IRRESISTIBLE LIFE
HAWKESBURY ARTIST

LEND A HAND
ORANGE FOKE IN NEPAL

WOODFORD LOCAL
EDUCATING KIDS

ADAM’S BIG POT

COLOUR HAPPY

INSIDE GUIDE
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• WINTER HEATING
• ORANGE TRAVEL TIPS
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Bring in an air of sophistication...

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Timeless craftsmanship and elegant design, our luxurious Windrush collection is like a breath of fresh air. Sprinkle some warmth to your home with unique pieces that feature stunning stone inlay combined with alluring fruitwood. From your living space to bedrooms, from the dining room to occasional pieces, we have you covered.

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Are you dreaming of a sleep-time sanctuary? Experience pure bliss and let the Sleepmaker Cocoon embrace you in unsurpassed comfort. Designed to lend relief to your entire body, while providing the ultimate comfort and reducing partner disturbance, as it cushions and regulates your body temperature. Made in Australia from fresh, breathable and supportive materials, the Cocoon offers restorative sleep, night after night.

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**SLEEPMAKER COCOON 'BROSNAN' QUEEN ENSEMBLE**
- CLIMATEX QUILT
- GEL-INFUSED MEMORY FOAM
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- FLEX CONTROL FOUNDATION
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QUEEN MATTRESS ONLY $4599
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**ALSO AVAILABLE IN SUPER KING**
SOUTH WINDSOR

$580,000

Outstanding Townhouse

Deluxe townhouse in a garden complex of 6.

• Huge bedrooms
• Ensuite
• Walk-ins/Built-ins
• Spacious living areas
• Modern kitchen
• Tiled traffic areas
• Ducted air
• Quality throughout
• Large courtyard
• Near schools/transport

Inspections: By prior appointment only

View@speechley.com.au

9 Claremont Crescent

$900,000

4 2 2

WINDSOR

Dress Circle Location

This very appealing, family home is in a quiet ‘country lane’.

• Large bedrooms
• Ensuite
• Modern kitchen
• Open plan living
• Ducted air
• Polished timber floors
• All walls insulated
• Double glazed windows
• Covered deck
• Large 873m² block
• Centrally located
• Filtered views

Shops, restaurants, schools, churches, station & bus within easy walk

Inspections: At advertised Opens

View@speechley.com.au

We need properties to rent, is yours vacant? Approved tenants waiting.

Call Craig or Jennifer on 4577 4699.
“GlenErin” is that special property of 106 acres. You are greeted by an impressive stone homestead sitting on a protected clearing, with established gardens and outbuildings revealing attention to detail and stunning views of the Capertee Valley and Wollemi escarpment in every direction. Situated on Glen Alice Rd, only 3 hours from Sydney and 20 minutes from Rylstone/Kandos with sealed road and school bus to the front gate, yet in a peaceful and beautiful world of its own.


The Cottage: Close to the homestead is a charming self-contained brick cottage with kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom featuring spectacular views from every window as well as the large timber deck. Reverse-cycle air-conditioning and additional Satellite TV.

The Studio: Further accommodation is available in the stunning stone studio with mezzanine loft with reverse-cycle air-conditioning and additional external toilet.

The Rest: Large stone barn with stables, currently used for vehicle accommodation. Huge fully lockable machinery shed with second office or additional bedroom/studio. Five tanks carrying 140,000 litres of water ensure more than ample fresh water and registered bore plus three dams for further secure water supply. Fully-equipped cattle yards with ramp and crush included, fences in good condition. Fifteen paddocks watered via reticulated trough system from the bore. A rustic six stand woolshed in fair condition stands in a picturesque private location on the property and would convert into great tourist accommodation.

With amazing and abundant bird-life, breathtaking views across the open grazing land and potential for B&B income, “GlenErin” is a stand-out lifestyle property that must be inspected to be fully appreciated.
40 ROSELAWN DRIVE, ORANGE
- Ensuite to main bedroom
- Spa bath in main bathroom
- Open plan living and dining plus formal lounge
- North facing covered outdoor area
- Fully enclosed rear yard with side access
- Ducted central heating plus split system
- Currently rented at $470 per week
For Sale: $429,000
Libby Seaman: 0414 820 049

26 COOLABAH DRIVE, ORANGE
- Huge family room leading out to timber decking
- Study, may be used as 5th bedroom
- Three renovated bathrooms, plus two extra toilets
- Town water, bore and water tanks
- Three split system air conditioners, plus two wood fires
- 14 x 14 metre barn plus 3 x 14 skillion, with mezzanine, office and kitchenette
- Approx. six acres with views
- Space for 11 cars with the shed and skillion space.
For Sale: $975,000
Libby Seaman: 0414 820 049

17 WHITNEY PLACE, ORANGE
- Spacious family home
- Elevated block with views to Mt Canobolas
- Four large bedrooms with builtins
- Main with ensuite and the bonus of two bathrooms
- Large backyard and patio
- 7x7 metre workshop/shed
For Sale: $410,000
Libby Seaman: 0414 820 049

18 BERT WHITELEY PLACE, ORANGE
- Quality all the way
- Master bedroom with ensuite and large WIR
- Modern kitchen with stainless appliances, stone tops benches and walk in pantry
- Generous open living room with lots of natural light
- Spacious alfresco with mountain views
- Turn key product all fences and landscaping are included
- Ducted gas heating
- FHOG grants apply
For Sale: $449,000
Lan Snowden: 0402 941 611
BLACKHEATH $1,650,000

‘Rowan Brae’ - A Classic Federation Landmark

Built in 1896 and formerly a renowned mountains guesthouse and private boarding school, this substantial Federation Arts and Crafts style, full brick and slate roof residence, is now ready for its next phase. Re-establish as a guesthouse or convert to a large private residence, there are numerous possibilities. The property is being painted with meticulous attention paid to detail and features high ceilings, original fireplaces, ten ensuite bedrooms, commercial kitchen, several guest rooms and a conference room. French doors provide elegant access to the wide bull-nose verandah - an ideal spot to enjoy breakfast or a cup of tea while admiring the mature and established gardens. Outside there is a charming courtyard, croquet lawn, garage and off-street parking for up to ten cars. Set on three near-level blocks totalling 2,456m² approx. and located less than 300 metres from Blackheath village and train station. A rare and great opportunity to own a fine slice of Mountains history.

KATOOMBA SOUTH $750,000

‘Misty Maples’ with Escarpment View

Boasting a very desirable south-side location with picturesque escarpment and valley views towards the East, is this elegantly rendered full brick residence. Sensitively renovated to retain original character and charm from yesteryear, the home includes high ceiling with ornate cornices, timber windows and doors and polished floorboards complemented by modern improvements such as a new contemporary kitchen, dishwasher, natural gas log fire and alarm system. The superb home presents a spacious living and sunroom area with expansive windows taking in the view, three good-sized bedrooms (two with bay windows and views, main and third bedroom with original ‘his and hers’ built-in robes), excellent original bathroom, additional toilet in laundry and covered rear entry leading to a generous entertaining terrace. Outside there is also a detached single garage with workshop and concrete drive. The home is set on a delightful, elevated garden block of approx. 620m², in a quiet sort-after street, less than a kilometre from Katoomba’s town centre. The property is located close to first-class restaurants and exceptional bushwalks, such as the Fern Bower and Prince Henry Cliff Walks, leading towards the famous Leura Cascades and Bridal Falls.

2 Katoomba St Katoomba 4782 1888 www.theopoulos.com

THEO POULOS
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The Trusted Name in Real Estate Since 1960
“Henbury Park” Country living at its best!

Hamish Rogers Realty is proud to be presenting this fine rural holding to the market.
Set upon 5 acres of fertile soil, rolling lush paddocks and old established trees and gardens.
Original sandstock brick homestead sits privately yet proudly overlooking the horse paddocks, the in-ground pool and the old character filled stable barn. There is also a grassed dressage arena and day yards.
The family home boasts 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, separate formal lounge and dining room, a family eat-in area off the kitchen and a large rumpus room with slow combustion stove.
There is also a completely separate building perfect for a games room, home office or granny flat.
Outside there is a huge timber entertaining deck, a 3 car garage, a dam and the property has two long road frontages which allows easy access for horse floats or trucks.
“Henbury Park” is ideally located only minutes from Glenorie Shopping Village and only 10 minutes to Round Corner Dural.

All enquires through Hamish Rogers 0418966224 or 45723077.

To be auctioned on site Saturday 12th March at 10.00am unless sold prior
PITT TOWN

Opportunity Knocks!

It's not every day that such a unique opportunity presents itself!
The ability to acquire an architecturally designed master built near finished home, where all the planning and constructional works have already been carried out for you.
Sitting upon 800 square meters of level land it also boasts 2 wide street frontages.
The single level home leaves nothing out and features high ceilings, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. A large master bedroom with an enormous ensuite and huge walk in robe, three oversized children’s bedrooms all with built-ins and are conveniently positioned in a separate children’s wing with their own bathroom and retreat/rumpus room.
The home theatre room has a raised timber floor for the rear row of seating and leaves plenty for the home theatre enthusiast to add their own personal touches too.
The open plan living area leaves no stone unturned, featuring the incredible chefs’ kitchen with own Butler’s Pantry, a meals area, family room and alfresco area all working beautifully in together.
This rare opportunity doesn’t come along every day. Create your own finishing touches and be the first owners of this beautifully constructed master built home!

All enquires through Hamish Rogers 0418966224

SOUTH MAROOTA

“RU2 Vacant Block”

“Green Hills Estate”
Prestige vacant lots have become available for the very first time!
• Lot 2 approximately 1.38 acres (5,600m2)
• Beautifully elevated, level, cleared fertile land and with Blue Mountain views.
• No easements or flooding. There will only be 5 other lots in this exclusive estate.

• Ideally located only 12 minutes to Pitt Town and 20 minutes to The Rouse Hill Shopping Centre.

All enquiries through Hamish Rogers on 0418 966 224 or 4572 3077.
Brendon of Lilydale, Victoria, built Paal Kit Homes’ large Castlereagh design on a deeply sloping block and made a magnificent job of it. As well, he saved at least a quarter of a million dollars by tackling as much as possible of the work himself.

Brendon and his partner Denise’s home overlooks a bush-filled valley on Melbourne’s eastern fringe and has attracted many favourable comments.

The commanding outlook was achieved by positioning the house and deck on 88 steel piers that are nearly three metres high at the deck edge.

Fascinated by the engineering side of the project and never daunted by challenges, Brendon taught himself new skills, including pier placement and support for the elevated timber flooring.

He combined his long-service and annual leave to make a strong start on the house, later employing a professional plasterer to save time. He used the mandatory tradespeople for roofing, plumbing and electricals.

While admitting that his 420 square metre home, including a double-garage and deck, was ambitious, he said, “It was also straightforward in a lot of respects. I’m very happy with the result. It’s certainly an achievement.”

A building surveyor, who inspected the construction at various stages, said, “I’ve been in the game for 40 years, and I haven’t seen it done as well as you have.”

