrong were the original purveyors of design in Moss Vale’s now burgeoning main street. The first to bring Finnish super brand Marimekko and Australia’s Dinosaur Designs to the Highlands, they recently added iconic Melbourne label Elk Clothing to their impressive inventory. A must visit for those with an eye on design. Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm; Saturday, 10am to 4pm; Sunday 10am to 3pm. **2/366 Argyle Street, Moss Vale;** madebyothers.com

Hunter and Gatherer Collections

Ben Gowing and Daniel Percival stock a kaleidoscope of wares for the home, garden and body from around the world, making this the perfect hunting ground for that special piece or gift. They also support a posse of local Highlands makers, including a Bundanoon jeweller who makes exquisite creations with freshwater pearls and semi-precious stones. Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm. **542 Argyle Street, Moss Vale.** hunterandgatherercollections.com

Nest & Burrow

Looking for a way to reconnect with family and friends? Unique gift store Nest & Burrow stocks an extensive selection of educational toys and board games plus cookware and tableware, stationery, jewellery and toiletries for everybody and every occasion. Monday to Saturday, 9.30am to 4.30pm. **420 Argyle Street, Moss Vale.** nestandburrow.com.au


Bowerbird on Argyle

Karen Edwards’ dream of creating a haven for local creatives came true in Bowerbird on Argyle. The shop’s striking interior was designed by local Catherine Simms and contains 10 mini shops, each offering an eclectic mix of preloved vintage and new furniture, furnishings, clothing, art and design and home decor. And if interiors aren’t your forte? No sweat. Karen and Bowerbird offer an interior styling service. Seven days, 9.30am to 5pm. **416 Argyle Street, Moss Vale.** bowerbirdonargyle.com.au

Suzie Anderson Home

This store transports you from Moss Vale’s main street into a mouthwatering home of elegant dining rooms, bedrooms and lifestyles. With furniture, lighting, homewares, gifts, bath wares, clothing and tableware, owners Suzie Anderson and Dave Condon, who also have a store in Bowral, have created the complete shopping experience. Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm; Sunday, 10am to 3pm. **409 Argyle Street, Moss Vale and Shop 101, 13 Banyette Street, Bowral.** suzieandersonhome.com

The Green House

Maureen and Chris Gardner of Harry’s on Green Lane, Bowral reopens The Green House in the former station master’s house. With an emphasis on outdoor living, discover garden furniture, tableware, picnic settings, linens, accessories and perfumes by leading European brands. **247 Argyle Street, Moss Vale.** 

SUPPORT OUR LOCALS

Check out page 81 for dates and details of all our local markets - also great places to support local retailers, makers and producers.



The Green House, Moss Vale. Image supplied

Expect The Unexpected



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bowerbirdonargle.com.au

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Stay

Staycation, mini break, farm stay, romantic tryst, school holiday detox, or simply a place to lay your head, the Highlands is a living Instagram feed of picture perfect options for every taste and budget.





The Seidler House, Joadja. Image Contemporary Hotels

into a rock plateau and is built over two levels. It has suspended living areas, and a balcony with panoramic bush views over Wingecarribee River gorge and two kilometres of river frontage. There are luxurious open plan indoor spaces, and outdoors, viewing decks lead to a swimming pool. One for the bucket list. contemporaryhotels.com.au

Together

BERIDA HOTEL, BOWRAL

This elegant, affordable boutique hotel built in 1920s Bowral, has been extensively refurbished. With its opulent colours, Catherine Martin wallpapers and decadent style, it channels the Roaring Twenties, especially with its urbane restaurant, Bistro Sociale, and gin bar, The Gin Trading Co. Book in for a facial or treatment at day spa Sculptress, then enjoy a sundowner in front of a roaring Highlands fire, or on the sunny outside patio. beridahotel.com.au

EDMOND TINY HOUSE, ROBERTSON

This 15 square metre off-grid, eco-friendly tiny house perches on a rolling Robertson property with sweeping views over the Jamberoo escarpment and Budderoo National Park. It's a dinky little hideaway with million dollar views. Downstairs is an open-plan living area with a table and an L-shaped bench seat lounge that converts to two single beds, and a bathroom with compost loo. Climb the ladder to the double bed loft and open the roof skylight to watch the night sky. In2thewild.co

Here are a few of our many accommodation offerings to whet your appetite and spark your wanderlust. For more: visitsouthernhighlands.com.au

Family First

BUNDANOON HOTEL, BUNDANOON

Built in 1922 for Sydneysiders arriving by train to take the Highlands air, this refurbished 58-room hotel is a comfortable, affordable option in the heart of historic Bundanoon. Got some Scottish heritage? Visit in April and celebrate with 2000 others at Brigadoon, Bundanoon's Highlands Gathering, the largest knees-up of the Scottish diaspora in the Southern Hemisphere. Make a date for some fun at Winterfest, a week-long event of workshops and events in July, or pack your mountain bike anytime and explore Morton National Park on the doorstep. Dine downstairs in the hotel's well priced bistro and in summer, take it outside to the beer garden and enjoy the outdoor swimming pool. bundanoonhotel.com.au

BERRIMA BAKEHOUSE MOTEL, BERRIMA

Gotta love a drive-up motel: they speak of long car trips to country Australia and unhurried days of discovery. And Berrima Bakehouse Motel, with its 19 drive-up rooms on the Wingecarribee River, is the perfect staging post to explore one of the Highlands' most historic villages. Rooms are light and spacious, and boast Scandinavian design influence with welcome extras such as an espresso machine and latte glasses; and there's an outdoor swimming pool too. Take a history lesson on foot to Harper's Mansion, Berrima District Museum, the Surveyor General Inn (the longest continually licensed in Australia) then follow Berrima River Walk, and read about how German internees made their homes away from home during World War I. Looking for a bit of night time action? Book an interactive ghost tour at the Berrima Courthouse with AAPI Ghost Hunts & Tours; a spooky way to spend a few hours that even the teenagers may enjoy. berrimamotel.com.au

THE SEIDLER HOUSE, JOADJA

Looking for a very special family getaway? This iconic Highlands hideaway is an architectural masterpiece by Harry Seidler. The house, which sleeps eight, was completed in 2000. It is anchored



Edmond Tiny House, Robertson. Image Elise Husson

LUXSTOWE HOUSE, BURRADOO

Reacquaint yourself with the art of reading, talking and reconnecting with loved ones. Tucked away in the grounds of Treekeepers Nursery, Luxstowe House is a cottage full of charm, antiques, books and art. Sleeping four, it sits within a pretty rural setting with sculptures, established trees and shrubs, close to the Wingecarribee River as well as Moss Vale and Bowral. luxstowehouse.com.au

WOODLAND STUDIO, EXETER

Located near the picturesque village of Exeter, this spacious studio sleeps four. There is a king bed, and in a light filled annexe, another king bed, which can split into two singles. Chill out in the sunny courtyard or set out on foot for Exeter’s markets, the first Saturday of every month, with 50 stalls stocked by local artisans and producers. Take brunch at Exeter General Store (the whisky porridge is famous) and daydream about your treechange to the Highlands on your stroll back. woodland-exeter.com

THE LOCH, BERRIMA

Enjoy bed and breakfast care of chef and host Brigid Kennedy at The Loch, in converted stables on her farm. There are four charming self-contained suites, and a lounge area centred around a large fireplace. Explore The Loch’s many different chef’s gardens, and enjoy a breakfast cooked by Brigid. Stay for Sunday lunch, when Brigid opens the doors to her Tasting Room and cooks for up to 60 diners with her garden produce, and local beverages. On warmer days, lunch is served on The Loch’s back verandah. Keep an eye on Brigid’s website for gourmet food, music and wine events. theloch.net.au

Farm Stays

MORVERN VALLEY FARM COTTAGES, BUNDANOON

Julie Peacock says staying on her 10 hectares is ‘like returning to Grandma’s farm of yesteryear’. There are alpacas, horses, ponies, sheep, donkeys, peacocks, ducks, chickens, geese, giant rabbits, foals, lambs, chicks and ducklings. Three self-contained cottages sleep eight apiece. There are tyre swings and barbecues;



John Mauger

and hen houses for egg collecting; and guests can watch farm work such as shearing and horse shoeing. Bundanoon is five minutes’ stroll away; Morton National Park 500 metres the other direction. morvern-valley.com

THE PINES PASTORAL, MOSS VALE

A working black Angus stud property, this unique holiday spot on 280 hectares is a Highlands beauty. Choose from six cottages backing on to Meryla State Forest. All cottages have electric blankets, wood burning fires, total privacy and calming country views. Take your mountain bikes and cruise down Meryla Road to the bush or pack your binoculars and walking shoes and explore on foot. Or book a 1.5 hour walking tour with Ingrid and Robyn and learn about The Pines’ cattle and history. thepinespastoral.com.au

FAIRWAY FARM, WILDES MEADOW

Dairy farmers Judith and Don Warner have been welcoming guests to their 50 hectare farmstay for 20 years. Accommodation is a comfortable self-contained unit for five but it’s the location and resident cows that keep families returning. Guests are welcome to get involved, from getting up early to watch the milking to bottle-feeding the poddy calves. There are also chickens, lambs, ducks and peacocks, paddocks to explore and dirt laneways to walk and bike on. fairwayfarm.com.au

LAUREL VIEW, BURRAWANG

Butchers John and Vicki Mauger raise their cattle and sheep on the 120 hectares of farmstay Laurel View. In the family since the 1950s, this period decorated property, with 360 degree views, boasts lovely gardens and sumptuous furnishings. A few minutes’ drive from Robertson and Burrawang, Laurel View is a working farm and guests are free to wander about the paddocks. Join the Maugers’ Paddock to Plate Tours on weekends, which includes a farm tour, meat tasting and a boning demonstration. laurelview.net.au

WATERSHED, ROBERTSON

A chic shed conversion with a stylish living area, wood burning stove, designer kitchen and floor to ceiling windows looking out into the garden. Upstairs a mezzanine level has beds for five and a downstairs lounge converts into a double sofa bed. There is a firepit and table and chairs outside for al fresco dining. With farm animals in the paddocks outside to view, this is welcoming, easy accommodation only minutes from Robertson. airbnb.com.au



Fairway Farm and young guest, Munda Fitch

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Iona Park – Moss Vale

8 BED | 5 BATHS | 22 GUESTS

A quintessential renowned Highlands estate spanning 100 acres and offering unrivalled quality, serenity and privacy. This home has been meticulously curated to provide a combination of luxury and comfort on a grand scale. Enjoy the limestone terraces, swimming pool, outdoor dining and entertaining around the firepit, with stunning and tranquil rural views. Enter this gated estate and feel yourself enter another world!

From \$2462 per night



Old Bank Stables – Moss Vale

2 BED | 1 BATH | 6 GUESTS

The Old Bank Stables is a very short walk to coffee, restaurants, wine bar, cafes, local produce. It is a short drive to many of the Highlands popular wineries and wedding venues. Behind the stately restored CBA Bank Building in the main road of Moss Vale, sits the stables circa 1878, original shape and brickwork clearly recognisable, with a conversion for accommodation that is so stunning it will take your breath away.

