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IMAGE Greg Bourke

CELEBRATING SPRING

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden

From gardens bedazzled with colour, to the healing touch of fresh air, let nature be your guide this Spring in the Blue Mountains.

What a difference a year makes! This time 12 months ago, lockdowns and travel restrictions had brought the tourist economy of the Blue Mountains to its knees; attractions were closed, festivals and celebrations were cancelled, and local businesses were struggling for survival.

Today, as we relegate the copious challenges of recent times to history, there's a palpable air of

renewed hope as we slide into the most beautiful and spectacular season in the Blue Mountains – Spring!

One look at our Events Calendar (page 26) will reveal that not only are our most popular and iconic events back, but they will be bigger and better than ever!

The hills will certainly be alive with the sound of blues, folk and jazz with the long-awaited return of the Blue Mountains Music Festival in October; while literary types will revel in the promised discussions, workshops and readings of the Blue Mountains Writers Festival.

As the weather gets warmer, so the beautiful gardens and bushland of our World Heritage-listed natural

playground burst into technicolour; trees are laden with ethereal blossoms, bulbs nod their delicate heads under canopies of fresh green leaves, and natives such as waratahs add their vibrant majesty to the green and gold of the wilderness.

To celebrate Spring colour, Leura's legendary Gardens Festival is back with a vengeance, showcasing the horticultural artistry in nine beautiful gardens from October 1-4.

The Mid-Mountains also get their chance to show off with a garden festival running over two weekends in September; while just beyond the western lip of the Mountains, the Central Tablelands

BY JULIE MILLER

Garden Trail celebrates the majesty of five gardens in the growing horticultural hub of Little Hartley in late October.

Nature also plays her hand in another industry synonymous with the Blue Mountains for over a century – the world of wellness.

From yoga retreats to day spas, spoil yourself this Spring, with our guide to the best of the region's best self-care options on page 16.

So head to the hills to relax, chill out and soak up the splendour of the Blue Mountains in all its Springtime glory!



**WHERE TO EAT, STAY,
AND PLAY ALL IN ONE
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Everglades House & Garden by David Hill, Deep Hill Media

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IMAGE David Hill, Deep Hill Media

IMAGE David Hill, Deep Hill Media

IMAGE David Hill, Deep Hill Media

IMAGE David Hill, Deep Hill Media

Everglades House & Garden

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden

Ewanrigg

Harp of Erin

Everglades House & Garden

SPRING BLOOMS

As the landscape awakens from its Winter slumber, splashes of colour begin to dot the scenery.

The kaleidoscopic Spring blooms of the region – from Glenbrook to Hartley and sweeping across to the far side of the Blue Mountains along the Bells Line of Road – have attracted visitors to the region for more than a century.

Most famous are the blood red waratah stands in the bush, buttery daffodil drifts in public spaces, the famous cherry trees of Leura Mall, the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens of Blackheath, the exquisite private gardens and manicured azalea groves of Mount Wilson, and the priceless public collection at Blue Mountains Botanic Garden at Mount Tomah.

National Trust property Everglades House & Garden at Leura has long been a star attraction, with its sweeping dry-packed stone walls,

meandering pathways and tiered terraces overlooking dramatic soaring escarpments and deep valleys enclosing the delicate subtlety of exotic species and native plants.

Gardens are a feature of all National Trust properties in the Blue Mountains, delighting visitors and creating an environment conducive to leisure, learning and appreciation of heritage.

Everglades property manager Guy McIlrath says flowing drifts of azaleas are a highlight there in Spring.

“The magnificent wisteria-covered walkway at Norman Lindsay Gallery & Museum at Faulconbridge is simply stunning, whilst the charming cottage gardens set against glowing sandstone at Woodford Academy are enchanting.”

McIlrath says the multicoloured palette of Spring colour throughout the Blue Mountains between September and November is filled with the bright hues of bulbs: tulips, late daffodils, bluebells, alliums, freesias and hyacinths.

BY ELLEN HILL

The branches of cherry trees, crab apples and plums burst into bloom alongside azaleas and rhododendrons, while laburnum and wisteria cascade with colour and dogwoods erupt in pinks and cream.

In the untamed bush, red waratahs dot the landscape and myriad native peas such as Pultenaea sprinkle the scenery with yellow and red flowers.

Purple flowering mint bushes (Prostanthera), pink boronias and white flannel flowers delight bushwalkers with splashes of colour among the muted hues of eucalypts and sandstone.

“Everything about Spring makes you feel alive – energy is rising, colour abounds and there is life everywhere,” McIlrath says.

“There are so many beautiful gardens to see and no bigger garden than our wonderful Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.”



Everglades House & Garden

Wildwood Garden

Blue Vista

Norman Lindsay Gallery

SPRING GARDENS & EVENTS

BY ELLEN HILL

Mid-Mountains Garden Festival

Eight private properties (Aldebaran, Totoro, Arcadia, Tanglewood, Stoneholm Lane, Tarraleah, Elvis and Djurali) showcase their magnificent gardens across Woodford, Linden, Lawson and Hazelbrook to raise funds for Hazelbrook Public School. Garden themes include a modern garden set against a 1920s bungalow and a rustic cottage-style garden named after a Japanese anime nature spirit with a succulent flowered earth-roofed home, scented and medicinal plants, a Totoro teahouse and fantasy film

sculptures scattered throughout. There's a semi-formal European-style garden inspired by Elvis Presley's song "Follow that Dream" and a rustic patch with a treehouse and mud kitchen. Each garden includes a special hidden art project by school students, and there's plants and produce for sale at the school and individual gardens. Tickets: \$32 festival pass, \$60 festival pass for 2, children under-16 free with accompanying paid adult. September 10-11 & 17-18, 2022 www.midmountainsgardenfestival.com

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah

A sweeping oasis of more than 5,200 cool climate plants, visitors can explore the 28ha of publicly accessible space on individual walks or guided tours. Visit the highest altitude botanic garden in the country during September to see more than 150,000 daffodils sprinkled across the lawns. See exquisite Japanese cherry blossom trees and masses of our New South Wales state flower in October at the annual Wild About Waratahs festival.

1-4 October 2022
Gardens open
9.30am-4.30pm

Facebook icon
Instagram icon

Think Spring ... think Leura

- Magnificent gardens • Art Show
- Stunning mountain scenery

All Gardens Ticket - \$40 • Three Gardens Ticket - \$20
Single Garden Ticket - \$10
All tickets are valid for the duration of the Festival

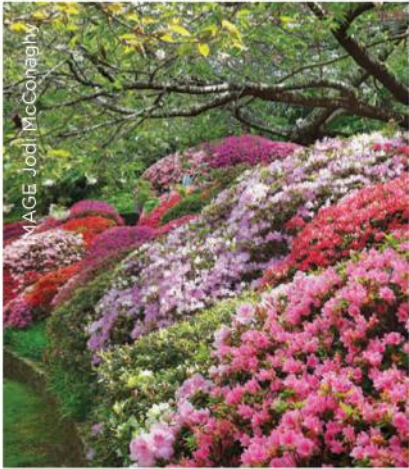
Tickets will be available later this year online and during the Festival at Leura Mall, Festival HQ (Fitzroy Street, Leura), Everglades, and Garden No.1. Tickets also available online using a QR code at other gardens.

Money raised supports Blue Mountains Hospital and other health related organisations

leuragardensfestival.com.au
E: leuragardensfestival@fastmail.com.au • T: 0431 095 279

Leura Gardens Festival

Nine beautiful gardens in the boutique village will show off their magnificent displays of new growth, masses of flowers, gorgeous bulbs and an amazing variety of cool-climate plants including azaleas, rhododendrons and peonies as well as magnificent deciduous trees. New garden Avila shows what can be achieved in a small space and the larger Karoola sports formal and rambling bush settings and remarkable wisteria plantings. Returning gardens are Ewanrigg, Fairways, Hill of Grace, Seasons and The Braes which puts on an impressive show across its vast, varied and everchanging acreage. Roam the Paul Sorensen-designed heritage garden of Everglades House & Garden with its meandering terraces, wooded glades and ferned grotto pool. Venture beyond the Fairmont Resort's ornamental liquid amber-lined driveway to ramble around the lake with its European water lilies and Koi carp, the



magnificent Juniper hedge and waterfall, incidental sculptures, reflection benches and magnificent tree and plant specimens including the weeping Norway spruce. The hop-on/hop-off bus runs every 30 minutes between gardens. The first circuit leaves Leura station at 9.30am and the last at 4.30pm. T: 0431 095 279 | Tickets valid: www.trybooking.com/events/923327/sessions/3255139 Single garden \$10, three gardens \$20, all gardens \$40. Hop-on/hop-off bus \$10. Group tours welcome. www.leuragardensfestival.com.au



Aldebaran

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden

Highfields

Goryu Japanese Gardens

The garden's spiky blue puya plants, which grow up to 3m tall and bloom with jade-coloured flowers, will be displayed until December, attracting local birds and bees with their nectar. From October to December, more than 200 dahlia and peony varieties will also be in bloom. Bells Line of Rd, Mount Tomah
Open: 9am to 5pm seven days | Cost: free
www.bluemountainsbotanicgarden.com.au

Mount Wilson Gardens

Nowhere is Spring colour more evident than at Mount Wilson, where spectacular cool climate private gardens and sweeping public avenues are ablaze with colour. The historic village has more than 20 walks of

varying levels of difficulty, lookouts to scenic vistas, charming picnic areas and Insta-worthy scenes at every turn. The best way to experience Spring at Mount Wilson is to roam the streets on foot. Church Lane, Queen's Avenue, The Avenue and Cathedral Reserve with their rows of plane trees, limes, elms, beeches, liquidambar and pink cherries are a good sensory start. Cost: public areas free, private gardens vary
Off the Bells Line of Road
www.mtwilson.com.au

Central Tablelands Garden Trail

Five diverse gardens of Little Hartley nuzzled

against the western foothills of the Blue Mountains offer everything from historic buildings to Japanese influences, multi-hued cottage gardens, rare plants and gorgeous water features, huge perennial borders, loads of garden ideas and magnificent escarpment and mountain views. Enjoy the unique garden collective of Highfields, Hartvale, Wild Meadows, Harp of Erin and Goryu Japanese Gardens. Bus groups and picnics welcome. October 29-30, 2022
www.visitnsw.com/destinations/blue-mountains/lithgow-area/hartley/events/central-tablelands-garden-trail-0
Open: 10am to 4pm | Entry: \$15 adults per garden, children under-16 free

Wildwood Garden



After a wet winter, the magical Wildwood Garden at Bilpin is set to explode with Spring blossoms, birdlife and sunshine. Glorious flower-filled trees abound in the garden Sue and Wayne Tapping have developed for more than 35 years. The budding display starts with magnolias, which continue to bloom into early September. By mid-September cherry trees are in full flourish and the weeping cherries along the driveway are particularly splendid. Dogwoods under-planted with

azaleas take over later in the season, while elsewhere are frothy displays of crabapples, usually abuzz with bees. Several varieties of wisteria add colour and scent to the Spring show. Pots of tulip, hyacinth and daffodil bulbs add a cheery note, while roses also add colour and fragrance later in the season. Early Spring leaf growth ranges from the fresh green of deciduous trees to the bright reds and golds of Japanese maples (the Tappings advise gardeners to include feature plants that bloom throughout the season to extend the Spring show, even in small gardens). Wildwood also has a gift shop, nursery and café with disabled access and plenty of free parking. Opens: 10am to 4pm Friday – Monday until November 7 (including public holidays). Cost: \$10 (\$8 for concession, children under 16 free)
29 Powells Rd, Bilpin
www.wildwoodgarden.com.au



- Rare plants & flowers
 - Waterfall, lake, picnic areas
 - Birdlife, mountain views
 - Café, gift shop & nursery
 - Groups welcome – call 0417 042 460
- Entry \$10 (\$8 conc. Children free)

Open August 12–November 7, 2022
Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday 10am–4pm
29 Powells Road Bilpin NSW 2758
90 minutes from Sydney
wildwoodgarden.com.au

SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

BY ELLEN HILL

The experienced climber who just wants company for the day. The sweaty-handed, petrified first-timer grasping at the ropes. The thrill-seeker in a wheelchair rolling towards the cliffline...

ECO ADVENTURES

They – and you – benefit from Hugh Sutherland's 2021 NSW Tourism Awards Young Achiever Award.



A climbing instructor and guide with Blue Mountains Climbing School, Sutherland clinched the award with his work mentoring young guides and helping to make the outdoor adventure industry safer for customers and workers.

He has led an industry discussion that aims to improve pay and conditions, standards and compliance within the outdoor industry throughout Australia.

Doing so boosts the confidence of visitors and locals to venture down the clifflines of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area with the help of expert professional guides.

Sutherland has spent the past decade learning those ropes, even

helping deliver a "Tyrolean traverse" which involves a person in a wheelchair attached by harness to a tensioned rope so they can pull themselves across a canyon, river or cliff.

"There was this lady – she was in her 60s and had been climbing her whole life. She just wanted a climbing partner for a day. So we went into the Grose Valley and we climbed the Bunny Bucket Buttress that was about 300 metres.

"She was very competent, but to see her enjoyment of just being out and having fun was really satisfying. And then you think: 'This is my job. I'm getting paid to be in this amazing place with this person who really wants to be here.'"

Sutherland, 30, has been climbing since moving to the Blue Mountains 12 years ago. The outdoor adventure course he planned to do in Queensland was cancelled, so he enrolled in one here instead.

After working mainly in schools, he switched to guiding adults climbing, bushwalking and canyoning in 2015 and became a trainer and assessor in 2017.

The ultimate day in the bush for Sutherland is climbing in the Grose or Wolgan valley with a mate "and having that sense of wilderness and remoteness and appreciating the beauty of the place we live in".

"Whether you want to go on a half-day walk or a half-hour walk,

you can see 200-metre waterfalls, million-year-old rainforest and cliff bands that tell a story; you can see Indigenous heritage, you can see the European heritage and mining.

"You go into a canyon and it's like you're in a different world and travelled back in time.

"I've been here a while and there's still places I haven't been to. The opportunities to explore are endless."

Blue Mountains Climbing School offers outdoor canyon and rock-climbing experiences, as well as bush safety and rescue training.

T: 0491 223 133

E: climb@climbingschool.com.au

<https://climbingschool.com.au>

MOUNTAINS OF ADVENTURE INDOORS

With its towering clifflines and plunging canyons, the Blue Mountains is world-renowned as an outdoor adventure destination. But what do thrill seekers do in the rain?

They harness up and hone their skills on a variety of bouldering and top rope walls indoors.

Climber and long-time skater Patrick Lewis and partner Zoe Miller Stubbs, a speech pathologist, have created the purpose-built 2292 sqm industrial-style space as a community hub divided into separate business areas.

Leura Indoor Rock Climbing offers top rope climbing (climbing with a harness and rope anchored from above) and bouldering (climbing without a harness or ropes).

There are 1400 holds built into the climbing walls, with routes set by champion climbers from Blue Mountains Climbing School,

BY ELLEN HILL

the Australian School of Mountaineering and others, which will change regularly to keep the experience fresh and interesting and climbers challenged.

Classes will help beginners learn new skills and experienced climbers extend themselves.

“People love outdoor climbing and the Blue Mountains is perfect for it, but we’re offering somewhere you can get out of the elements and learn to climb or train in all seasons and weather,” Patrick says.

Climbers can bring their own gear, hire shoes, harnesses and chalk or buy it new from the onsite pro shop.

“Our aim is to be a real community hub where people can come together, enjoy one another’s company and try something new,” says the former quantity surveyor.

“There’s nothing like this in the Mountains.”

The centre has an indoor climbing



gym, skate shop, mini skate ramp, squash court, traditional Finnish sauna, arcade games, half-court basketball, Leura Wellness, kiosk with fireplace and legal walls for graffiti art, with further plans for the future.

A range of memberships is available for adults, families and children, as well as single and multi-day passes. **Leura Indoor Rock Climbing** is open 9am-9pm at 7 Quinns Ave, Leura <https://leuraindoorrockclimbing.com.au>

LINKING THE GREAT WEST WALK

BY ELLEN HILL

From eat street strips, heritage buildings and swaths of parklands to the mighty Nepean River and the magnificent scenery of the Blue Mountains, experience it all on the Great West Walk.

Mapped by The Walking Volunteers, the 140km route stretches from Parramatta in the east to Katoomba in the west and traverses a varied landscape traditionally owned by Darug people.

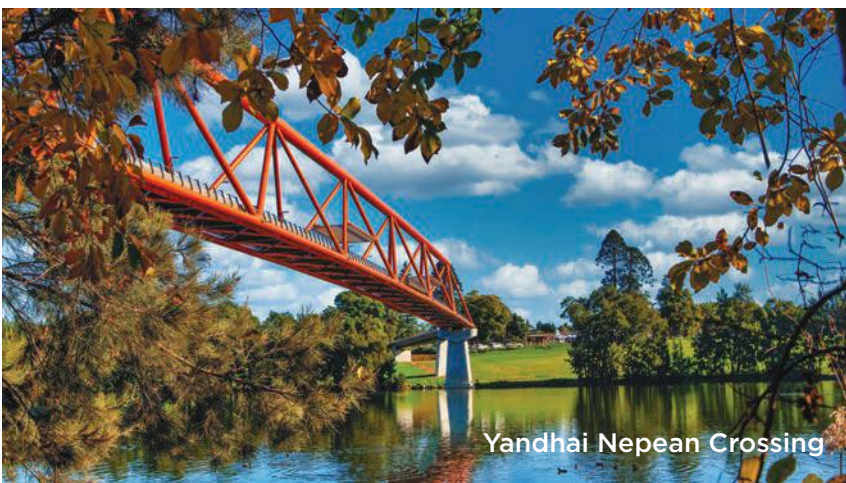
It uncovers some of the secret stories and surprising vistas hidden in Western Sydney, protected

Cumberland Plain woodland, local river systems, public parklands, Australia’s oldest architecture and some of the region’s most iconic urban landscapes.

The award-winning Great West Walk links parks, open spaces, bushland and walking and cycling paths.

Here’s a few landmarks you’ll see along the way:

Bicentennial Square, Old Government House and The Old Dairy in Parramatta; The Lost Rogans Hill Railway Line at Northmead; Third Settlement Reserve at Winston Hills; Nurragingy Reserve, Chang Lai Yuan Chinese Gardens and



Blacktown International Sports Park at Western Sydney Parklands; Rooty Hill Historic Site at Rooty Hill; Federation Forest at Mount Druitt; Nepean River and Yandhai Bridge in Penrith; and RAAF Base

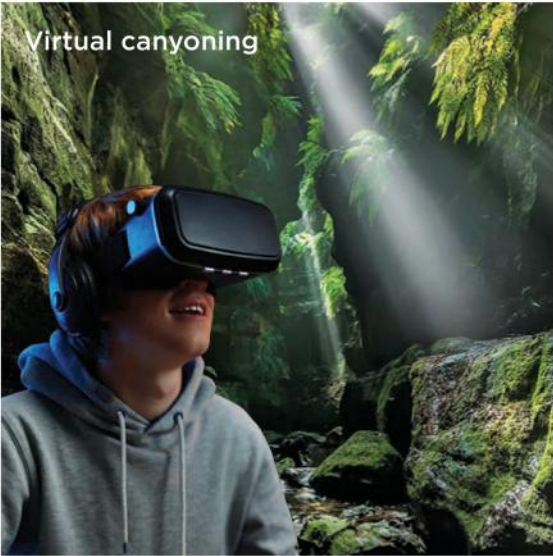
Glenbrook, Glenbrook Tramway and Funicular, Corridor of Oaks at Faulconbridge, the Three Sisters and Echo Point Lookout in the Blue Mountains.

Visit <https://greatwestwalk.com.au>

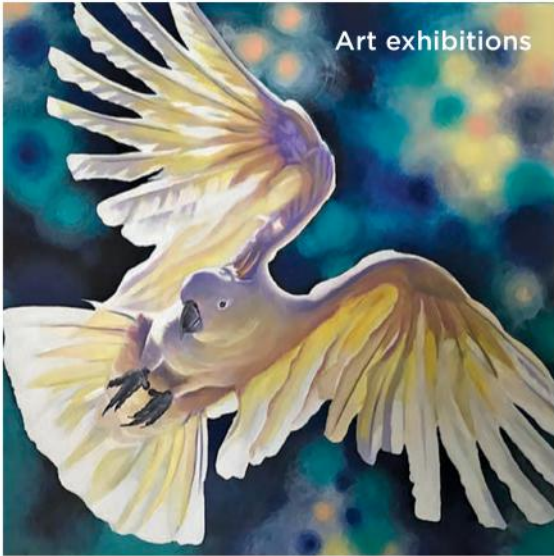
Wend your way along the Blue Mountains ridges and explore local breweries, distillers and coffee roasters.

Blue Mountains
CRAFT BEVERAGE
TRAIL

PAGE
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Virtual canyoning



Art exhibitions



School holiday activities

IMAGE: Mim Osterberg

WHERE HERITAGE MEETS CULTURE

The Blue Mountains Heritage Centre, located just before the Govetts Leap Lookout, is more than just an information centre – it’s also a place to celebrate the unique environment and culture of the Blue Mountains.

Managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, the team at the Heritage Centre provides visitors with expert advice on activities within the National Park including bushwalking, camping and bike riding. The Centre also features interpretative displays about Aboriginal history and native flora and fauna, as well as ‘Outside In’ – an exhibition on the history and heritage of the Grose Valley.

There’s also a gift shop that sells great books and locally made gifts, including eco-friendly and Indigenous-designed products.