Brendon confesses: “Our neighbours initially felt sorry for me, out there every day in rain or hail or sunshine, but they now take their hats off.”

He said support from Paal Kit Homes in Melbourne was fantastic, with Robyn Cummins and Charlie Scerri visiting the site a number of times.

Even though Brendon and Denise customised many of their house fittings, they kept a tight control on building costs, using spreadsheets to do the calculations. This gave confidence to the bank that was financing them.

Contributing his own labour also made a huge difference. Laying and polishing the timber floor alone saved Brendon an estimated $10,000, contributing to a benefit of more than $250,000 on the entire project.

“Friends are amazed and impressed. Denise, my partner, loves the house and is very proud of what I’ve achieved.”

Visit our 3 display homes at Emu Plains
113-115 Russell Street
When it comes to owner building a kit home, PAAL gives you choice • You can either build it yourself • Contract manage the building • Full build from start to finish. Either way we make it easy and you will save money in the process. Over five thousand families are enjoying the benefits of building with us. You too can have the confidence of building with PAAL Kit Homes. Country styles kit homes, architect designed specifically for the Owner Builder. Talk to one of our housing consultants 1800 024 912.

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Jeff & Felicity Dyer - Yellow Rock

Design based on Paal Derwent
Libby & Michael Conway - Yellow Rock

Design based on Paal Fitzroy
Jan & Ken Gilmore - Yellow Rock
You’ll find the floor you’ve been searching for at Choices Flooring Penrith

For over 17 years, Choices Flooring Penrith has been helping local families, businesses and builders find the floor they’ve been searching for.

With the local community at the heart of their business, Choices Flooring Penrith showcases the latest trends in carpet, timber, bamboo, laminate, luxury vinyl, tiles and rugs, in addition to those of a more traditional nature, to ensure they have the perfect flooring solution for every space and budget.

Choices Flooring Penrith’s Owner and Manager, Mr Tom Rigby, said having the right product selection and providing exceptional service has always been the key to maintaining a successful business.

“Like paint, flooring creates the base for any space. As such, it’s important for us to ensure we get it right for our customers – both visually and practically,” Mr Rigby said.

“Aside from the continual developments in our product selection, we take pride in our team’s exceptional product knowledge, which includes understanding the impact different textures and colours have in a space.”

“Having a complete understanding of all elements in a room ensures we provide a greater service to our customers, to help them find the floor they’ve been searching for.”

So no matter how big or small your project may be, Choices Flooring Penrith will help you find the perfect flooring solution for your space. For inspiration to decorate from the floor up, visit their showroom at 131 Coreen Avenue, Penrith, to receive your free copy of Inspiring Choices 2016 magazine.

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### Table of Suburbs and Properties

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Table by Realestateworld.com.au
People

35 HAWKESBURY ARTIST
The path less travelled can often be more fruitful, as this Hawkesbury artist soon discovered.

38 PERFECT PERFORMANCE
Central West students were on top of their game as they visited their overseas counterparts.

41 HELPING HAND
Outdated vehicles are helping kids stay in school and off the streets.

44 MEASURE OF SUCCESS
Moving mountains and rebuilding hearts are all in day’s work.

Houses & Garden

44 HENBURY PARK
A country house with a big garden close to the shops is a lifestyle that’s drawing people to the Hawkesbury.

44 STYLE MASTER
Nurture and Nature Come Together in Spectacular Style in Orange

Food

84 SPICE IT UP
It doesn’t take much to add a bit of spice to your favourite meals.
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    Do up your home the right way

78  WINTER HEATING
    There are plenty of ways to heat up your home this winter.

82  MUDGEE
    Take a break in one of the region’s best loved holiday spots.

84  ORANGE TRAVEL
    A quick trip to the Orange region with the family is just what the doctor ordered.

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20  NEWS
24  GARDENING
28  LOCAL ARTS

Mountain Plus

92  BEAUTY/HEALTH
93  YORK
95  HEALTH
96  EDUCATION
100  MOTORING
102  BOOKS
103  MOVIES
104  ENTERTAINMENT
110  CROSSWORD

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Plans are well on the way to increase the density of housing in the area. The State Government has a discussion paper with such proposals and it also sets out standards for particular types of development which may be carried out without the need for a development application.

With more residents entering the region comes more opportunity for businesses to expand and so will the local economy. While it might be difficult for current residents to see their region change, with the right planning by local authorities such changes do not need to be detrimental to the area.

Local councils are concerned that the proposed changes would set State-wide minimum lot size requirements for medium density housing across the board, without regard for local subdivision patterns or lot size, and irrespective of minimum lots sizes in LEPs.

It’s a fair point and one that needs to be addressed. Yet if such a move could occur and all parties involved have their concerns relieved, then the boost to local economy could be great.

And the region moves away from being a tourism based economy to one where local spending sets the agenda, it will be vital that such plans are put in place.

Vanessa Mace
Editor in Chief
## February

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- **4 March**
  - **Portland Art Exhibition**
- **5 March**
  - **Pick your own chestnuts & walnuts - Kookootonga Farm**
- **6 March**
  - **Lithgow Show**  
  - **11-12 March**
  - **12 March**
  - **Six Foot Track Marathon, Katoomba**
  - **Hector King Polo Event - Windsor Polo Club**  
  - **12 - 20 March**
  - **12 March**
  - **Bathurst Autofest**  
  - **12-13 March**
- **13 March**
  - **Scots School Highland Gathering and Country Fair**
- **16 March**
  - **Alabar Gold Crown Carnival - Bathurst**  
  - **16-26 March**
- **18 March**
  - **Blue Mountains Music Festival**  
  - **18-20 March**
- **19 March**
  - **GOOD FRIDAY**
- **20 March**
  - **Newcrest Orange Challenge**
  - **Dye Hard Fun Run, Orange**
  - **Great Volcanic Mountain Challenge, Orange**
- **21 March**
  - **EASTER**
  - **Orange Camel Races**
- **25 March**
  - **Blue Mountains Music Festival**
- **26 March**
  - **GOOD FRIDAY**
Blue Mountains City Council has secured a grant of $50,000 to deliver a Blue Mountains Youth, Environmental and Social Congress: For Young People by Young People. Planned for early 2016, the Youth Congress aims to engage young people from across the Blue Mountains to lead ecological and social innovation, through community driven change that includes connecting young people with nature.

The Youth Congress organisers will be trained in Leadership Facilitation by the award-winning organisation OzGreen. The not-for-profit organisation educates people around the world, enabling them to take action to improve their environment.

In response to an alarming increase in illegal dumping, Blue Mountains City Council is taking strong measures to stop this costly and destructive practice by deploying remote surveillance cameras across the City.

Council, with funding assistance from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority, has spent over $100,000 in the last 18 months controlling access to bushland reserves, installing cameras and regulatory signage, and cleaning up dumped waste.

A recent clean up and safe disposal operation at Mt Boyce Reserve recovered 8 tonnes of illegally dumped domestic and commercial waste at a cost of $8,300.

On-the-spot fines of up to $4,000 for individuals and $8,000 for corporations apply to those caught dumping.

Blue Mountains City Council is advising all property owners about the changes to the waste service which will start in July 2016.

The letter will provide property owners with the opportunity to select the preferred bin size for their household.

Households will be supplied with the new standard waste service unless the property owner selects to pay for an alternative bin size.

From July 2016, the new standard waste service will be: Garbage bin - 140 litre collected weekly; Recycling bin - 240 litre collected fortnightly; Green bin - 240 litre green collected fortnightly.

Property owners who want an alternative bin size are asked to contact council and an estimated costs for the alternative bin sizes will be provided.

Blue Mountains City Council is receiving significant funding towards the renewal of public buildings and infrastructure at the strikingly situated Katoomba Tourist Park and Katoomba Falls Kiosk.

The sum of $529,450 from NSW Crown Lands’ Public Reserve Management Fund will allow the Council to implement capital works to improve the precinct, which would otherwise not have been affordable.

To match the contribution, the Council is investing in improvements to sections of the nearby Grand Clifftop Walk. Combined, these upgrades will contribute to a positive visitor experience along Katoomba’s southern escarpment, commensurate with modern day local and international tourist expectations.

Blue Mountains, Goulburn Mulwaree, Lithgow, Palerang, Shoalhaven, Upper Lachlan, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly. The award is based on the evaluation of the stormwater management practices of the various councils.

The win follows an announcement of the Council’s success in receiving two grants, valued at a total of $340,000 from WaterNSW, to continue to improve water quality and catchment health in the City.

Blue Mountains City Council has once again been recognised for its exemplary work in water management. Council has received a joint award for ‘Excellence in Policy or Education in the Management of Stormwater’ at the recent 2015 International Water Sensitive Urban Design Conference in Sydney.

Council participated in a sustainable stormwater management partnership between WaterNSW and the councils of the

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From July 2016, the new standard waste service will be: Garbage bin - 140 litre collected weekly; Recycling bin - 240 litre collected fortnightly; Green bin - 240 litre green collected fortnightly.

Property owners who want an alternative bin size are asked to contact council and an estimated costs for the alternative bin sizes will be provided.

Blue Mountains City Council is advising all property owners about the changes to the waste service which will start in July 2016.

The letter will provide property owners with the opportunity to select the preferred bin size for their household.

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From July 2016, the new standard waste service will be: Garbage bin - 140 litre collected weekly; Recycling bin - 240 litre collected fortnightly; Green bin - 240 litre green collected fortnightly.

Property owners who want an alternative bin size are asked to contact council and an estimated costs for the alternative bin sizes will be provided.
AUTUMN COLOURS 2016
Get in early and start planning your visit to Bathurst because autumn is the best season to visit Australia’s oldest inland European settlement.

From the beginning of March to the end of May each year a wealth of events and activities take place in Bathurst and the surrounding region.

Discover the Perthville Convent Heritage Centre with the Sisters of St Joseph who arrived here in 1872 and hear of Saint Mary MacKillop’s connection with this establishment.

Be taken away on a History Mystery tour of the region with tales of yesteryear followed by afternoon tea. Have your treasures evaluated by an expert at the Antiques Valuation Days at Kings Antiques or take along your picnic lunch and relax in the grounds of Abercrombie House on Mrs Macquarie’s Picnic Day.

Find out about these events and all the other great activities taking place in Bathurst at this time in Autumn Colours 2016 a program compiled by Bathurst Visitor Information Centre.

To get your free copy please contact the centre on 1800 68 1000 or view an electronic version at visitbathurst.com.au.

BIKE PARK
Mayor of Bathurst Cr Gary Rush will officially open stage one of the Bathurst Bike Park comprising of the $5 million Velodrome and Clubhouse facility on Wednesday 18 November. Clubhouse facilities include amenities and change rooms, meeting rooms, a time keeper’s office, canteen area and storage sheds.

Mayor of Bathurst Cr Gary Rush said it is remarkable to be able to celebrate the opening of the new facilities at the Bathurst Bike Park and to have Bathurst 200 Living Legend and Olympic Champion Mark Renshaw giving up his time to attempt a new 500m record makes it even more memorable.