From \$435 per night



Que Sera – Bowral

4 BED | 3 BATHS | 10 GUESTS

Que Sera is ideally located to walk to the Bowral Country Club golf course or tiptoe home from a function at Gibraltar Resort. Plenty of fun for the kids in the cricket and soccer net. The large open plan living area is light-filled and looks out onto a delightful seasonal garden: pretty in spring, lush in summer, auburn hues in autumn and stunning mist that settles in winter.

From \$528 per night



Garland Park – Bundanoon

4 BED | 2 BATHS | 10 GUESTS

From the moment you enter the Garland Park security gates, flanked with weeping cherry trees, you feel instant relaxation. Once inside, you will find a beautifully decorated home with banks of windows that invite the expansive 2-acre garden in. Immerse yourself in the night sky around the firepit. The surrounding National Park attracts a myriad of birdlife and native animals.

From \$614 per night

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Southern Highlands

South Coast, Port Stephens

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See first page



Banyula Annex – Burradoo

1 BED | 1 BATH | 4 GUESTS

Be captured by the charm, elegance and romance of this fully renovated annex with superb contemporary styling and modern amenities in beautiful Burradoo. This one-bedroom annex is ideal for a couples' getaway or accommodation for wedding guests in the Bowral area. Conveniently located only minutes from Bowral town centre. Immerse yourself amongst the established leafy gardens of the grand main house.

From \$401 per night



Bourne Cottage – Mittagong

4 BED | 2 BATHS | 8 GUESTS

Set in the foothills of Mount Gibraltar, Bourne Cottage is set to make your Southern Highlands experience a memorable stay. This charming historic house was once part of the Winifred West Frensham Estate and was originally the gardener's cottage. The magnificent grounds are a horticulturists' delight, with an abundance of citrus trees to enjoy from the wide and beautiful north-facing verandahs.

From \$574 per night



Sinden Park – Exeter

5 BED | 2 BATHS | 11 GUESTS

With a cosy wood heater, swimming pool, trampoline, and lovely 1.5 acre garden in a gorgeous rural setting, Sinden Park is a fantastic choice for your group or school holiday getaway, rural escape, wineries tour or wedding guest accommodation. Book Sinden Park now for superb, modern accommodation at competitive rates for families and larger groups.

From \$837 per night



Misty Creek – Robertson

4 BED | 2 BATHS | 12 GUESTS

A fabulous hideaway located in the quaint and sleepy village of Robertson, which offers great cafes, markets and an old-fashioned pub. Marvel at the mists that roll in at the end of a warm day and rise on a wintery morning to reveal the gardens and lake. A tranquil, relaxing retreat for the whole family in which you can unwind or entertain as the mood takes you.

From \$627 per night

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Rosella House – Robertson

4 BED | 2 BATHS | 8 GUESTS

Nestled in a quiet street, Rosella House is a stylish retreat that feels luxuriously secluded yet is just minutes' walk to the heart of Robertson's historic village. It has been thoughtfully set up with all your comforts in mind. Bamboo flooring, slow combustion wood heater, soaring cathedral ceiling, light-drenched living room and a family room that seamlessly connects to an oversized all-weather timber deck all add to the ambiance.

From \$630 per night



The Gullies Retreat – Bundanoon

3 BED | 2 BATHS | 10 GUESTS

The Gullies Retreat is simply enchanting, perfect for those wanting to escape the hustle and bustle to unwind, yet still within walking distance to the village. Two 1920's original sandstone cottages joined by a modern architectural cube with ceiling to floor windows that open out to a forested gully. With underfloor heating, central heating, a stunning suspended fireplace, high ceilings and fans, your comfort is assured all year round.

From \$698 per night



Elm Cottage – Berry

4 BED | 2 BATHS | 8 GUESTS

With gorgeous, iconic escarpment views to Berry Mountain, find yourself at home in this lovely Huntingdale Park abode in Berry. Set over 2 levels and brimming with beautiful design features including plantation shutters, raked ceilings, blackbutt timber flooring, soaker tub and shiplap feature walls. Topping it all off is the stunning in ground swimming pool in the back garden, an absolute crowd pleaser.

From \$714 per night



Amber Cottage – Bowral

4 BED | 2 BATHS | 9 GUESTS

Amber Cottage has everything to make it your home away from home. There's great fun for the kids or the young at heart in the garage that has been set up as a games room, fitted with a large pool table. Bring all the members of the family together for an afternoon of competitive fun. We haven't forgotten the furry members of the family with plenty of space for them to run about in the fenced backyard.

From \$454 per night

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See first page



Hillview Cottage – Bowral

5 BED | 3 BATHS | 9 GUESTS

Charm, character, style, fireplace and comfort for nine guests. A plethora of colours from the delightful gardens and views from the stunning wrap around verandahs that take your breath away. Perfect for your trip away with your friends and family to share and create wonderful memories. Whether it's indoor or outdoor, Hillview Cottage offers something special for everyone to enjoy!

From \$863 per night



Duncraig House – Bundanoon

6 BED | 3 BATHS | 14 GUESTS

The polished floorboards, sandstone fireplace, raked ceilings, French doors, expansive entertaining decks, stone benchtops in the kitchen, a Belling oven and heated travertine bathroom floors are all examples of the style and quality of this property. With half an acre of manicured gardens, a semi-rural outlook at the edge of town, this is the perfect place to bring families together in style. Stay and enjoy midweek to get a discount!

From \$1208 per night



**BOOK
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40 GUESTS**

Sophie's Farmhouse – Sutton Forest Retreat

10 BED | 4 BATHS | 20 GUESTS

Set amongst 135 acres of tranquil bushland, Sophie's Farmhouse is the ideal escape for large groups of friends and family wanting to enjoy a country getaway. The fully renovated house comfortably accommodates 20 guests with 10 bedrooms. Featuring a spacious open-plan kitchen/dining and living area along with an outdoor kitchen, pizza oven and rotisserie spit – built for entertaining a crowd. Book in conjunction with Jimmy's Homestead for a crowd of 40 guests.

From \$1446 per night



Jimmy's Homestead – Sutton Forest Retreat

10 BED | 6 BATHS | 20 GUESTS

This secluded retreat truly is somewhere to make memories. Children will love the outdoor play equipment, swings and basketball/volleyball court and the indoor rumpus room with games. For the adult's entertainment, there's table tennis and a firepit to relax around while taking in the views of rolling hills and gum trees, kangaroos and abundant wildlife. Have more friends who can't miss this experience? Book in conjunction with Sophie's Farmhouse for a crowd of 40 guests.

From \$1446 per night

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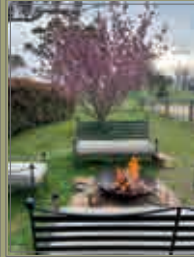
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For enquiries or bookings contact Sylvia at
enquiries@mildenhallguesthouse.com or 0419 504 965 or
check out our website www.mildenhallguesthouse.com

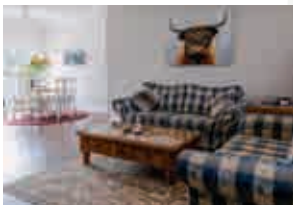


ROSEANNA *Cottage*

Roseanna Cottage is the perfect destination for your next getaway

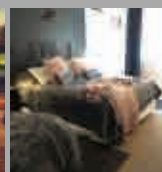
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TWIN FALLS BUSH COTTAGES, FITZROY FALLS

If you want to get the family enthused about the bush, biking is a great place to start. And Twin Falls is a notable launchpad for biking and bushwalking as the magnificent Fitzroy Falls are just a short walk away. Home of Olympian cyclist Brad McGee and wife Sharni, Twin Falls sits next to Morton National Park and has five cedar cabins, some which sleep up to six, on 20 hectares of bush. Guests are free to use the barbecue and pool area and kids will love the tennis court and trampoline. There is even a specially made kids bike track. Family members such as saddleback pigs, goats, chickens and ponies add to the truly relaxed country feel. twinfallsbushcottages.com

ROSEANNA COTTAGE, EXETER

Located on a 40 hectare property near Exeter, this secluded country cottage sleeps six and looks over paddocks where kids can meet and feed the resident sheep, horse, chickens, cows and alpacas. Situated very near bush cycle tracks, and local wineries and cafes, a wonderful place to truly get away from it all.

airbnb.com/h/roseannacottage

REDLEAF FARM, FITZROY FALLS

Redleaf Farm is a working farm, 10 minute drive from Moss Vale. Home of the Sparke family, it is set on 110 hectares bordering state forest which includes a beautiful waterfall. The Sparkes work hard producing award-winning free-range pigs and sheep and breed Highland cattle for beef. Stay in one of the property's beautifully renovated train carriages, which sleep up to six and four respectively and the kids can truly let their hair down. There are chooks,



Outside bathing at Redleaf Carriages, Fitzroy Falls.
Image: Eitise Hussey

ducks, geese, ponies and a creek with a flying fox and canoes and lots of places to bushwalk and mountain bike. For a taster, book one of Redleaf's farm tours. Guarantee the kids will want to come back for a longer stay.

redleaf-farm.com

SPRINGFIELD FARM, AVOCA

Formerly owned and redesigned by fashion designer Collette Dinnigan and husband Bradley Cocks, this beautiful property in Avoca is a weekend getaway with a retreat offering on the side. Now the home of Kinchem Hedegus and Peter Barge, who returned to the Highlands from Bali, stay in one of several sumptuous homes (we love Drover's Rest, converted from existing farm sheds), marvel at Peter's work in the veggie gardens or book into one of Springfield's very special mind, body and soul reviving workshops. And breathe. lifeatspringfield.com.au **SI**



Bundanoon Hotel, Bundanoon

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Berrima Vault House: It started out in 1844 as convict built Taylors Inn then 150 years later morphed into E2, The Stone Room and now private members club Berrima Vault House. With luxury concierge accommodation for four, a cocktail bar, cafe and restaurant, those convicts wouldn't recognise it. berrimavaulthouse.com

Osborn House, Bundanoon: Shrouded in secrecy, this long touted redevelopment in Bundanoon in Osborn Street sees famed 100 year old Solar Springs Retreat primped, polished and primed as a new luxury boutique hotel. **Opening soon.**

Briars, Burradoo: Long missed since fire destroyed its kitchen in 2018, Briars, the much loved family restaurant, is back renovated, refurbished and reopened. Accommodation at Briars Country Lodge, however, quietly continued ticking along with its lovely location above Bong Bong Track; its 31 rooms and suites sleeping up to 90. briarscountrylodge.com.au

Connect

Weddings, parties, family reunions, anything





Milton Park Country House Hotel & Spa, Bowral

Situated halfway between Canberra and Sydney — a 90-minute drive each way — anytime is the right time to marry, celebrate, feast, catch up, reconnect, or do some business team building in our Highlands haven. Salute!