Also running until September 30 is a special event in the theatrette, celebrating 90 years since the Blue Gum Forest was saved from the axe in 1932. This eight-minute slideshow tells the story of this incredible forest, which stands on Dharug land in the heart of the Grose Valley. Most of the trees in the forest are Mountain Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus deanei*) which grow to over 70 metres and can live for over 1000 years; it’s one of about 100 species of eucalypts found in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Art exhibitions

Art exhibitions are featured quarterly, with the current exhibition – *Luke Kelly: Colourful Creations* – running until October 31. Luke is a self-taught painter who has a love for Australia’s natural beauty and has an ongoing obsession with painting Australia’s unique and boisterous wildlife. Coming up from November until the end of January 2023 will be an exhibition about Skippy, the beloved bush kangaroo. The gallery is open most days 9.00am- 4.30pm.

School holiday activities

National Parks and Wildlife Service’s team of Educational Rangers have inspiring school holiday activities planned in Blackheath this October school holidays. Ranger guided experiences entertain and engage young visitors, while nurturing an appreciation of nature and our beautiful national parks.

Bush safety, Aboriginal games for kids, navigation, mapping and orienteering are just a few of the fun school holiday activities on offer. Kids can also enjoy special Spring programs which include the popular spotlight tour, and stories around the campfire. Holiday activities cost \$20 per child. Bookings must be made in advance to secure a spot.

For further information about NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service guided activities phone (02) 4784 7301 or email bluemtns.education@environment.nsw.gov.au

Virtual canyoning

If you can’t make it to one of the scheduled sessions, children of all ages can experience one of the world’s most spectacular canyons in complete safety at the Heritage Centre. Using cutting-edge virtual reality technology, kids can ‘walk’ through the Claustral Canyon, with its high rock walls and waterfalls. The virtual canyoning

experience is \$10 for 20 minutes. For more information visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/visitor-centres/blue-mountains-heritage-centre or phone the NPWS Heritage Centre team on (02) 4787 8877. Open 9.00am–4.00pm every day (except Christmas day).






Blue Mountains Heritage Centre

- Close to spectacular Govetts Leap lookout
- Expert advice on activities, plants and animals in Blue Mountains National Park
- Maps and books
- Locally-made gifts, and Aboriginal designed products
- Interpretive displays and exhibitions

Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath
For more information visit nationalparks.nsw.gov.au or call 02 4787 8877



[#NSWParks](https://www.facebook.com/NationalParksNSW)



IMAGES Michael Small, Kumbayah Studios

PHANTOM FALLS: A SPRING SPECTACLE

Every now and again, when conditions are just right, ghostly fingers reach across the narrow peninsular jutting into the wilderness south of Katoomba.

Within minutes, the silent tendrils thicken up to 800m wide into a shifting curtain like white horses on a beach. They race and jostle at 10-20m per second, leapfrogging each other towards the cliff before flinging themselves towards the edge of the plateau. Then they spill over the cliff like a waterfall down into the valley and disappear. Rimmed by vertical cliffs, the Narrow Neck peninsula extends

from the main plateau south for approximately 10km. It divides two great different valleys, the Jamison to the east and the Megalong to the west. Its narrowest part is just 50m wide. The seductive mists of the Mountains provoked “Australia’s Poet Lorikeet”, writer and teacher Denis Kevans to pen the poem *Passing Mist* (2003), the last two lines of which are engraved into a World Heritage sandstone plinth

on the concourse leading to Echo Point Lookout at Katoomba. The natural phenomenon known as phantom falls occurs in Spring (and Autumn) on a clear, still morning after rain. Air in the Jamison Valley is warmed by the sun’s rays and rises. This draws in the moist, colder air from the neighbouring Megalong Valley, which spills over Narrow Neck into the Jamison Valley. The “waterfall” slides down the sunlit valley slope and dissipates, vanishing into thin air like Kevans’ “ghosts of ocean waves”.

Occasionally at night, the effect is reversed, and the falls run backwards over the peninsula and flow into the Megalong Valley. Drive or walk along Cliff Drive, Katoomba, and pause at Landslide or Narrow Neck lookouts to witness the phantom falls.

WATCH ONLINE
Phantom falls captured by the Scenic World weather cam.
https://youtu.be/_BdvrDC4yrA



6 TIPS TO FINDING YOUR PERFECT HIKE

With so many different bushwalks to choose from, these simple tips will help you find the one that is right for you... Not too hard, not too easy, just right.

- 1 How much time do you have?**
An hour, half or full day? This is a better question than how many kilometres you want to walk. This will help you meet goals like reaching the Scenic Railway base station in time for the last train or your delicious restaurant dinner booking.
- 2 What do you like?**
Are you a grand, expansive, dramatic landscapes kind of person? Maybe you’re a mad-keen waterfall chaser, wildlife seeker or rainforest tragic. With so much choice in the Blue Mountains, there’s a hike to suit every taste.
- 3 Be realistic about your fitness.**
Most of our walks start near the

- villages along the Great Western Highway, so any that descend deep into the Jamison Valley (from Echo Point or Wentworth Falls) or the Grose Valley (Grand Canyon, Pierces Pass or Victoria Falls) are going to include a lot of stairs. Remember: what goes down, must come up. Don’t worry if that doesn’t sound like you – there are loads of gentler choices with great views that stick to the escarpment.
- 4 Do your research.**
Download the free NPWS App which is jam-packed with downloadable maps (which work offline), track notes, photos and information. Or speak to experts at the NPWS Heritage Centre at Blackheath or the Visitor



IMAGE Ben Cirulis

- Information Centres** at Glenbrook or Echo Point.
- 5 Check for track closures.**
The heavy rain of 2022 has led to many tracks being closed for repair, so avoid disappointment by checking NPWS Blue Mountains Alerts and BMCC Walking Tracks online.*

BY CARO RYAN

6 Read the fine print and signs.
I’ve lost count of how many times I’ve passed people out in the bush who have asked, “How much further?” or “How many more stairs?” Take a moment to read any signs and check your watch before committing yourself, especially if it’s late in the day.

Caro Ryan is a bushwalker, search and rescue volunteer, TV and video producer, author, and the creator of [Lotsafreshair.com](https://www.lotsafreshair.com), where she shares her passion for all things outdoors.

WATCH ONLINE
Porters Pass Bushwalk/
Centennial Glen Bushwalk
<https://youtu.be/WXKNlIadaZ8>



*Before you set out, make sure to check which areas are closed. Visit www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/walking-tracks and www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/blue-mountains-national-park/local-alerts

NEW GRAND CLIFF TOP WALK FROM WENTWORTH FALLS TO KATOOMBA

Already a globally recognised landscape, the rugged beauty of the Blue Mountains cliff tops is a step closer to being more accessible to nature lovers through an outstanding new walk.

The 20km Grand Cliff Top Walk from Wentworth Falls village to Scenic World will offer magnificent views and a new overnight bushwalk.

The mammoth four-year project renews and connects existing tracks, crossing lands managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Blue Mountains City Council. Linking the tourist towns of Wentworth Falls, Leura and Katoomba, it creates a spectacular walk spanning the length of the southern escarpment.

Walkers can stop and enjoy a night in a mountain village choosing from many accommodation options and complete the track the following day.

The Grand Cliff Top Walk is accessible from different locations, which allows walkers to tailor the length of their walk.

The most visited national park in NSW with about 8 million visits a year, Blue Mountains National Park is home to some of the oldest and most popular bushwalks in Australia.

NPWS Blue Mountains Branch director David Crust said track infrastructure was designed to last at least a century while providing a better and safer visitor experience.

“Once completed, this will be an iconic walk that will give access to this beautiful and unique World Heritage area to many more visitors,” Mr Crust said.

“Building a track in such rugged areas that 1500 helicopter lifts have been undertaken in the past 12 months to bring in equipment, shows how challenging this terrain is.”



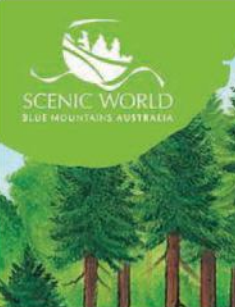
“So far, NPWS staff have crafted 1169 steps and built 5121 metres of track designed to blend in with the landscape and eliminate erosion along the paths.



BY ELLEN HILL

“The painstakingly-built steps were often carved from stone, in keeping with the area’s traditional 100-year-old sandstone paths, and as part of a strategy to future-proof the track against damage from bushfires,” Mr Crust said. The work to join existing tracks and pathways, complete missing links and improve lookouts

has reached the halfway mark. Funded as part of the largest ever State Government investment in visitor infrastructure in NSW national park history, the \$10 million Grand Cliff Top Walk is on target for completion in 2023.



SpQ the
Gruffalo
at Scenic World

Page 38



IMAGE DPE

PLATYPUS DREAMING

New technology using environmental DNA has revealed that one of Australia's most beloved icons, the platypus, is thriving in Blue Mountains waterways.

In the time of the Dreaming, an adventurous and disobedient duck named Gaygar wandered away from her family on a lake near Walgett, and was kidnapped by the malevolent water rat, Bigun. After escaping from her captor, Gaygar later gave birth to three strange babies, who had four webbed feet and a duck bill, and were covered in fur. Banished by the other ducks, Gaygar and her odd little family swam downstream to the colder waters of the Central Tablelands and the Blue Mountains, where the fur-covered babies thrived and had children of their own, who came to be known as Biladurang – the platypus.

It's fitting that this Wiradjuri creation story has its finale in the Greater Blue Mountains region – for it is here that the platypus, according to recent studies, continues to thrive.

After the devastating bushfires of 2020, however, there were concerns that the platypus may have been impacted by ash and silt, with anecdotal data unclear of their status. With funding provided by a Commonwealth grant, an ongoing study coordinated by the Department of Planning and Environment shows reassuring results, with platypus

BY JULIE MILLER

detected in 29 waterways on Wiradjuri, Darug and Gundungurra country.

The key to this groundbreaking study is the use of new technology, detecting the presence of the otherwise elusive creature through environmental DNA.

"This is a reasonably new technique that's only really emerged for non-scientists in the last couple of years, but it's a really easy way to get a picture of what's going on," says Alison Foster, Technical Officer for Conservation Bushfire Recovery with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

In a nutshell, the technique detects small traces of platypus skin cells or body secretions in the waterways. It simply involves taking a sample of water, passing it through a filter, adding a preservative, then sending the sample off for a PCR test.

Certain markers indicate the presence of different species, including platypus, with the results then sent back to the research team.

"One of the advantages of this technique is that citizen scientists or land managers can go out and collect these samples and get these samples analysed, and get information about where platypus are," Ms Foster says. "It gives us a snapshot that helps form a bigger picture across the landscape on how platypus are going, and how they are affected by broad-scale



IMAGE worldwildlifewonders

events such as drought or bushfire."

Focusing on seasons when platypus are most active – during the breeding season of Spring, and juvenile dispersal in Autumn – the study will involve samples taken from 100 waterways across the region.

"From the [last] spring period, we had 29 sites [from a total of 67] return positive DNA results; there were another nine sites that had equivocal results which means they contained only trace amounts of DNA, so they're not conclusive," Ms Foster explains. "So there's some areas we'd like to go back to."

Waterways where platypus have been detected so far include those in the Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai, Mount Royal, Turon and Marangaroo national parks, Bangadilly and the Upper Nepean State Conservation Areas.

"This is data we would like to share, especially with other researchers to get a bigger picture across the

landscape," Ms Foster says. "All this information we'll make available through NSW Bionet so it can be used for any reason platypus information can be of use."

There is also potential for Blue Mountains' residents to become involved in future "citizen science" studies of the platypus, further cementing the region's connection to this endearing creature.

For information on citizen science projects run by the Department of Planning and Environment, visit

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/your-research/citizen-science

WATCH ONLINE

Biladurang, a Wiradjuri Creation Story

<https://youtu.be/4lVp3m4hTHw>





IMAGE Jamen Percy

Re-set and re-charge in the natural healing sanctuary of the Blue Mountains.

In 1904, eccentric retail baron Mark Foy fulfilled his dream of opening Australia's first major health resort, choosing the Blue Mountains to unleash his passion for alternative therapies. The Medlow Bath Hydropathic Establishment, as he called it, offered somewhat dubious treatments including needle baths, ear douches, bowel kneading and 'electric rectal faradisation'; there was also a Turkish bath and hydrotherapy pools, with its therapeutic mineral waters imported from Germany due to the absence of local springs. Unfortunately, Foy squandered much of his fortune on the extravagant concept; and in 1906, as the fad of hydrotherapy waned, he had no choice but to rebrand the hotel as a luxury stay, changing its name to the Hydro Majestic and thereby creating the most fashionable hotel of its day.

The Blue Mountains, however, remained synonymous with wellness pursuits over the decades, its fresh mountain air, vast tracts of wilderness and tumbling waterfalls an irresistible lure for those seeking an escape from the stresses of city life. Today, with the wellness industry undergoing a global renaissance, an ever-increasing number of yoga studios, day spas and holistic retreats are as much a part of the Blue Mountains landscape as its craggy rock formations and misty valleys, working in tandem with Mother Nature to de-stress, relax and invigorate. "If you look at the Indigenous culture, the Blue Mountains is a very sacred space," explains Brightlands Retreat CEO Craig Schuettrumpf. "When His Holiness the Dalai Lama came to the Blue Mountains and taught at the Fairmont, he said this is a very special place for healing – it has that spiritual strength." Wentworth Falls' Happy Buddha Retreats retreat facilitator Courtney Rattle agrees. "There's something about the Blue

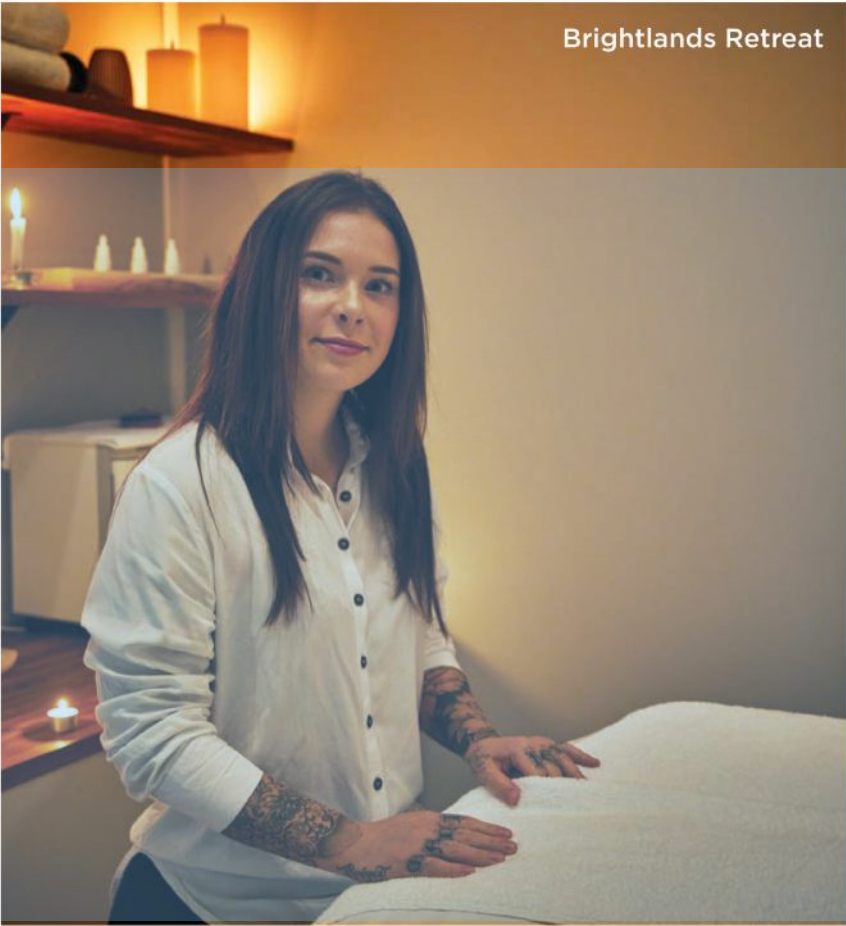
Mountains that really centres you, whether it's the fresh air, or the slower pace. "Most people just need a break, to find some space – space to reflect, space to breathe, space to move, space to have fun and be joyful. Space to prioritise, find some balance." Local yoga instructor Evelyn Taylor – whose historic guesthouse Kurrara in Katoomba actually pre-dates Foy's 'folly', built in 1901 by a Sydney doctor as a place of respite for his patients – puts it all down to nature's healing touch. "In the Mountains, you have a connection to nature; you're surrounded by majestic views and can breathe the fresh air. There's nothing quite like being at a lookout at sunset, the silence is palpable," she says. "Sydney may only be an hour and a half's drive, but it's a world away." Whatever your time considerations, you'll find a retreat, class, workshop or day spa in the region where you can stretch, meditate or relax your cares away. Here's a selection of what's on offer:

BY JULIE MILLER

Brightlands Retreat

6 Eastview Ave, Leura
T: (02) 4782 5429
www.brightlandsretreat.com

Based in a gracious former nunnery in Leura, Brightlands offers a range of soul nurturing experiences, all under one roof. With onsite accommodation, you can design your own retreat at the sanctuary, inclusive of meals, treatments and curated activities. The Brightlands Day Spa offers a range of holistic therapies including Ka Huna massage, reiki and facials using locally-made iKOU spa products; it also features Blue Mountains' only float tank. Weekly sound healing and yoga sessions – held in the converted chapel, a beautiful space with a vaulted ceiling and original stain glass windows – are open to the public. Whether you want to work on your health, or just relax in a natural playground, Brightlands can help design the perfect retreat for you.



Happy Buddha Retreats

50 Railway Parade, Wentworth Falls
E: info@happybuddharetreats.com.au
www.happybuddharetreats.com.au

Nestled into the bushland at Wentworth Falls, Happy Buddha Retreats invites participants to commune with nature as you reboot your physical, spiritual and emotional needs. Tap into your inner joy and still your mind at one of their regular retreats, with two-night mid-week and two-night weekend stays available.

Workshops, delicious vegan meals and twin-share accommodation in modern or ‘boho-style’ rooms is included, and there’s even a swimming pool for a bracing dip or to soak up some rays.

Caring and sensitive facilitators will guide you on a journey of self-discovery, with meditation and mindfulness increasing clarity and reducing stress.

Kurrara Historic Guest House

17 Coomonderry St, Katoomba
T: (02) 4782 6058
E: stay@kurraraguesthouse.com.au
www.kurraraguesthouse.com.au

A classic Blue Mountains bed and breakfast guesthouse, Kurrara is an ideal escape for couples, groups and yogis, its romantic heritage

accommodation complemented by a modern, light-filled purpose-built yoga studio.

Bespoke mid-week retreats can be tailored to your group’s requirements, with yoga practice enhanced by nature walks, picnics and therapies such as sound healing and meditation.

Local teacher Evelyn Taylor is a Level 2 yoga instructor, with 15 years’ teaching experience and a focus on building strength and flexibility. Casual weekend classes are also available.

Goryú Japanese Gardens

五竜日本庭園
Maple Springs Nursery
85 Baaners Lane, Little Hartley
T: (02) 6355 2140
www.maplespringsnurseryandgardens.com.au

Goryú Japanese Gardens is a traditional Buddhist and Taoist Japanese stroll garden, located in the garden hub of Little Hartley. Visitors can pause to reflect, ponder, contemplate and meditate in Zen raked garden areas; there’s also a moon-viewing platform over a lake to the Mount York escarpment, mini-waterfalls, ornamental bridges and Suikinkutsus (Japanese water harp) and Tsukubai settings. There is even a Shinto shrine and Torii gate made with no nails, replicating the Ryoan-ji Temple in Kyoto.



Spa Sublime

9 Penault Ave, Katoomba
T: (02) 4782 3113
www.spasublime.com.au
The award-winning Spa Sublime

offers the ultimate day spa experience, specialising in treatments for couples and groups of up to eight.
Whether you’re booked for a one-hour massage or for a full-day

Retreat • Reset • Renew

BRIGHTLANDS
RETREAT • LEURA



IMAGE Destination NSW

pampering spa ritual, your journey to relaxation begins at Spa Sublime as qualified therapists work their magic.

Choose from one of the ready-made Signature Spa Experiences, or create your own package from a selection of treatments using only the highest quality 100 per cent Australian-made products.

Tracks & Retreats

T: 0416 258 821
<https://bluemountainstracks.com.au>

Disconnect and reconnect on a Tracks & Retreats wellness weekend in the Blue Mountains, where your soul will be nourished by the healing combination of yoga and bushwalking.

Run by Blue Mountains locals, yoga teacher and remedial massage therapist Ky Dobrowolski and registered nurse Katherine Hallam, the retreats provide a break from daily life as you gain a sense of restoration and vitality through guided bushwalks, yoga and mindfulness sessions, with exceptional accommodation, excellent meals and fun indulgences providing balance and a deep sense of relaxation.

Visit the website for details of the next retreat. Customised weekend and mid-week breaks can also be arranged for groups of eight or more.

Ubika Day Spa

Fairmont Resort
1 Sublime Point Rd, Leura
T: (02) 4785 0062
www.fairmontresort.com.au/ubika-day-spa

Ubika is an ancient Sanskrit word meaning 'to grow', with this award-winning day spa's philosophy to plant and nurture the seed for your physical, emotional and spiritual growth.

Its spa menu has been designed to hydrate, nourish, restore and regenerate, with a range of packages available as gift vouchers.

The Signature Spa experience, for instance, is 180 blissful minutes of body polish, a full body massage, a bespoke hydration facial, a nourishing scalp treatment and a cheese platter served with a glass of bubbles.

StarFlower Apothecary

19 Grose St, Leura
T: (02) 4784 3393
E: info@starflowerapothecary.com.au
www.starflowerapothecary.com.au

A local herbalist started StarFlower Apothecary 22 years ago, offering an extensive range of in-house produced essential oils, supplements, herbal teas, and lush botanical bath and body products.

Located amongst beautifully

landscaped surroundings, this place of healing and relaxation also has a homeopathic dispensary, as well as offering naturopathy and homoeopathy consultations, acupuncture, cupping,

moxibustion and psychic readings. Or you just might want to spoil yourself with a massage, facial or body exfoliation session in one of StarFlower's heavenly-scented treatment rooms.