Bathurst resident Mark Renshaw will attempt to lower his own 500m record whilst aiming to set a new record under 35 seconds on the Velodrome at Bathurst Bike Park.

CYCLING FESTIVAL
Registrations for New South Wales’ only road race with full road closures are now open for the 9-10 April 2016 Blayney to Bathurst Cycling Festival. The event in 2016 will include a schedule of race categories held across two days catering for cyclists of all levels from beginner to elite competitors. Register now at the following link: www.b2b.asn.au/register-now

EXCHANGE STUDENT
Bathurst Visitor Information Centre is seeking expressions of interest from families to host Japanese high school students as part of an exchange program with Toyo High School from 4 – 7 March, 2016. Host families are required to provide accommodation and meals for the students during the three day visit. Host families will be required to obtain a Working with Children Check. If you are interested in taking part in this cultural program, please contact BVIC on 6332 2333 for further information.

LITHGOW
LITHGLO
The excitement and buzz of Lithglo 15 shows no signs of slowing down following another successful show late last year. Lithglo commences in the beautiful grounds of Hoskins Memorial Uniting Church where there will be a fabulous lighting display. Hoskins featured roving entertainers and Christmas Carols set to the backdrop of the lights. Council is expect to keep the program for 2016.

PROPOSED MERGER
A public inquiry into the proposal to merge Bathurst Regional Council and Oberon Council is now underway. Submissions are invited from the public on the proposal, with submissions closing at 5pm EST, Sunday 28 February 2016. Submissions can be made online at www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au or by mail to GPO Box 5341, Sydney, NSW, 2001.

BIKE PARK
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**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**
The opportunity for the community to continue to provide ideas as well as feedback on concepts already developed for the revitalisation of the Lithgow town centre has begun.

The public exhibition of the draft CBD Revitalisation Plan will commence from January 27 and will run until February 12. With Lithgow City Council winning grant funding for a $2.9m Lithgow Economic Restructure Project to deliver public domain improvements to Main St including Cook St Plaza, ideas and feedback captured during the forthcoming public exhibition process will be able to be incorporated into final designs.

“Cook St Plaza is the heart and soul of Lithgow town centre but we can make it an even better place to visit and celebrate with the upgrade being proposed through the revitalisation process. Initial community ideas suggested a dedicated stage area for events, overhead frames to display art work, living green walls to soften the look of the space and extending the paving across Main St to link the space to the Lithgow Railway Station entrance.” said Lithgow City Council Mayor, Councillor Maree Statham.

**HOUSEHOLD REBATES**
Through its household appliances rebate scheme Council is working with the community to create sensible solutions for people and the environment to ensure that clean, fresh drinking water doesn’t become a luxury item.

A rebate of $150 will be paid by Lithgow City Council to local residents for each appliance with a minimum four star or 5A rating.

Mayor of Lithgow, Councillor Maree Statham said “Council encourages residents to be conscious of water rating labels when purchasing washing machines and dishwashers. These labels help you to choose water efficient products, conserving Lithgow’s water supply and reducing your bills.”

**LOCAL AWARDS**
The winners of the NSW Local Citizenship Awards were announced by Lithgow City Council Mayor Maree Statham and Australia Day Ambassador Sarah Garnett at the Australia Day Ceremony at Queen Elizabeth Park.

Equal Winners of the Open Volunteer of the Year Award went to George Quinell and Carol Farrar. George has volunteered in the Lithgow and District Community Nursery since it was establishment in 1992 while Carol has delivered meals on wheels in the Lithgow area for nineteen years providing social contact for many house bound seniors.

**LAKE LYELL**
Following recent testing of the water quality at Lake Lyell, the Department of Health has advised that swimming and water contact at Lake Lyell can resume without restriction effective immediately.

Council and the Department of Health will continue to monitor the water quality in Lake Lyell in the coming weeks.

**FOOTPATH/CYCLEWAY CONSTRUCTION**
Extension of the footpath / cycleway network has commenced with the latest stage adjacent to Farmers Creek, Lithgow.

As part of Lithgow City Council’s 2015-16 capital works program, a combined footpath/cycleway is scheduled for construction alongside Farmers Creek, Lithgow between the front gates of the Tony Luchetti Showground and Albert Street, Lithgow.

Establishing a system of cycleways and pedestrian paths to provide links between major cultural and recreational facilities is part of Council’s Cycleways and Walkways Strategy in the Community Strategic Plan 2026

**BLUE STAR**
Eskbank House at Lithgow is the state winner of the Cultural Heritage Section of the Blue Star Sustainability Cultural Heritage Awards. Eskbank House conducted a number os art exhibitions, workshops, performances and themed events.

**WELL DONE**
The Hawkesbury Australia Day Awards saw a number of residents win awards.

The 2016 Citizen of the Year was awarded to Paul Maher while the 2016 Joint Young Citizen of the Year is Blake Atkins and Blake Coaldrake.

The 2016 Volunteer of the Year went to Marjorie Pettigrew who is well known in the Hawkesbury community for her volunteer service which she has been participating in for more than 10 years. As a Meals on Wheels volunteer, Marjorie provides meals to those in her community who need them.

A Hawkesbury Local Hero Award was awarded to Jan Earle. She was the first female fire fighter in the Hawkesbury and has held every position in Freemans Reach Brigade.
HAWKESBURY

HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
Hawkesbury City Council has welcomed the announcement by the NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli regarding plans to relocate Hurlstone Agricultural High School, a long-standing and prestigious agricultural institution, to a new state-of-the-art facility in Richmond.

The new Hurlstone Agricultural High School (Hawkesbury) will be a partnership with Western Sydney University, and builds on the University’s long and proud history in agricultural education, dating back to the days of the Hawkesbury Agricultural College in 1891.

Hurlstone Agricultural High School is an academically-selective agriculture and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) school, and it will cater for 1,500 students spanning years 7-12. The shared University and high school precinct would give high school students exposure to the University's world-leading agricultural, STEM, and environmental research and facilities, as well as access to the University's farm land.

SAY NO
The very fibre of the Hawkesbury community is at risk with The Hills Shire Council’s recent bid to take over the Hawkesbury.

Over the last five years alone, there has been an increase of 435% in building development in The Hills.

This is the danger if The Hills take over the governing of the Hawkesbury local government area, the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Kim Ford explained.

“We can easily remember when suburbs like Rouse Hill and Dural were full of farms and acreage properties, but now these towns are covered by project homes and apartments, with some up to nine storeys high. Is this the future we want for our area?” Councillor Ford asked.

“All of our residents who love living in the Hawkesbury and enjoy the scattering of townships and villages, need to say no to a takeover and protect the rural nature of our area.”

ORANGE

STAND TOGETHER
Orange’s community leaders have gathered in support as Orange’s Muslim community publicly unveiled its recently-opened mosque.

Community leaders gathered included Mayor John Davis, school principals, church leaders, leaders of sporting clubs, and leaders of key community organisations.

Community spokesperson Khalid Tufail said he is delighted that the new building is now being used regularly for prayers. Mr Tufail has lived in Orange with his wife and three children for the last six years. He works as a hospital scientist at the Orange Health Service.

“The university has been very generous with making a room available for prayers the last three years, but we’re now looking forward to using this building in Peisley Street as a mosque,” Khalid Tufail said. “We thank the council and the community leaders who’ve come here today to stand with us, for offering this warm sign of their support.”

MORE BIKE PARKING
Orange businesses are already reaping the benefits of a new string of bike parking equipment, installed in six locations around Orange.

The equipment where riders can chain their bikes after riding, includes stainless steel hoops, coloured metal cut-out bike shapes, and hanging rails where bikes can be hung. After consultation with nearby businesses, Orange City Council has installed different equipment options in each location.

BOWLING CHAMP
Orange local Jason Belmonte became the first bowler to win the United States Bowling Congress Masters event three consecutive times.

The 64-year-old event is bowling’s pinnacle event and one of the hardest tournaments to win.

Jason uses a unique two-handed delivery and the win earned him $50,000 for his victory.

He has 11 PBA Tour titles and four major victories to his name. “This means more to me than anyone can possibly imagine — that a kid from Australia who bowls different than everyone else is now in the history books,” Jason said.

BUSHCARE LANDCARE AWARDS
Council recently hosted the 18th annual Bushcare and Landcare Awards to applaud the environmental volunteers of the Hawkesbury for their efforts in 2015.

The Awards were held at Hawkesbury EarthCare Centre in partnership with Greater Sydney Local Land Services. Seven awards were presented on the day to many worthy and hardworking groups and individuals.

The highest honour of the day, Environmental Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Vera Zaccari for her outstanding achievements and involvement with the Macdonald Valley. This award is presented to a volunteer who shows inspiring commitment and dedication to the Hawkesbury natural environment.

Ms Zaccari is an active member of the Macdonald Valley and is a member of the St Albans Weed Wackers Bushcare Group and is the secretary of the Macdonald Valley Association. She played a key role in organising the recent 10 years of river restoration in the Macdonald Valley, attended by over 100 people.
in the garden

A WRAP UP OF THE LATEST NEWS AND TIPS ON HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR GARDEN

NICE SHED

A project to build a backyard shack has turned into an Australia-wide business for Jon and Nicola Bingham. Ozshacks has been building fully wired and insulated "wooden tents" for caravan parks and camping grounds for the past two years.

Their Original and larger Family Ozshacks now accommodate glampers in many parts of the country. But it is the Binghams’ latest design they hope will help them break into the domestic market and gain a foothold across Australia.

The Ozpod is a 15-square-meter outdoor room designed to be used as a guest bedroom, home office, pool room or rumpus room.

Mr Bingham said there had been a lot of interest in the OzPods since their launch in September.

“The shacks are ideal for campsites whereas the Ozpods are better suited to people’s backyards,” he said.

“We’re making high quality – they’re not like a garden shed. They’re fully wired and insulated really well – they’re built to last.”

NATURAL WONDERS

Explore Australia’s premier cool-climate botanic garden and learn about the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah.

Set over 252 hectares on the summit of a basalt-capped peak 1000m above sea level, the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden is the highest botanic garden in Australia. Visitors can explore more than 48,000 native, exotic and rare plant species at the property as well as enjoy sweeping vistas over the mountains. The Garden will also host two major events.

Bird artist Fiona Lumsden will hold a drawing workshop on Feb 28 from 9.30am-4.30pm. Her paintings bring many elements together to create small insights into the world of the bird.

In March, artist Melanie Ducan will hold her exhibition ‘Innate’. She draws inspiration by immersing herself in the environment. The event will be held on March 12-24 from 9.30am-4.30pm.

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden also offers popular plant themed events and festivals; guided tours; weddings, functions and conference facilities; Tomah Gardens Restaurant (one Hat) as well as accommodation in the Jungle Lodge which sleeps up to 10 people. The Garden is located at Bells Line of Road, Mount Tomah. Call them on 4567 3000.
A fabulous collection of ornamental, native and fruit trees with an onsite horticulturist. 