THE ROBERTSON HOTEL, ROBERTSON

When Hotel Robertson opened in 1924 looking out across Jamberoo escarpment, it was deemed “one of the most luxurious in the Commonwealth”. Current hosts Con and Lisa Kotis have transformed this majestic hotel, now called The Robertson Hotel (formerly Ranelagh House), back to its glory days. This gem is just minutes stroll into Robertson and boasts a bridal suite and 40 swish guestrooms, an a la carte restaurant, a charming art deco bar, open fireplaces, an outdoor swimming pool and sweeping gardens and grounds (including its own railway siding). Channel the glamour of F. Scott Fitzgerald and book this entire hotel for a wedding or family reunion to cherish. therobertsonhotel.com

THE SECRET GARDEN, WILDES MEADOW

Twenty five years ago, horticulturist Kathy Finigan began a love affair with two hectares of land on a country lane in beautiful Wildes Meadow. She called it The Secret Garden and since November 2017, it has also become a pretty special, still quite secret, cool climate garden in which to tie the marital knot. For weddings, christenings or any other special event, choose from an array of garden rooms: the Wedding Gazebo, Marquee Lawn, Wisteria Arbour, Rose Lawn, Birch Walk, Fountain Garden, Cherry Blossom Walk and Megan’s Garden. The garden is flat and easily accessible, so it’s good for guests of all ages. thesecretgarden.events

GROWWILD WILD FLOWER FARM, ALPINE

This petal of a place is a 10 hectare native flower farm on the northern side of the Highlands near the village of Alpine. GrowWild is a registered sanctuary with the Wildlife Land Trust. Marry anywhere in the beautiful settings on the property (beside the dam, in the marquee, in the rustic barn or in the secluded bush haven known as Secret Valley) and sit down with up to 135 guests in the onsite marquee. Sue and Peter Stewart can help recommend a caterer from their list of six favourites, and GrowWild offers a BYO option and an onsite cool room. The barn, which is equipped with a music system and is yours to decorate, has a fully decked out bridal retreat with bathroom, vanities and storage room for the bridal party and their attendants. growwild.com.au

MALI BRAE FARM, MOSS VALE

Shelley and Greg Dark moved from Sydney after buying the 1860’s farm Mali Brae near Moss Vale. Here, they have created a stellar wedding and events venue, which won the Australian Small Business Association’s National Champion Wedding Services Award in 2018. This pretty 35 hectare property sits in a splendid private location with dams, a private jetty and six ceremony sites, including a purpose-built indoor pavilion with a large open fireplace, and more than enough room to swing a bride or two on the dancefloor. Mali Brae caters for receptions of 100 seated guests or 120 for a cocktail do. It also does small scale events for 30 to 55 guests and offers styling, floral services and accommodation options in two renovated historic cottages with accommodation for six. Mali Brae also recently opened its own licensed restaurant. malibraefarm.com.au



PEPPERS CRAIGIEBURN, BOWRAL

Peppers Craigieburn is set on 36 hectares in old Bowral with its own private nine-hole golf course, making it the perfect meeting place for that golfing trip away with friends. Amid 100 years of history, guest rooms reflect the style of the original homestead, with a modern take. With several conferencing, banqueting and event room choices, this is a fine option for work getaways, weddings or retreats. pepperscraigieburn.com.au

BURRAWANG VILLAGE HOTEL, BURRAWANG

The Burrawang Village Hotel has form. Its first incarnation, the Prince Alfred, was built in 1866 just down Hoddle Street, and this newer version, an imposing two-storey brick building, was built in the 1920s. Peter and Kate Dean have spent the past few years renovating and adding some 21st century charm to this pub, which has one of the best beer gardens in the Highlands; perfect for an outdoors wedding or long lunch reunion. Upstairs there are eight cosy rooms, all with queen beds. There are two bathrooms along the landing. The renovated pub restaurant downstairs seats up to 40 and is open seven days for lunch and dinner. Have a drink in the bar first and meet some of our potato, dairy and cattle farmers. This is a great staging post for a Highlands weekend getaway with mates, or for attending a wedding. Make sure to have breakfast at the excellent Burrawang General Store & Café across the street. At breakfast and lunch (8am to 4pm), owner Erica Leeming and her team deliver fresh, delicious food seven days. They also do high tea and run functions in their historic building for up to 60. Book in to stay for the weekend next door at Bower Cottage, the former manager's home. Erica's team will even deliver your morning coffee to you. Now that's Highlands service. bgsc.com.au burrawangvillagehotel.com.au

SOMERLEYS, SUTTON FOREST

Built in 1875, this Victorian mansion has seen its share of parties, first as a private home that reputedly entertained the likes of Dame Nellie Melba, prime minister Billy Hughes and the Duke of Edinburgh, and latterly as a wedding venue. Newish owners Nadine and Seb O'Brien live onsite and cater for wedding couples wanting a swish individual affair. The property contains a magical 100-year-old wood and its ceremony spaces include the circular lawn, the woodland, forest, meadow and stables. Seated receptions for up to 95 guests are held in the Garden Room. Sperry tent packages are available for larger parties of up to 170. Somerleys also offers onsite accommodation for up to six guests in the Pool House. somerleyhouse.com.au

MILTON PARK COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL & SPA, BOWRAL

Five-star Milton Park is set in one of the oldest, most precious cool climate gardens in the Southern Highlands. Designed with a nod to the 18th century English School of Landscape, the gardens are home to 10,000 trees including octogenarian elms and weeping beeches as well as 400 rose bushes, 2000 metres of hedges and a bluebell wood. The original grand mansion, now the hotel, was built by the retailing and pastoral Horderns for their third son, Anthony. Milton Park has a ballroom, a cocktail and champagne bar, a billiards room, a private dining room and three restaurants. With 36 deluxe rooms and eight suites including the Forest Suite, one of four with a four-poster bed, spa, fireplace and a private terrace overlooking the gardens, this grand dame is one for a reunion to remember or a special family get together. Book in for an a la carte meal at fine dining Hordern's restaurant and enjoy a decadent breakfast in the Orangerie. Take a dip in the indoor swimming pool and enjoy a treatment at Milton Park's Wellness Spa. miltonpark.com.au

BENDOOLEY ESTATE, BERRIMA

Bendooley Estate recently welcomed its latest wedding and events addition, the Stables, an architect-designed, purpose-built venue in Australian hardwood with seating for up to 180 guests. A short walk away, Bendooley's magnificent Book Barn seats 250 guests. All catering packages are looked after by Bendooley's busy team of chefs. Wedding ceremonies or vow renewals can be held near the original home or near the lake. If you want to keep all your guests in one place, or perhaps are looking for a business weekend away, Bendooley also offers accommodation on site, including the renovated Gatekeepers House as well as six luxury cottages. A new cellar door opening in August offers a tailored private dining lunch experience for 10 to 14 people. bendooleyestate.com.au



The Robertson

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HOPEWOOD HOUSE, BOWRAL

Beautiful Hopewood House sits on 4.5 hectares and is home to the Storriers, Janet and acclaimed Australian artist Tim. A luxurious wedding, events or getaway venue, it offers four accommodation options; Serendipity, Wayfarer, Arcadia and Mandalay, all named after Tim's paintings. Sleeping up to 14 guests in beautifully styled and furnished two and three-bedroom cottages, and two one-bedroom studios, Hopewood also has space for 150 guests in its Pavilion, which includes The Grand Dining Room, The Terrace Lounge and The Chukka Bar, with its pool table and bar. Downstairs, there is the Bong Bong Bar and Lounge and an outdoor courtyard with fire pit and seating. Set within beautiful grounds with resident peacocks, a tennis court, a swimming pool and adorned with sculptures, this is a very special venue for that very special occasion. hopewoodhouse.com.au

FITZROY INN HISTORIC GUESTHOUSE, MITTAGONG

This historic 1836 Georgian colonial inn, with its rich history, beautiful sandstone and original features including a dungeon, is large enough to host a marquee wedding within its two hectares or a sit-down reception in the heritage dining room. With 11 bedrooms in the historic inn and four more in the Old Schoolmasters House, Fitzroy also offers conference packages and bespoke team-building packages. fitzroyinn.com.au

MITTAGONG MOTEL, MITTAGONG

Too many staff to accommodate at the Fitzroy Inn? No problem. Room your more seasoned employees in the Fitzroy and book your younger staff into the excellent Mittagong Motel, only a five-minute walk away. With its 26 ground floor units and complimentary continental breakfast, this affordable, comfortable motel is great for travellers passing through or families staying a few more days to catch up with the rels. This cosy little motel is also popular with golfers teeing off with their fairway buddies at nearby Highlands Golf Club. mittagong-motel.com.au

LINKS HOUSE, BOWRAL

This charming historic Bowral hotel is a lovely place for a bespoke affair; whether for a cocktail and canapes wedding with up to 100 guests on the lawns, a full sit-down dinner for a special anniversary or birthday in the private dining room or an intimate a la carte dinner in Ethos restaurant by chef Jason Hughes, book out the entire elegant hotel and really make it an affair to remember. linkshouse.com.au



Gibraltar Hotel, Bowral. Image: Elise Hossey

GIBRALTAR HOTEL, BOWRAL

The Gibraltar is a new build hotel with 76 luxurious rooms, a day spa, leisure centre, a cocktail bar with live music open to late, its own 18-hole golf course and an enormous ballroom that looks over the greens. There are also meeting and conference rooms galore. Set on 40 sprawling hectares in leafy Bowral, Gibraltar Hotel is a country resort that would hold its own in any town. gibraltarhotel.com.au


MITTAGONG RSL, MITTAGONG

Gotta love a great country RSL club and Mittagong RSL performs its role as meeting place, entertainer, wedding, conference and events provider as well as restaurateur admirably. Bringing top touring shows and kids' performances to the Highlands as well as feeding us seven days in Ironside Dining and Cafe, the Mittagong RSL punches above its weight. Want to dine, be entertained, hold an event or family celebration and stay with family and friends? Book into onsite Springs Motel with its luxury suites, interconnecting family suites, budget rooms and executive units. mittagongrsl.com.au
springs.com.au

ROBERTSON PUBLIC HOUSE & KITCHEN, ROBERTSON

Robbo's local pub is a fabulous place to have a quiet drink with mates or bangers and mash for dinner. It's also a terrific option for a wedding of up to 150 cocktail style or 100 seated. For a family reunion or event of 30 to 40 revellers, book the Winston Room with its covered deck and beer garden and book onsite accommodation for up to 11. robertsonpublichouse.com.au

PEPPERS MANOR HOUSE, SUTTON FOREST

Tucked away in the pastoral surrounds of Sutton Forest, this upmarket historic hotel is a romantic retreat, perfect for an intimate country wedding, a reunion, conference or special event. Catering for weddings of 20 to 200 guests, with plenty of ceremony and venue possibilities in the gardens or looking out on to manicured lawns, this is a cosy and dignified getaway, which includes renowned restaurant, Katers. peppers.com.au/manor-house 