*Let Kurrara
put a
little spring in
your step.*

Make Kurrara your base to explore the world heritage Blue Mountains. 8 beautiful rooms to choose from, some with spas and 4-poster beds. All individually decorated with antiques and european textiles. Afternoon tea & treats are on the house when you book direct.

Kurrara
SINCE 1902
HISTORIC GUEST HOUSE

<https://www.kurraraguesthouse.com.au>
Phone: +61 2 4782 6058
Email: stay@kurraraguesthouse.com.au

SPRING EXUBERANCE IN THE MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS



IMAGES David Hill, Deep Hill Media

Echoes Restaurant

ECHOES RESTAURANT

Echoes Restaurant and Bar is perched at the absolute edge of the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park, with views of mountains, cliff edges and lush rainforest valleys right through the Jamison Valley to Mittagong, 80 kilometres away. Awarded with one Chef Hat, Echoes Restaurant is renowned for its modern Australian cuisine with an Asian influence. With the new Spring menu commencing in September, it will showcase the region's freshest local produce enhanced by Asian herbs and spices. The Spring menu is complemented by specially selected boutique Australian and imported wines, all while enjoying the jaw-dropping views of the Blue Mountains escarpment from the restaurant terrace. Bookings are essential. Call (02) 4782 1966 or book online at www.echoeshotel.com.au



WINTERGARDEN RESTAURANT

Featuring majestic and panoramic views of the Megalong Valley, the Hydro Majestic is one of Australia's most famous historic hotels. Walking through the iconic Casino dome of the Hydro Majestic, you will be greeted into the Wintergarden Restaurant with its spectacular views of the Megalong Valley. The Chef Hatted Wintergarden Restaurant is renowned for offering the grand tradition of a premium afternoon high tea service. With its new Spring menu commencing in September, both the Wintergarden's high tea and dinner service menus will embrace the seasonal colours and flavours that the Blue Mountains is renowned for. Bookings are essential for both high tea and dinner options. Call (02) 4782 6885 or book online at www.hydomajestic.com.au

Glorious fresh weather, blossoming seasonal growth, and outstanding regional produce make Spring the perfect time to visit the Blue Mountains and indulge in premium dining that reinvigorates the mind, body and soul.

The Escarpment Group's collection of Chef Hatted dining experiences makes the most of the Blue Mountains incredible landscapes, with

restaurants nestled near the famous Three Sisters landmark and overlooking the majestic Megalong Valley.

DARLEY'S RESTAURANT

Located within the grounds of Lilianfels Resort & Spa, the historic multi-award-winning Darley's Restaurant is renowned for offering premium fine dining cuisine within the Blue Mountains. Darley's Restaurant has recently been awarded Two Chefs Hats by the Australian Good Food Guide for 2022 and is the only Two Hatted restaurant in the Upper

Blue Mountains. With views across the historic formal English gardens and the escarpment of Jamison Valley, Darley's Restaurant showcases innovative cuisine featuring fresh local, seasonal produce to inspire and tempt your senses. With the launch of a new Spring menu commencing in September, Darley's offers modern Australian cuisine served as a la carte or degustation menus with specially selected local and imported boutique wines. Bookings are essential. Call (02) 4780 1200 or book online at www.lilianfels.com.au



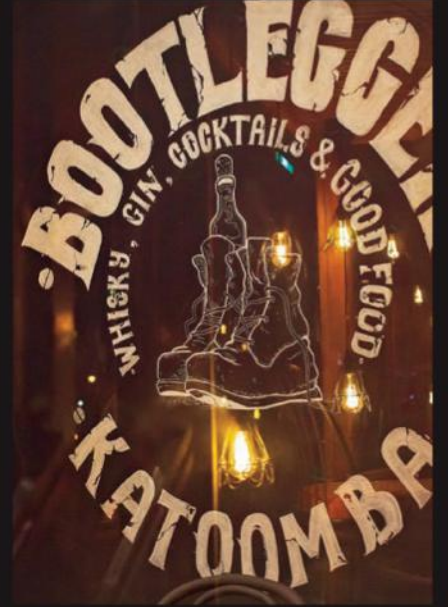
LURLINE VILLAS

A peaceful sanctuary located mid-way between Katoomba Town Centre and Echo Point and The Three Sisters.

Visit www.lurlinevillas.com.au for special offers



LOW & SLOW



Perfectly smoked BBQ Meat
& Vegetarian Options

Whiskey & Cocktail Bar

Upstairs Lounge & Dining

Functions & Parties

Live Music Every Weekend



WWW.BOOTLEGGERBAR.COM.AU

Niagara Building 92 Bathurst Road, KATOOMBA

Open from 5pm Wednesday-Thursday, and from noon Friday-Sunday

NEW HEIGHTS FOR THE BOOTLEGGER

The Bootlegger Bar continues to capture the attention and hearts of locals and visitors alike.

Scaling new heights with the recent addition of Katoomba's first rooftop bar, The Bootlegger Bar offers an all-year round experience of brisk mountain air, sunny afternoons and long, lazy evenings of wining and dining al fresco.

Located on the rooftop of the historic Niagara building (circa 1905), the garden bar is the perfect backdrop for an intimate cocktail, family lunch or a hosted event, guaranteeing a memorable experience.

Meanwhile, it's "low and slow" as usual at The Bootlegger, taking diners on a mouth-watering culinary journey inspired by traditional Southern BBQ and Cajun cuisine. Racks of ribs, pulled pork and brisket are all prepared and slow cooked in an on-site

smoker. There are also vegan and gluten free options, along with an extensive kids' menu.

With liquor as much of a feature as the meats, The Bootlegger offers a vibrant cocktail list. Proudly showcasing international and locally distilled spirits, the bar is also stocked with new and classic wines. While your traditional beers are always available, the taps are loaded with a range of local brews.

For a unique experience, take part in their infamous whiskey tasting, where a selection of flavours are custom-sorted to suit your palate.

The Bootlegger is also one of the few places in the Blue Mountains open late – while the kitchen closes at 9pm, the doors stay open until midnight serving cocktails and delicious homemade



desserts. On Friday and Saturdays, The Bootlegger delivers a fun and energetic atmosphere with live music from local bands offering entertainment of various genres: country, folk, rock, you name it!

You can be a part of The Bootlegger family with a range of merchandise available: jumpers, T's, shirts and beanies, or take home the unique flavours with sauces and rubs that are used in-house.

To find out what's on week to week, join thousands of others on Instagram and Facebook or head to the website.

Be sure to book ahead to avoid disappointment.

Open Wednesday-Sunday
12pm till close.
92 Bathurst Rd, Katoomba.
T: (02) 4782 6368
bookings@bootlegger.com.au
www.bootleggerbar.com.au

QUIRKY BLUE MOUNTAINS DINING

Avalon Restaurant and Cocktail Bar inside the historic Savoy theatre is a local institution.

Venture upstairs and discover a unique and atmospheric venue, with a decor of quirky retro finds and views across the Jamison Valley.

A menu of hearty dishes is prepared in the converted projection room, combining influences from around the globe, so there's something to delight every palate.

The Avalon wine list features more than 80 Australian wines and craft beers. The curated cocktail list is a mix of classics and cool, served with retro tunes in the former theatre refreshment lounge, now a cosy bar replete with a fireplace.

Local musicians perform each Friday night in the main dining room at the popular Friday Supper Club and each Saturday in the

Downstairs foyer lounge. There's also a calendar of special entertainment events.

Top this off with friendly service and you will see why Avalon is one of the Blue Mountains' most popular and long-standing dining and entertainment experiences.

Friday Supper Club: Live jazz in the main dining room each Friday night. 7:30pm-9:30pm. Free.

Drag n' Disco: Late night variety show featuring comedy, drag and retro tunes. Last Friday of every month.

The Piano Parlour: Intimate dinner and show. Saturday nights in the Downstairs Lounge.

Katoomba Comedy Club: World class stand-up comedy. Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.

High Tea: Fabulous and homemade, served every weekend from noon.

Bookings essential: (02) 4782 5532 or www.avalonkatoomba.com.au

AVALON

RESTAURANT & COCKTAIL BAR

Dinner from 5.30pm (closed Tuesday)
Lunch & High Tea weekends from noon
18 Katoomba St | 02 4782 5532
avalonkatoomba.com.au

HIGH TEA

COCKTAIL BAR

LIVE MUSIC



IMAGE Nathan Dumlao

CAFÉ SOCIETY

BY JULIE MILLER

We take our coffee seriously here in the Blue Mountains, and our enticing cafés rival big city counterparts in quality and service.

When it comes to exceptional coffee, there are simply no excuses. Australians are obsessive about their morning caffeine hit, and it's no different here in the Blue Mountains, where locals and visitors alike demand city café quality with our own unique spin on ambience and a focus on fresh, local produce presented with heart.

From Glenbrook to Mount Victoria, every village has its own treasured bolthole where you can pull up a chair, soaking up the Spring sunshine as you linger over conversation and fine food while sipping on black liquid gold.

Here are some of our favourites, along with their signature dishes or beverages that are guaranteed to lure you in.

Kickaboom

In a village chock-a-block with excellent cafés, Kickaboom is a standout. Its unique, travel-inspired creative takes on classic brunch dishes such as its signature Reuben Benny, which has elevated its Asian-fusion menu to fine art. The café is also unique in Glenbrook by offering a variety of coffees from specialty quality-focussed local and international coffee roasters.

6 Ross St, Glenbrook
www.kickaboom.com.au
Mon-Fri 7am–3pm,
Sat–Sun 7.30am–3pm

Finn & Co

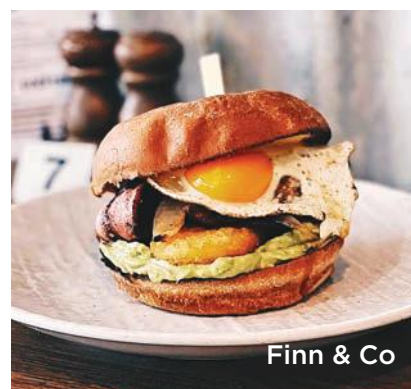
A warm and welcoming family-run café in Springwood with an emphasis on supporting other local businesses and the community. With its rustic ambience and excellent customer service, the café is renowned for its brunch served seven days a week, with an all-day brekky menu including its popular Sunrise Bun - bacon, fried egg, caramelised onion, avo, cheese and hash brown on a toasted potato bun.

107 Macquarie St, Springwood
www.finnandcoca.com.au
Tues–Sun 7.30am–3.30pm
(kitchen closes 2.30pm)

Sorensen's Glasshouse

The transparent walls of Sorensen's Glasshouse – purpose-built for the adjoining plant nursery some 15 years ago to replicate the original glasshouse belonging to Paul Sorensen – invite nature in as you dine on food and coffee, sourced from local Blue Mountains suppliers. The structure of the glasshouse puts some limitations on the kitchen, and the menu is designed accordingly. Signature dishes include smoked salmon fettucini in a creamy white wine sauce, a slow-cooked beef brisket burger and an Asian chicken rice noodle salad.

8 Herbert St, Leura
www.sorensensglasshouse.com
Wed–Sun 9am–3pm



8am–11pm, Sun 8am–9pm
150 Macquarie Rd, Springwood
Wed/Thurs 7am–9pm, Fri/Sat
7am–11pm, Sun 7am–9pm
T: (02) 4751 6615

www.thebunkercafebarrestaurant.com.au

Fed Blue Mountains

The evergreen Fed serves a wide variety of fresh homemade food and drinks in a warm and friendly atmosphere, with the goal to provide superior quality home-made foods and healthy options. Breakfast is served until noon, with light brekky rolls offered alongside hearty feasts including the signature The Stack – sourdough topped with avocado, hashbrown, bacon, haloumi and a fried egg, enhanced with housemade tomato salsa.

6 Station St, Wentworth Falls
www.fedbluemountains.com.au
Daily 7.30am–4pm

The Bunker

With two locations – Springwood and Leura – The Bunker combines a team of talented and driven people with locally-sourced produce. Striving to deliver a casual dining experience at a consistently high standard, The Bunker offers a place to connect, a place that feels like home whilst dining out. Both cafés specialise in all-day breakfast (including breakfast cocktails!) and good wine and cocktails at night.

117-121 Leura Mall, Leura
Wed/Thurs 12pm–9pm, Fri/Sat

GalleryONE88 Café

Located within Katoomba's Art Precinct on Katoomba Street is Gallery One88, a world of creativity showcasing local art, music, coffee and food. ONE88 began almost six years ago as an art gallery and has slowly evolved and expanded to cover three floors and two shopfronts. The café serves all day breakfast, coffee, cake and lunches from noon. Cakes are made by local bakers and the coffee roasted by Blue Mountains Roasters.

186-188 Katoomba St, Katoomba
www.galleryone88finearts.com
Thursday to Monday 10am–3pm

Hounslow Blackheath

With an all-day menu featuring delicacies such as Bass Strait scallops, Will Studd goats milk halloumi, iron bark smoky streaked bacon and wagyu beef burgers, Hounslow – nestled in the arcade on Govetts Leap Rd - has upped the ante in Blackheath's café scene. Premium wines are served by the glass or bottle, with a top shelf range of internationally-acclaimed icons also available for wine connoisseurs. The café also hosts regular events including wine



Sorensen's Glasshouse



The Bunker



Hounslow Blackheath



Fed Blue Mountains



GalleryONE88 Cafe



Monkey Creek Cafe

tasting nights featuring premium wines paired with delectable seafood canapés.

5/23-25 Govetts Leap Rd, Blackheath | T: 1300 002 785
<https://hounslow.net.au>
Mon-Wed 7am-3pm,
Thurs-Fri 7am-late,
Sat 7.30am-late,
Sun 7.30am-3pm

Monkey Creek Cafe & Pantry

Not many cafes in the Mountains can boast views as unfettered and wild as Monkey Creek, with the isolated modern structure just off the Bells Line of Road offering far-reaching views west across rugged pagoda country. Inside, the focus is

on warming comfort food, with specialties including home-made soups, twice-baked loaded spuds and sourdough open toasties. The pantry also has a lovely selection of local and Australian-made products which make ideal gifts.

227 Chifley Rd, Dargan
T: 0407 746 761 Daily 9am-4pm
www.facebook.com/monkeycreekcafeandpantry



From raw ingredients to a gourmet masterpiece, the process involved with creating a delicious plate of food takes a culinary village.

In the Blue Mountains, that all comes together under the banner of Plate Up, an advisory collective set up to grow the profile of our region as an incredible food and wine destination. From promoting festivals that celebrate the seasonal harvest, to supporting dozens of restaurants and cafes helmed by leading chefs, Plate Up's mission is to highlight the ways visitors can make wining and dining a memorable part of their Blue Mountains experience. These are just some of our incredible growers and food artists that are stepping up to the plate.

JOSOPHAN'S - A SWEET SENSATION

Velvety warmth sliding down your throat, sweetness clinging to your tastebuds as you sip on a sumptuous hot chocolate while a Spring breeze rustles through the famous flowering cherry trees of Leura Mall.

If this sounds like bliss, follow your nose to Josophan's Fine Chocolates and the experience can be yours.

Soft-centred chocophiles can satiate their cravings with a visit to the store, now located in new premises - a repurposed church at the bottom of Leura Mall.

There's an array of mouthwatering new products including the popular salted caramel chocolate honeycomb slabs. With honeycomb made instore using local Bilpin honey, Josophan's owner Jodie van der Velden says the product is sublime.

Tantalise your tastebuds with the ultimate liquid indulgence, a silky drinking chocolate. Choose from many take-home varieties such as hazelnut praline, chilli, chai spiced, orange, Mayan or traditional. Those who can't wait can



order a ready-made beverage to go.

In-store, there's no compromise to the quality, where fair trade Belgian chocolate and fresh infusions, all natural flavourings and no preservatives are standard. The flavour and texture experiences speak for themselves..

A visit to Josophan's is an experience for all the senses, Jodie says.

"The first comment visitors make when entering our store is 'wow, smell the chocolate,'" says Jodie.

BY ELLEN HILL

"The store is a feast for the eyes, with soaring cathedral ceilings and chocolate delights as far as the eye can see.

"We have an entire table of different varieties of rocky road we make onsite, a huge array of blocks and slabs of chocolate and a glass chocolate counter full of handcrafted individual filled chocolates."

Josophan's also has historical chocolate collectables like antique molds and seasonal delights during Christmas and Easter, and the new branded hamper box design features eucalyptus artwork inside the lid, a nod to what makes the Blue Mountains "blue".

Having trouble narrowing down your choice? Fill a gift box with your own selection, tied with French double-sided satin ribbon.

Then sit awhile on the grass under the cherry blossoms or at the tables outside the shop and take a moment simply to breath - and lick a Josophan's ice-cream, before strolling the boutiques of Leura Mall.

"It's a Leura sensory experience not to be missed."

187 Leura Mall, Leura | T: (02) 4784 2031
Visit www.josophans.com.au

A SLICE OF ROME IN LEURA

BY ELLEN HILL

Hands plunged wrist deep into soft pizza dough, Pizza Sublime pizzaiola Marco Marano is taken back to his childhood in the southern Italian city of Naples in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

True to Naples tradition, Marano tops his pizza with quality ingredients—a liberal splosh of red tomato sauce, a sprinkle of fresh green basil leaves, handfuls of grated golden mozzarella cheese, and a drizzle of fragrant olive oil.

The pizza hits the Italian state-of-the-art oven, where the searing heat blisters the dough and bubbles the cheese in minutes.

Pizza this good is sublime. Light and digestible with extra crunch (unlike Napoli pizza that is soft and fluffy), Roman pizza is served from the long pizza paddle (don't let the square format throw you).



In Italy, pizza is more than just food. It's a way of life. In fact, UNESCO acknowledged that the pizza style of Naples has intangible cultural heritage of pizza making—

culinary know-how including the skill of manipulating the dough, as well as gestures, songs, local slang, facial expressions, performance, and social engagement.

Marano himself started work at a pizza place in Naples at age 14 before travelling the world as a chef. Today, he is living “la dolce vita” (the sweet life) in the Blue Mountains with his young family. “My friends are here, my love is here and the feeling you receive from the locals is something great.”

Savour “la dolce vita” yourself! Leura’s only street food offering, serving authentic artisan pizza takeaway by the slice, half or whole pizza, Pizza Sublime by Leura Garage celebrates all that is wonderful about the Italian lifestyle.

Located at the bottom of Leura Mall next to Josophan’s Fine Chocolates. Open every day from 12pm to 8pm. Free delivery to Leura, Katoomba and Wentworth Falls (enter code **SUBLIME** in the promo area of the online check-out). Orders:

<https://bopple.app/menu/7669>
Visit <https://pizzasublime.com.au>

ORDER
ONLINE
FOR
PICKUP

Pizza Sublime

ROMAN STYLE ARTISAN PIZZA IN LEURA

187A Leura Mall Leura 2780 • Open 12:00pm to 8:00pm every day

[PIZZASUBLIME.COM.AU](https://pizzasublime.com.au) @PIZZASUBLIMELEURA

LEURA GARAGE GOES GREEN

BY ELLEN HILL

A total grease and oil change for Leura Garage continues to modify industry standards, lower bills for the venue and pump up customer expectations.

Its transformation from a contaminated car mechanic's site to an "eco-garage" retained vital structural elements of the building which give the restaurant a funky post-industrial ambience.

Nods to the building's former life include an old car hoist remodelled into a bar and service counter, mechanics' tools embedded in the concrete floor, iron beams hanging from the roof, and mufflers and tyres stacked atop a dividing wall.

Today, diners sip double-filtered, ultra violet-zapped fresh rainwater from the 22,000 litre storage tank beneath the restaurant. Fresh chemical-free water supplies all



facets of the restaurant from the bathrooms and dishwasher to the coffee machine, while a rooftop solar system harnesses green energy from the sun. An evacuated tube solar gas boosted system heats water for commercial use and 300m of hot water piping in the slab transfers heat into the thermal mass of the cement floor.

"It's important for us to talk about our environmental credentials

because customers care about the environment and expect us to be socially responsible as well, especially when we live in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area surrounded by pristine wilderness," said Leura Garage owner James Howarth.

"While Leura Garage customers focus on the great food we serve and the regional beverages we stock, which are also part of our

commitment to reduce our carbon footprint by reducing our food miles, they trust that we operate within that ethos in everything we do."

The eco award-winning restaurant also features fans rather than air-conditioning, a huge skylight to boost natural light, LED and fluorescent lighting, energy and water efficient bathroom fixtures and low emitting paint.

Future eco measures include a state-of-the-art compost system to churn through organic waste each week and halve the amount of waste going to landfill, after which the composted material will go back to the fresh produce supplier to enrich the soil which grew the original vegetables.

The menu has just had a full engine overhaul, so give it a test drive at 84 Railway Parade, Leura.

Open every day from 12pm.
Phone (02) 4784 3391 or visit leuragarage.com.au.



"The Garage of Awesomeness"

Our passion for satisfying our customers exceeds that of an F1 Racing pit crew. We are a well-oiled machine. We aspire to nothing less than precision service.



Local & Regional Wines, Beers & Ciders

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84 Railway Parade LEURA NSW 2780
02 4784 3391 • BOOK ONLINE NOW

leuragarage.com.au

what's on

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EVERY FRIDAY

Friday Supper Club

Avalon Restaurant
18 Katoomba St, Katoomba
T: (02) 4782 5532
<http://avalonkatoomba.com.au>

A Katoomba hot-spot for great food, live music and good times. Showcasing the best of the Mountains' musical talent every Friday night. Share a table with friends, and swing your way into the weekend. Bookings essential.

EVERY SATURDAY

Yoga Chill-out

Kurrara Guesthouse
17 Coomonderry St, Katoomba
T: 0412 699 744
www.kurraraguesthouse.com.au

Restore and re-energise in the pristine environment of the World Heritage Blue Mountains. The teachers offer a safe practice with variations for injury/restrictions in a beautiful studio. 10am-11.30 am, Beginners-General with Evelyn. Call to reserve your place.