Open every day except Tuesday  
26 Station St, Mount Victoria  
Ph: (02) 4787 1851
GARDENING

THE WATER GARDEN

This autumn journey beyond the Blue Mountains through the cooling breath of the countryside and uncover treasures along the way. Beautiful hills, golden avenues of grand old trees, country pubs and working farms, and around one more bend in the road lies the Water Garden at Mayfield Garden.

A comfortable 2.5hrs drive from downtown Sydney and 15kms from Oberon, the Water Garden is a breath-taking feature garden with something for all ages – chooks and a look-out tree, a well-stocked cool climate nursery a café serving delicious freshly prepared food, coffee and cold drinks, and yes, there’s that garden.

Open daily to visitors the Water Garden is a stunning 6 acre garden sitting on the North Eastern edge of Mayfield Garden, one of the world’s largest privately-owned cool climate gardens.

Water falls 11metres as it travels across the Water Garden, starting at the hewn blue-stone bridge folly down the cascade through quiet ponds before arriving at the grand Mayfield Obelisk pond with its perfect circle of water fountains arcing to its centre. It takes no time at all to appreciate the passion, vision and skill required to create and care for such a unique legacy.


POWER BOOST

Fiskars PowerGear is a versatile family of tools that include pruners, loppers and hedge shears to cover most of the cutting needs in the garden. The ingenious gear mechanism which boosts the power of the cut is complemented by sharp, quality steel blades and lightweight, durable handles. The PowerGear mechanism makes cutting 3.5 times easier compared to standard mechanisms. Blades are made from extra hard, corrosion resistant steel that ensures sharpness longer.

BEE HAVE

Residents in Lithgow learnt why pollinators are important, how they affect food security and biodiversity and how we can support them, at the inaugural Pollinator Week Workshop at Eskbank House. The Pollinator Week Workshop is part of a larger “Bee Aware of Your Native Bees” project run by Western Sydney University in partnership with Eskbank House over the past two years.
PRIVATE GARDEN AUTUMN OPEN DAYS
16 April - 1 May (closed ANZAC Day)

WATER GARDEN | KITCHEN CAFÉ | NURSERY
Open daily 9.00am - 4.30pm
mayfieldgarden.com.au
530 Mayfield Rd Oberon NSW | 02 6336 3131

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ROSEMARY VALADON: A SENSUAL WORLD

ROSEMARY VALADON IS AN AWARD-WINNING AUSTRALIAN ARTIST, NOW BASED IN THE HISTORIC TOWN OF HILL END. IN THE TRADITION OF GRACE COSSINGTON SMITH AND MARGARET PRESTON, SHE HAS REINTERPRETED A DISTINCTLY AUSTRALIAN FEMININITY AND DOMESTIC AESTHETIC.

VALADON’S WORK CELEBRATES FEMININITY AND SENSUALITY. HER MUSES SERIES, AND MORE RECENTLY, WICKED WOMEN, REINTERPRET MYTHS AND STEREOTYPES OF WOMEN IN A WAY THAT CAPTURES A VERY CONTEMPORARY FEMINISM. HER STILL LIFE SERIES DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS OF LIVING IN HILL END. CELEBRATE THE RICHNESS OF THIS EXPERIENCE. HER LATEST MAJOR WORKS - LARGE STILL LIFE PANORAMAS - CAPTURE THE PRODUCE SHE HAS GROWN FROM HER GARDEN THROUGH THE DRAMATIC CHANGING OF THE SEASONS.

DATE: 1 APRIL – 8 MAY.
VENUE: BATHURST REGIONAL ART GALLERY EXHIBITION.

SUCCESS

The popularity of Eskbank House continues to grow following a successful January holiday season which saw a number of children’s picnic theatre, art sessions, conservation displays, an exhibition by John Barnes and a Ghost Hunt. Blast Furnace Theatre held their first picnic theatre season in the gardens at Eskbank House featuring the children’s play Hansel and Gretel. This adaptation of the famous fairytale provided excitement for the little ones and laughter for adults.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

What does a doll called Ruth, a miner’s couch and a 222 year old document have in common? They are all part of a new and exciting exhibition that has opened last month at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum in Windsor.

Objects include the Society’s first minute-book (chosen by Ian Jack), kept by inaugural Secretary Doug Bown, a local teacher and historian whose books on Hawkesbury history are still regarded as essential reading.

There is also the original Title Deed to the farm of ex-convict settler, Samuel Jackson, issued in November 1794 (chosen by Jan Barkley Jack). This deed is the only 1794 grant deed known in Australia.
**THIS SHRINE**

New Exhibition at the Norman Lindsay Gallery until May celebrates the single nude in Norman Lindsay's art.

The new exhibition 'This Shrine - A celebration of the single nude in Norman Lindsay’s art' includes a number of privately owned Norman Lindsay pencil studies, along with etchings and oils drawn from the National Trust Collection and is on display until May 2016.

Landscaped grounds are dotted with Lindsay’s sculptures and a Café provides morning and afternoon teas or lunch in idyllic bushland setting.

Outdoor musical events such as Jazz in the Garden, along with painting, etching and pastel workshops are held regularly.

For further information on exhibitions or upcoming events call the gallery on 4751 1067 or visit them at www.normanlindsay.com.au

**AWESOME ACHIEVERS: STORIES FROM AUSTRALIANS OF THE YEAR**

This exhibition comprises portraits of a representative selection of recipients of the Australian of the Year award over the past 55 years. Featuring around 50 works across a range of media, supplemented with snippets of oral histories and audio-visual material from other national institutions and collections. The exhibition showcases 28 recipients across eight thematic groupings.

Date: Ends March 27

**VENUE:** Hawkesbury Regional Gallery.

**JAZZ IN THE GARDEN**

The National Trusts Norman Lindsay Gallery Jazz in the Garden is an eagerly awaited annual event that brings the iconic jazz band Galapagos Duck to the mountains. Every year a large and diverse audience settle in on the Gallery lawn to experience jazz performed by world class musicians. This celebration of Norman’s birthday is also a celebration of jazz music at its most diverse and enduring, be prepared to be invigorated by these jazz musios, they are spontaneous and will capture the true essence of live jazz.

Performance date 13 February from 6pm.

**ACROSS THE SEASONS**

Across the Seasons, a collection of oil paintings by local artist Charlie O'Mahony, will be on exhibition at Eskbank House and Museum at Lithgow until February. Charlie began painting this collection in 2012 and since then has recorded the seasons as they changed in several settings. The seascapes around the beautiful south coast areas of Gerringong and Gerroa feature in many of his paintings and contrast with his paintings of the Lithgow area such as Wallerawang, Tarana and the majestic Capertee Valley.
Awesome Achievers: Stories from Australians of the Year

12 February — 27 March

Deerubbin Centre (1st floor) 300 George Street, Windsor
Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri 10am–6pm
Sat and Sun 10am–4pm Closed Tuesday and public holidays.

Bathurst celebrates its rich history and heritage in autumn with a program of events & activities taking place from March to May.
For a free copy of the program AUTUMN COLOURS 2016
Contact Bathurst Visitor Information Centre
Phone 1800 68 1000
E: visitors@bathurst.nsw.gov.au
visitbathurst.com.au

NORMAN LINDSAY GALLERY
The former home of artist and writer Norman Lindsay, now a National Trust property, displaying the artist’s paintings, etchings, ship models and Magic Pudding characters.
• Landscaped grounds dotted with Lindsay’s sculptures
• Artist’s studios open to view • Atmospheric Café • Bushwalk
• Changing exhibitions • Specialist Giftshop

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...and enjoy 29 Great Attractions around the World Heritage Blue Mountains

Purchase an ALL DAY PASS and take a ride on a unique replica Trolley and experience a travel feature of bygone days, you can Hop On or Hop Off anytime to explore at your leisure. Tours run daily, departing hourly from Carrington Hotel, Katoomba Street, Katoomba and include full commentary on the history of the Blue Mountains.

FREE CALL: 1800 801 577
www.trolleytours.com.au

NORMAN LINDSAY GALLERY
14 Norman Lindsay Cres, Faulconbridge
OPEN 7 days 10am – 4pm Tel: 4751 1067
www.normanlindsay.com.au
The Irresistible Life of an ARTIST

THE PATH LESS TRAVELLED CAN OFTEN BE MORE FRUITFUL, AS THIS HAWKESBURY ARTIST SOON DISCOVERED.

WORDS BY JONI LEIMGRUBER
Matilda Julian grew up on a Bilpin orchard and after going to university and becoming a lawyer, she has packed it all in and she loves most – art.

And with her pieces featuring in exhibitions and being recognised as finalist in the Portia Geach Prize, NSW Plein Air Art Prize, Calleen Art Award, the Central West Regional Art Award and Norvill Art Prize for landscapes, it seems she made the right choice.

The decision to make such a drastic career change wasn’t easy though. “My parents were happy that I was good at art but they always wanted me to have security,” she says of Neville and Shelley Julian, owners of Bilpin’s Karambi Orchard and the Shelley’s Shop road store. Neville and Shelley have always been heavily involved with Matilda’s education and have supported her throughout. And despite their resistance to the strong pull a career in art had on their daughter, Neville and Shelley, whose home proudly displays many of Matilda’s pieces, seem to have also been among the greatest supporters of her creativity. Matilda’s pieces, seem to have also been among the greatest supporters of her creativity. Matilda’s artwork had on their daughter, Neville and Shelley, whose home proudly displays many of Matilda’s pieces, seem to have also been among the greatest supporters of her creativity. Matilda’s pieces, seem to have also been among the greatest supporters of her creativity.

Despite the change in scenery, Matilda found it wasn’t until she finally dropped out of law to allow time to paint that she built her most recent collection ‘Weed Life’, featuring often ignored weeds which, Matilda says, have a beauty and usefulness of their own. Of her drastic career change, Matilda explains “I’ve dropped out of law a few times,” Matilda explains. “This time my plan was to open a gallery on the weekends and paint during the week.” Having become a foster carer during this time, Matilda’s life needed structure and her painting became an important part of that daily routine. She recently opened ‘Bliss and Friends’, a café in Guerne NSW where she hangs her most recent works on the walls, often while they are still wet. The café, open five mornings a week, is a hub of community and creativity and provides the routine Matilda craved, leaving afternoons free for painting.

Matilda seems to have found her happy balance, painting, running the café and travelling home to visit her family every fortnight in Bilpin. And everywhere she goes, Banjo, her faithful dog is eagerly at her heels, nuzzling anyone who will show him some attention. Who knows what the future holds for the talented artist and passionate lawyer, but for now she is enjoying the quiet, country life of an artist. And the art scene is richer for it.

To find out more about Matilda’s art, visit www.matildajulian.com.au

Aware of his daughter’s love of art and thirst for learning, he traded his labour for art lessons so that Matilda could be taught by the renowned artist. “She taught me traditional colour mixing and tone and gave me really good traditional and foundational lessons,” Matilda says. “I can honestly say that I wouldn’t be as good an artist as I am now if I hadn’t had those lessons with Christine.”