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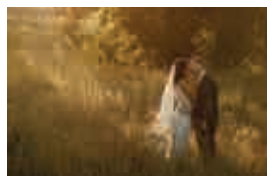
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Conference capacities

	Accommodation (no. of rooms)	Boardroom	U shape	Classroom	Theatre	Cabaret	Banquet	Cocktail
Berida Hotel, Bowral	46	20	20	40	60	30	30	60
Briars Country Lodge, Burradoo	32	60	30	60	100	40	120	200
Bundanoon Country Inn Motel	21	24	36	50	50	50	50	50
Bundanoon Guest House	16	30	20	25	25	20	40	60
Bundanoon Hotel	58	20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	120	300
Dormie House, Moss Vale	31	40	30	45	on request	45	75	on request
Fitzroy Inn, Mittagong	11	250	85-250	95-320	90-250	90	300	400
Gibraltar Hotel Bowral	76	50	50	100	300	200	250	300
Hopewood House, Bowral	14	50	150	150	150	150	150	150
Killarney House, Bundanoon	15	16	25	30	60	25	40	70
Links House, Bowral	17	20	20	30	30	N/A	30	50
Milton Park, Bowral	46	45	75	150	250	130	200	250
Mittagong RSL	71	30	32	220	450	180	360	300
Old Bank Boutique Hotel, Mittagong	8	20	40	35	40	40	40	50
Osborn House, Bundanoon	22	16	14	25	25	16	16	48
Peppers Craigieburn, Bowral	72	34	40	50	140	128	160	200
Peppers Manor House, Sutton Forest	43	N/A	60	85	85	85	85	85
Sylvan Glen, Penrose	20	40	45	60	50	60	100	100



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Kids

Planning a Highlands trip with the kids? Here's some help to get them disconnected from their devices, and into our fresh air. You're welcome.





Illawarra Fly Treetop Adventures, Knights Hill

ILLAWARRA FLY TREETOP ADVENTURES, KNIGHTS HILL

Want your kids to test themselves? In real life, not screen life? Whizzing through the rainforest 30 metres off the ground attached to a wire will do it every time. The Illawarra Fly, a quick drive from Robertson, is perched on the top of the Jamberoo escarpment and is Australia's highest zipline tour. With three flights and two suspension bridges to navigate, it's hair-raising fun for those aged 4 and up. You can also take the Treetop Walk, a slightly gentler swaying option, on a 1.5 km loop track. Both options give stunning views out over the South Coast and Pacific Ocean. Keep an eye out for school holiday programs that kick off from early September or take a Treetop Sunrise Walk or After Dark Zipline Tour. Thursday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm. illawarrafly.com.au

HORSE LESSONS AT ROSTHWAITE FARM, MOSS VALE

Got a horse-mad kid desperate for some saddle time? Book 'em in for riding lessons at Rosthwaite Farm near Moss Vale. Managed by champion Australian showjumper and trainer James Arkins, Rosthwaite offers lessons for beginners through to advanced riders, as well as holiday camps and trail rides. Seven days. rosthwaitefarm.com.au


NSW RAIL MUSEUM, THIRLMERE

NSW Rail Museum at Thirlmere is a fun day out. More than 125 exhibits follow the development of NSW's railways from the 1800s. And there are lots of interactive displays and levers to pull and buttons to press. Every Saturday and Sunday there are steam train rides from Thirlmere to Buxton and back, and on various days of the year, Thomas the Tank Engine and the Fat Controller drop in for days of family fun. Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 5pm. nswrailmuseum.com.au

BRADMAN MUSEUM, BOWRAL

Summertime is cricket time and there's nothing like a family knock around in one of our many parks. But if your kids are a bit more serious, take them along to Bradman Oval in Bowral for a trip down cricket's memory lane. Wander through the Bradman Museum and International Cricketing Hall of Fame to see legendary Sir Donald Bradman's first bat, enjoy the interactive screen and have a crack at the Don's famous cricket stump on the water tank stand simulation. St Jude Street, Bowral. Seven days, 9am to 4pm. bradman.com.au

BERRIMA COURT HOUSE, BERRIMA

Kids love hearing about the colonial convict history of Berrima, and the gorier the better. Head along to Berrima Court House, built in 1839, and take your kids on a tour, which includes a visit to the prison cells and a sound and light show. If the kids are over 15 and not fainthearted, head back in the evening for a ghost hunt. berrimacourthouse.org.au appighosthunts.com 



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18 holes - par 71

Arthur Street, Moss Vale

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

Professional: Davyd Reeves

Cost to play: \$45 for 18 holes.

\$25 for 9 holes. Clubs and carts available for hire.

Lessons: From \$65. Groups and clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 18th – 379m, 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 right.

Additional facilities: Clubhouse bistro serves lunch Tuesday-Sunday at Dormie House.

Available for weddings and functions.

Contact: golf reservations

4868 1503 or 4868 1811

mossvalegolfclub.com.au

BOWRAL GOLF CLUB

18 holes - par 69

Kangaloon Road, Bowral

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

Professional: Kevin Kenny

Cost to play: Visitor 18 holes \$45.

Twilight \$28.50. Clubs and carts available to hire.

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

Dress: Neat golf attire.

Hardest hole: 18th – 409m, par 4.

A narrow fairway with a 240m carry off the back tee to get over the water, then uphill to a sloping green.

Toughest green: 16th. Two bunkers and a right to left slope.

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

Contact: 4861 1042

bowralgolfclub.com.au

MT BROUGHTON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

18 holes - par 72

Kater Road, Sutton Forest

Open to the public seven days around competitions.

Professional: Larry Canning

Cost to play: Weekday \$45, weekend \$60.

Clubs and carts available for hire.

Lessons: by appointment. Groups + clinics catered for.

Dress: Neat golf attire.

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

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mtbroughton.com.au

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18 holes - par 72

Mt Seanzi Road, Kangaroo Valley

Open to the public seven days;
both members and visitors are welcome to
play in competitions.
Cost to play: Weekday \$50 & weekend \$60.
Clubs and carts available for hire.
Dress: Neat golf attire.
Hardest hole: 7th – par 4. Difficult driving
hole with narrow fairway that rolls right to
left. Second shot is up a steep incline and the
green has two tiers.
Toughest green: 13th. Slopes back to front
with two tiers.
Additional facilities: Practice fairway,
chipping and putting practice areas. Full club
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9 holes - par 32

Centennial Road, Bowral

Open to the public seven days.
Cost to play: \$15 for 9 holes. \$15 for
club hire.
Dress: Neat golf attire.
Hardest hole: 4th – 180m, par 3. Up a hill and
over a ridge. To make par you can have only
one shot on the approach to the green.
Toughest green: 4th. Needs a good
approach.
Additional facilities: Full club and bar
facilities. Weddings, functions and
conferences catered for.
Contact: 1300 092 876
peppers.com.au/craigieburn

GIBRALTAR COUNTRY CLUB

18 holes - par 69

Boronia Street, Bowral

Open to the public seven days
around competitions.
Bookings essential.
Cost to play: Weekday \$35 for 18 holes,
weekend \$40.
Carts available for hire.
Lessons: Groups and beginner clinics
catered for.
Dress: Neat golf attire.
Hardest hole: 18th – 380m, par 4. Uphill all
the way.
Toughest green: 11th. A tough slope back to
front and bunkered on the right.
Additional facilities: Putting green, practice
area and cafe facilities.
Functions catered for. Available for
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gibraltarbowl.com.au

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sylvanglen.com.au

HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB

18 holes - par 70

Old Hume Highway, Mittagong

Open to the public seven days
around competitions.
Professional: Mitchell Harry
Cost to play: Weekday \$34 for 18 holes,
weekend \$39. Clubs and carts available to
hire. Lessons: \$55 per half hour. Groups and
clinics catered for.
Dress: Neat golf attire.
Hardest hole: 6th – a long 390m drive
slightly uphill to a raised green guarded by
fairway bunkers.
Toughest green: 14th. Features treacherous
slopes to the left and right.
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driving range, putting green, pro shops club
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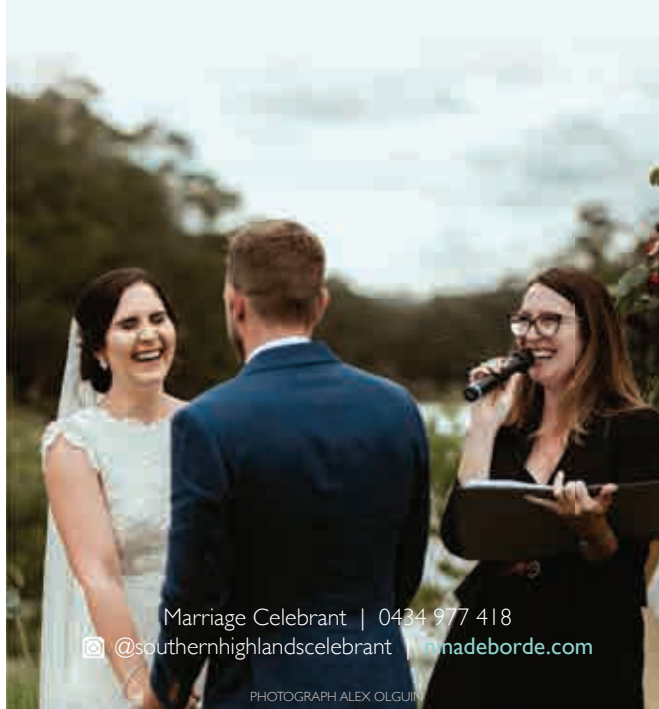
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Local Markets

The regular Highlands markets are a great way to gain real insight into the creative, growing and enterprising side of our beautiful region, and to find yourself some unique and delicious goodies. From fresh produce to home furnishings, art, plants and fashion, you'll find everything you are looking for and more so get marketing! For further information and details, see visitsouthernhighlands.com.au

RAILWAY STREET FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays, 3pm until last light. Old Bowling Club green, Railway St, Moss Vale

This popular produce market, now in its fourth year boasts everything from fresh seasonal vegetables to eggs, fish, bread, quiches and pies, jams and pickles, and fresh cuts of beef, to compost, plants and seedlings.

MITTAGONG MARKETS

Third and fifth Saturday of the month, 8.30am to 2pm. Cnr Albert and Alice streets, Mittagong

Held in the grounds of the Uniting Church, this market features a great section for green thumbs as well as collectables, fresh produce, children's toys and clothing along with handcrafted goods, jewellery, and items for the mind, body and spirit as well as lots of homemade goodies and local produce such as the Hill family's famous Robertson spuds.

ROBERTSON MARKETS

Second Sunday of the month (except January), 9am to 2pm. School of Arts, 55 Hoddle St, Robertson

A variety of stalls including vintage and antique treasures, food and refreshments at the School of Arts in the busy, engaged community of Robertson. Great trash and treasure finds, and of course, lots of local produce.