EVERY 2ND SUNDAY

Open Day Valley Heights Rail Museum

17 Tusculum Rd, Valley Heights NSW
T: (02) 4702 1222
www.valleyheightsrailmuseum.info

Enjoy the padded comfort of an 1890s timber carriage with 120-year-old steam locomotive 'Stevo' in charge at Valley Heights Rail Museum. The museum's volunteers welcome all ages to enjoy this special place. Book online and secure your seat on one of six 20-minute rides departing hourly from 10:30am to 2:30pm (last ride 3:15pm).

SEPTEMBER 16-18

MAX22 Artisan Fair

Fairmont Resort
1 Sublime Point Rd, Leura
T: 0417 942 096 <https://max22.com.au>

As part of this year's Blue Mountains Arts Festivals, BMCAN's Mountains Arts Xpo 2022 (MAX22) at the Fairmont Resort will feature all the different art forms that make up our gifted community of artists, performers and creatives.

SEPTEMBER 17

Maximum Adventure Race Series

Glenbrook T: 0474 551 331
E: info@maxadventure.com.au
<https://maxadventurerace.com.au>

Designed for teams of two, adventure races are fast and furious, with teams changing between three core disciplines several times during the event: mountain biking, trail running and kayaking. The event is hosted in Glenbrook, home to exciting trail and pristine creeklines. Classic and Novice courses are on offer, so

it's the perfect launch pad for new teams to find out what adventure racing is all about. Kayaks are provided and you can even hire a mountain bike if required.

SEPTEMBER 23

Casey Donovan

Blue Mountains Theatre
106 Macquarie Rd, Springwood
T: (02) 4723 5050
www.bluemountainstheatre.com.au

One of Australia's most beloved and popular artists, Casey Donovan – winner of Australian Idol and 'Queen of the Jungle' in I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here – takes her Bluesday tour on the road. Using material from her 'Tuesday Bluesday' online sessions, the show delivers all the 'feels' we want and need.

OCTOBER 1-2

42nd NSW Square and Round Dance Convention

Blue Mountains Grammar School
3 Matcham Ave, Wentworth Falls
T: 0411 885 515 E: jarodd@bigpond.net.au

Dancers can reconnect with friends from clubs across NSW, Australia and overseas, and the community can view square dancing and participate in 'come and try' sessions. Step back in time and relive the glamour of the 1920s on Sunday night. The theme is 'Putting on the Ritz'.

OCTOBER 1-4

Leura Gardens Festival

Various locations T: 0431 095 279
<https://leuragardensfestival.com.au>

A celebration of spectacular cool-climate Mountains' gardens, with 11 gardens – each with its own distinctive character – open to the public over four days.

OCTOBER 4-5, NOVEMBER 26-27

Learn How to Navigate

Blue Mountains Climbing School,
Blackheath <https://climbingschool.com.au>

Designed for bushwalkers or hikers with little or no experience in map and compass navigation, this practical 2-day workshop (with Caro Ryan from LotsaFreshAir and author of 'How to Navigate') will lead you through the basics of traditional wilderness navigation including topographic maps, reading the land, how to use a compass and lots more.

OCTOBER 7-9

Blue Mountains Music Festival

Lurline St, Katoomba
T: (02) 4782 6694 www.bmff.org.au

The Blue Mountains Music Festival is a three-day celebration of folk, roots and blues music featuring selected artists from around the world and across Australia, including John Butler, Kasey Chambers and the Grigoryan Brothers. All weekend

the site is alive with the sounds of acoustic guitars, mandolins, fiddles, accordions, percussion, flutes, and voices. As well as performances, the festival features food and craft stalls, the poet's brunch, children's entertainment and performance workshops.

OCTOBER 21-23

Blue Mountains Writers' Festival

Various venues in Katoomba including The Carrington Hotel & Blue Mountains Cultural Centre T: (02) 4782 5674
www.bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au

Join some of Australia's finest literary talents including Helen Garner, Tom Keneally and Costa Georgiadis for three mind-opening days in the Blue Mountains. Presented by Varuna, the National Writers' House, the festival features over 40 sessions, 70 writers, 11 workshops and 5 special events covering 14 popular genres.

OCTOBER 22

Archibald Prize Regional Tour In Conversation

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
30 Parke St, Katoomba
T: (02) 4780 5410
<https://bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au>

An exclusive in-conversation for the Archibald Prize 2022 Regional Tour. Hosted by ABC Sydney Radio presenter James Valentine with artist Robert Malherbe and subject Dana Rayson and artist Nick Stathopoulos with his subject Wayne Tunncliffe, Curator at the Art Gallery of NSW. 11am-12.30pm; \$20 / \$10 InSight Members

OCTOBER 27-30

UltraTrail Australia by UTMB

Scenic World, Cnr Cliff Drive & Violet St, Katoomba E: info@ultraustralia.com.au
<https://ultraustralia.com.au>

Now the largest trail run in the Southern Hemisphere and third largest globally, UTA has developed over its 14-year history into an inclusive and iconic trail running festival across four incredible days. There are distances to suit every ability, from experienced trail runners to first timers, along with a huge event expo, trail running film festival, pre-race welcome buffet and the friendliest vibe that you will ever experience.

OCTOBER 29

Oktoberfest at The Carrington

15-47 Katoomba St, Katoomba
T: (02) 4782 1111
E: carrington@thecarrington.com.au
<https://thecarrington.com.au>

The annual Oktoberfest at The Carrington is back, with live music, entertainment, delicious German cuisine, German beer and much more, all on the grounds of the hotel. 11am-9pm, free admission.

OCTOBER 29

Lithgow Halloween

Main St, Lithgow T: (02) 6352 9130
<https://sevenvalleys.com.au>

Halloween returns to Main Street Lithgow after two years as an online event. Dress in your spooky best and join in the street parade, enjoying stalls, live music and carnival rides into the evening. Prizes for Best Dressed and the Smartphone Film competition will be awarded.

OCTOBER 29-30

Central Tablelands Garden Trail

Little Hartley T: 0419 133 154
E: clover.hill.plants@bigpond.com
www.myopengarden.com.au

Five beautiful gardens in Little Hartley – from cottage gardens filled with colour to Japanese gardens – will be open to the public all weekend. Food, garden art, artisan stalls, plants and rare trees for sale, as well as stunning mountain views and country air. Gardens open 10am-4pm, \$15 per person per garden (Hartvale \$10, Harp of Erin free)

NOVEMBER 5-6

Blackheath Rhododendron Festival

Wentworth St, Blackheath
E: blackheathrhodofestival@gmail.com
<https://rhodofestival.org>

Blackheath village comes alive with entertainment, the Grand Parade and street stalls at the Annual Rhododendron Festival.

NOVEMBER 11-13

Women's Wellness Weekend

Kyah Boutique Hotel, Blackheath
T: 0416 258 821
<https://bluemountainstracks.com.au>

Five yoga and mindfulness sessions, guided bushwalks, a picnic lunch and free time to explore the antique shops of Blackheath. Includes twin share accommodation at Kyah Boutique Hotel and dinners at Blaq. \$1150 pp twin share or \$1450 pp single occupancy. Customised breaks available for groups of 8 or more.

NOVEMBER 26

Rhythm Underground @ Jenolan Caves

Jenolan Caves T: (02) 6359 3911
<https://fusionboutique.com.au>

Rhythm Hunters are a dynamite force combining music from Indonesia, Japan, West Africa and Australia. Combining cutting-edge physical drumming, subtle electronics, deep grooves and ethereal soundscapes, it's described as being "like an organic dance party in the largest underground caves system in the world."



MUSIC IN THE
MOUNTAINS
GIG GUIDE



GRAND CIRCULAR TOURIST DRIVE

- 1 Glenbrook Visitor Information Centre
- 2 Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Museum
- 3 Norman Lindsay Gallery
- 4 Wentworth Falls – waterfall, lookouts, bushwalks, picnic area

- 5 Three Sisters, Echo Point
- 6 Govetts Leap – waterfall, lookouts, bushwalks, picnic area
- 7 Campbell Rhododendron Gardens
- 8 Pulpit Rock, Anvil Rock and

- 12 Oberon Visitor Information Centre
- 13 Mayfield Garden, Oberon
- 14 Lithgow Visitor Information Centre
- 15 To Hill End Historic Site
- 16 Mount Wilson – Cathedral of Ferns,

- 17 Mount Banks – wildflowers, bushwalks, picnic area, Grose Valley views
- 18 Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah

fold
PAGE TILL IT
LOOKS LIKE
THIS



Norman Lindsay Gallery



Visit the former home of Norman Lindsay, now a gallery featuring paintings and garden sculptures. See where the cheeky characters of the children's classic, *The Magic Pudding*, were created. Also available for weddings and private functions.

normanlindsay.com.au
14-20 Norman Lindsay Cr, Faulconbridge

Valley Heights Rail Museum



Experience sights and sounds of yesteryear as you wander the remarkable engines, carriages, wagons and railway paraphernalia in this centrepiece of transport heritage. Study a working model of the 106-year-old locomotive depot and ride in a heritage train.

www.valleyheightsrailmuseum.info
Tusculum Rd, Valley Heights

Everglades House & Gardens



Everglades is a heritage-listed former residence, art gallery, café and garden in Leura. The spectacular garden was designed by Paul Sorensen. Enjoy the tranquil reflection pool, the grotto pool and walk the winding paths down the terraced garden.

www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/everglades-house-gardens

Blue Mountains Heritage Centre



Get expert advice on activities within the National Park including bushwalking, camping and bike riding. Includes interpretive displays, art exhibitions, VR virtual canyoning experience, school holidays activity programs, theatre movie and gift shop.

nationalparks.nsw.gov.au
Govett's Leap Rd, Blackheath

Jenolan Caves



Jenolan Caves are the largest, most spectacular and most famous caves in Australia. Explore the world's oldest caves - one of the most outstanding cave systems in the world. You are never too young or old to experience amazing guided cave tours.

www.jenolancaves.org.au
4655 Jenolan Caves Rd, Jenolan Caves

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden



A blend of curated, themed gardens surrounded by World Heritage-listed wilderness, Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah features many rare species, spectacular seasonal colour, tranquil spaces for picnics and unique spaces for weddings.

bluemountainsbotanicgarden.com.au
Bells Line of Road, Mount Tomah



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WWW.VISITBLUEMOUNTAINS.COM.AU

Leura Garage



Award winning restaurant, café and bar in the heart of Leura. Engage your senses. Silky smooth tunes, sublime flavours, tantric concoctions, smiling faces ... be transformed by the Leura Garage experience. Featuring local and regional wines, beers and ciders.

leuragarage.com.au
84 Railway Parade, Leura

The Bootlegger Bar



Enjoy perfectly smoked BBQ meat and vegetarian options, whiskey and cocktail bar, and live music every weekend. Two floors of dining plus Katoomba's first rooftop bar.

Showcasing international and local spirits, new & classic wines, traditional & local beers.

www.bootleggerbar.com.au
92 Bathurst Rd, Katoomba

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www.mrpickwick.com.au
84 Katoomba St, Katoomba

No.14 Lovel St



Unique Blue Mountains hostel and guesthouse. Not a party hostel—a peaceful place to recharge after a big day exploring all that the Blue Mountains has to offer. Sleeping up to 29, hostel is also available for private full house rentals. Book direct for best price!

www.14lovelist.com
14 Lovel Street, Katoomba



TAKE CARE: Bushwalks and tracks shown in blue on these maps are indicative only. Detailed bushwalking maps are available from the Visitor Centres in Katoomba and at Echo Point, or visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au Always carry water when walking in Blue Mountains.

KATOOMBA AND LEURA



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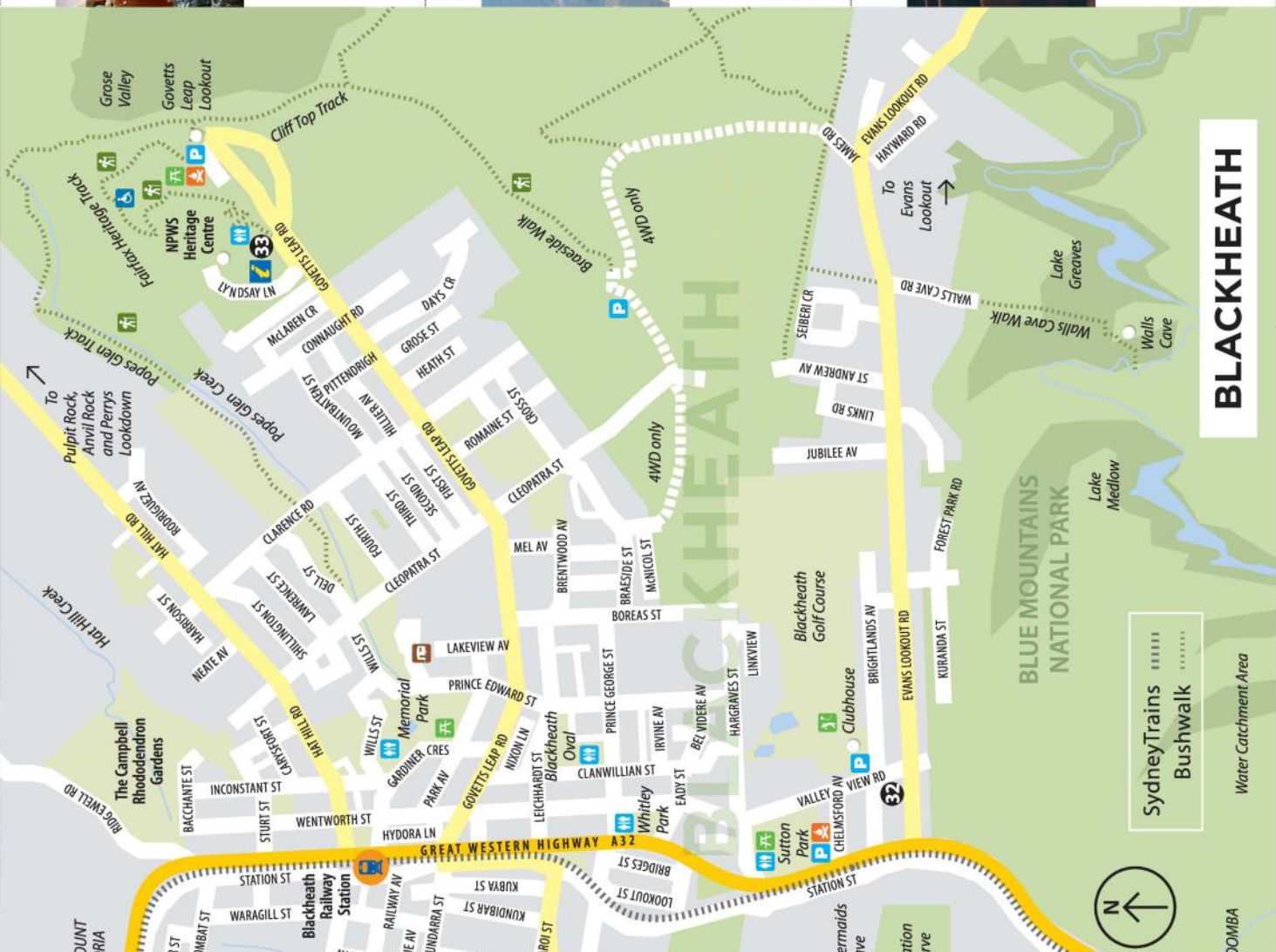








WWW.VISITBLUEMOUNTAINS.COM.AU

- 31 Wentworth Falls Lake – picnic area
- 32 Kyah Boutique Hotel & Blaq Restaurant
- 33 Blue Mountains Heritage Centre

- 27 Scenic World Blue Mountains
- 28 Whisk & Pin
- 29 Bygone Beautys Tearooms & Museum
- 30 Everglades Historic House & Gardens

- 23 Echo Point Visitor Information Centre
- 24 The Lookout Echo Point
- 25 Prince Henry Cliff Walk – 1.8km
- 26 Katoomba Falls Night-lit Walk – 1.3km

- 19 Blue Mountains Explorer Bus Booking Office
- 20 Blue Mountains Explorer Bus – Stop 1
- 21 Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
- 22 Three Sisters and Echo Point Lookout

<div>Katoomba Vintage Emporium</div> <div></div> <div><p>New owner Dave Haines, of well-known Sydney Lunatiques, is excited to bring his wealth of knowledge, a fresh eye, and some interesting wares to the emporium. Haines is passionate about community and has plans for regular vintage and recycled markets.</p><p>katoombavintageemporium.com.au</p><p>59-61 Katoomba St, Katoomba</p></div>	<div>Ravir Boutique</div> <div></div> <div><p>Quality clothes for men and women. Natural fibres—cotton, hemp, wool and bamboo—not only breathe and are kinder to the skin, but are also kinder to the planet. Brands include Alqueima, Lothlorian, Sea Salt, MKIM, Norsewear, Noble Wilde, Valia and Tourallie.</p><p>ravirboutique.com.au</p><p>38 Govetts Leap Rd, Blackheath</p></div>	<div>Family Shoe Store</div> <div></div> <div><p>Fashionable, comfortable and always stylish, our footwear will satisfy the needs of the most discerning customer. Established in 1919, trained shoe fitting specialists provide personalised, friendly service, and also cater for problem feet and orthotic requirements.</p><p>blackheathshoes.com.au</p><p>4 Govetts Leap Rd, Blackheath</p></div>	<div>Mount Vic Flicks</div> <div></div> <div><p>Built in 1934, this treasured Blue Mountains icon is a window into the golden age of Australian country picture theatre culture. Showing an eclectic mix of quality films from Australia and abroad, at house to kids, new releases to classics, with a beaut snack bar.</p><p>mountvickflcks.com.au</p><p>2a Harleay Ave, Mount Victoria</p></div>							
<div><div><div><div>BLACKHEATH</div><div>SydneyTrains Bushwalk</div><div>Water Catchment Area</div></div></div><div><div><div><div>WENTWORTH FALLS</div><div>SydneyTrains Bushwalk</div><div>Valley of the Waters</div></div></div></div></div>				<div>Blue Mountains Botanic Garden</div> <div></div> <div><p>The largest antiques centre west of Sydney, with 50 dealers over two floors and wares ranging from jewellery, books, vintage clothing, paintings, dolls, ornaments, light fittings, fine china and porcelains, through to furnishings and furniture. Open 7 days.</p><p>victorytheatre.com.au</p><p>19-21 Govetts Leap Rd, Blackheath</p></div>	<div>Hounslow Licensed Restaurant</div> <div></div> <div><p>Hounslow is proud to be a part of the local dining experience showcasing seasonal menus across dinner, evenings, brunch, speciality coffee and fine wines. Whether you are looking for a place to enjoy an evening meal over a cocktail, unwind after a local bushwalk, or catch up with friends over dinner, we look forward to sharing with you our passion for great coffee, local and seasonal ingredients, house made pastries and bespoke cocktails, and leading Australian and international wines. Open for dinner from Thursday to Sunday and brunch 7 days a week, drop in or book a table.</p><p>hounslow.net.au</p><p>5/25 Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath</p></div>	<div>The Falls Store</div> <div></div> <div><p>An ever-changing selection of homewares, fashion, hand-made jewellery, textiles and vintage furniture. Shop one-of-a-kind home décor, hand-crafted fashion, vintage finds, quirky gifts and more.</p><p>Visit the Wentworth Falls store or shop online.</p><p>www.thefallsstore.com.au</p><p>1-3 Station St, Wentworth Falls</p></div>	<div>LoveBites at Wentworth Falls Lake</div> <div></div> <div><p>A gourmet coffee and sandwich destination on a mission to deliver a world-class sandwich experience. Offering a fresh take on the classics and an exciting host of new additions, our sandwiches are filled to the brim with the freshest ingredients available.</p><p>www.lovebitesccc.com Thursday-Sunday</p><p>9am - 4.30pm</p></div>	<div>The Old Bank Bazaar</div> <div></div> <div><p>Antiques, retro, Art Deco, collectables, pictures, clocks, cups, china, modest sized furniture, curios and knick-knacks.</p><p>Three rooms filled with delightful and practical quality items.</p><p>Open 7 days 10am-4pm.</p><p>theoldbankbazaar.com.au</p><p>5 Station St Wentworth Falls</p></div>	<div>Blue Mountains Makers</div> <div></div> <div><p>Art, ceramics, fashion and accessories, health and beauty, home décor, children's items, stationery and jewellery from a variety of artisans and makers from the Blue Mountains and surrounding regions.</p><p>bluemtnsmakers.com</p><p>Shop 4/28 Station St, Wentworth Falls</p></div>	<div>Hounslow Licensed Restaurant</div> <div></div> <div><p>Hounslow is proud to be a part of the local dining experience showcasing seasonal menus across dinner, evenings, brunch, speciality coffee and fine wines. Whether you are looking for a place to enjoy an evening meal over a cocktail, unwind after a local bushwalk, or catch up with friends over dinner, we look forward to sharing with you our passion for great coffee, local and seasonal ingredients, house made pastries and bespoke cocktails, and leading Australian and international wines. Open for dinner from Thursday to Sunday and brunch 7 days a week, drop in or book a table.</p><p>hounslow.net.au</p><p>5/25 Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath</p></div>

Blue Mountains Explorer Bus	Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler	Dryridge Estate	Whisk & Pin	Bygone Beautys Museum & Tearooms	Blue Mountains Cultural Centre	ADVERTISE HERE T 0412 699 744 E advertising@bmtourism.com.au
						