Matilda went to North Richmond’s Colo High School and it was here that she says she fell even deeper in love with painting. Art, she says, is what brought her through those difficult teenage years. But having been a straight A student, her parents encouraged her to focus on more practical subjects such as commerce and law studies. Matilda had other ideas though and was desperate to also study visual arts. “My dad said that I had to get 100 signatures from people so that I could study visual arts as an elective,” Matilda says, laughing. “So I got a petition signed by 100 people to say that I could study art in years nine and ten”. Her determination paid off as she continued her art studies right through to her HSC, further strengthening her love of creating. Former Colo High School teacher Jenny Pratt greatly influenced her; “that last year was so memorable, she was like a good friend,” Matilda says. “I felt at home only in the art department. The art room and my art class got me through those last two years of school – even though I did well in my other subjects – art just made me feel good.” Her HSC work ‘A Study of Eyes’ was selected for Art Express, winning the COFA prize for excellence. The acrylic piece, measuring 15m x 12m, was created using a palette knife and though completed more than a decade before she finally accepted her destiny as an artist, it is a clear demonstration of the natural talent Matilda possesses.

Despite this early sign of success, Matilda enrolled at university to study international studies and law. “I was influenced by my parents who wanted me to do something practical,” she explains. “Maybe I was a bit naive but I thought that I could study law and paint in my spare time and I could still pursue my art by myself, but it didn’t turn out like that.” Art quickly became a lower priority and before long, Matilda was working fulltime as a lawyer and had no time to paint.

Things began to change when she moved to Dubbo. “I’d been out there two or three years and I didn’t think it was a very pretty place at first, coming from Bilpin where it is always green and going to a very dry place,” she explains. “But it’s definitely a place that grows on you.” Despite the change in scenery, Matilda found herself drawn to painting landscapes, her first attempts based on photos taken on her travels around the region. “For some reason I have increasingly wanted to paint traditional subjects - landscapes and still lifes. My landscapes are different to many contemporary artists who use bright colours,” she explains. “I use subdued tones and subdued colours. I think you can see something beautiful in something even if it’s not brightly coloured.” Matilda describes her style as being “put together – not much thought process goes into it. I put stuff together, or there might be things lying around and I just start painting,” she says. “I’ve never been a meticulous painter. I’ve always worked with palette knives and larger brushes.”

In the 2014 waratah season, Matilda, whose favourite medium is oil, began painting some of the stunning flowers blooming on her parent’s farm. “I started painting every day because I didn’t want to stop,” she explains of the recent resurgence of creativity. “Since then I’ve kept painting – mum’s roses, other things from the garden, apples…” The 31 year old painted about ten pieces during the three week season, posting them to Instagram which is when people started to notice her work. Although, she adds laughing, “I’ve broken a few of my mum’s good vases while painting her roses.”

But it’s definitely a place that grows on you.”

To find out more about Matilda art, visit www.matildajulian.com.au
"My plan was to open a gallery on the weekends and paint during the week."
Performance and theatre design students at Charles Sturt University (CSU) have returned from an exhilarating study tour with an expanded view of the career opportunities that await them.

Claire Moloney, lecturer in design and screen in the CSU School of Communication and Creative Industries, 34 undergraduate students undertook a very hands-on study tour to Macau, Prague, and London.

The students are enrolled in two courses and four specialisations: the Bachelor of Communication (Theatre/Media) at CSU in Bathurst, and the Bachelor of Stage and Screen (Acting), the Bachelor of Stage and Screen (TV Production), and the Bachelor of Stage and Screen (Design) at CSU in Wagga Wagga.

The study tour was supported by CSU Global and included visits to The House of Dancing Waters in Macau (Hong Kong), the 2015 Prague Quadrennial (in the Czech Republic), and London where they toured Shakespeare’s The Globe theatre and attended a West End musical, The Book of Mormon.

They also toured the (fashion designer) Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the amazing museum of art and design.

“The students gained an exceptional insight into the international performance scene and where it is heading, which was great,” Ms Moloney said. “Most, if not all, made valuable international contacts and friends, and some even received job offers for the next Prague Quadrennial in four year’s time.”

Third-year acting student Ms Susan Pammer said the idea of travelling overseas to explore the world for one’s education is something out of a dream, but being able to do just that this year with CSU was an experience of a lifetime.

“Travelling between Macau, Prague and London, we were able to experience new cultures and discover the world of theatre and design on an international stage,” Ms Pammer said. “Between the theatrical shows in Macau and London, and the Prague Quadrennial, I was able to gain greater understanding of theatre outside Australia.

“It was fascinating to see other university students from around the world in their element and what they brought to the competition.

Also, being able to experience the work of...
The Prague Quadrennial is the largest scenography festival in the world.

Ms Moloney said all the students came back invigorated and inspired. “The study tour showed us all the possibilities of creating productions and made us realise how very narrow Australian ideals can be when it comes to theatre. I hope it will encourage the students to be creative and experimental in their storytelling, and will help them to push the boundaries in their art. They are the next generation and can influence how we view and interact with stories and with art.”

Ms Moloney said the study tour group visit to Macau was hosted by CSU graduate Ms Anna Robb who is the general stage manager of The House of Dancing Waters. The group toured the vast backstage, and watched the show. The design students were able to watch in the control room to gain additional technical insights.

Second-year design student Ms Kayla Crowe described the study tour as incredible and said she learned so much, not only about designing, but about how each workplace and environment can change between countries and shows.

“Everyone had new and inspiring creative thought processes that made things take turns I never saw coming,” she said.

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This trip has taught me so much, and helped me with the direction I want to take with my career when I leave Charles Sturt University,” she said. “I know that there are opportunities to planning on researching these and applying in the very near future.”

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Helping Hand

The cars may or may not even run, but these outdated vehicles are helping kids stay in school and off the streets.

Words by Vanessa Mace
The charity also accepts other types of vehicles including boats on trailers, caravans, trucks etc. On any one night in Australia more than 44,000 people are homeless, and the majority of these are under 25. The charity has provided relocatable housing to just over 2,900 young people since starting. A few years back it also added educational scholarships to it’s program to help cover the costs of keeping kids in school.

The charity takes an early intervention approach, targeting kids likely to leave home and thus fall through the cracks of the system. Selected teens receive small relocatable studios in the yard of their family or carers home, helping kids stay close to their family but giving them the space they need. Then when they are no longer needed, they can be quickly moved to help another family.

Sandi Taylor, who is now 22, said she experienced first hand the generosity of Kids Under Cover almost a decade ago.

“I was the eldest of five children. My youngest sister was born with cerebral palsy and chronic lung disease and my father was out working constantly as the sole bread-winner for the family and mum was at the hospital all the time”. “We had a string of friends and relatives coming to look after us, or I would look after all of the children. I felt the pressure of all the responsibility and kept running away. Kids Under Cover built a studio in our back garden to give me the space I needed so that I could stay with my family, who I love very much, but to give me a break from the responsibility of our family situation”.

Sandi gave back to the charity two years ago when she donated her 1995 Hyundai S Coupe to the Kids Under Cover ‘Donate Your Car’ program.

“I will never forget what Kids Under Cover did for me. I moved into my studio when I was 13 and stayed there until I was 17. I cherished my little studio and it provided the best solution for our whole family. Without my studio, I would have probably run away permanently and who knows what would have happened then. The studio allowed me the independence that I needed at that time and maintain my sanity during a crazy time! Whenever I get the opportunity to promote Kids Under Cover I do. My life has turned out wonderfully and I will forever be grateful for the assistance they provided.”

Grandparents struggling to hold the family together have benefited from the system. Grandkids Jenny and Lily had stayed with their Nan on and off since they were very young. Their mum’s ongoing problems with substance abuse meant she couldn’t look after herself. The girls had to depend on each other. It was up to Jenny to get herself and Lily to school most days.

Nan’s place was small, fine for just her and Uncle Paul, whose brain injury meant she needed to look out for him. Then she took in Jenny, Lily and their little brother. The three children shared a small room and the girls had to sleep in the same bed, but at least Nan made sure they ate well and got them off to school every day. Still, the overcrowding became too much and they just couldn’t breathe.

The family gained the space they so desperately needed once Kids Under Cover installed a two-bedroom studio in the backyard. But the help didn’t end there with the children also getting an education scholarship. Before the charity made contact, the kids didn’t always have the schoolbooks they needed. Even before high school, they hadn’t experienced new school uniforms. They missed out when their classmates went on interstate camps, and they felt financial pressures young people should not have to deal with.

The day their scholarships arrived, their Nan cried. Somehow, Nan had made it all work, but the scholarships meant she didn’t have to stretch her pension past breaking point. Nan just managed to get by on her pension, but school expenses stretched her small budget. As the kids grew, so did the need to replace uniforms, buy school supplies, and scrimp for excursions.

The scholarships made an incredible difference to Jenny and Lily’s lives. This year, they started school knowing everything was paid. They didn’t have to worry about Nan like before, and they no longer felt different from everyone else.

To find out more about this worthwhile charity, look up Kids Under Cover online.
Most of us recall how we spent 25th April 2015 – it’s a date filled with significance and more so this year being the 100 year anniversary of the ANZAC’s landing. The most important national day in Australia and where Kipling’s words “Lest we forget” remain as meaningful as ever.

On this day, Mary Brell and her team of nine teachers and two nurses from Orange were in Katmandu, Nepal signing off from a Rotary International Global Grant and the Rotary Australia Wide Community Service (RAWCS) Nepal Friendship Project. They had just completed the final stage of a four year project in remote rural villages in the Dhading district and were heading home.

The project had provided skills and training for teachers, building construction, health and mental health workers. The team could see the results of their efforts – school classes were run more dynamically with students thinking and asking questions. Girls were being supported with sanitary pad kits so they could stay in class at this time. Sufferers of mental illness were being identified and helped.

Many team members were enjoying shopping and sight seeing in Katmandu when for 30 seconds a 7.8 magnitude earthquake 15km deep and powerful enough to shake Mount Everest sent parts of Nepal three meters south. The statistics are shocking with over 9 000 killed, 23 000 injured, hundreds of thousands left
homeless with entire villages flattened, many lives unaccounted for and endless aftershocks causing widespread emotional and physical suffering.

The rebuild will take years. The villages are remote and do not receive a lot of help from capital cities and there is little infrastructure and social support. Nepal’s patriarchal culture supports gender bias and tries to deny a voice to women of reason. Poorly educated village leaders often grapple to find ways forward. It is the Nepali teachers on the project who are stepping up to leadership roles in Dhading depending not on resources but on their skills.

“There is great unmet need but their resilience has been inspiring,” reports Dr. Nick Burns, Chair of the Australia-Nepal Mental Health Network and Forensic psychiatrist from Orange Health Service. He and others from Orange like Robyn Murray, who also holds a senior position with NSW Ministry of Health are shaken by what they’ve seen and are working to support Nepali clinicians. “It was an incredible time experiencing the earthquake,” recalls Robyn. “It felt like I’d been plunged into another world.”