THE BOWRAL MARKET

Second Saturday of the month (except January), 8am to 1pm. Bowral Bowling Club, 40 Shepherd Street, Bowral

A lively and eclectic market with local produce and plants, handcrafted toys and children's clothing alongside fabulous food stalls to suit every taste.

CROP-SWAP

Saturdays, 9.30am to 10.30am. Robertson Bowling Club, Hoddle St, Robertson

Bring your excess veg, fruit, magazines, empty or full jam jars, eggs, egg cartons or plants along to this great community healthy living initiative and swap with other local producers and gardeners and Robbo folk for whatever is on offer, or in season in other people's gardens. All welcome but please be aware excess produce is swapped: no money changes hands.

EXETER VILLAGE MARKET

First Saturday of the month (except January), 9am to 1.30pm. Exeter Village Hall and Oval, Exeter Rd, Exeter

Enjoy high-quality wares from local producers, artisans, foodies and craftspeople in more than 50 stalls.

COLO VALE COMMUNITY MARKETS

First Saturday of the month (except January), 8.30am to 1.30pm. Colo Vale Village Hall, Railway Ave, Colo Vale

With lots of established and new stallholders, including handicrafts, handmade goods, jams, fresh local produce, not to mention a Justice of the Peace on hand to help locals out with legal matters, this cornerstone of the community is thriving and is a great market often with monthly themes.

BUNDANOON MAKERS MARKET

First and third Sunday of the month (except January), 8.30am to 2pm. Bundanoon Memorial Hall, Railway Parade, Bundanoon

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

BERRIMA SCHOOL YARD MARKET

Fourth Sunday of the month (except January) and the second Sunday in December, 9am to 2pm. December market Sunday December 12, 2021. Oxley St, Berrima

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. **📍**





Darryn & Kirstine McKay with sons Josh, Tomas and Robbie are Life at Greenlaw, Bowral



Jamberoo Mountain Farm's Nicole Feggans with Ellie, Jack and the girls, Robertson. Image supplied

Highlands Move

As the influx of tree changers continues, the Southern Highlands remains a favoured choice for people farewelling the pace and price of city life.

Rural migration is forecast to continue as people continue to work from home post 2021, and others seek out commutable country areas and housing affordability. Regional Australia Institute data shows, however, regional property values jumped 6.9% in December 2020.

In the Highlands, healthcare and social assistance, education and training, professional, scientific and technical services, accommodation and food services, retail trade, construction and manufacturing are our biggest employers. Healthcare, professional business services, tourism, agribusiness, advanced manufacturing, education, creative industries and equine are areas forecast of growth opportunity.

Meet a few locals below doing their bit for the region.

LACHLAN AND NICOLE FEGGANS, Jamberoo Mountain Farm, Robertson

Lachlan and Nicole Feggans, farmers of grass fed and pastured raised eggs, made their escape from Sydney in 2014.

"The chooks started thanks to (ABC TV's) *Gardening Australia*," says Nicole. "They featured a story on Taranaki Farm in Victoria, a small-scale sustainable operation, and Lachlan, who is a sustainability manager, straight away booked a five-day workshop there. That gave us the vision for a new life here, with healthy soil, pasture-raised produce and free range kids."

Neither of them had ever farmed or even kept chooks. Nicole now works at the coalface of their farm, Jamberoo Mountain Eggs. Lachlan splits work between Sydney and Robertson while the Feggans' 1600 Isa Browns, which live in custom-built caravans, lay 700 dozen eggs a week. Children Ellie and Jack are keen helpers. Nicole says: "We were very green to begin with and are still learning. However, we are slowly perfecting things. YouTube did help to begin with and regenerative and biodynamic farming courses play a big role in our continued education. Kind and experienced farmers in the area we turn to often, and other women who farm chicken and eggs."

Jamberoo Mountain eggs are found in local restaurants including Robertson's Moonacres Kitchen, Pizzas in the Mist and Lucinda's Pantry; Bowral's Milton Park and Dos Hombres; and PepperGreen Estate in Berrima; and for buying at The Friendly Grocer and Moonacres Kitchen, Robertson as well as IGA Gerringong, Kiama Downs and Jamberoo.

Nicole's days are filled with chores such as setting up fences, moving the chickens, filling up the feeders and collecting, processing and delivering eggs every day.

"We try very hard to ensure our eggs are delivered the day they are laid," she says. "This means we can never take a day off but having lived another life before this one, the grass is actually greener, and I am beyond grateful every day we somehow made it here. I love what I do." jamberoomountainfarm.com

LIFE AT GREENLAW, BOWRAL

It has taken freelance journalist Kirstine McKay and her photographer husband Darryn nine years to turn their historic one acre Bowral property, Greenlaw, into a sustainable, partly self-sufficient organic food hub for themselves and their three boys. They keep bees and chickens and grow most of their own fruits and vegetables. Now the McKay's are helping the Highlands get greener through eco-living, gardening and bee-keeping workshops on their 1865 property.

Kirstine, a journalist and producer of 12 years with Nine's Sunday program and A Current Affair has also helped organise the 3 School Strikes for Climate in Bowral with sons Josh, Tomas and Robbie. Kirstine volunteers in numerous community groups developing community gardens, landscape regeneration and land-sharing arrangements in the Southern Highlands.

lifatgreenlaw.com @bowralbeez

MITTAGONG PHYSIOTHERAPY & PILATES

Physiotherapists Matthew Ott and Angela Rodwell are the new face of the Highlands healthcare industry as directors of Mittagong Physiotherapy & Pilates. Matthew says there is a great need for quality health professionals in the Highlands to service the growing community.

He says: "In the past four years, we have seen our clinic grow from just Angela and myself to seven physiotherapists and three Pilates instructors. Many of our team have moved to the Southern Highlands for a treechange and others are returning home after living in Sydney."

Matthew, a father of two and an expert in rehabilitation, says away from work most of his time is spent with his children playing in parks or going on bush walks and riding his mountain bike.

"Family time with my young children is precious. More and more, people are striving for a better work/life balance. As a clinic, we endeavour to be flexible with our team to enable them the time to enjoy all the aspects that



Angela Rodwell and Matthew Ott, Mittagong Physiotherapy & Pilates, Mittagong

the Southern Highlands has to offer."

Matthew says there has been increase in health professionals looking to leave Sydney for the Southern Highlands. "We really try to accommodate the changing demands of our workforce," he says.

2/94 Main Street, Mittagong. mittagongphysio.com



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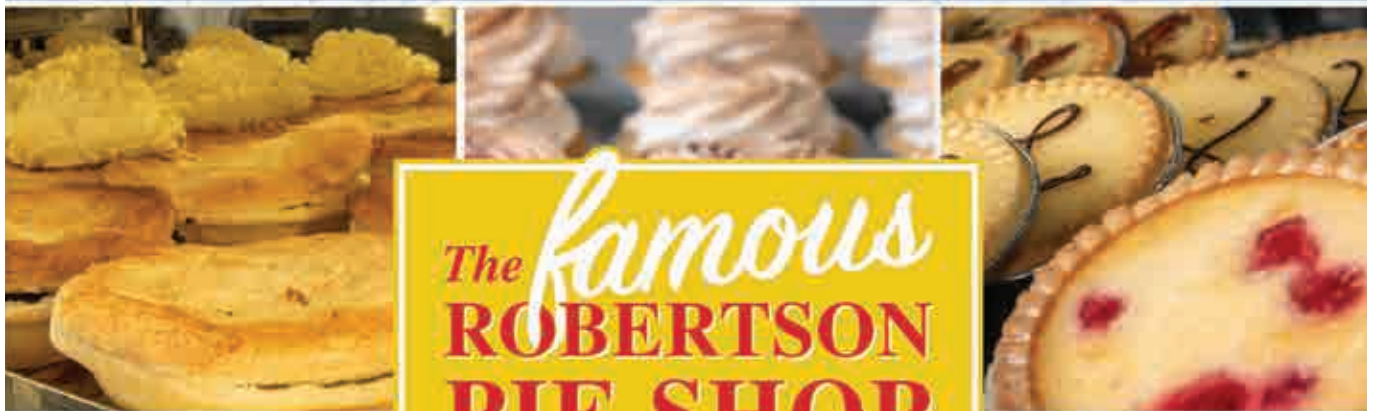
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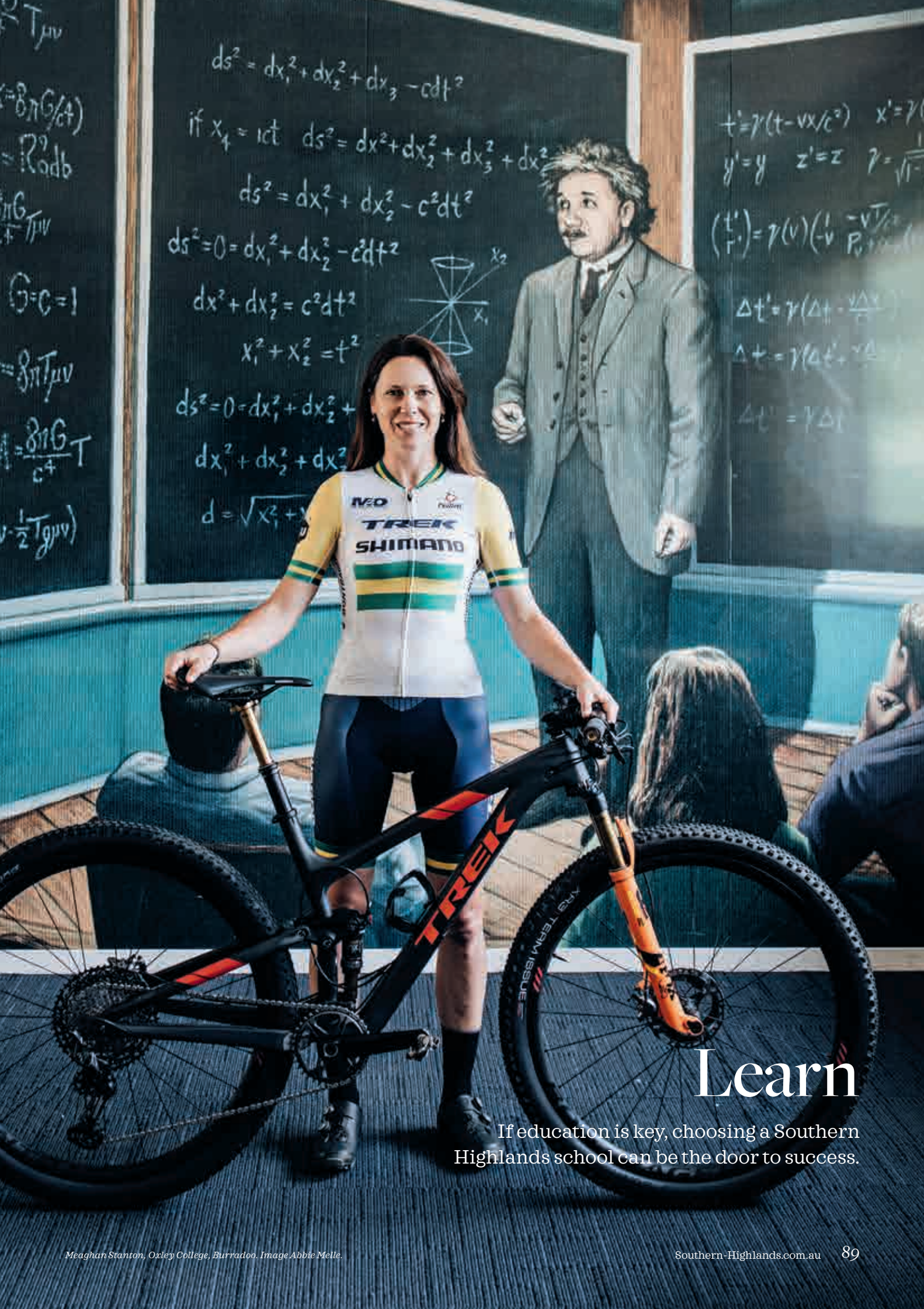


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Learn

If education is key, choosing a Southern Highlands school can be the door to success.