Hop-on Hop-off service takes you to all the most important viewpoints, waterfalls, tourist attractions, hotels and restaurants – with the freedom to explore at your own pace. Buses run every 45 minutes. See website for current operating days. www.explorebus.com.au 283 Bathurst Rd, Katoomba	Leave the stresses of everyday life onshore and enjoy smooth water cruising and a generous soak of serenity just 45 minutes from Australia's largest city. Immerse yourself in nature and explore an otherwise inaccessible part of the Greater Blue Mountains. www.nepeanbelle.com.au Boarding Jetty 128 Factory Rd, Regentville	Relax with a leisurely repose of cheese and wine in the tranquil rural landscape of the Megalong Valley. Dryridge produces distinctive crisp mineral-flavoured wines from the pink granite soil. Ask about the onsite wedding venue and picturesque accommodation. www.dryridge.com.au 226 Aspinall Rd, Megalong Valley	Gourmet food products, handcrafted mouth-watering chocolates, cookies, muesli and more. Visit the flagship bakery, purchase freshly made cookies and chocolates, sample a gourmet gift hamper and take home some delectable artisan food, or shop online. www.whiskandpin.com.au 3/44 Wilson St, Katoomba	The art of tea drinking is showcased at Bygone Beautys, with an incredible museum space displaying over 5,500 teapots spanning five centuries and including rare and unusual teapots from across the globe. The full collection includes more than 11,000 teapots, and is the largest private collection of teawares in the world. There is also a range of antiques and estate jewellery for sale alongside tea wares. Visitors can also indulge in a traditional high tea (bookings essential) or Devonshire tea with loose-leaf tea in fine china, freshly whipped cream and scones. www.bygonebeautys.com.au Cnr Grose & Megalong Sts, Leura Open Thursday - Monday 10am-5pm	Encompasses the Blue Mountains City Art Gallery and Into the Blue, an interactive exhibition that explores the history and natural landscape of the Blue Mountains. Enjoy the viewing platform with stunning panoramic vistas of Katoomba and the Jamison Valley. bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au 30 Parke St, Katoomba	
Leura Indoor Rock Climbing	Blue Mountains Biking Adventures	Spa Sublime	Western Wine Tours	Hillbilly Cider Shed	Mid Mountains Vintage	The Wintergarden
						
An indoor climbing gym in the heart of Leura, with training areas, pro shop, skate shop, mini skate ramp, squash court, half-court basketball, traditional Finnish sauna, and in-house café. Run by a community of climbers chasing new adventures. leuraindoorrockclimbing.com.au 7 Quinns Ave, Leura	Ride an E-BIKE! Get off the beaten tourist track and into the real bush with unique mobile self-guided hire or a guided tour service. Ride the wide dirt fire trails to stunning locations like the famous Hanging Rock, Narrow Neck Plateau or the Oaks trail. www.bluemountainbiking.com.au T: 0432 699 212	Private, secluded and exquisitely beautiful, the multi-award winning Spa Sublime is the ultimate day spa experience. Beautifully appointed couples rooms are the perfect way to spend some quality time with a group of friends or someone extra special. www.spasublime.com.au 9 Penault Ave, Katoomba	Taste superb wines and ciders and delight in delicious food. Choose a half day or full day luxury tour of vineyards and cider sheds between Bilpin, the Megalong Valley and the Mudgee wine district. Enjoy wildlife sightings and spectacular views. westernwinetours.com.au T: 0437 746 833	Your Hillbillyfication starts here! Follow the Hillbilly trail to the beautiful orchards of Bilpin, Blue Mountains and you'll find the rustic Hillbilly cider shed. Cider, beer, wine and woodfired pizza. Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm. Friday to Sunday 10 am to 6pm. hillbillycider.com.au 2230 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin	Antiques, collectables and curiosities housed in a 1940s service station. Fifteen vendors with stalls over two levels. Browse antiques, vintage clothes, homewares, mid-century furniture, records, jewellery, and a fantastic collection of posters, prints and ephemera. New stock daily. www.midmountainstvintage.com 80 Great Western Hwy, Woodford	Featuring panoramic views overlooking the Megalong Valley, the Hydro Majestic is one of Australia's most famous historic hotels. The Wintergarden Restaurant offers a premium afternoon high tea and a dinner service. Bookings essential. www.hydomajestic.com.au 52-88 Great Western Highway, Medlow Bath
Maple Springs Nursery & Gardens	Josophan's Fine Chocolates	Beyond the Blacktop	Kurrara Historic Guest House	Hotel Mountain Heritage	Blue Mountains Theatre Hub	Lost Bear Gallery
						
300 of varieties of Japanese maples, conifers, shrubs and cold climate trees with thousands to choose from. Goryu Japanese Gardens showcases maple varieties and 13 replica Japanese gardens with ponds mini waterfalls, rockeries, stones, gravels, bridges and islands. www.maplespringsnurseryandgardens.com.au 85 Baaners Lane, Little Hartley	Josophan's creates extraordinary fine chocolates using Fair Trade certified Callebaut Belgian couverture chocolate, Single Origin and Single Plantation chocolates and ganache fillings made with fresh flavour infusions. No preservatives. Fresh, natural flavours. www.josophans.com.au 187 Leura Mall, Leura	Explore the landscape in an open air vehicle with unparalleled views on the Wombat Adventures short tour. Or choose a full day tour in the 4WD and experience some of the tracks! Have a 4WD? Beyond the Blacktop can take you on a tagalong tour and teach essential skills. beyondtheblacktop.com.au T: 0430 348 616	A fully-restored bed and breakfast for a getaway in style – for romantic couples' retreats or just a cosy place to stay. 9 beautiful rooms decorated with antiques and European textiles. Complimentary afternoon tea and treats. Ask about yoga retreats in the onsite studio. kurraraguesthouse.com.au 17 Coomonderry St, Katoomba	Breathtaking views, old world charm, premium dining. Just minutes from Katoomba's vibrant town centre. Escape to an intimate mountain mansion with panoramic views of the Jamison Valley. Everything you need for a relaxing, refreshing or romantic getaway. www.mountainheritage.com.au Corner Apex and Lovel Sts, Katoomba	A wide selection of world class entertainment in the heart of the Blue Mountains, from comedy to world music, vintage rock'n'roll to pop-noir, film, classical ballet to guitar virtuosos and beyond. Community Hub also offers meeting venues for hire. www.bluemountainstheatre.com.au 106 Macquarie Rd, Springwood	The leading destination for contemporary art in the Blue Mountains, with a superb collection of paintings, sculpture, ceramics and glass art by acclaimed Australian artists. Charming and sophisticated, the gallery is one of the region's major attractions, for art lovers and visitors alike. www.lostbeargallery.com.au 98 Lurline St, Katoomba
John Wilson Gallery	John Wilson Gallery	John Wilson Gallery	John Wilson Gallery	John Wilson Gallery	John Wilson Gallery	John Wilson Gallery
						
An ongoing exhibition of award-winning artist John Wilson, one of Australia's leading oil painters who grew up in the Blue Mountains. His elegant paintings capture elusive qualities unique to the Australian landscape, and are found in many public and private collections. www.johnwilsongallery.com 46 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba	An ongoing exhibition of award-winning artist John Wilson, one of Australia's leading oil painters who grew up in the Blue Mountains. His elegant paintings capture elusive qualities unique to the Australian landscape, and are found in many public and private collections. www.johnwilsongallery.com 46 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba	An ongoing exhibition of award-winning artist John Wilson, one of Australia's leading oil painters who grew up in the Blue Mountains. His elegant paintings capture elusive qualities unique to the Australian landscape, and are found in many public and private collections. www.johnwilsongallery.com 46 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba	An ongoing exhibition of award-winning artist John Wilson, one of Australia's leading oil painters who grew up in the Blue Mountains. His elegant paintings capture elusive qualities unique to the Australian landscape, and are found in many public and private collections. www.johnwilsongallery.com 46 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba	An ongoing exhibition of award-winning artist John Wilson, one of Australia's leading oil painters who grew up in the Blue Mountains. His elegant paintings capture elusive qualities unique to the Australian landscape, and are found in many public and private collections. www.johnwilsongallery.com 46 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba	An ongoing exhibition of award-winning artist John Wilson, one of Australia's leading oil painters who grew up in the Blue Mountains. His elegant paintings capture elusive qualities unique to the Australian landscape, and are found in many public and private collections. www.johnwilsongallery.com 46 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba	An ongoing exhibition of award-winning artist John Wilson, one of Australia's leading oil painters who grew up in the Blue Mountains. His elegant paintings capture elusive qualities unique to the Australian landscape, and are found in many public and private collections. www.johnwilsongallery.com 46 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba
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Professor Dimitri Douchin, Blue Mountains Stargazing www.bluemountainstargazing.com.au	Professor Dimitri Douchin, Blue Mountains Stargazing www.bluemountainstargazing.com.au	Professor Dimitri Douchin, Blue Mountains Stargazing www.bluemountainstargazing.com.au	Professor Dimitri Douchin, Blue Mountains Stargazing www.bluemountainstargazing.com.au	Professor Dimitri Douchin, Blue Mountains Stargazing www.bluemountainstargazing.com.au	Professor Dimitri Douchin, Blue Mountains Stargazing www.bluemountainstargazing.com.au	Professor Dimitri Douchin, Blue Mountains Stargazing www.bluemountainstargazing.com.au
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When looking at the mountains from a distance they take on a remarkably intense blue haze. Physics professor Harry Messel of the University of Sydney explained in 1955: "The haze which appears to surround any distant object is due to an optical phenomenon called 'Rayleigh scattering'. This effect, first investigated theoretically by Lord Rayleigh, causes the rays of light which impinge on small particles to be scattered in various directions. ... Since the atmosphere is always laden with small dust particles, water droplets and the like and since even the air molecules themselves contributed to some extent to the scattering... if an observer looks at a distant object with the intervening atmosphere illuminated by sunlight, eyes will receive the blue scattered rays of sunlight to reflect the object itself. Therefore any distant object will always appear to display some shade of blue." 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ESCAPE TO DENNARQUE ESTATE

BY ELLEN HILL

Reconnect with nature like the well-heeled Sydney set of the 1870s at Dennarque Estate, perched on the highest point in the quaint heritage garden village of Mount Wilson.

The original two-level sandstone homestead was built in 1879 by former aide-de-camp to the Governor, Crown Lands Commissioner and Executive Council clerk Edward Merewether, who lived there with wife Augusta and their 10 children. Today, the property is the perfect intimate wedding venue for up to 50 guests, with numerous nooks where photographic memories can be made against magnificent seasonal garden backdrops. To fully experience the 24 acres of secluded serenity, retreat within the wrought iron gates for a minimum two nights as an



in-house guest in one of four luxury self-catering cottages.

The estate accommodates 12 people for weekend and weekday getaways with family and friends, and small corporate conferences and executive retreats.

Each cottage rests between the carefully landscaped woodlands and botanical gardens.

Wisteria Lodge: features an

oversized outdoor fireplace, indoor fireplace, a king size bed, kitchenette, lounge, dining area, ensuite bathroom and wisteria-wrapped barbecue area.

Camellia Lodge: has an abundance of natural light with views from the spacious balcony overlooking a spectacular camellia grove. It has a king size bed, kitchenette, lounge, ensuite with heated floor and barbecue facilities.

Cherry Cottage: has a loft bedroom with giant king (or twin) bed, kitchenette, lounge, dining area, ensuite with an original open fireplace and barbecue.

Koonawarra: has three bedrooms (one king and two queen) and heated ensuite floors, a full kitchen, lounge with fireplace, sunroom and barbecue.

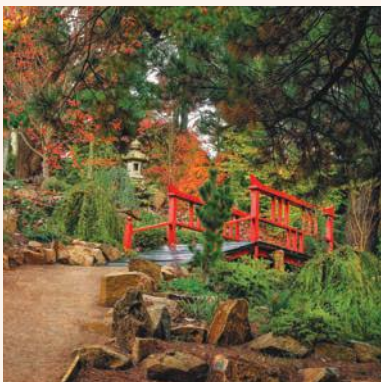
The heritage gardens, originally designed by botanist and former Royal Botanic Garden Sydney director Charles Moore (1820 – 1905), retain many of the original plantings from around the world.

Rarely open to the public, the extensive cool climate manicured gardens are usually a private treat for guests.

However, you can catch a glimpse in the pages of *Dennarque, A Mount Wilson Story*, a coffee table book showcasing the four seasons. To book your getaway, or order the book, visit

www.dennarqueestate.com

DENNARQUE ESTATE *Blue Mountains*



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A HOTEL WITH HEART

Hotel Etico, Australia’s first social enterprise hotel offers young people with special needs invaluable training in hospitality.

Located in the historic Mount Victoria Manor, the hotel provides vocational training and independent living skills for young adults with learning disabilities. Its first graduates all secured great jobs in the hospitality field, and 10 new trainees now learn all its aspects, from housekeeping to bartending and working in the kitchen.

“The traditional way of employing people with disabilities has been in sheltered workshops, back of the warehouse packing things,” Project Etico Australia director Andrea Comastri says. “The way of knocking down barriers is to expose people to that reality. We strongly believe that work is a way to dignity and independence.”



As well as learning hospitality skills, some trainees live on-site during their three-day work week at the Academy of Independence, learning to share a living space, cook and cater for themselves, all the while gaining friendships and camaraderie with fellow trainees.

With the trainees front and centre of hotel operations, guests have the opportunity to chat with them, learn their stories, and appreciate the nurturing environment the hotel provides. A holiday here empowers young people to fulfil their dreams of independence.

For bookings and more information, visit <https://hoteletico.com.au>

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With the largest range of 3-4 star properties in the Blue Mountains including the renowned 1930’s Metropole Guesthouse, Katoomba Town Centre Motel, Blue Mountains Heritage Motel, Echo Point Discovery Motel, Echo Point Village and Blue Lyrebird Co Living Space, Equeva Group is the perfect place to start when arranging your next Blue Mountains stay.

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KATOOMBA TOWN CENTRE MOTEL



Blue Mountains HERITAGE MOTEL



EchoPoint DISCOVERY MOTEL IN BLUE MOUNTAINS



Echo Point VILLAGE

PICNIC PERFECTION

As the Winter fog lifts, the search is on for a few moments to switch off from the everyday grind and reconnect with the great outdoors.

If there's one place in the world where nature has carved out endless vistas, meandering trails, rocky outcrops and perfect perches to take in the rugged wilderness and breathe in the crisp mountain air, it's the Blue Mountains.

A trip to the top of the mountains is the perfect elixir after a long Winter, and Hotel Mountain Heritage has an offer that provides all the ingredients needed to relax and unwind.

Book a stay of three consecutive nights or more in September, October or November and receive a complimentary picnic hamper for two. Enjoy the generous spread al fresco in one of the most spectacular natural locations in the world.

Simply quote the code phrase 'Spring into Summer' when

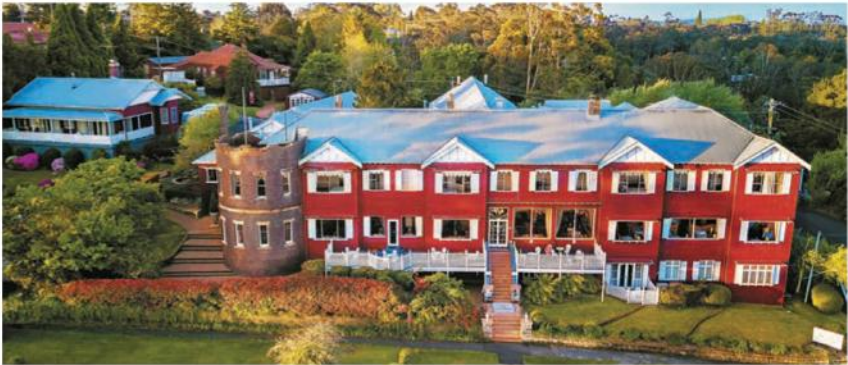
booking your stay online or via the phone to claim your picnic hamper.

Located in the heart of Katoomba, overlooking the spectacular Jamison Valley, a stay at Hotel Mountain Heritage provides you with the perfect base to explore the best the Blue Mountains has to offer.

Once your picnic is done, there is plenty to delight you at the historic mountain mansion which has been offering accommodation for over 100 years.

Enjoy an al fresco cocktail and sample some of the area's local produce with a delicious meal at Jamison Views Restaurant.

For bookings and information, visit www.mountainheritage.com.au, call (02) 4782 2155 or email stay@mountainheritage.com.au.



Explore the best the Blue Mountains has to offer and find your perfect picnic spot

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at Hotel Mountain Heritage

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Visit mountainheritage.com.au or call (02) 4782 2155

*Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid for bookings made for stays at Hotel Mountain Heritage in October, November & December 2022. Special code must be quoted at time of bookings made online or via phone. Picnic hamper must be ordered at hotel reception by 6pm the day prior.

THE IDEAL RETREAT

Regroup in the beautiful Blue Mountains as you reconnect and revitalise with an all-inclusive accommodation experience.

Newly restored, Brightlands encapsulates the best of heritage architecture, with grand ceilings, beautiful spaces, and charming rooms.

All rooms have ensuite bathrooms, beautiful furnishings, offer iKou bathroom products and enjoy garden or courtyard views.

The spacious grounds provide a quiet place to unwind and reflect.

Each aspect of your visit is taken care of, from delectable food to curated activities including an onsite day spa. Meditation and yoga classes are offered in the Old Chapel. Choose from a range of inhouse activities – or simply sit with a good book in the extensive gardens, alfresco area, sunroom or grand lounge room.



The exceptional level of service and care includes a range of food options – from a scrumptious breakfast service to lunch and a three course signature dinner – sourcing local and sustainable produce. The full-time chef can cater for special needs, dietary requirements and ensure your culinary experience is an unforgettable one.

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RECHARGE THIS SPRING: ESCAPE TO THE CARRINGTON HOTEL

A visit to The Carrington Hotel in Spring is a treat for the senses, a wander through time and a glimpse into a past filled with extravagance, luxury and beauty.

A Springtime escape is the perfect antidote to those cold-weather blues.

Soak up the afternoon sunshine while sipping cocktails on the Carrington's glorious Art Nouveau piazza; relax with a delicious Devonshire tea for two in the lounge; or relish a balmy evening stroll through the hotel grounds as you make your way to dinner in the Grand Dining Room – one of the few Victorian dining rooms remaining today.

The early 20th century garden design was ahead of its time with magnificent bunya and Monterey pines, magnolia grandiflora, plane trees and silver beech. During the day, take in the beauty of the gardens and the array of Springtime blooms.

As an original Blue Mountains retreat, a stay in one of the beautifully restored guestrooms will leave you feeling well rested and ready to take on the day. The hotel provides the perfect base to take in one of the many bushwalks, some retail therapy or to explore the delights of local food and wine at Carrington Cellars.

If pampering is what you are looking for, adding a spa treatment to your itinerary is a must. At the top of the stairs – just past Champagne Charlie's Cocktail Bar – is a sanctuary dedicated to beauty, health and wellness by way of Serenita Hair & Beauty and Lumière Natural Therapies which



operate conveniently within the Carrington Hotel. Through a strong customer-focused approach and with over 30 years of experience in hair and beauty, Ashleen from Serenita can offer personalised beauty services, including a full hair service menu, cosmetic tattooing and spa treatments. Rachael, from Lumière, is a certified remedial massage therapist and 7th Degree Reiki Master, with a lifelong passion for holistic therapy. She specialises in

Swedish, remedial, myofascial release, lymphatic drainage, Reiki and reflexology. The services are available to all and are guaranteed to leave you feeling relaxed and refreshed. You do not need to be an in-house guest to make a booking, but be sure to book your treatment in advance as they are popular and do book out. Spring is a fabulous time to explore the Blue Mountains. Whether visiting for the day or staying a night or two, you will be grateful for the chance to relax and unwind

BY DIANA HOFLAND

this Spring in the fresh Mountains air at the Carrington. To book your Spring Escape, visit www.thecarrington.com.au, phone (02) 4782 1111 or email reservations@thecarrington.com.au To book a beauty treatment, contact: Serenita Hair & Beauty Phone 0414 330 494 Lumière Natural Therapies Phone 0405 261 267



THE HATTERY

KATOOMBA



CANOPY BAY
BY DEBORAH HUTTON



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The Hattery endeavours to provide you with an experience of times gone by—the personalised fitting of a hat that will stand the test of time.

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AKUBRA Federation IV, exclusive to The Hattery

 @the_hattery_katoomba

 02 4782 5003

 sales@hatsdirect.com



THE GRUFFALO SPOTTED AT SCENIC WORLD!

One of the world's most beloved children's stories, *The Gruffalo*, written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler, is coming to Scenic World from September.

The Gruffalo Spotter Trail is powered by the free Gruffalo Spotter 2 app which allows kids (and adults!) to interact with characters from the book through their iPhone or Android device – so they can foxtrot with the Fox, have a hoot with the Owl, hissssss with the Snake, make friends with the Mouse and get to know the Gruffalo.

Catch the world's steepest train, the Scenic Railway into the Jamison Valley, and search the deep, dark woods along elevated boardwalks for interactive signs that trigger the appearances of the characters.

Ride the Scenic Cableway out of the valley and back to the main building where you can meet a real live Gruffalo (check Scenic World's Facebook page for sessions), catch the Scenic Skyway or explore the dedicated Gruffalo retail

space. And then do it all again. There is no limit to how many times you enjoy the attractions at Scenic World.

"We are delighted to be able to offer the Gruffalo Spotter Trail experience as part of our Unlimited Discovery ticket. As the mother of two small children, and like many other Australians, we are huge Gruffalo fans and can't wait to go searching for the characters amongst our beautiful rainforest," Managing Director of Scenic World, Anthea Hammon said.

The Gruffalo Spotter Trail experience is included in the price of your Unlimited Discovery Pass. Read more at www.scenicworld.com.au/the-gruffalo

Feel on top of the world

Beyond Skyway is a world-first experience that takes guests to new and unexplored heights on the rooftop of the Skyway cable car in the Blue Mountains.

Once on the roof, with nothing to restrict the 360-degree view, the immersive experience is

both exhilarating and completely serene.

An intimate adventure, catering to only four guests at a time, the Beyond Skyway experience sets off from Scenic World in Katoomba.

Each group travels out with Beyond Skyway crew on the iconic Scenic Skyway to the middle of the Jamison Valley, 270m above the ancient rainforest canopy below. Guests are fitted with full body harnesses and climb up the ladder, through the hatch in the roof and out into the open air of the cabin's rooftop.