The mental health team have been received warmly during their three year involvement. From the outset Robyn and her team who are under the auspice of RAWCS have identified a strong need for improvements in mental health services and half-way housing, ending domestic violence, and finding advocates for increased services. They have developed a five year plan with their Nepali colleagues which supports endeavours to improve the lives of people with mental illness.

Here, 25 psychiatrists in a population of 28 million, and 27 mental health NGOs provide services with little co-ordination. Many under-privileged people miss out and this number has massively increased since the earthquake. “There is a recognition that building capacity at the local level in the primary health services and increasing training opportunities nationally will allow Nepal to adapt best practice to their own context,” says Dr. Burns. “Access is a big problem but the resilience of the Nepalese has been inspiring.”

Aftershock anxiety, crumpled streets, death and destruction and widespread homelessness took their toll as did the airport chaos and shortage of information. Within days world news crews were exposing the extent of damage and the donations started.

In the weeks after the disaster the team witnessed via social media an emerging new strength from the villagers as never seen before. Facebook and emails are providing one on one contact with the Australians and their courageous project colleagues. Within two weeks there were photos of new building materials arriving in the villages - made possible from donations to RAWCS from across NSW, WA, Victoria, Queensland, Thailand, Scotland, England, Canada and the US - and these have lifted everyone’s spirits.

Online posts from Mary’s Nepali group are positive and appreciative. They are aware of the need to maintain the transparency and trust of the project as much as quickly provide shelters, schools and birthing centers. Of most benefit, social media has kept the group tight.

“The experiences were personal,” recalls Robyn Murray, “but the group is very strong as a team.”

One of the teachers in Dhading, Buddiman Shrestha had a life changing moment when he realised that he had the knowledge now to be a community leader. He is helping to lead the recovery in his district, and says “I have gone from being a learner to a leader.” He is one of many involved the Rotary projects whose actions and critical thinking are giving others hope and a sense that there is a future.

Mary and Robyn have been overwhelmed with
offers of assistance. “Many people are wary of donating to third world countries, and for good reason,” Mary explains. “But we are sending the money to the project manager Prakash Aral at the village where it is being used directly to buy building material. We know where every dollar goes. We have photos and updates on Facebook of it arriving at the village and the work progressing. This direct assistance is why the donations have exceeded our expectations.”

Prakash has been with the project from the outset harbouring a desire to help his countrymen and women. “He was always a leader but over the years I have seen him develop into a community leader with the respect of the elders,” Mary says. “Through this disaster, Prakash has shone as a facilitator showing a strong desire to see this through so I am very proud of what he has achieved.”

It took time to gain the trust of the village elders during the project years, but now there is nothing but deep friendship. One of the team members noted, “As the teams were mostly of women it showed everyone about respect, sharing of ideas, ways of managing and it taught a lot about boys’ and girls’ different needs.” This shift in culture has been, Mary believes, the key to starting to rebuild quickly. Teacher Heather Grant explains that “While the traditional land and building materials can’t change, essential buildings are already under way. They have taken ownership and have called it Our Rebuild.”

The Rotary clubs of Orange have generously helped to raise money used to purchase $800 Survival Kits containing tents, water purifiers, tarpaulins and other essentials. In September, a team of eight volunteer builders from Orange, Katoomba and Manly led by John Spanjer will go to Dhading for two weeks of construction and to assess the damage for future work.

In November, Mary will lead a team of enthusiastic Schoolies to Katmandu, Chitwan and Dhading, where she says they are keen to roll their sleeves up to assist where required. Also in November a team from the Australia-Nepal Mental Health Network of psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, nurses and social workers will work with senior Nepali clinicians. This will be around the clinical aspects of addressing complex trauma presentations and on further building the resilience of the Nepali people.

There have been many types of aftershock since April 25th. It is our community’s generosity and compassion and the timely completion of the project that is helping to avert another slippery slope of disaster. The silver lining is that a new generation is realising their potential to build a better future by working shoulder to shoulder.

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Magnificent views make this property a must have.
New home buyers searching for a property often want it all. A swimming pool, acreage, plenty of bedrooms and space to fit a few pets is a must. Yet often people come up short because they can’t find the right home to suite their lifestyle. So imagine our surprise when it was revealed that “Henbury Park” at Glenorie was on the market.

Current owner Barbara Ireland brought the property in about 2001 and quickly went about expanding and enhancing the properties facilities.

Originally the property included a home and a old cottage. Yet Barbara’s family love of horses quickly saw the garage converted to three stables.

Meanwhile the cottage was altered to include 3 stables.

“We originally lived in Kenthurst, and our family quickly outgrew the home. So we moved to Glenorie where there was more room to move,” Barbara said.

“We add a garage to house and completed most of the modifications to the property.”

Set on five acres of fertile soil, rolling lush paddocks and old established trees and gardens.

The original sandstock brick homestead sits privately yet proudly overlooking the horse paddocks, the in-ground pool and the old “character filled” stable barn.

There is also a grassed dressage arena and day yards.

Barbara describes the yards as perfect for horse enthusiasts who love their animals.

“Its fully fenced off and a good size for horses. If you have a horse it would work well and requires no work to it.”

Inside the family home boasts four bedrooms, three bathrooms, separate formal lounge and dining room, a family eat-in area off the kitchen and a large rumpus room with slow combustion stove.

A lovely feature are the large french doors and windows which look out onto the gardens.

Outside there is a huge timber entertaining deck, perfect for enjoying a meal while overlooking the pool and grounds. The sun drenched deck is also the perfect place to grow geraniums, which are among Barbaram’s favourite

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flowers due to their colourful blooms and tough as nails reputation. There is also a detached games room.

The three-car garage allows plenty of room for vehicles and farm machinery such as ride on lawnmovers while property has two long road frontages which allows easy access for horse floats or trucks.

Because the climate is right, Barbara has planted a selection of fruit trees while wild geraniums grow throughout the property. Mature European trees dot the landscape, giving the rolling acres a very stately feel.

“Henbury Park” is ideally located only minutes from Glenorie Shopping Village and only 10 minutes to Round Corner Dural.

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NURTURE AND NATURE COME TOGETHER IN SPECTACULAR STYLE IN ORANGE

WORDS BY JULIE BROUGGY
PHOTO BY DC MEDIA, BEN FRY
Building a unique modern designer home can be a very trying and stressful time, however when you bring together the right team, it can instead become an enriching and rewarding experience. When Karen and Ewen Cameron, along with their son Hamish made the decision to move from Milthorpe to Orange in Central Blue Mountains.
West NSW in 2012, they were looking for the perfect place to call home. Serendipitously, through friends they found an acre of land overlooking Duntryleague Golf Course, which couldn’t have proven more ideal as Ewen is a keen golfer! In fact it was almost like coming home as Ewen had grown up in the same neighbourhood and Karen’s great-grandfather, as a boy, mucked out the old stables of Duntryleague which sits next door, providing a stunning historic focal feature to rival the views from the Cameron’s block.

After making the difficult decision not to renovate the existing small architect designed house built in 1962, it was decided to start again from scratch. In a lovely gesture to what existed before, the beautifully drawn plans for the original house are displayed on the walls of their new home.

Karen and Ewen knew exactly what sort of
‘Carey helped bring it all together beautifully’
The greatest shift in our current market of buyers, seems to be represented by those looking for a tree change lifestyle away from the pressures of capital city living.

While Sydney investors have long been aware of the benefits of buying in our region, it has been a more recent phenomenon to see city folk identifying the positive aspects of a permanent lifestyle change away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

This trend is particularly noticeable for young families being priced out of the Sydney housing market. Lower house prices in regional areas such as the Blue Mountains and Central West don’t just translate to smaller mortgages. They also often equate to the ability to upsize to a home with extras such as a large garden or rural block, garaging, shed or workshop space, pool, tennis court, and room for pets and even livestock.

Couple housing affordability with the potential for lower living costs and it’s little wonder that urban dwellers are seeing a better value proposition in regional areas. More affordable housing can mean more funds available for school fees, cars, holidays, and other lifestyle choices.

Overall the most common statement that I hear from buyers coming into the area to live, is that they are looking for a “quality of life” that they are unable to find in the city. While this can mean different things to different people, I think that the intention is the same.

Weekends spent enjoying the fresh air, the natural beauty of our surroundings and a genuine sense of community create a feeling of wellbeing. With great cafes, shops, markets and events there is plenty to do, and away from the pressures of city living there is time to smell the roses and really enjoy family life. Many new residents in the area comment on the freedom and sense of security they have found.

For those of us who have already experienced the positive difference a tree change can make to our quality of life, there is little doubt that the shift will continue as more people assess the value on offer only a couple of hours to the west.
‘We wanted it to feel like a home - a place to relax and live well in’

home they wanted - one that would sit well on the block, appear unassuming from the street and that would come into its own at the back where it takes full advantage of the amazing vistas over the green & out into the hills beyond.

A place to entertain family and friends was also a priority as was ensuring that, even though it was quite large, it would retain a sense of intimacy. ‘We wanted it to feel like a home - a place to relax and live well in’, said Karen.

Asbestos delays however, gave the Cameron’s and their Newcastle architect Jon Hellowell, time to consider options and make enhancements to the bold design for their new home. It also gave them the time to really bring together their team that would sustain and nurture them throughout the entire process. ‘We feel so incredibly lucky to have had a fantastic builder in Greg Good, and an architect who really understood what we wanted.’

Instrumental to the process was interior designer Carey Passer of Carmel Designs. Carey worked closely with the Cameron’s on all aspects of the project, making sure the
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At home in Bathurst.

overall design of the spaces as well as a warm and inviting colour scheme, lighting, art works, furnishings and overall flow of style and design was a synchronous integrated process from day one. Carey would often act as the conduit between the Camerons, the architect and the builders to ensure everything came together smoothly and cohesively. ‘Carey helped bring it all together beautifully’, said Karen, ‘We felt supported and nurtured throughout the entire process.’

The unique nature of the building’s design of two long split-level pavilions joined by an incredible 40 lineal metre hallway presented some challenges.

A well chosen colour palette, lighting and a clever open freestanding display case ensure that it is a welcoming entrance. It draws you in to discover the show stopping full length windows that flood the home with northern light and reveal spectacular uninterrupted views of golfing greens and magnificent trees, capturing nature at its best.
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Orange in Central NSW was recently rated the best regional city to live in Australia. There were many reasons behind this assessment and one of them was the sense of community, lifestyle and prosperity that abound in the Orange region. The many events and attractions in and around Orange also contribute to the popularity of the place – something that available for all to enjoy. If you’ve not been to Orange as yet then here are a number of great excuses to make the trip (keep mind though that Orange is a great place to visit anytime of the year). Here are some of our favourite events that are just about to kick off the 2016 year.

Crafted LIVE: Brewed & BBQ’d takes place in Orange NSW on Saturday 5 March. A match made in heaven really….a place where craft beer, cider and meat collide in a most unique and interactive way. Add in Thirsty Merc and Rosso performing live and Crafted LIVE really is a “must do” event.