Moss Vale High Principal Patricia Holmes centre with Moss Vale High School, and Aurora College students. Image Elise Hassey

If education is key, school can be the door to success. Experts say the trick is to find the right school. There's a wide choice of government and non-government schools in the Highlands: here's an insight to three.

MOSS VALE HIGH SCHOOL, MOSS VALE

Things look bright when a government school is at capacity, and in hot demand from out of area families.

Last year, Moss Vale High celebrated 13 distinguished achievers on the NSW Educational Standards Authority's honour list in the Higher School Certificate from a Year 12 class of 66. In 2019, the school ranked 188 in NSW in HSC results, according to bettereducation.com.au.

With 740 students, under the leadership of principal Patricia Holmes, the school has built an enviable reputation as an institution of excellence.

Says Patricia: "I started here in 2011 as the deputy principal and worked with a dedicated team to enhance the school's culture through the Positive Behaviour for Success (PBS) initiative. PBS was designed to bring about positive change in student behaviour and the school culture through taking a proactive approach to explicitly teaching expected behaviours and promoting awareness of social justice issues. We have significantly decreased bullying, disrespectful and anti-social behaviour through actively promoting programs and initiatives that encourage kindness, compassion and acceptance of diversity. We want our students to understand that they have a responsibility to give back to their school, local and even global community."

Moss Vale High School offers a range of academic subjects and for the first time in 2021, students are also studying Music 2.

Patricia says: "We also have students who study languages such as German, French, Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Italian and Japanese via distance education."

Moss Vale High also offers leadership, sporting and cultural activities. Since 2020, it has also offered NSW's Aurora

College, an online state-run selective high school, which caters for rural and regional children from Years 7 to 10. This year's Aurora College class includes 14 gifted students from Year 7 to Year 9, who take their English, maths and science classes online in real time with fellow Aurora students, and the remainder of classes at the Moss Vale school with their local peers. Aurora College was started to address a growing achievement gap between rural and city students.

Moss Vale High also offers a range of Vocational Education and Training options, including hospitality, primary industries, building construction and business services, and has an award-winning special education faculty. One of the school's annual highlights is the end of year video, featuring dancing and singing by students and teachers.

"The whole community gets excited and it goes viral pretty quickly. It captures the love and pride everyone has in our school," says Patricia.

21 Narellan Road, Moss Vale mossvale-h.school.nsw.gov.au

OXLEY COLLEGE, BURRADOO

To Meaghan Stanton, champion mountain biker and maths teacher at Oxley College, her exacting disciplines have much in common.

She says: "Completing a maths exam and a mountain bike race are not so different. Although natural talent is helpful, it's more important to practise to develop technical skills, to be optimistic about obstacles and to have the determination to keep going."

Meaghan has taught at Oxley College for 10 years. Oxley College is a K to 12 independent, co-educational, non-denominational day school that sits in extensive grounds. With a teaching mindset of encouraging cultural richness

and critical thinking, co-curricular opportunities include performing arts and outdoor education as well as unique initiatives such as Year 9 Rites of Passage.

Meaghan teaches Year 7 to 12 classes and is Australian Masters cross country and marathon national champion. She also coaches Oxley's MTB program with Peter Dowse, her partner, mechanic/manager for the Australian mountain bike team in Tokyo 2021 and owner of Trek Shimano Australia, the elite team Meaghan rides with.

"I'm happy working at a school progressive enough to allow me to set up a mountain bike program. We have plenty of keen beginners in our group, right through to highly skilled riders who have been training with us once a week for three years," says Meaghan.

Daughter of nutritionist Rosemary Stanton, Meaghan started mountain biking 14 years ago.

"Racing began as a family thing with my three daughters all riding competitively. But as the girls grew older and became less interested, I found I had more time, stepped up my training and began to race more."

Meaghan has won the national cross country and marathon championship in the masters age category for the past five years, and recently competed in Maydena, Tasmania, where she racked up another green and gold jersey. In 2017, she placed fifth in the Masters' World MTB Championship in Andorra.

Given her sporting tenacity, Meaghan is unrattled by students who question the veracity of learning maths in the 21st century.

"I think maths is more important than ever, partly to identify the students who have talent and passion, for these are the 'tech wizards' and society needs them," says Meaghan. "But also, maths is the only subject that specifically teaches logical thinking and this, more than the actual content, is important for all kinds of problem-solving."

When she's not explaining calculus, Meaghan can be found outdoors 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 I get from giving it everything. Mountain biking is one of the fastest growing sports in Australia, and while we are lucky to have such good places to ride, there is much potential to develop more trails in the Highlands."

11-29 Railway Road, Burradoo. oxley.nsw.edu.au

TUDOR HOUSE, MOSS VALE

Was it coincidence Tudor House, the then 120-year-old Independent Preparatory School for boys at Moss Vale, enrolled girls in 2017 only months before appointing its first female head?

Head of School Anni Sandwell was not privy to that decision made by the Council of The Kings School. She arrived several months later in April 2017 by when the first two girls were enrolled. Four years on, however, with enrolments thriving and a student population of 196, 74 of them girls, Anni says the uptake in girl enrolments has been driven by families moving to the Highlands, including women who grew up here and dreamt of attending Tudor House as children, as well as the siblings of past and present boys.

"To some extent, deciding to make Tudor House co-ed was also as a result of so many current parents saying 'we are going to enrol our boy and if ever there is the opportunity to enrol our daughter, just let us know'." Another drawcard is the outdoor education programme lived out by students on its 68 hectares of grounds.

"The girls at Tudor House really benefit from Kahiba, our outdoor education programme, an experience that is not traditionally with an all-girls school," says Anni.

"Every Friday afternoon our students light camp fires, build bases, ride their bikes and go canoeing. This is more often associated with boys schools and only in a very few. Experiencing activities such as low ropes, the students develop risk-taking and communication skills as well as being principled and working collaboratively. This is also how the boys and girls demonstrate the School Values, as part of a community deliberately promoting character development and leadership."

The only International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme World School in the Southern Highlands, Tudor House's academic program focus is about giving children the opportunity to be internationally minded global thinkers, Anni says.

"We are preparing our students to live in a world that networks across the world way beyond the Southern Highlands. Being a IB PYP School gives our children voice, choice and ownership of their learning. It encourages them to have action and agency as a result of their learning and to take responsibility."

6480 Illawarra Highway, Moss Vale tudorhouse.nsw.gov.au 



Tudor House principal Anni Sandwell with students, Tudor House, Moss Vale



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HIGHER GROUND RAPTORS, FITZROY FALLS

Peggy McDonald OAM says she will never forget the first bird she rehabilitated, a gang-gang cockatoo 30 years ago. "It was then I realised what intelligent and sensitive creatures birds are, and none more so than our raptors," she says. Peggy has rehabilitated more than 1000 raptors in the centre she built on her Fitzroy Falls property. She is currently raising funds for an education centre. Assisted by Wingecarribee Shire Council and several charities over the years, Peggy is working with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to devise a training program and an online manual to assist other raptor carers. She recently started a relationship with Wildlife Recovery Australia. highergroundraptors.com



Here's just a few inspiring local carers providing support, and agency to all Highlanders, great and small.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, WILLO INDUSTRIES

Never underestimate parental love. With the help of his parents, Will Clarke of Robertson has achieved amazing things. Will, 25, has autism and his parents, Ange and James, had feared for how his life would unfold once he left school in 2014. Says Ange: "Traditionally, young people with mild to severe disabilities do not always access jobs because there is such a lack of choice, so what Will would do after school was always a massive fear."

Will's love of cricket provided a solution. "We thought if Will can learn to sand and recycle old bats, it will help his fine motor skills and keep him busy doing something he loves. The idea of artists painting the restored bats came about thanks to artist Peter Browne, formerly of Berrima."

Other locals Jimmy Barnes, Zoe Young, Ben Quilty and Carlos Barrios and the wider community came on board, and in February 2018, an exhibition of the bats raised \$25,000 and launched Willo Industries. To date, 600 artists including prime ministers, Archibald winners, UN ambassadors, musicians, school students and people from all walks of life have donated painted, drawn or carved pieces of art on cricket bats, skateboards, baseball bats and outrigger paddles.

Proceeds from their sale at eight exhibitions including two new shows in 2021, have funded two programs for people living with intellectual disabilities in places where there were none. Like a community garden in Robertson, where Willo's aim is to connect residents living with disabilities to all surrounding disability services, the local school, the Men's Shed, the community centre, and all local businesses to create a market garden to connect, teach and educate all people living with disabilities. Work on a site for the garden is expected to begin soon.

wheretheresawill.org.au

HARBISON, BURRADOO AND MOSS VALE

Ageing is not for the faint hearted. But Harbison, home to more than 300 seasoned Highlanders, cared for by 320 staff in its Burradoo and Moss Vale care homes, is determined to spice up its residents' days with the introduction of Cycling Without Age.

This Danish-born outdoors concept, started in Copenhagen in 2012, sees volunteers take elderly residents out for bike rides in specially built trishaws. Founder Ole Kassow's mission? Build bridges between generations, prevent loneliness and let older people once again feel the wind in their hair.

Harbison's CEO David Cochran, a keen cyclist himself, says of this Highlands first, a chance meeting with Kassow changed his perspective on ageing and aged care. "I returned to Australia determined to sponsor a local chapter in the Southern Highlands and ordered two of the special trishaws, which are designed to keep people with limited mobility connected to their community. Harbison would like the community to feel ownership of the program, with the trishaws available to other community organisations free of charge and a local crew of volunteer pilots," says David who rode the trishaw in the 2019 Bowral Classic. Harbison is a charity sponsor of the 2021 Bowral Classic where their trishaws will make another appearance in the 35km Social Classic race.