Take in the majestic Katoomba Falls, the Three Sisters, Mount Solitary and many other landmarks of the Jamison Valley from a whole new perspective as the setting sun creates a kaleidoscope of colours across the horizon. It's like being on a floating lookout, offering a rare 360 degree view of the Blue Mountains.

Depending on the time you visit, you can be surrounded by a magical mist that swirls through the valley and then suddenly parts like a stage curtain, revealing distant mountains, sheer cliffs, rock formations and kilometres of trees dotted as far as the horizon. The view is ever-changing and incredibly surreal.

Beyond Skyway



Scenic Skyway



Scenic Railway



Scenic Cableway

In the distance you may hear the calls of yellow-tailed black cockatoos flying underneath you and marvel at multiple ecosystems just by turning your head— there's something to see in every direction, while suspended above the stunning UNESCO World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park.

Guests can sit back and relax on the custom-made wooden bench seats to take in the sights while wrapping their hands around a toasty mug of hot chocolate or enjoying a Beyond Skyway signature mocktail.

On the Skyway ride back to the main building, the team pop open a bottle of Mumm champagne to celebrate your experience.

It's perfect for those celebrating a special occasion, outdoor enthusiasts, adventure seekers and content creators who are searching for that ultimate Instagrammable moment.

Tickets are extremely limited. Each ticket includes complimentary refreshments on board the Skyway, digital photo files, and celebratory champagne, wine or beer in the Skyway cabin on the return journey. Book now at www.scenicworld.com.au/beyondskyway

Plan a Spring adventure at Scenic World

There's always something exciting about heading for the misty blue hills during Spring. It's the sense of adventure during longer, warmer days, the buzz you get from the fresh air and the fun of heading out into the wilderness.

With expansive views, thrilling rides and natural highs, you can't beat a day trip to Scenic World. Check out Scenic World's Unlimited Discovery Pass where you can venture into the Jamison Valley rainforest via the world's steepest train, the Scenic Railway, or glide down on the Cableway past breathtaking views of the iconic Three Sisters and Orphan Rock.

Soak up the ethereal vibes as you walk along the 500m boardwalk, a gentle 10-minute walk between the Railway and Cableway stations. Or if you're looking to warm up those legs a little more, there's also a 30-minute or 50-minute boardwalk that takes you further along the rainforest valley floor. Keep your eyes peeled

for lyrebirds scratching in the leaves, native birds, reptiles and marsupials, and a vast array of native trees and plants.

To ascend from the valley, catch the Railway or Cableway back to the main building. Once up top, you can view a whole new perspective from the Scenic Skyway, suspended 270 metres above the valley below. View the entire grandeur of the Jamison Valley, the majestic Katoomba Falls and the spectacular rock formations of the Three Sisters. On the Unlimited Discovery Pass, you can catch the rides as many times as you like in a single day.

Scenic World not only serves up stunning scenery but delicious food too. Finish off your experience with a tasty bite to eat at the Terrace Café where you can find all your favourites like pizza, burgers, nachos or Little Coffee Company coffee. It's also the best view in Australia to enjoy a frosty Mountain Culture beer or Dryridge Estate wine.

Scenic World is open 7 days a week. To book your Scenic World experience, go to www.scenicworld.com.au or phone (02) 4780 0200.



IMAGE: Destination NSW

Lincoln's Rock

VIEWS FOR DAYS

BY JULIE MILLER

Breathe in the fresh air and soak up the mesmerising vistas at these easily-accessed lookouts.

There is no shortage of incredible views in the Blue Mountains, with the rugged sandstone escarpment that encircles our region providing the perfect platform for gazing out across the wilderness.

Our most visited viewpoint commandeers the famous Three Sisters at Echo Point, Katoomba. But there are plenty of lesser-known lookouts where you can avoid the crowds and allow the incredible panorama before you to penetrate and inspire your soul.

For easy access to some of the region's most stunning vistas, hop on (and off, all in your own time) the red double-decker Explorer Bus, which stops at 37 attractions including nine lookouts, from iconic vistas and popular waterfalls, to lesser-known outcrops offering a different perspective of the Jamison Valley.

"It's hard to beat Cahill's Lookout as the sun sinks behind the Great Dividing Range and the colours change over the Megalong Valley," says Damien Booth from the Blue Mountains Explorer Bus. "Behind you, the sandstone escarpments of Narrow Neck Ridge and the King's Tableland dazzle like gold leaf."

Narrow Neck Lookout is another viewpoint that constantly surprises. "It can be a complete white-out one minute and the next, you can see forever!"

"A phenomenon called Phantom

Falls happens there, when thick mist flows from one valley into the other like a waterfall of cloud. There are views to the Megalong Valley and the Great Dividing Range. Narrow Neck Ridge, Mount Solitary, the Ruined Castle, King's Tableland and Katoomba Landslide are all visible and the changing colours are stunning."

While lacing up your hiking boots is all part of the enjoyment of exploring this region, the good news is that most of these lookouts require little to no effort, with many of them accessible to all abilities. From plummeting waterfalls, to rock platforms with unencumbered 360 degree views, here are some suggestions for places to feast your eyes.

PRINCE OF WALES LOOKOUT

Echo Point Road, Katoomba: The latest enhancement to the lookout at Echo Point gazing towards the iconic Three Sisters is the Prince of Wales platform, an all-access, night-lit boardwalk extension that offers the closest view of the comely rock formation. Defying gravity above the Jamison Valley, the viewpoint is part of a new Gathering Place, where traditional owners can tell their stories.

KATOOMBA FALLS LOOKOUT

Cliff Drive, Katoomba: Accessed by the new 1.3 kilometre Katoomba Falls Night-lit Walk, this viewpoint offers magnificent views of the Jamison Valley across to Mount Solitary, the Three Sisters and Orphan Rock, as well as a jaw-dropping vista of the

plummeting Katoomba Falls as it tumbles over the sheer escarpment in several terraces.

OLYMPIAN ROCK AND ELYSIAN ROCK

Olympian Parade, Leura: These hidden twin lookouts – joined by the metal Buttenshaw Bridge spanning a gaping chasm – offer spectacular rear-end views of the Three Sisters and Narrow Neck as well as a mesmerising southern panorama of the Greater Blue Mountains. This is a beautiful spot to welcome the sunrise, with convenient benches to relax and soak in the majesty. The path to the lookout, while short and easy, is not wheelchair accessible.

WENTWORTH FALLS LOOKOUT

Wentworth Falls Picnic Area, Wentworth Falls: This has it all – grass to lay a picnic rug, barbecue facilities and great views of the thundering Wentworth Falls. Gaze out across the terraced waterfall from the level-paved lookout on the edge of the escarpment. Pause to soak in the negative ions emitted by the falls, or continue down the trail for a closer view of the tumbling upper cascade.

LINCOLN'S ROCK

Little Switzerland Drive, Wentworth Falls: This unfenced rock platform with unencumbered views across Jamison Valley to Mount Solitary is a favourite for photo opportunities, including weddings. You really feel like you're on the edge of the world here, so take care near the edge, and hold onto your little ones'

hands as you absorb the majesty before you.

HARGRAVES LOOKOUT

Shipley Road, Blackheath: Pack some bubbles and nibbles and head to this stunning lookout on the western side of Blackheath for the ultimate sunset views. Recently upgraded with new platforms, paving, fencing, an accessible ramp and facilities, this quiet viewpoint gazes across the bucolic twin valleys of Megalong and Kanimbla. A short trail along a rocky spit leads to a smaller lookout for those who want to stretch their legs.

GOVETTS LEAP

Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath: Feast your eyes upon one of the Blue Mountains' most iconic views across the wilderness of the Grose Valley, a tapestry of green against the sheer walls of the sandstone escarpment. Enjoy the play of light as the sun dances under clouds, while the distant thunder of waterfalls tumbling into the void is tempered by the haunting call of the gliding black cockatoos.

TUNNEL VIEW LOOKOUT

Glenbrook: Located in the Glenbrook section of the Blue Mountains National Park, Tunnel View gives a different perspective of the Blue Mountains, with incredible views of the craggy Glenbrook Gorge leading to the Nepean River. This is a great place for a sunset drink, to absorb the silence, to watch birds or admire wildflowers; while the lookout is also a special place for train buffs, with views of the rail cutting and two historic tunnels.



WATCH ONLINE
<https://youtu.be/KcsjODLfTp0>

IMAGE: Chris Walters

ZIG ZAG WELCOMES A NEW GENERATION

After nearly 10 years of closure, two bushfires and a pandemic, the legendary Zig Zag Railway is inching closer to reopening and introducing a new generation to the thrill of locomotive travel.

In December 2019, the raging Gospers Mountain bushfire bore down upon the historic Zig Zag Railway in Lithgow, severely damaging infrastructure including its tracks, a toilet block and signalling equipment. Although the station and most of its rolling stock were undamaged, it was a tragic blow for the volunteer-run railway that had only just been rebuilt after devastation caused by another bushfire in 2013.

“We were very close to opening prior to the 2019 bushfires, but unfortunately we lost approximately 2,500 timber

sleepers on our track,” says Daniel Zolfel, Infrastructure and Assets Manager of the Zig Zag Railway.

“We’d done all this hard remedial work to have the track up to standard – then in a blink of an eye, it was all gone.”

With significant government funding and tireless work by a passionate team of volunteers, however, the historic narrow-gauge tourist railway – originally built in the 1860s to ferry passengers to the western plains of NSW – is just about ready to stoke its engines and fire the imagination of railway enthusiasts once again.

“The track is now back to where it was, and ready to go,” Zolfel explains. “In May 2021, we took our first heavy locomotive from Bottom Points Station to Clarence, and that was the first time in eight or nine years. I was a little bit emotional.”

But the imminent reopening faced yet another challenge, as lockdowns due to COVID-19

delayed vital training and competence assurance activities for volunteers.

“It’s been 10 years since we operated a passenger train,” says Zolfel. “A lot has changed in terms of what we need to be able to do to operate the passenger trains. The lockdowns meant it took a little longer to get our people on-site to run training exercises, emergency drills and different forms of operation – but that’s all back up and running now.”

What has been achieved in the 20 months since the Gospers Fire is quite remarkable. The precinct has undergone a \$2.3 million upgrade; and as well as the new track, they have new signalling and mechanical interlocking in place.

A new workshop is being built, and the carpark at Clarence has been completely resurfaced, with new asphalt, line work and garden beds.

The railway also has one fully-commissioned steam locomotive

BY JULIE MILLER

and a diesel locomotive in service, and by the end of the year there will be seven passenger wagons fully commissioned and in service.

“The sad thing is that the Zig Zag has missed a whole generation,” Zolfel says. “Older people know it and have fond memories of the Zig Zag, but in the 10 years since we’ve been shut, we seem to have missed a generation.”

“I think reopening, for the Blue Mountains and Lithgow regional area, it’s going to be incredible.”

Zig Zag Railway hopes to return to passenger operations this year.

New members are always welcome, with appropriate training and mentorship for those keen to contribute in operational roles.

For updates on reopening, as well as information about membership and volunteering, please visit www.zigzagrailway.com.au

TEA, A REFLECTION OF LIFE

BY ELLEN HILL

Colourful and ornate, delicate and subtle, quirky or plain. Teapots come in all shapes and designs but they all have a commonality – the reflection of everyday happenings of life.

Nowhere is more focused on teapot nuance than Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum & Tearooms.

And few others are more obsessed with them than Mr Teapot himself, aka Maurice Cooper OAM, owner of the collection and custodian of teapot heritage and stories.

Bygone Beautys is home to more than 11,000 teapots, with more than 5000 on display.

Next year, Mr Cooper and partner of 55 years Kerry McKenzie would have owned the collection begun by Ron Hooper and then wife Noelene for 30 years.

“One of the great things about this collection is that people see it,” Mr Cooper, an antiques dealer and collector, says.

“A lot of people collect things and they go into boxes and private homes and no one sees them except close family, sometimes not even them.”

Bygone Beautys is more than a teapot museum. There is a range of antiques and estate jewellery for sale alongside tea wares (loose leaf tea, cosies, strainers and, of course, teapots).

Visitors can also indulge in a traditional high tea or Devonshire tea with loose-leaf tea in fine china, freshly whipped cream and scones made to the specific recipe of Mr McKenzie’s late mother Ada.

But the warm feeling and comfort of tea is the tie that binds it all.

“Tea is a great reflection of life: our happiest times can be shared over a



IMAGE David Hill, Deep Hill Media

cuppa and as well as our saddest,” Mr Cooper says.

Many teapots are beautiful artworks in design or function, others are attractive in their eccentricity, but even the dilapidated “represent so much about life”.

There are themed collectables, animated and nursery rhyme teapot series, “but what I so greatly admire more than anything is how multicultural teapots are and the interpretation of what is beautiful.”

Mr Cooper’s favourite teapot? It’s like choosing your favourite child.



Bygone Beautys
TREASURED TEAPOT MUSEUM & TEAROOMS

Home of the world’s largest private collection of teawares
Devonshire Tea • Light Lunch • Traditional High Tea
Teawares • Jewellery • Antiques
100+ Tea & Infusion Varieties



Open 10am-4.30pm Thursday-Monday & every day during school holidays
Last tearoom orders 4pm • 20-22 Grose Street Leura • T (02) 4784 3117
FREE CALL 1800 663 619 www.bygonebeautys.com.au

A composite image featuring a sketch of the storefront of 'THE OLD BANK BAZAAR - Old Wares Bygones' and a photograph of a wooden lectern. The storefront sketch shows a two-story building with a sign that reads 'THE OLD BANK BAZAAR - Old Wares Bygones'. A person is standing in front of the entrance. The wooden lectern is a classic, ornate piece of furniture.

THE OLD BANK BAZAAR

Antiques, Curios,
Collectables, Furniture,
Pictures, Retro, Art Deco

OPEN 7 DAYS 10am-4pm

5 Station St Wentworth Falls

T 02 4757 4888 theoldbankbazaar.com.au

YOUR HILLBILLIFICATION STARTS HERE!

Soak up some ‘Hillbillification’ (the process of escaping the city, getting out into nature and enjoying the simple things in life) at the rustic Hillbilly Cider shed in Bilpin!

The lovingly restored old shed has open breezy verandas, lots of grass and an orchard for kids or the family dog to run around in, and log fires for the cooler months.

You can sit out in the sunshine overlooking the famous ‘big log truck’, devouring a wood fired pizza as you sip on a tasting paddle of ciders chosen from the Hillbilly range.

Cider buffs will enjoy the line-up of internationally award-winning ciders, including the Sweet Julie. Awarded ‘Best in Class’ three times in the Australian Cider Awards, it’s the only cider in the world made from the Julie apple. This apple was discovered growing next door at Shields Orchard and is the first ‘chance seedling’ to be discovered

in the Sydney / Blue Mountains area since the Granny Smith apple 100 years ago!

Co-owners Shane and Tessa McLaughlin produce limited release ciders that are only available at the shed. Cider maker Shane has 20 years of wine and cider making under his belt including time spent in cider regions in the UK and France. This diversity is evident across the range that includes ciders made from heritage apple and also some fermented in oak. You can stock up on your favourites – including filling a growler (2 litre flagon) or caninal (1 litre can) straight from the barrel. The Hillbilly Harvest shop also produces a range of jams, oils etc. from the shed kitchen.

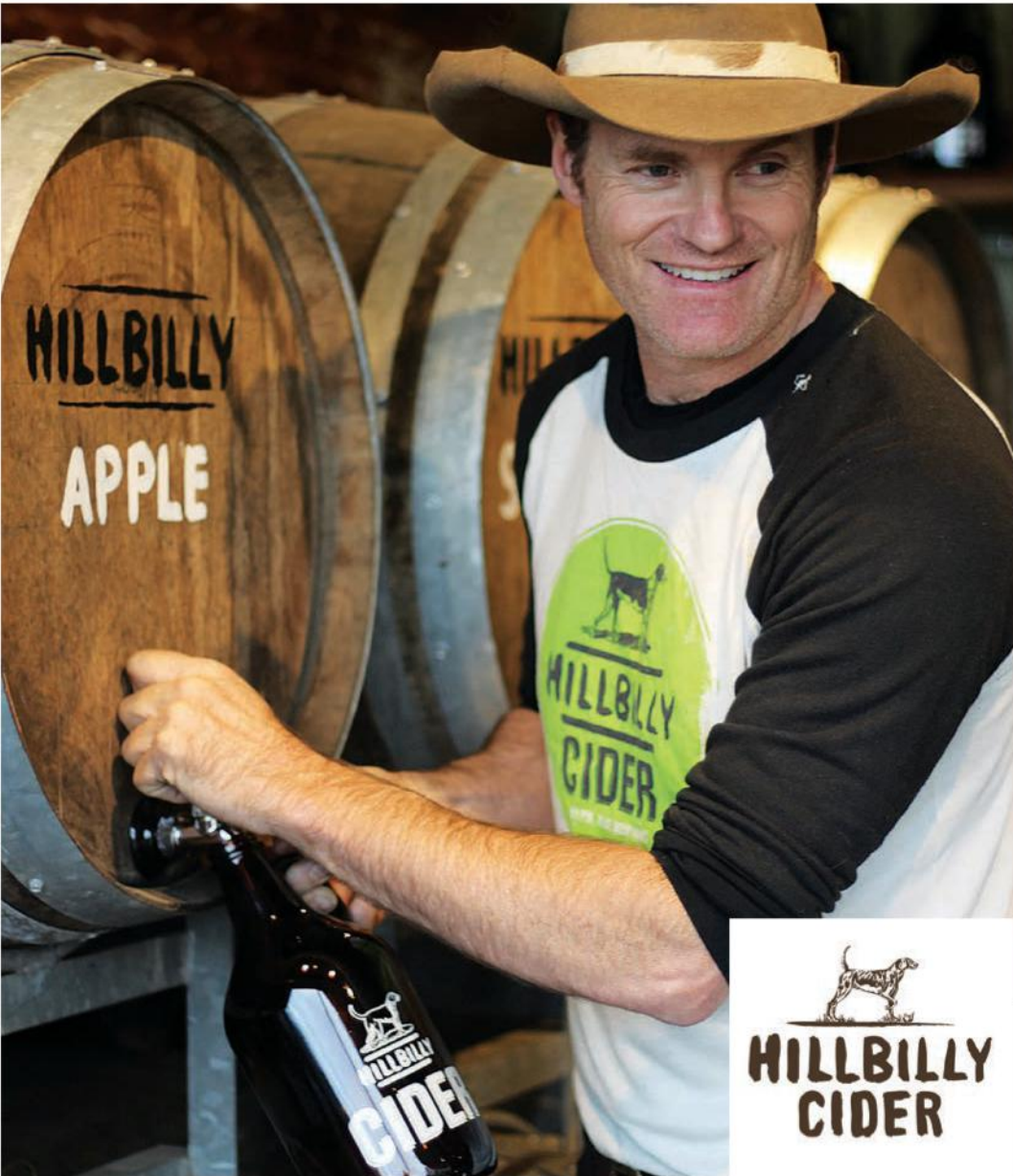
The shed serves a classic



Neapolitan-style pizza from the wood fired oven. Ingredients, from the finest grade flour to Fior di Latte mozzarella and salamis, are sourced weekly from an Italian providore, while all bases and Napoli sauce are made on site. For dessert, try the signature Apple Calzone with whipped cream, baked fresh to order.

Hillbilly Cider Shed, 2230 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin (cnr Johnsons Road). Please book online at <https://hillbillycider.com.au/visit-us> Phone (02) 4567 0965.

Open Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm; Friday to Sunday 10am to 6pm. Check website for public holidays. Pizza oven operates from 11.30am daily.

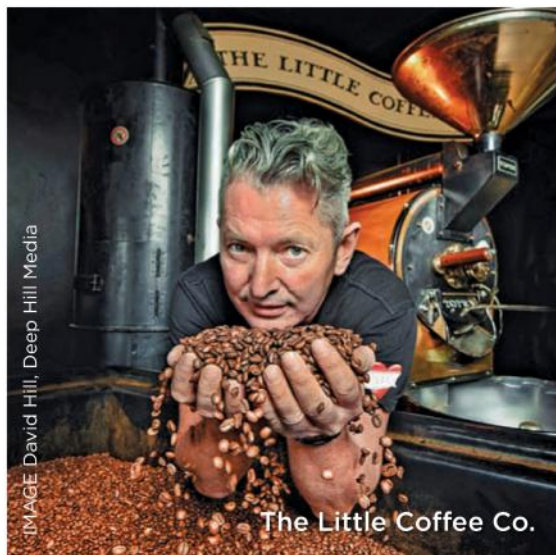


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HILLBILLY CIDER SHED 2230 BELLS LINE OF ROAD
BILPIN (CNR JOHNSONS RD) • PH 02 4567 0965
www.hillbillycider.com.au



craftbeveragetrail

Infused with the flavours, aromas and textures of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, craft beverage alchemists have created a carafe of distinctively flavoured beverages for connoisseurs of alcoholic libations and teetotalers alike.

Beverages have come a long way since the rough drops served to travellers in the first colonial inns along the highway over the Mountains. The 21st century purveyor of drinks can imbibe a veritable punchbowl of boutique potions concocted by distillers, brewers, and cider, wine and non-alcoholic drink makers.

Wend your way along the Blue Mountains Craft Beverage Trail up

the Great Western Highway to Valley Heights and Lawson, and pause to slake your thirst or restock your cellar at Katoomba. From Blackheath, drive down into the picturesque Megalong Valley to visit the wineries before returning to the highway. Make your way up to Mount Victoria and cut across the Darling Causeway to Bells Line of Road. Enjoy spectacular views as you head to Bilpin, Grose Vale, and then back to Sydney.