This is Australia’s first official BBQ competition with a limit of 20 teams registered. One of which is former Orange resident and full-time competition BBQ’er, Ricki Brideoake. Along with competing at Crafted LIVE, Brideoake, now living in Sapphire Beach NSW and Director of Bully BBQ, made his television debut on ‘Aussie BBQ Heroes’ for Channel 7. Crafted LIVE will feature some of the best competition BBQ’ing teams from around the country battling it out for a share of the $6,500+ prize pool.

Mix all this with a healthy dose of top shelf live music, a few hearty belly laughs, insightful master classes and a large helping of good times, and your left with an unforgettable weekend. www.craftedlive.com

Camp Quality Orange Camel Races on Easter Sunday 27 March. An ideal excursion for the family with jumping castles, face painting, merry-go-round, variety stalls, and camel rides. But the real feature is the camel races – what a spectacle! Why not make this part of a family adventure with so much else to see in the Orange region. Take a drive to the top of Mount Canobolas, the highest point in a straight line from the Blue Mountains to South Africa! Have a picnic at Lake Canobolas, explore the Borenore Caves or re-live the Gold Rush at Ophir Reserve. Further afield you must visit Taronga Western Plains Zoo or the Dish (Radio telescope) in Parkes. And why not do a lap of honour to finish at Mt Panorama in Bathurst.

Small Halls Festival: Orange returns in 2016 after a wonderful response to last year’s event with another hand-picked line up from the Woodford Folk Festival. Canadian Acadian trio Vishtén (twin sisters Emmanuelle and Pastelle Le Blanc from Prince Edward Island, and Pascale Miousse from Isle de Madeleine) are joined by Australian folk duo The Little Stevies (sisters Byll and Beth).

“We presented Vishtén at the Woodford Folk Festival a few years ago, and we know that locations on this tour are going to love them,” says Halls producer Chloe Goodyear. “They’re multi-instrumentalists and come from the French-speaking Acadian tradition in North East Canada. They’re some of the best presenters of a style of music that we don’t see a lot of in Australia and is really unique – whistles, percussion, fiddle, vocals, accordion, guitar, mandolin, jaw harp, and a really interesting and complex foot percussion.” The Small Halls Festival is on Saturday 2 April with tickets available online at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com.au

FOOD Week: Celebrating 25 years: Orange FOOD Week is one of Australia’s most popular and longest running regional food festivals. So much so that you’ll need to get your tickets now or risk missing out on some the great events on offer. President, James Sweetapple said “The bigger events sell out quickly, however some of the best events are during the week. These are the ones where food lovers can get ‘up close and personal’ with the makers, the chefs and the growers.” Offering everything from wine tasting to farm gate tours, cooking demonstrations,
WE INVITE YOU TO COME, RELAX, UNWIND AND INDULGE IN THE ORANGE REGION.

ORANGE IN AUTUMN - LOVE IT!

cabaret, music and picnics to a huge ‘Night Market’ and Forage. The 100-Mile Dinner hosted by the FOOD Week committee and the people of Molong features dishes made from local produce sourced within a 100-Miles of Orange.

The program of events for Orange FOOD Week, along with many other attractions are now easily found on the new ‘Orange NSW’ App. Found on the iTunes App store, the Orange NSW App offers a vast resource of information on Orange and the surrounding districts, including all the yearly festivals, wineries, orchards, art galleries and much more. www.foodweek.com.au

Millamolong Polo Classic: A unique country experience steeped in history but sprinkled with heart-thumping excitement. Experience two days of true country hospitality and fast-paced polo action at the Millamolong Polo Country Classic 2016.

Plus there’s plenty of opportunity to sample the region’s finest food and wine at Saturday’s ‘FOODOLO’ Long Lazy Lunch, then witness all the Polo Finals action on Sunday with the whole family. www.millamolong.com.au

Saturday 5 March
CRAFTED LIVE - Brewed & BBQ’d @Orange Showground Pavilion
www.craftedlive.com

Easter Sunday 27 March
Camp Quality Camel Races @ Towac Park | www.visitorange.com.au

Saturday 2 April
Festival of Small Halls (Woodford Folk Festival Tour)
www.festivalofsmallhalls.com

Friday 8 to Sunday 17 April
FOOD Week - celebrating 25 Years | www.orangefoodweek.com.au

Saturday 16 to Sunday 17 April
Millamolong Polo Classic | www.millamolong.com.au

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PHILIP SHAW WINES: A family owned company located in the Orange region. For more than 50 years they have perfected their winemaking techniques and currently have three generations involved in the family business. Philip Shaw is one of the most celebrated winemakers in Australia and has been recognised many times for his talent and skill. He has been awarded International Winemaker of the Year twice, together with the award for Australian Winemaker of the Year and the Graham Gregory Memorial Award for his contribution to the NSW wine industry. Philip Shaw Wines are at 100 Shiralee Rd, Orange. Ph: 02 63620710. www.philipshaw.com.au.

ANGULLONG: One of the Orange region’s experienced winegrowers. With a range of traditional and alternative varieties, this cool climate winemaker has repeatedly won acclaim with the quality of their wines.

This attention to detail and quality is built on Angullong’s strong pastoral heritage. The Crossing family purchased the property in 1950, farming sheep and cattle and, since 1998, growing grapevines.

The high elevation of the Orange region allows for long cool ripening of the grapes that instils lovely natural acidity which in turn supports the elegant fruit flavours.

The vineyards are situated on the fertile southern lower slopes of Orange at the foothills of the ancient volcano, Mount Canobolas.

The new season brings with it the release of new vintage wines. Each wine embodies a particular vintage. 2015 in Orange, for example, was warm and dry with good soil moisture ensuring that this vintage will go down as one of the decade’s best.

The Angullong Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris and Verdelho captured this idyllic season beautifully; crisp, refreshing and bursting with varietal flavours.

The Angullong cellar door is located in the small village of Millthorpe, in the beautiful blue stone stables on the corner of Park and Victoria streets. Open Friday through to Monday from 11am to 5pm, with further information on the wines and the vineyard available at the website angullong.com.au.

GOLDFIELDS CAMP: Visitors to Orange now have executive style with very affordable accommodation in Goldfields Camp at Lucknow. Three spacious and beautifully appointed cabin style rooms are available for long and short term stays.

The décor and appointments are delightful presenting guests with relaxed and comfortable accommodation. Rooms feature air-conditioning, modern TV, a kitchenette complete with microwave and utensils and complimentary breakfast basket of fruit and cereals to enjoy. Located directly behind the Goldfields Tavern on the highway at Lucknow. For bookings call Gai at Orange Travel on (02) 6362 1744.
The Cole House Apartments/Villa are in Orange and comprise 1 four bedroom (sleeps 8), 2 three bedroom (sleeps 6) and 2 two bedroom ‘family’ apartments, opposite Golf Course with off-street parking and located close to town. An additional standalone 3 bedroom + sunroom Villa has recently been added. All accommodation is spacious, tastefully appointed and as comfortable as a fine home. Reverse cycle air conditioning and fully equipped kitchens, Flatscreen TV, Foxtel, Free WiFi and many extras.

Contact:
Gai at Orange Travel 6362 1744, Sharon 0428 538 752

Visit our Cellar Door in historic Millthorpe for wine tasting and sales.

Friday to Monday, 11am-5pm

Cellar Door: Open 7 days 11am-5pm
info@philipshaw.com.au
www.philipshaw.com.au
Ph: 02 6362 0710

GOLDFIELDS Camp
Spacious Executive Accommodation
- Accommodation that can sleep up to 4 people in each room.
- Long or Short term stays with reasonable rates
- Kitchen, Reverse Cycle A/C, Plasma TV
- Complimentary Breakfast Basket

Directly behind Goldfields Tavern at Lucknow where meals and bar is available 7 days a week.

Cellar Door: Open 7 days 11am-5pm
info@philipshaw.com.au
www.philipshaw.com.au
Ph: 02 6362 0710

COLE HOUSE Serviced Apartments and Villa
36 Forbes Road, ORANGE NSW 2800
Telephone: 02 6360 2344
enquiries@colehouse.com.au
www.colehouse.com.au

The Cole House Apartments/Villa are in Orange and comprise 1 four bedroom (sleeps 8), 2 three bedroom (sleeps 6) and 2 two Bedroom (sleep 4/5) ‘family’ apartments, opposite Golf Course with off-street parking and located close to town. An additional standalone 3 Bedroom + sunroom Villa has recently been added. All accommodation is spacious, tastefully appointed and as comfortable as a fine home. Reverse cycle air conditioning and fully equipped kitchens, Flatscreen TV, Foxtel, Free WiFi and many extras.

TRIPLE GOLD MEDALIST 2013 Angullong Shiraz

Visit our Cellar Door in historic Millthorpe for wine tasting and sales.

Friday to Monday, 11am-5pm

Cnr Park & Victoria Streets, Millthorpe
www.angullong.com.au

Mix all this with a healthy dose of top shelf live music
FEATURE

2 FAT LADIES: Located just minutes from Orange, 2 Fat Ladies in Lucknow, is an iconic store offering a welcome blend of fashion, accessories and gifts.

Owner, Helen, set up the store nearly eight years ago, and the business has gone from strength to strength, with people coming from far and wide to shop. You'll find a great range of practical and stylish fashion in petite sizes up to size 24, the latest in hats, scarves, handbags, travel cases, stylish comfortable footwear, as well as giftware. 2 fat Ladies runs regular workshops on topics such as how to travel light, and pack only carry-on luggage to a Scarf and Scone workshop, where you learn how to tie scarves in different ways. Helen is big on supporting Australianmade brands, which reflects the ethos of her store. Helen has built a reputation for fostering a strong work-life balance, and sourcing unique and unusual designs for her customers. She wants you to leave her store knowing that you have bought the right product for you. Twice a year, Helen puts on a large scale fashion parade over two days to showcase new fashion ranges and new labels. The first of this year’s fashion extravaganza will be held on Saturday and Sunday 19-20 March at 130pm, bookings essential. 2 fat Ladies is a world of colour, beautiful clothing and accessories where everyone feels welcome and returns time and time again. Visit them on the Mitchell Highway, Lucknow. It’s fabulous!

2 Fat Ladies has Autumn

One stop Shop – For all the family Café, Molly’s Lollies, and a truly wonderful Fashion Vigorella, Nouvelle Woman, RTM. Ameise, Woolerina plus many many more

Open 7 days a week
Mitchell Hwy Lucknow

P 6365 5437
E sales@2fatladies.com.au
W 2fatladies.com.au
There are many advantages to preplanning one’s funeral. It’s a simple procedure that doesn’t take much time but ensures peace of mind, and relieves the individual’s loved ones of a decision-making process at a stressful time. Norman J. Penhall Funerals is one of the Central West’s longest establish business in this field and they allows the individual to make specific choices for his or her own funeral service based on personal preferences.

“It’s all about providing a service to meet the needs of clients,” says part owner Deidre Penhall. Along with her husband, Norman, they have been involved in the funeral business since 1962. “We care for families not because it is our business but because it is what our business is all about,” she says.