Cycling Without Age is now up and running in 41 countries and was recently road tested by Burradoo resident Anne Ford and keen bike riders Angus and Edward Sheer. Harbison is a long-time local that provides residential aged care, specialist dementia care, home care and respite care. It was founded in 1958 after a need was identified by the District Hospital Auxiliary. It is named after the late Dr David Thomas Harbison, a long-time Bowral GP. harbison.org.au

QUEST FOR LIFE, BUNDANOON

Petrea King is used to seeing trauma and suffering up close. The renowned wellbeing teacher, author, clinical hypnotherapist and international speaker with the soporific voice and kindly manner, has been helping and healing people for more than 20 years at Bundanoon's Quest for Life. Petrea is a survivor of trauma. In 1983 she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and was not expected to live. She credits meditation and coming to terms with her trauma as helping her recover, and in 1999 she founded her not for profit, Quest for Life Residential Centre at Bundanoon. On the edge of the town hemmed by the Morton National Park, her team of counsellors and therapists has assisted tens of thousands of people through its residential programs and workshop. Former servicemen and women with PTSD, victims of childhood sexual abuse, domestic violence survivors, those who are gravely ill and others shattered by grief through death, divorce or depression. After the horrific bushlands of December 2019, she turned her attention to traumatised communities, beginning with our own. "I was talking to one of our local GPs immediately after the fires and he said everyone was starting to come and see him with anxiety," says Petrea. The Quest for Life team has experience working with communities in the aftermath of natural disasters having worked with central NSW towns Trangie, Nyngan, Collie and Coonamble devastated by the crippling drought of 2017 to 2020. During the bushfire crisis, Quest opened its Bundanoon doors as a drop-in centre, and continues to deliver its outreach Bushfire Recovery Program into our affected communities and receives people into residential programs affected by bushfires. The Quest team also headed for central NSW recently to help communities devastated by drought, and the recent mouse plague. questforlife.org.au



. Petrea King, founder of Quest for Life



Angus Sheer, Harbison resident Anne Ford and Edward Sheer, Harbison. Image Elise Hassey

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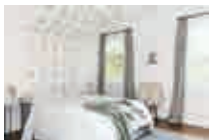
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Want to help care for our beautiful Highlands communities? Volwing (Wingecarribee Volunteer Centre) is our volunteer resource organisation and runs some bighearted programs such as Learning Driver Mentor Program for our disadvantaged youth trying to learn to drive and Combating Social Isolation for Seniors for our older people living alone. If flora and fauna are more your thing, Wingecarribee Shire's Council Bushcare and Rivercare looks after bushland and waterway public reserves or join a citizen science group and help monitor our koalas, platypuses and black cockatoos. Sign up to excellent The Wingecarribee Web newsletter, produced by the Environment and Sustainability team and see your environment levy at work. wsc.nsw.gov.au wolwing.org.au

MELISSA WIYA, Aboriginal Development Officer, Wingecarribee Shire Council.

Melissa Wiya is an Arakwal Bundjalung woman of Byron Bay on her mother's side, and her father is from Papua New Guinea. Working with state and federal government and Aboriginal groups and agencies, Melissa has developed and delivered educational and social programs to help our indigenous community and instigate more understanding and exploration of heritage and tradition. These include Community and Culture Responsive Training, Food Security, Elders Ageing Information workshop, Driving, Song and Dance, Connecting to Country, NAIDOC celebrations, Reconciliation Week, and Go 4 Fun. The Aboriginal Cultural Centre opened in Mittagong in July 2012 for the Aboriginal community and groups to access and conduct programs, training, community events and employment opportunities or as a meeting place. Melissa says: "Aunty Val Mulcahy is available to meet, answer questions and provide cultural advice over a cuppa and cake on Monday and Tuesday, and schools and businesses have visited for language programs. "On Thursdays, in partnership with Red Cross, Highlands Community Centres and OzHarvest,

we now run the Dhungung (Food) Share program, which delivers excess food from Woolworths, ALDI and Harris Farm to the centre for distribution. The opening of the new national park, Guula Ngurra, which translates as 'Koala country' in Gundungurra language. Melissa says: "Gundungurra Elder Aunty Sharyn Halls is excited about the area as there are significant Aboriginal cultural sites in the area relating to the Gundungurra Dreaming story Gurangatch and Mirragan." Melissa hopes to see in the future more established groups or individuals conducting cultural tours here. There are some amazing Aboriginal sacred sites that can be visited. "Nungungungulla (Jubilee Rocks), the first Aboriginal sacred site in the Wingecarribee, was gazetted under the Aboriginal Place Program on 20 February 2015. Gundungurra Lookout at Gibbergunyah Reserve ('nin garang thurree currobung' or the Place Between the Rocks) is where the mirror flash from Gundungurra Lookout at Gibbergunyah to the Blue Mountains is held. This is to commemorate that the Wingecarribee is, and forever will be the spiritual home of the traditional owners, the Gundungurra and D'harawal peoples. wsc.nsw.gov.au 



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Eilish Maloney, The What If Society with Justin Hartley and Sam Hansen of Duck Foot Farm.
Image Elise Hassey



Partner

As our region grows, socially minded, clean energy and community focused businesses are turning eyes on the green Southern Highlands. As employment demands increase, skills and innovation are needed. The challenge? To support and develop opportunities for our workforce and attract others with the skillsets required. Here are a few exciting ventures taking seed.

THE WHAT IF SOCIETY

Moss Vale's Eilish Maloney knows what it is to be helped. The 26-year-old chef thanks the four head chefs she has worked for as they gave her the confidence to start The What If Society, a food focused co-operative that champions local growers, producers and chefs: Luke Latimer at Onesta Cucina in Bowral; Jacqui Challinor at Nomad, Surry Hills; Brett Graham at The Ledbury in London; and Josh Niland at Saint Peter, Paddington.

Eilish says: "Brett and Jacqui particularly taught me how to lead and leadership is so important and I think in our industry particularly, no one wants to teach people any more. But as Brett said to me, 'If I spend the time now and teach you the way I want you to be taught, I actually make the money when you are doing the job right', which makes such good sense."

With wide family circles in the Highlands (including her parents, sister and brother-in-law who are beef farmers and her aunt and uncle who are Robertson potato farmers), after leaving Saint Peter and returning to Moss Vale in 2020, Eilish decided she wanted to start

supporting those who produce what she had been cooking in kitchens.

"At Saint Peter we were always getting 'Wow, you guys have amazing produce ... you are amazing'. And I was like, 'Well, thanks but we use phenomenal produce which is created by farmers and producers who pour their heart into what they do and yet are still doing it really tough'. It became too much about the completion on the plate and not actually where it comes from."

Opening The What If Society's store recently on Throsby Street, Moss Vale, Eilish is happy to be supporting local producers. A café, shop and workspace, The What If store stocks organic vegetables grown locally by Justin Hartley at Duck Foot Farm. It also sells local meats, honey, eggs, pickles and ferments and runs workshops. Eilish and her What If business partner, Kathryn Macfie can also be found at their stall outside Highlands Merchant on Saturdays from 7.30am to 11am. The What Ifs are also talking to local environmental group WinZero to encourage collaboration between small scale producers and landowners.

Eilish says: "There are so many young people I know who would love to use a pocket of land here that is sitting idle to grow and produce. If we can fill in the missing information gaps and show people it is a win-win, I believe we can make it happen and that opportunity will draw more younger people home."

The What If Society Store, 55 Throsby Street, Moss Vale, open 7am to 7pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Highlands Merchant, 405 Argyle Street, Moss Vale, open 6am to 2.30pm, seven days. thewhatifsociety.com highlandsmerchant.com.au

SILVERDALE STUD, AVOCA

Steve Grant, founder of property giant Capital Corporation and owner of thoroughbred brood mare stud Silverdale Farm at Avoca has always been big on training.

The self-made businessman grew up in Sydney's west and credits part of his success to education.

"In my career, I've done well out of surrounding myself with top staff and ensuring training was done," he says. "I struggled to get through school and into TAFE. I finally got in but the strangest thing was 20 years later I became the chair of TAFE advisory at western Sydney. "Training is something I've always focused on to ensure we bring people up through the industry, whether property or construction, or now with our thoroughbreds."

Horses have been part of Steve Grant's life since he was a boy. "We grew up from very meagre beginnings," he says. "We didn't own a car, let alone a horse, but there were horses on properties near us, and when I was a 12 I started

Steve Grant, owner of Silverdale Stud, Avoca with Brianna Sheffield, Thoroughbred Breeders Association intern



looking after horses in a paddock near us and that started it for me.”

In 1985, Steve and his brother Garry bought their first mare and started breeding. He bought Silverdale Stud in 2011 and has run several successful horses including Rebel Dane, a dual Group 1 winner and Kinema, which won at Royal Ascot in 2016. In 2018, he decided to up the equine ante. “We had our horses at Millburn Creek Stud at Wildes Meadow for many years, and when we decided to do it ourselves, we started transforming Silverdale from a cattle to a horse property,” he says. Fresh from its debut at the Gold Coast Magic Millions, where Silverdale ranked second leading vendor on average price, with individual yearlings selling up to \$750,000, Grant put up his hand to sponsor Thoroughbred Industry Careers, a not-for-profit organisation. Its aim? To provide career opportunities in the thoroughbred breeding and racing industry. Keen also to help create the next local generation, Steve says Moss Vale TAFE has two equine courses on offer. The Certificate III in Performance Horse and Certificate III in Agriculture (Horse focus) is a partnership between local equine industry and TAFE, and has been encouraged by local Hugh Clarke of Destination Sydney Surrounds South (DSSS). Steve Grant says this collaboration is important.

“Pre-COVID, we used to get a lot of visitors who would come over in the breeding season or sales season. Without these now, the industry is short and so it’s important we are training our youth, and retraining people who want a career change.” Grant says TAFE and DSSS are also in discussions to offer an introductory course on horse handling. “Once they get that

off the ground, students can apply for a three-month placement at Silverdale in the breeding season, or sale season,” he says. “They will get to work on the horses as part of the team and go to the sales in either Gold Coast or Sydney or be part of the foaling team.”