1 Brew Mountains Brewery

Boasting 12 taps and different food trucks each Friday and Saturday, the brewery overlooks bush and has an intimate and personal atmosphere with a strong local focus, from making seasonal beers with Blue Mountains hops and grain to local collaborations. Even the 4m long bar is made from a storm-fallen stringy bark tree that was hand milled and cured over seven years and made onsite with friends.

Moving brewing operations from his garage, owner and head brewer Craig Talbot opened the taproom in 2020.

BY ELLEN HILL

Seasonal local beers include XLA eXtremeLocalAle made with Blue Mountains hops and locally grown grains.

Unit 3/2-4 Tayler Rd, Valley Heights
T: 0492 870 691

E: info@brewmountains.com.au
www.facebook.com/brewmountains
www.brewmountains.com.au

Friday 4pm-8pm; Saturday 12pm-8pm. With food trucks

2 The Little Coffee Co.

The Little Coffee Co. is a Blue Mountains-based family-owned business.

TLC may be little but it's big on quality and flavour. Powered by the sun, the Lawson roastery brings global flavours home to your cup.

The Little Coffee Co. blend travels stories from coffee plantations around the world with local Blue Mountains heroes.

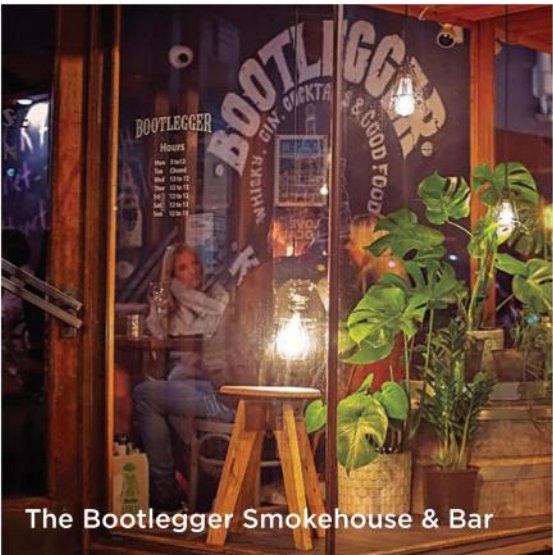
Myles Dunphy and Dr Dark are stars in the TLC range, and their stories take you on a journey – from picking coffee in Panama to brewing coffee in Dark's Cave. Coffee so long and sweet you'll be whistling.

Visit the website for beans delivered to your doorstep.

Unit 6/114-116 Somers St, Lawson
T: 0477 114 362

E: info@thelittlecoffeeco.com.au
www.thelittlecoffeeco.com.au





The Bootlegger Smokehouse & Bar



Carrington Cellars & Deli



Dryridge Estate

3 Herbs of Life

Always cultured, never compromised; with no sweeteners, concentrates, flavourings, extracts and nothing artificial.

Herbs of Life certified organic artisan food and beverage company in Lawson specialises in traditional raw fermented sauerkraut and kombucha tea.

Brewed traditionally with the four ingredients of authentic kombucha (Blue Mountains-sourced spring water, raw cane sugar, green tea

and kombucha mother SCOBY), the handcrafted kombucha is raw, living, active, organic, ever-changing. All flavours are achieved with 100 per cent organic whole fruits and fresh fruit juice and spices. Herbs of Life kombucha is unfiltered, low glycemic, vegan friendly and gluten free.

Herbs of Life products are available at local markets, local stockists and online.

T: (02) 4759 3852
E: sales@herbsoflife.com.au
www.herbsoflife.com.au

4 The Bootlegger Smokehouse and Bar

The historic Niagara building (circa 1905) across the road from Katoomba railway station is the perfect home for The Bootlegger.

While slow cooking and smoking meats is the heart of the menu, the liquors and vibrant cocktails are just as much of a feature.

As well as showcasing international and locally-distilled spirits, the bar is also stocked with new and old-world wines, while the taps are loaded with local and classic beers.

Bootlegger is also one of the few places in the Blue Mountains open late – the kitchen closes at 10pm but the doors stay open until midnight, so you won't be kicked out early!

Niagara Building, 92 Bathurst Rd, Katoomba | T: (02) 4782 6368
E: bookings@bootlegger.com.au
www.bootleggerbar.com.au

Wednesday-Thursday: from 5pm
Friday-Sunday: from 12pm
Monday-Tuesday: Closed

5 Carrington Cellars & Deli

A boutique bottleshop with so much more. Housed in the old Katoomba power station is a gourmet cellar and deli experience like no other. Browse the range of local, regional and imported deli items and the extensive selection of local and international wine, beer and spirits.

Planning a Mountains daytrip, bushwalk or picnic? Drop in for your supplies and stock up on the great selection of gourmet cheese,

wine, fresh local produce, sweet treats and more. The friendly staff can even create small picnic hampers with a delicious selection of cheese, quince, artisan crackers and your favourite drop.

Free local delivery between Hazelbrook and Mount Victoria for orders over \$100.

Parke St, Katoomba
T: (02) 4782 0999
E: cellars@thecarrington.com.au
www.thecarrington.com.au/cellars-deli

6 Dryridge Estate

Get away from it all and relax with a leisurely repose of cheese and wine in the tranquil rural landscape of the Megalong Valley amid rambling vineyards and native forest ringed by towering sandstone escarpments.

Next to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area at the centre of Sydney's water catchment, the Megalong Valley teems with wildlife.

Operated by Simon Doyle and Emma McMahon since 2015, boutique vineyard Dryridge Estate produces distinctive crisp mineral-flavoured wines from the pink granite soil.

Ask about the onsite wedding venue and picturesque accommodation while you're there.

226 Aspinall Rd, Megalong Valley
T: 0403 118 990
E: info@dryridge.com.au
www.dryridge.com.au

Saturday: 11am–5pm
Sunday: 11am–4pm
Friday: 12pm to 4pm
Monday to Friday: Group bookings (10 plus) by appointment.

BRINGING THE BLUE MOUNTAINS HOME

Fill your cup with TLC every day!

The Little Coffee Co. are little but with a big heart! Roasted in Lawson, our specialty coffee is so long and sweet you'll be whistling.

To find who pours & stocks TLC locally, to visit the roastery or for information on our local treasure hunts or next cupping event, call us on **0477 114 362**.

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www.thelittlecoffeeco.com.au
Powered by the sun. Think global, act local.



Megalong Creek Estate



Hillbilly Cider



Karu Distillery

7 Megalong Creek Estate

Sample a tippie of single vineyard wine surrounded by undulating paddocks in the light of glowing Blue Mountains escarpments.

Established in 2002 by the Davis family, all grapes are grown onsite and handpicked and transported to Mudgee for wine making by highly regarded third generation winemaker Jacob Stein.

As well as viognier, pinot grigio,

pinot and shiraz, Megalong Creek Estate produces a lightly sparkled Prosecco-style wine named Prozzante and a late harvest unique dessert-style wine.

The Megalong Creek Estate cellar door is open 12pm to 5pm Saturdays and 12pm to 4pm Sundays.

Online orders available anytime.

217 Aspinall Rd,
Megalong Valley

T: 0402 358 100

E: info@megalongcreekestate.com

www.megalongcreekestate.com/shop

8 Hillbilly Cider

No added sugar, no pasteurisation, no added artificial flavours.

Hillbilly Cider is all about keeping it real – 100 per cent crushed fruit fermented in pressurised tanks with minimal intervention to produce naturally sparkling ciders.

Order your cider and Hillbilly merch online and receive free shipping anywhere in NSW.

Collect your supplies from the cider shed and pick up a Neapolitan-style pizza at the same time. Woodfired pizzas are available from 11.30am to eat in or take away.

Pizza bases (including GF) and Nap sauce are all shed made and cooked in the onsite woodfired oven.

Specialty pizzas are added to the small menu from time to time. And don't go past the signature apple calzone with whipped cream, freshly baked to order.

Open Monday to Thursday
10am-4pm, Friday to Sunday
10am-6pm.

2230 Bells Line of Rd, Bilpin

T: (02) 4567 0965

E: bookings@hillbillycider.com.au

<https://hillbillycider.com.au/visit-us>

9 Karu Distillery

Hidden at the foothills of the Blue Mountains lies Karu Distillery. This independent small-batch distillery uses predominantly local botanicals cut down with pure mountain rainwater and is one of Australia's highest award-winning distilleries (50 gongs and counting).

Most recently Karu's Lightning Gin

was officially crowned the world's best contemporary gin at the International Wine & Spirit Competition.

You can visit their onsite tasting room, *House of Spirits*, to get a taste of their award-winning spirits range.

Nestled amongst The Devils Wilderness, this is one destination you cannot skip.

296 Cabbage Tree Road, Grose Vale

E: bar@houseofspirits.com.au

T: 0493 408 090

www.karudistillery.com.au

www.facebook.com/KaruDistillery

www.instagram.com/karu_distillery

10 Craft Beverage Trail Tours

Have your cake—and wine, spirits, cider, kombucha and coffee—and eat and drink them too with the new Fantastic Aussie Tours Craft Beverage Trail Bus.

"The trail bus means you can have a tippie and we'll navigate the road for you," says managing director Jason Cronshaw.

"We also have large storage bays under the bus, so don't be shy about stocking up on your favourite drop."

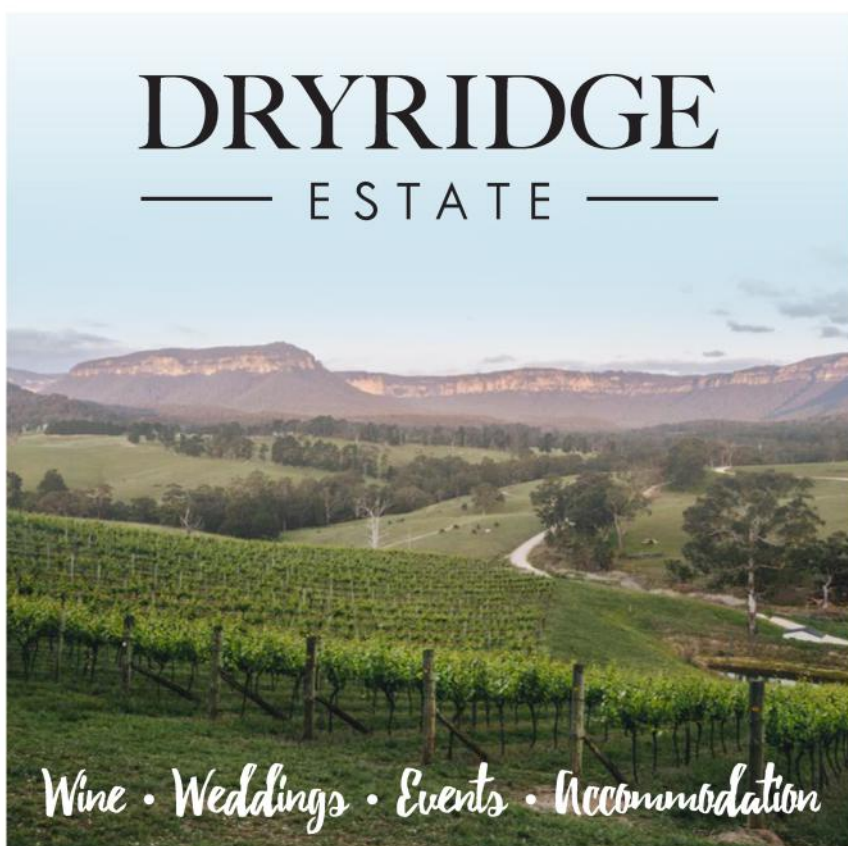
Choose up to eight venues to visit along the trail for a half or full day experience. Complimentary pick-up and drop-off anywhere on the trail or in Sydney. A range of buses from a 13-seat minibus to a 28-seat retro bus and a double-decker bus is available for private charter groups.

Available 7 days subject to venue operation times.

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www.fantasticaussie-tours.com.au



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dryridge.com.au

NURTURE THE FLORA WITHIN

BY ELLEN HILL

When Daniel Bucca began his health journey in 2008, the mantra “you are what you eat” took on a lifechanging meaning.

Working as a mechanical design engineer in the US, he was struck down by a stubborn bout of food poisoning.

“Doctors couldn’t give me an answer.”

Browsing a local family-owned wholefood organic shop near his home, a bottle of kombucha caught his eye.

“I didn’t know what I was drinking, he says. “It wasn’t like anything I’d ever drunk before. It was fantastic.

“The next morning, I felt amazing.”

Daniel continued drinking kombucha and noticed further health and wellbeing improvements over time.



Back in Australia in 2009, kombucha wasn’t available so Daniel spent years trying to replicate what he had tasted in America.

He launched Herbs of Life when he moved to the Blue Mountains in 2011.

One of the first in NSW to manufacture and sell kombucha

commercially, it now has four employees and offers seven flavours and eight of sauerkraut.

Put simply, kombucha is a pre-digested enzymatic, probiotic drink made by fermenting sweetened tea with a symbiotic colony of living bacteria and yeasts, affectionately known as SCOBY.

“We know that our immune system is our first line of defence, so our medicine is the food we eat.”

Fermented foods like kombucha help balance acid alkaline in the stomach and nurture good gut flora.

Herbs of Life uses local self-carbonated pure spring water and organic wholefoods such as lime, ginger and turmeric from trusted Australian suppliers to flavour the brew.

Herbs of Life kombucha is available from the brewery, at various cafés, restaurants and other retail spaces around Sydney, and at Springwood, Lawson and Blackheath markets and online through the business website.

Herbs of Life is located at 4/114 Somers St, Lawson
E: sales@herbsoflife.com.au
T: (02) 4759 3852
www.herbsoflife.com.au
Open 7.30am to 4pm
Monday to Friday

Blue Mountains CRAFT BEVERAGE TRAIL TOURS

LET US DO THE DRIVING

Choose up to eight venues to visit along the trail for a half or full day experience.

Complimentary pick-up and drop-off anywhere on the trail or in Sydney.

Available 7 days subject to venue operation times.

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LOVE♥BILPIN



Apple orchards and ciders



Famous for apple pies



Blue Mountains Botanic Garden

Apple picking, apple pies, apple juice, apple cider. Plus lots more to eat, see, do and places to stay.

After Archibald Bell was led thru Darug/Darugung country to Mount Tomah by Aboriginal guides Cocky and Emery in 1823, word spread of the area's rich soil and cool climate. Apple orchards soon followed and so began the Bilpin district we know today – famous for fragrant crisp fruit. Just 90 minutes from Sydney, and

BY ELLEN HILL

less than one hour's drive from Katoomba, wend your way through verdant paddocks, rolling green hills with views of the Hawkesbury to the upper Blue Mountains with its great sandstone cliff walls and yawning canyons.

Stretching along Bells Line of Road between Kurrajong Heights and the magnificent Blue Mountains Botanic Garden at Mount Tomah, Bilpin district is a thriving artisan and producers community—30kms of amazing discovery.

Stay a night or two at a self-catered cabin, romantic B&B or home-away-from-home farmstay for the whole family.

Explore private cool climate gardens, go on the trail for your perfect apple pie, sourdough or pastry, plus visit the cider cellar doors. Then there's delightful local pubs, cafés and restaurants for long lunch or dinner. And Saturday morning at Bilpin Hall there's the Bilpin community market – a must do.

To enjoy fresh mountain air, walkers can stroll the new 1km village orchard path or take a more

demanding hike through Darug country at nearby Mount Banks. There's the moderate 2.5hr return walk via fire trail or 5-hour return summit walk which is steep, rough in places and delivers outstanding views.

As for apples . . . savour them at any of the large orchard barns or farmgate stalls. Pick your own from November to June. Check orchard websites listed below for opening hours. Fruits include cherries, nectarines, peaches, apples, persimmon and strawberries.

1 Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah

A living laboratory for the world's cool climate and exotic flora. 28 hectares of cultivated garden showcasing 12,000 plants. Available for weddings. Bells Line of Road, Mount Tomah
www.bluemountainsbotanicgarden.com.au

2 The Hive Berambing

Specialty coffee, house made artisan sourdough, apple pies, gourmet savoury pies, sourdough toasties, local products, and home to Bilpin Bush Honey. 6 Bells Line of Road, Berambing
<https://thebilpinbushhoneycafe.com.au>

3 Chapel Hill Retreat

Marry among beautiful lush greenery and picturesque views. The perfect location for your country wedding, reception, and accommodation. 36 Berambing Crescent, Berambing
www.chapelhillretreat.com.au

4 Wollemi Love Cabins

Offering romantic getaways for couples, each of these unique, private bush cabins invites you to experience the peace of the secluded wilderness setting. 88 Bulgamatta Road, Berambing
<http://lovecabins.com.au>

5 Ghost Hill Road Retreat

Enjoy the tranquillity of this idyllic self-contained bed & breakfast retreat. Complete your relaxation with a massage at Libellula Relaxation & Health located onsite. 73 Ghost Hill Road, Berambing
www.ghosthillroad.com.au

6 Royal Gardenia & Bilpin Apple Pie Cottage

Roadside café serving hearty hot meals, apple pies, cakes, coffees, juices, ciders, beers, and unbeatable views. 3158 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin

7 Wildwood Garden

A magnificent collection of cool climate plants in a natural woodland setting. There's something to delight visitors in every season. Café, nursery & gift shop (seasonal). 29 Powells Road, Bilpin
www.wildwoodgarden.com.au

8 Bellview Estate

A picturesque 43-acre property with spectacular views and a private secret circle pine forest. Accommodation for couples, families and groups. Available for weddings. 68 Powells Road, Bilpin
www.bellviewestate.com.au

9 Metro Bilpin Fuel & Mini Mart

2742 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin

10 Bilpin Moto Adventures

Purpose-built motorcycle training facility, offering the ultimate training packages for trials and motorbike riders. Caters for all skill levels and ages from 10 years. 27 Mt Tootie Road, Bilpin
<https://bilpinmotoadventures.com>

11 Bilpin Weekend Market

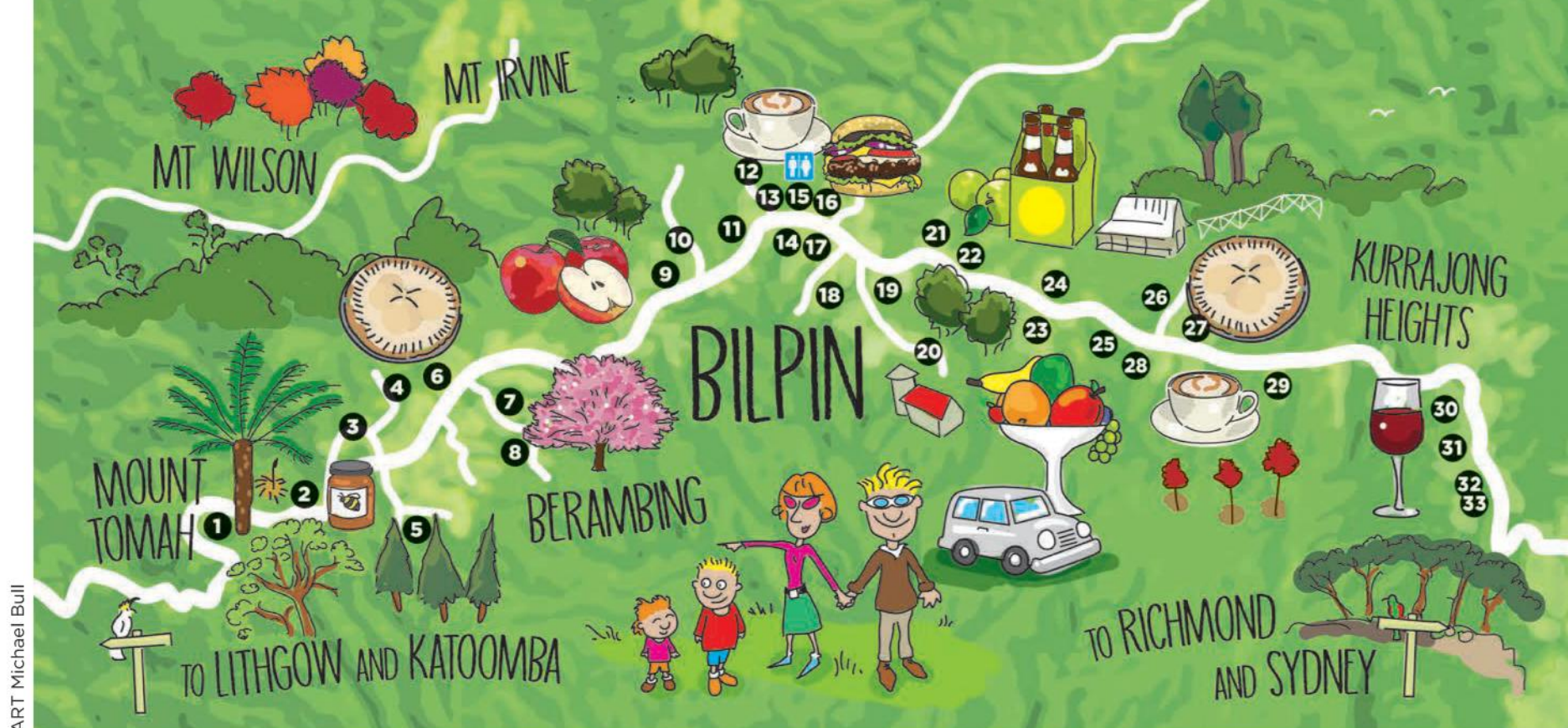
At Bilpin Hall every Saturday 10am-12pm. Selling local produce and products, including fresh bread, organic vegetables, in season fruit, preserves, honey, crafts and wool. Café and kids' playground. 2596 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin

12 Bilpin Country Lodge

A beautiful country house with outstanding facilities for groups of 6 to 20 people. 3.5-4 star family accommodation on 10 acres of gardens, farm and bushland. 46 Bilpin Springs Road, Bilpin
www.bilpinlodge.com.au

13 Bilpin Springs Orchard

A "pick your own" orchard growing apples, pears, stone fruit and more that you can pick when in



season. Fruit farming products and education for groups. 2550 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin
www.bilpinspringsorchard.com.au