Steve is also keen to start a local school showcase. “We will be inviting all the local schools to Silverdale, where we’ll have a parade of the horses, and show the students our property and they can learn from our staff and trainees about the industry and the opportunities that exist,” says Steve. “It’s a great lifestyle out in the open with a lot of opportunity for overseas placement, too, in places like Ireland, the US and the UK. Over five years, we are hoping this will give the industry here a real foundation of young people coming through.” tbindustrycareers.com.au silverdalefarm.com.au tafe.nsw.edu.au

TRUEGREEN

Moss Vale looks tipped to become the nation’s electric vehicle capital after Australian-owned renewable energy investment firm, TrueGreen announced a \$700 million plan in April, 2021 to manufacture zero-emission buses. An earmarked 51 hectare site on Douglas Road sits within Moss Vale’s designated innovation site. Work is expected to start mid 2022. CEO Scott Taylor says the site will be a green innovation precinct, and will attract other businesses looking to generate positive environmental and social benefit. Scott Taylor says: “Tenants will be those who subscribe to the environmental, social and governance principles. Say a brewery wanted to come on board; breweries use a lot of energy and water so we would work with them to

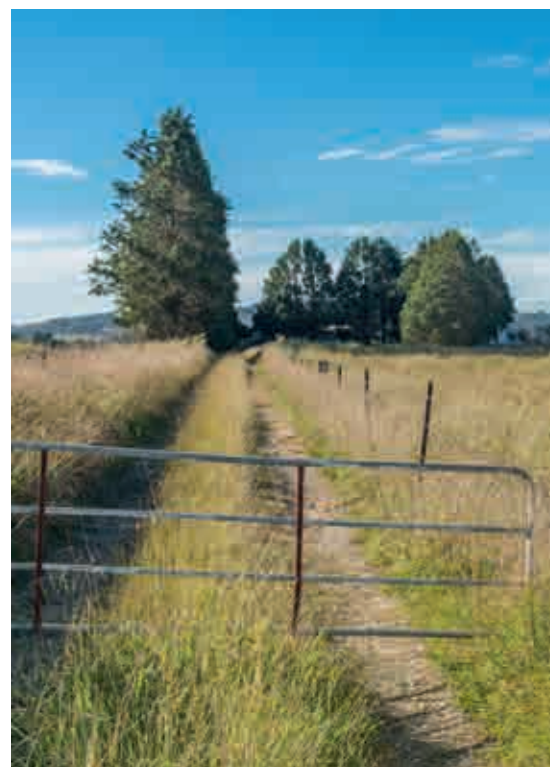
become more sustainable and carbon-neutral and they would live the values of our innovation precinct.”

The Environmental, Social and Governance Criteria are a set of global standards that consider a company’s relationship with employees, suppliers, customers, nature and communities. TrueGreen’s innovation precinct will house subsidiary Nexport, which will build a production plant to assemble electric buses and commercial vehicles, as well as VIRIDI Group, another TrueGreen subsidiary, which makes green timber prefabricated building products. TrueGreen’s investment in the Highlands is expected to create up to 2000 jobs over the next five years, and potentially up to 700 construction jobs in building the precinct, driven by tenant take up. “I think it will be a blend of workers, and it obviously depends on the tenants we attract,” says Scott Taylor on a recent Moss Vale site visit.

“The workers we have in the businesses from Glendenning and Campbelltown, where our mobility and green building businesses are, will make up a third but part of the attraction here is it is so central to Canberra, Sydney and Wollongong and it also gives us access to the universities in Canberra, Wollongong and Sydney.”

Nexport’s founder Luke Todd developed Sydney’s first electric buses, Blue Emu, at Sydney airport. According to industry reports, TrueGreen committed to its Moss Vale plans in response to the NSW state government’s announcement early 2021 it was committing to a carbon-neutral bus fleet by 2030.

“NSW Buses are going to convert all their buses to net zero by 2030. That means 8000 buses need to be replaced.”





Nexport Electric bus

“We are on it. And then Coles, Woolworths, Australia Post and Ikea are all committing to going carbon-neutral, so the next charge for us is the commercial vehicles.”

Nexport will assemble its electric battery-powered buses and commercial vehicles at the Moss Vale plant, which will be energy-efficient and solar-powered. The site will also have an educational component: an electric vehicles TAFE facility.

Scott Taylor says TrueGreen will work collaboratively, and intends to involve the community, commercial sectors and universities in an innovation council. “We are looking at how they could collaborate with us in mobility and energy,” he says. “And we are continually keen to talk to organisations within the Southern Highlands about how they can decarbonise. We’d love this area to become the capital of electric vehicles in Australia.”

Nexport electric buses are global: batteries are produced by Chinese company, BYD Auto. The bodies are manufactured in Malaysia and will be assembled in Moss Vale.

According to TrueGreen, a recent report by Bloomberg found by 2025 nearly half of municipal buses worldwide will be electric. “Moss Vale’s location makes it a great place to live, work and play,” says Scott Taylor. “We see it as strategically important in helping attract the right talent we need.” truegreengroup.com wsc.nsw.gov.au

TrueGreen CEO Scott Taylor. Image Ashley Mackevicius



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Series 1, 2022
Saturday 19th March at 7.30pm
Sunday 20th March at 2.30pm
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Add to Cart sisters Beth Macdonald and Lucy Mitchell. Image Elise Hassey



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ADD TO CART, MOSS VALE

One of the challenges facing online content providers is monetising business. Just ask Rupert Murdoch. But it's a hurdle local author of the globally followed blog Baby Mac, Beth Macdonald and her sister Lucy Mitchell sailed over. Two years ago, the entrepreneurial Burrawang businesswomen started Add to Cart, an online shop and commercial spin-off from Beth's long-running blog. Says Beth: "The blog still stands as is and works with the shop in many ways. I still love to entertain, share recipes and moments of our life and now I have the option to swipe up to buy the tablecloth at the table. It's been a smart way to get the readers involved, whilst giving me financial freedom and control." With a career in marketing, Lucy says selling products Beth loves, and talks about frequently to her 30,000 followers, seemed a natural progression. "Beth could see the value that she was providing to brands as part of her paid collaborations and sponsorships with the blog and her fans have always been highly engaged and very loyal, so if she was telling them that she loved a product, they were buying it."

Add to Cart operates out of a funky office space in Moss Vale, from where it sends off its wares, mostly Australian brands of clothes, homewares and accessories including locally founded Bespoke Letterpress and ZOCO, across the world. It works, says Beth because as an online shop, Add to Cart offers the ability to juggle family with work and doesn't compete with local on-street retailers, all of whom Beth has frequented, and promoted on her social media platforms over the years.

Online retail, says Lucy, is a new employment venue for working parents who need family flexibility but still want to use their professional skills and experience, especially for those in rural and regional areas.

Beth concurs. "It was definitely a leap of faith but we knew if it didn't work we both still had other work to rely on. The mixture of both our skills 'front of house' and 'back end' and a passion for customer service and attention to detail has made it a success. And my ability to feed the beast from years of social media with the blog has helped to keep it fresh and flourishing." babymacshop.com.au

AUSTRUSS, BRAEMAR

Lisa and Andrew Fowler learnt early on necessity is the mother of invention. 25 years ago, the Glenquarry couple started a small commercial building firm in Sydney's southern suburbs. Lisa has a background in finance and Andrew is a carpenter by trade. "We did a few sporting clubs and also built a few houses and then we started building a house for ourselves near the Georges River," says Lisa.

"Being a carpenter, Andrew was going to build it out of timber and then he found the termites had eaten out the profiles and said, 'I can't use a timber frame on this site' so he went looking for a steel frame, which was relatively unknown in building back then."

Andrew found the steel frame he was looking for through a company in Dubbo. The former owner became Andrew's mentor, and the Fowler's bought the engineering rights for a new process of steel frame processing, roll forming, from him.

"It was a bit like that old TV ad, we loved the product so much we bought the company but that's how Austruss started."



Hayden Bryant and sister Mel Tooth, Highlands Signs and Graphics. Image Elise Hassey

Roll forming is a form of engineering technology that takes a flat piece of steel (Austruss uses steel from Port Kembla), passes it through a machine and forms it into a shape which is then locked together like Lego pieces to build steel frames and trusses.

Says Andrew: "Traditionally, you built steel frames and trusses and put them on a truck and then on site, you'd put them up and put the roof on with traditional building methods. Now what's happening more and more is we build the frames and trusses on our Braemar factory

floor. We put the cladding on, the external cladding and the insulation on and send it off as a whole wall panel or even in semi-complete floors. You can see this building happening on *Grand Designs* in the UK because northern Europe and the UK have been doing this for years, and now it's starting to gain momentum in Australia."

Today Austruss is an Australian leader in prefabricated light gauge steel frames and trusses with an annual multi million dollar turnover. It helps create large scale buildings,

specialising in schools, aged care, hospital and stadiums. It employs a team of 45 people at its Braemar headquarters, including a team of 12 engineering designers, and another 50 employees who work eternally on building sites. Austruss recently worked on local project Ngununggula, the new regional gallery at Retford Park, as well as Bendooley Estate's new cellar door, and Harbison Care's new dementia wing at Burradoo. The Fowlers are now looking to foster opportunities for local school leavers. "The design part is our biggest bottleneck in our business," says Lisa. "It takes about six weeks to redraw and re-engineer these buildings for our clients, so it's a long process but of the 12 engineering designers we have working in our office, eight commute from Sydney. We just don't produce the engineers in that field locally so we are looking to roll out some cadetships to school leavers who have this third dimensional thinking. The ability to conceptually understand how pieces fit together. It's a particular type of skillset."

austruss.com.au

ATTENTION SIGNS, MITTAGONG

Business owner Hayden Bryant worked as a motorbike postie while planning how to make his dream of owning his own signage and graphics business a reality.

"I had been in the industry since doing my apprenticeship in Cowra, where I was born and bred and afterwards, and I moved to Sydney in 2010 to work for a big signage and graphics



operation,” says Hayden.

“But in 2012, I decided I needed trees in my life, and to get out of Sydney so I moved here but couldn’t get a gig in signwriting so I thought, ‘Maybe it’s something I can do as a side gig.’”

He took a job as a postie and started Attention Signs and Graphics doing signwriting jobs on the side. In March 2017, Hayden, employed big sister Mel and decided the time was right to leave mail delivery behind, to focus on his company. Self-belief and hard graft paid off, and today Attention Signs and Graphics counts Springetts Arcade, Oxley Frames & Trusses, Go Transit and Anytime Fitness Macarthur among its clients. Attention Signs and Graphics designs and installs business signage, vehicle signage, shop signage and printed garments.

“Part of the beauty of owning a business in the Southern Highlands is the quick accessibility to other markets,” says Hayden.

His sister Mel Tooth now works fulltime with Hayden at his workshop. During the COVID-19 lockdown of 2020, as the rest of the nation went into lockdown, Attention Signs worked overtime thanks to the innovative siblings, and the reimagining of floor decals. Hayden says: “Non-essential businesses had to close, and I was thinking ‘how are we going to pay the bills? What if I start doing some floor decals because everywhere, they’ve just got electrical tape crosses on the floor?’”

Hayden added some parameters (COVID-19, stand here, keep 1.5m apart) and put his logo on them.

“I think since the first 50, which we donated, we’ve printed a thousand of them and we’ve custom designed ones for Gumnut Patisserie and Empire Cinema and places in Goulburn. 12 months later, people still want them.”

Starting a new business, says Hayden has been a steep but rewarding learning curve.

“One of the surprises for me was how quickly our business has grown. It has been challenging at times because of the speed that has happened. But there’s a lot going on in the Highlands.” atnnsigns.com.au **SH**

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Andrew and Lisa Fowler, Austruss. Image Eltse Hassey

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A photograph of "the honey thief" products. There are two jars of honey and one bottle of honey. The jars and bottle have black labels with the "the honey thief" logo, which is a white teardrop shape containing a stylized bee. Above the products is a circular logo with a four-leaf clover and the text "POLLEN AND NECTAR SOURCED BY THE BEES OF BOWRAL".

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