14 Pine Crest Orchard

Pick your own fruit (seasonal) in Bilpin.
A family business for over 40 years, run by
orchardist and horticulturalist John Galbraith.
2549 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin
<https://pinecrestorchard.com.au>

15 Bilpin oval



Rest area, public toilets, playground and BBQs

16 The Ivy Bilpin

Café-restaurant with handcrafted burgers, cocktails, delicious soups and sandwiches.
2488 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin
www.theivybilpin.com.au

17 Grumpy Baker Bilpin

Bakery-café with gourmet breads, savoury pies, sausage rolls, pastries, apple pies, and coffee. Eat-in/take away. 2481 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin
www.thegrumpybaker.com.au/bilpin

18 Eden Equine Farmstay

Luxury farmstay with five self-contained bespoke cabins on 90 acres of paddocks with majestic views and horses. 13 Hanlons Road, South Bilpin
www.edenequine.com.au

19 Bilpin Cider Co

One of Australia's favourite craft ciders. Visit the cellar door, explore the farm, say hello to the animals, and enjoy a picnic in the garden. 2369 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin.
<https://bilpincider.com>

20 TNT Orchard

A “pick your own” orchard in Bilpin with thousands of trees. Also selling Persimmons and vegetables (in season) and free range eggs. Kids can visit the farm animals. 153 Kurts Road, Bilpin
www.tntproduce.com.au

21 Shields Orchard

Come and pick your own apples in season. Varieties include Royal Gala, Pink Lady, Jonathan, Firmgold, Bramley, Splendor, Granny Smith and Sundowner. 2270 Bells Line Road, Bilpin
www.shieldsorchard.com

22 Hillbilly Cider Shed

Follow the Hillbilly trail to the beautiful orchards of Bilpin, and you'll find the rustic Hillbilly cider shed. Explore the cellar door and enjoy a woodfired pizza. 2230 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin
<https://hillbillycider.com.au>

23 Bilpin Fruit Bowl

Apple pies, meat pies, cakes, scones and slices all baked on the premises. Local honey, local home made jams, souvenirs, pottery, fresh fruit and seasonal summer fruits. Come and pick your own fruit including strawberries (seasonal).
2093 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin
www.bilpinfruitbowl.com.au

24 Mountain Bells Café

Fresh apple pies baked onsite, barista-made coffee, all-day breakfast and lunches, patisserie, locally grown fruits, home-made jams, plants, and more. Menu is vegan and vegetarian friendly.
2070 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin
www.mountainbellscafe.com.au

25 Tutti Frutti Bilpin

Real coffee, devonshire tea, country style gourmet pies and quiche, cakes, desserts, famous Bilpin apple pies, and real-fruit fresh berry ice-cream. Local produce, homemade jams and preserves. Garden courtyard. 1917 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin
<https://tuttifruitti.com.au>

26 Madisons Mountain Retreat

A peaceful alpaca farmstay on acres bordering two National Parks. 8 self-contained one-bedroom cedar cottages (3 with private spas). 1880 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights www.madisonretreat.com.au

27 Pie In the Sky

Roadhouse-café serving fresh homemade savoury and apple pies, pastries, beef burgers, and desserts. Natural ingredients only. Friendly service.
1858 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights
<http://pieinthetaskybilpin.com.au>

28 Bilpin Blossom Farm

Selling fresh produce including a wide range of freshly cut flowers, plants, jams, nuts, preserves and figs. Open Saturday and Sundays 10am-5pm
1887 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights

29 The Turpentine Tree

Ten acres of glorious gardens available for weddings, receptions and photography.
Viewings by appointment: 0434 136 632
1665 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights
www.facebook.com/theturpentinetreel

30 Archibald Hotel

Enjoy a sumptuous meal with Sydney views at the top of Kurrajong Heights. Bar & accommodation.
1349 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights
www.archibaldhotel.com.au

31 Lochiel House

Modern Australian food with a South African influence and warm service, served in a heritage cottage. Live entertainment and accommodation. 1259 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights
www.lochielhouse.com.au

32 Tandoori Sizzler

Delicious Indian food combining the best of hand-picked ingredients with high-quality meats, poultry, seafood to create unforgettable dining.
4/1255 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights
www.tandoorisizzler.com.au

33 IGA Supermarket

Convenience, great customer service, community values, supporting local suppliers and brands.
1255 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights
Open 7:00am–8:00pm T (02) 4567 8737

Produced with assistance and support from Blue Mountains Tourism, Richmond Travel Club, and Councillor Sarah McMahon (HCC). For listings email res@bilpinlodge.com.au

Your journey begins

at our **Blue Mountains**
Visitor Information Centres



Whether visiting for the day, spending the weekend or staying a while, our friendly staff provide expert advice to ensure you make the most of your Blue Mountains experience.

Contact our Visitor Information Centres at Glenbrook or Echo Point, Katoomba

T. 1300 653 408 E. tourism@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/visitor-information to get our FREE Blue Mountains map



BLUE MOUNTAINS BY NIGHT

BY ELLEN HILL

After a day exploring the bush tracks, attractions and cafés, it's time to retire for the night, right?

Actually, it's time to catch your second wind, spruce up and head into the night: the Blue Mountains is just waking up.

From trendy street food like Leura's **Pizza Sublime** and casual pub meals to formal fare at the new **Blaq Restaurant** at Kyah Boutique Hotel and **Chisolm's Restaurant** at Jenolan Caves House, savour your evening meal at leisure.

Live music is back baby and it's better than ever, with numerous venues pushing the tables back for dancing, big instruments and singers belting out talent.

Local promoters including **Music in the Mountains** are attracting unbelievable Aussie and international talent at ridiculously low prices to venues like the quirky

Avalon Restaurant, the Carrington Hotel's Baroque Room, Auntie Ed's retro basement-level pad, the two-tier **Bootlegger Bar** and the **Palais Royale** in Katoomba, **Hotel Etico** at Mt Victoria, **Two Doctors Whisky Bar** at the Fairmont Resort in Leura and myriad pubs in every town.

For something extra special, escape into an unforgettable night of opera and fine dining at the **Hydro Majestic Hotel** on Saturday, October 29. Bookings: www.hydomajestic.com.au/events/venice-nights-an-evening-of-pure-passion or (02) 4782 6885.

The nightlife continues outdoors along the 1.3km **Katoomba Falls Night-lit Walk**. Wander from the top of the Katoomba Falls Kiosk carpark, around Reid's Plateau and down to the Duke and Duchess Lookout and glimpse features like Orphan Rock, Katoomba Falls, Witches Leap, Katoomba Cascades and the Three Sisters lit up.

The lights turn on at dusk and



Live Music venues



Opera at the Hydro



Katoomba Falls Night-lit Walk



Blue Mountains Stargazing

flood lights are turned off at 10.30pm and path lights at 11pm.

Embark on a captivating space journey involving the celestial dance of planets, satellites, navigation, the universe, our home galaxy and beyond with **Blue Mountains Stargazing**

astrophysicist Dimitri and partner Caroline. Wrap your hands around a vegan hot choccy and see the moon and its craters, Saturn's rings and star clusters through the professional-grade telescope. If you're lucky, you might even see a shooting star.

www.bluemountainsstargazing.com.au

PIONEERS CELEBRATED IN BRONZE

BY ELLEN HILL

Mallet mid-swing, muscles flexed in effort, tortured expressions: two colonial era convicts chip away at the rugged landscape in an oft-unnoticed park overlooking the Jamison Valley in Katoomba.

Frozen in bronze, the poignant scene of one man carting a boulder and the other swinging a mallet is supervised by a Red Coat trooper with a rifle and a pot of rum, with two bemused Aboriginal men watching on.

It depicts the brutality dealt to convict labourers as they worked to open up the continent and create a new nation. It specifically shows the carving out of Cox's Road (now known as the Great Western Highway) over the Blue Mountains.

Commissioned by the Rotary Club of Katoomba and donated by Katoomba businessman Tom Colless, it took sculptor Terrance Plowright two and a half years to create. Each figure weighs between 1 and 1.2 tons, and the monument is bordered by a pathway of sandstone blocks from the original convict-built highway.

An accompanying plaque acknowledges the



Tom Colless, Terrance Plowright and Philip Hammon

lives of convicts and pioneer families "upon whose labour the Australian nation was founded", along with the local Darug and Gundungurra Aboriginal people.

Gangs of convicts in leg irons toiled for more than 30 years to maintain and improve the thoroughfare from the early settlement in Emu Plains at the foothills of the Blue Mountains to the new development in Bathurst west of the range. With primitive tools they broke rock and carted soil throughout icy winters and scorching summers.

Mr Colless' own ancestor George Colless was sent to Australia on the *Barwon* in 1798 for

stealing a bolt of cloth. He was sent to a farm in Penrith and granted freedom in Hartley Courthouse in 1804.

Mr Colless was prompted to commission the sculpture through his father's encouragement to "give something back" to community and the Rotary's Four-Way Test (truth, fairness, goodwill and friendship, and benefit to all).

Rotary of Katoomba invites you to pause awhile at the Roadbuilders Monument in Lilianfels Park, Echo Point Road, Katoomba, to reflect on the lives of those who built this nation and their legacy of strength of character and spirit.

NEW LEVEL FOR LUXURY GIFTING

Blue Mountains local Sarah Cuzner has an eye for the extraordinary.

She loves nothing more than wearing the latest craft brew frothie on her top lip, cheekily sticking her pinky finger into a jar of local honey, and relaxing with the fragrance of a regional botanical candle.

The myriad small batch items being created by artisans, producers, craft brewers and artists within the Blue Mountains community needed somebody to realise their appeal for those who would appreciate them most – high-end luxury visitors and top tier corporates who have seen it all.

So MMH was born, curating and showcasing this cache of hidden talent, specialising in corporate gifts, conference packaging and hotel guest gifting.

Each product has been tried, tested



IMAGE: David Hill, Deep Hill Media

and selected personally by Sarah, and her standards are high.

“Every product has to amaze, delight and excite me, and incite unreserved drooling desire.”

Each ultra-luxe bounty is a sensory delight, crammed with fine food, award-winning beverages, fresh produce and authentic artisan gifts inspired by the flavours, fragrances and textures of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

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E: info@mountainismadehampers.com

<https://mountainismadehampers.com>



MOUNTAINISMADE HAMPERS

Each boutique hamper is a sensory delight, a bounty crammed with fine food, award-winning beverages, fresh produce and authentic artisan gifts inspired by the flavours, fragrances and textures of the Greater Blue Mountains.

- BLUE MOUNTAINS made, owned and operated
- BUILD YOUR OWN or choose from our range • Minimum spend \$150
- LUXURY GIFTING – Corporate, VIP, Tourism, Conference & Event Delegates

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For a unique gift or memento of your visit to the Blue Mountains, drop into the Blue Mountains Makers shop located in the picturesque village of Wentworth Falls.

Located in the picturesque village of Wentworth Falls you will find an Artisan shop full of handmade items that have been made with love.

The Blue Mountains Makers shop represents around seventy artisans creating unique items that are all Australian made.

There is a wide range of products on offer from homewares and art, fashion and accessories, health and body products, jewellery and children's items, pre-packaged food and craft kits and supplies.

Owners Leela & Nisa are passionate about supporting handmade businesses and believe in building a community based on



support for all makers over competition. They lovingly curate the shop displays and take great pride in creating a cosy and inspiring shopping experience.

Blue Mountains Makers is open seven days a week from 10am to 4pm. They also have an online shop full of their makers' wonderful products.

Blue Mountains Makers
Shop 4 Renee's Arcade,
28-30 Station St, Wentworth Falls.
Phone: 0434 954 660

www.bluemtnismakers.com

Instagram: @bluemtnismakers

Handmade treasures and artisan wares from the Blue Mountains and across Australia

- Art • Ceramics • Fashion & accessories
- Health & beauty • Home décor • Children's items
- Stationery • Jewellery • Craft supplies

Shop 4 with the yellow door
28-30 Station Street Wentworth Falls

Shop online at www.bluemtnismakers.com

arts & culture

The Blue Mountains is building a reputation as a modern “city of the arts”, but the region has always inspired the imagination.

The dramatic and timeless landscapes of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area have attracted artists, storytellers and creatives for millennia, with the region’s artistic genesis marked by ancient rock carvings, handprints on cave walls and Dreamtime stories told around campfires for generations.

The Blue Mountains environment continues to be an irresistible muse, luring painters, sculptors, writers and musicians to live and work

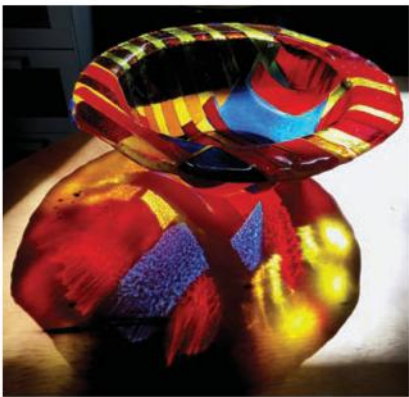
amongst its grandeur and beauty. Today, visitors can experience and explore the diverse output of this artistic spirit at numerous galleries, markets, shops, workshops and venues throughout the region.

MOUNTAINS ARTS XPO

An expo featuring the best of all the different art forms that make up our gifted community of artists, performers and creatives will be held at the Fairmont Resort on the weekend of 17-18 September.

The fair not only highlights an array of superb arts and crafts, it also showcases the work of some of our most outstanding local and regional wine and food producers.

Visit <https://max22.com.au>



BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

22 October – 4 December 2022

ARCHIBALD PRIZE

2022

Presenting partner

Art Gallery NSW

ANZ

An Art Gallery of New South Wales touring exhibition

Archibald Prize 2022 finalist, Mathew Lynn Yaka moto, Magic Pierre, oil on linen, 183 x 152.6 cm © the artist, image © AGNSW, Felicity Jenkins, Sitter: Pierre Mukeba.

URBAN ART TOURS



As you wander through Katoomba’s laneways you may see a variety of Urban Art installations and wonder about the meaning behind them.

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre’s team of volunteer guides offers weekly Urban Art Tours to help visitors and residents alike discover the vibrant and unique public art on display. The tour will visit over 15 artworks, some more hidden than others in the streets of Katoomba. Stretch your legs and explore the

variety of artworks to be found; sculpture, installation, sound and light works as well as many murals. Our friendly volunteers have plenty of interesting information about the artists and their creations as well as an insight into living in the beautiful Blue Mountains. Tours start at 10.30am in the Cultural Centre foyer. Book online at Blue Mountains Cultural Centre’s Eventbrite or call reception on (02) 4780 5410. Tickets are \$15 and include a hot drink from the café before the tour. For all exhibitions and events, visit bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AT LOST BEAR GALLERY

BY ELLEN HILL

Discover an artwork you never realised you missed when you visit Katoomba's Lost Bear.

Located in an expansive multi-room building, the respected gallery has operated in the region for more than 25 years. Light-filled and functional, it also retains some historic features from its days as a guesthouse and stands out in the streetscape with its distinctive polar bear sculpture in the front yard. Lost Bear Gallery is filled with works by Australian artists, ranging from emerging to established, many of whom have long-standing connections with the Blue Mountains. Gallery owner Geoff White says: "It's an eclectic mix of art. It's quite a disparate array yet cohesive.



I tend to connect with artists early in their careers when there's a story to tell, and to have long-term relationships with them." Acclaimed artists including Warwick Fuller, Jody Graham, David Beschi, Judith Martinez Estrada, Ian Swift, Keith Rowe and Kayo Yokoyama are permanently represented in the gallery

alongside feature exhibitions to ensure artworks constantly change, so that repeat customers enjoy the gallery as much as one-time visitors. The gallery's location in the culturally sophisticated Blue Mountains and its proximity to Sydney are also drawcards. "Generally, people are looking for

what they haven't yet seen. They're looking for an experience. They're looking to discover something and fall in love, and I try to present a standard that is beyond expectations." Lost Bear Gallery is an ideal place to purchase a memento of your Blue Mountains visit. "An artwork acquired on holiday is a shared experience and becomes part of your story." During Spring, Lost Bear Gallery will host a major exhibition by Warwick Fuller entitled "The day had turned fine" (September 17 to October 30), followed by an exhibition by Lotje Meijer (November 4 to December 10). As always, guests will be greeted by the friendly gallery Kelpie dog, Nugget. Lost Bear Gallery is at 98 Lurline Street, Katoomba. Open from 10am to 5pm daily. T: (02) 4782 1220 or visit www.lostbeargallery.com.au

MORE CRIME FROM LOCAL AUTHOR

Local newspaper editor Bella Greaves investigates the connection between a fatal accident and the glamorous owner of a Katoomba fashion label.

Meanwhile her friend, disgraced detective Paul Ruel, believes his life is in danger. His bosses think he's imagining things – or maybe they just don't care. When he disappears in a trail of blood, it is left to Bella to discover what happened.

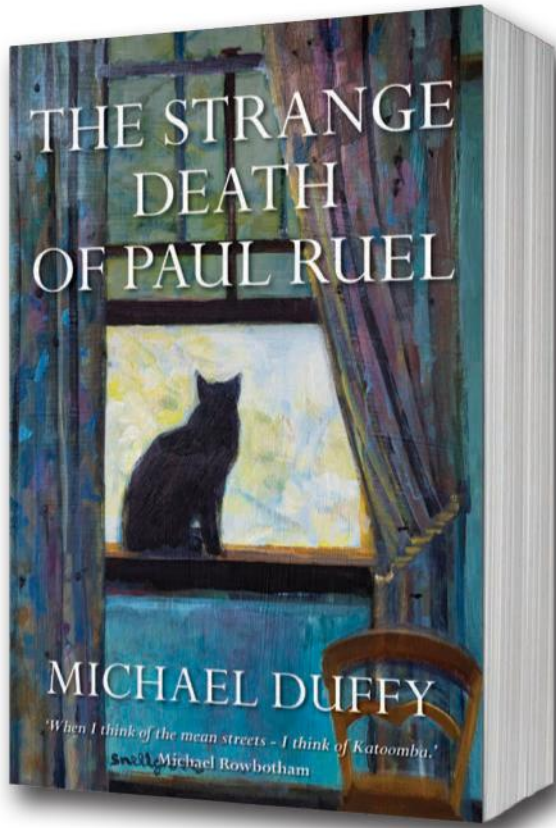
"When I think of the mean streets, I think of Katoomba."
— Michael Rowbotham

A crime novel set in the Blue Mountains, *The Strange Death of Paul Ruel* is the sequel to *The Problem with Murder*, which was a Blue Mountains' bestseller last Christmas – the second most popular book at local bookseller, Gleebooks in Blackheath.



Author Michael Duffy is a local resident who has worked for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Sun Herald* as a reporter of crime and other urban issues. He has written four true crime books and numerous novels. These two books are only available from Blue Mountains' bookstores, from Scenic World, the Hydro Majestic Pavilion, the Cultural Centre in Katoomba – all strong supporters of local businesses and stories – and from the author himself at <https://orphanrock.com>

A BLUE MOUNTAINS MURDER MYSTERY



Available at all good stores in the Blue Mountains, or from orphanrock.com from 1 October

MOUNTAINS TALES



Learn about the history of the Blue Mountains on a walking tour through a Mountains village.

Delving into a region’s history, hearing stories of the trials, tribulations and successes of those who gone before us, is a great way to get to the heart of a place and gain a greater understanding of what makes it click.

Led by storyteller Sue Collins, a Mountains Tales’ Historic Walking Tour of Katoomba or Leura reveals hidden secrets of these popular villages.

The Katoomba Story takes in the town’s first 50 years, leading to Katoomba being crowned the Honeymoon Capital of Australia. The Leura Story looks at why the village is still a Federation village, when others moved on. The small group, two-hour walking tours are conducted at an easy pace, offering history through humour and storytelling. The tours operate in all weather, so dress appropriately for ‘Mountains weather’. Morning and afternoon departures, and private groups are welcome.

T: Sue 0410 600 224
[Facebook.com/MountainsTalesNSW](https://www.facebook.com/MountainsTalesNSW)

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for investment or pleasure



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Most other times please call
02 4782 3703

www.johnwilsongallery.com



JOHN WILSON FINE ART GALLERY

Magnificent! Fantastic! Superb! Such expressions as these are freely used by people visiting John Wilson’s Gallery at Katoomba.

Many are even more impressed when they return and further explore this natural wonderland. John said: “Like many others, once my mind was opened I discovered that absorption in our landscape can be almost limitless. From an artist’s point of view it was

necessary to gain some understanding of the whole, become a student of nature, so that the character, atmosphere and mood of each area can become part of every painting. It is then possible to isolate a mere fragment as a subject, and render it in a way that will convey some of the feeling

and character of the whole.” An exhibition of John’s recent works may be viewed at the John Wilson Fine Art Gallery, 46 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba. Open Thursday to Sunday each week and most other times. Phone (02) 4782 3703
www.johnwilsongallery.com



Monument of Ages, Kanimbla oil on canvas 200cm x 200cm 2022 (The major work featured in Warwick Fuller's exhibition 'The day had turned fine'. Photo by Silversalt Photography)

LOST BEAR GALLERY

An esteemed destination to buy Australian art

Lost Bear Gallery is a leading destination for contemporary art in the Blue Mountains, with a superb collection of paintings, sculpture, ceramics and glass art by acclaimed Australian artists. Once a grand old guesthouse, the gallery is both charming and sophisticated, comprising twelve light-filled rooms, including an expansive central space that plays host to regularly changing feature exhibitions. Lost Bear Gallery is one of the region's major attractions, for art lovers and visitors alike.



Eye Contact (detail) Lotje Meijer

SPRING EXHIBITIONS

Warwick Fuller

Landscape Paintings
17 September - 30 October 2022

Lotje Meijer

Paintings and Drawings
5 November - 11 December 2022



Fleeting Radiance near Cobarr Warwick Fuller



LOST BEAR GALLERY

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Open 10am daily
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lostbeargallery.com.au