“These day clients are very specific about what they want - from the music that is played to the type of service they want.”

Norman J. Penhall Funerals specialise in pre-paid and pre-arranged funerals. Preplanning often involves the pre-payment of funeral and burial expenses in advance, which virtually eliminates the surviving family’s need to deal with monetary considerations when a death occurs.

The first step in preplanning is for the individual to contact Norman J. Penhall Funerals. A meeting with the funeral director should then be scheduled to explore products and services options. Once details of the funeral have been determined, the funeral director will prepare a agreement and fully itemised statement, copies of which will be given to the consumer. When preplanning a funeral, it is advisable to encourage family participation and involvement, as the decisions made and options selected will undoubtedly affect survivors. Family members should be told about one’s funeral plans and where the relevant documents are stored.

The beauty of such a plan mean that all the details are taken care before hand and family members can then use this time for other things which need attention.

For further details call Norman J. Penhall Funerals on 6361 7777.
A family run business, Willowdene Homes have been custom building homes in Orange for eight years.

WILLOWDENE HOMES: Whether it’s a new Dream home or an investment property you wish to purchase in Orange – Willowdene Homes has quality new architecturally designed homes being completed all year round.

Owner Gary Stevenson is an esteemed builder who has over 25 years experience in the building industry.

Willowdene Homes have been custom building homes in Orange for eight years and Gary’s experience and local knowledge means he understands what home owners and investors are looking for.

The high standard of quality finishes are the base for a good family home. Willowdene Homes incorporate, stone bench tops in kitchens, bathrooms/ensuites and laundry’s stainless steel platinum appliances in kitchens and Sand Stock Bricks.

Quality heating and cooling systems are a definite must when living in Orange.

Gary and his family are locals to Orange and know how much Orange NSW has to offer to new families moving to the area or those that wish to upgrade their home, or invest in the area.

If you would like to find out what Willowdene Homes has to offer give Gary a call on 0418 618 708.

Also you can email them on newhomes@willowdene.biz or visit their website at willowdenehomes.com.au
KENT'S H HARDWARE: It's little wonder why independent hardware stores are still popular with the general public.

Unlike a large chain based hardware store, most tradies use independents because they stock tools and products that professionals use. None represents this philosophy better than Kent's H Hardware in Orange.

A family owned business which has been in existence for almost 30 years, they stock only the best products such as Taubmans Paint, Makita tools, Haymes Paint, Caroma etc.

Established by Dave and Joan Kent, the store employs some 19 staff all of which are highly trained. The outlet is also often staffed by their three children - Sasha, Marissa and Brendan.

Dave's son Brendan is a qualified builder and knows better than anyone which products and tools to use to get the job done right. “What sets us apart from the rest is the products we stock,” Dave said.

“For example a tradie can come in and buy some Rockcote as where if they went to another store they would have to order that product in.”

And unlike other hardware stores they have an excellent display area which features some of the latest bathroom products for the home renovator. Whether you need outdoor power equipment, plumbing supplies, paint stores or help with a D.I.Y. project, their hardware store has you covered.

The family owned home repair store is dedicated to making sure they build lasting relationships with their customers so they return time and time again for any future need. Along with friendly customer service, their staff has the real world experience that Bunnings and Masters sometimes lack.

One of the reasons their prices are so competitive is that Dave, along with a number of other independent hardware stores, have set up the HBT buying group. Started in 1997 with 13 member stores, they have grown quickly and operate over 570 retail stores located throughout all the States and Territories. Kent’s H Hardware is located at 151 Dalton Street, Orange, Phone them on 6362 7011.

LOCALLY OWNED FAMILY RUN

Servicing Orange For 27 Years
We stock a wide range of products including building supplies and materials, Electrical Builders Hardware, Power Tools, Paint & Accessories, Bathroom Fixtures, Plumbing.

We stock trusted brands: Makita, Taubmans Paint, Hume Doors & Timber, Stanley Black & Decker, Haymes Paint, Cement Australia, ITI, Caroma, CSR Bradford, Westinghouse, Stramit

151 Dalton Street Orange NSW 2800
Phone: 02 6362 7011
Fax: 02 6362 6698
www.hhardwareorange.com.au
THOMSON’S GARDEN CENTRE: has provided a spectacular range of nursery supplies to the Central West for over 30 years. Throughout this time the business has gained a reputation for delivering the best quality products at the lowest price with every gardening product you can imagine whilst ordering direct from the suppliers to save you money.

Situated on over an acre of land, Thomsons nursery stocks over 10000 pots, plants and gardening supplies making it the largest in the region and the perfect place to enhance the look and longevity of your garden.

Our exceptional range of Greenlife includes trees, roses, shrubs, hedges and much more whereas our range of pots includes all shapes and sizes, including water features, large to small pots and planters, not to mention our spectacular range of garden art, gardening accessories, seeds, mulch, fertilisers and our sensational gift shop.

Thomson’s Nursery also employs friendly industry leading professionals in horticulture that can provide you with specialised tailored advice that allows your plants to thrive and your garden to look amazing. Our professionals know what plants will thrive in your garden and can answer any question you may have whilst saving you money and guaranteeing customer satisfaction.

So if you are after a Garden Centre with staff that know your name, hold expert gardening knowledge, provide the lowest prices and stock an unbeatable range either drop into Thomsons Garden Centre, visit www.thomsonsgardencentre.com.au or call 02 6362 3191 today.
TATE'S PLUMBING PLUS: A local family owned business that's been helping tradies and householders for almost twenty years. With the largest showroom in the Central West, they have a large display of Bathroom Products, Tapware, Vanities, Sinks, Bath Accessories; everything you need on hand. Tate's Plumbing Plus stocks Caroma, Decina, Ram, Methven, Rinnai, Clark, Dorf, Oliveri, Electrolux, Smeg, Rheem, Vulcan, Dux, Brivis, Puretec and many more. As a member of the Plumbing Plus Buying Group, Tate's Plumbing Plus is able to offer customers great competitive prices on products and being a family business the staff take pride in providing exceptional after market service and support which is often missing from the big corporate stores. The team at Tate's Plumbing Plus will go the 'extra mile' to ensure that you feel taken care of and that nothing is too much trouble. They are a designated AGL energy shop and Rinnai premium dealer with an impressive display of working gas heaters and air-conditioners, making this month the perfect time to pop in and talk to Katrina, Maree, Adrian and Glen, about your home heating or bathroom renovations and receive that special customer service Tate’s Plumbing Plus is renown for. Plenty of parking available outside. 225 Peisley St, Orange. PH: 02 6361 7500 or email: sales@tatesplumbingplus.com.au

THE FORCE IN PLUMBING SUPPLIES
n just a few years, home improvement have undergone somewhat of a shift in the way people think about colours and styles. Kitchens, bathrooms or dining rooms that were once just white are now filled with colour.

If you take a look at the latest trends in the renovation market, there is no escaping the fact that there is now a definitive steer towards traditional styling. Many of you are now opting for a more nostalgic theme throughout the home when it comes to deciding on a new interior scheme. This doesn’t mean to say that modern minimalism is now old-hat, but heritage has its appeal.

While contemporary design can make a great impression if used in the right setting, it can often lack in comfort and personality. With this, there is no doubting that traditional styling is on trend once again and there is no better place to embrace it than within the home. Not only is a heritage look being applied to living areas through replacing existing tiles, soft furnishings and accessories, but major projects that require a significant investment including the kitchen and bathroom are also following suit. To this end Blue Mountains Life magazine has put together some of our favourite suppliers who can help you navigate through your home improvement project.

**BATHURST HERITAGE KITCHENS**

A family owned business operating in Bathurst since 1984 whose reputation is built on attention to detail. Owned by Peter Eldridge, they specialise in building and installing individually designed and custom built kitchens, laundries and vanities. Peter said that over four years ago the business expanded to include bathroom renovations which has proved to be very successful for them.

The team can re-design and renovate your existing kitchen, bathroom or laundry to suit any style you require. Their kitchen, bathroom and laundry designs range from the ultra modern to the thoroughly traditional. A wide range of features and colours are available to allow you to style your kitchen, bathroom or laundry to suit your own personal taste. Their service covers Bathurst, Lithgow, Oberon, Mudgee, Orange and Upper Blue Mountains area. Visit the showroom which is on two levels and speak to their staff who can show you the options that are available. Or, if you are looking for a renovation of your existing kitchen or bathroom, they can come to your home and design an area that will suit your needs.

Bathurst Heritage Kitchens offers a range of services including organising reliable, qualified tradespeople such as electricians, plumbers, gyprockers, painters and tilers, so that your renovation project can proceed with a minimum of worry for you. All work undertaken is done by fully licensed tradespeople. Bathurst Heritage Kitchens, 6 Kirkcaldy St, Bathurst. Phone 6332 1866. See their website on www.bathurstkitchens.com.au
BATHURST HERITAGE KITCHENS

Kitchen & Bathroom Renovation Specialists

Our reputation is built on Attention to Detail

6 Kirkcaldy Street Bathurst NSW 2795
Phone: (02) 6332 1866
Fax: (02) 6332 1066
Email: bhkitchens@optusnet.com.au
www.bathurstkitchens.com.au
BEAUMONT TILES
When it comes to tiles, there are so many options to choose from. Trending now are tiles that emulate the look and feel of natural surfaces like marble, concrete, timber and stone.

But with limitless design possibilities – it can be hard to make a choice. The Scan&Play visualiser available at Beaumont Tiles, was designed to make this process much easier for customers.

David Browning, Store Manager at Beaumont Tiles in Bathurst says that selecting tiles is one of the major interior design decisions for a new home, and furniture and decor are then chosen to suit.

“Scan and Play is a fantastic tool to enable customers to see what their chosen tiles look like in a finished room, giving them confidence in decisions when creating a dream space.”

Within the program, customers are also able to select tiles as well as their choice of colour ways for laminates and bench tops. It is available in-store as well as on the Beaumont Tiles website at www.tile.com.au
For Superior Knowledge, Service and Value make Merilux Penrith your first choice for all your Painting and Wallpaper needs.

Free in-store colour and design advise now available on Thursdays & Fridays from 10am and Saturdays from 8am with Colour Consultant Anna Barducci.

We specialise in Wood Care, Paving, Floor Paint, Pool Paint and now rendering.

For some, choosing a paint colour can be a very overwhelming and daunting experience. But by following a few rules, it can make all the difference in making the right choice. Most of us walk into a paint store, stand in front of the huge colour board and wonder where to begin.

The first step is to grab a few favourite colour cards and take them home to see if you like any of them in your room and with your lighting. Colour can vary in any home. Lighting and other colours in the room can really throw off what you have picked and it can also darken up to 2 shades inside!

The next step is to grab some sample pots. Try and limit yourself to a maximum of 3 colours. In my experience, I have noticed, that it’s at this stage that people are trying to decide between very similar colours. It’s more about the strength than the colour and it’s here that you can become very confused, especially if like many, you are tempted to paint a patchwork of colours on the wall all close to one another.

My suggestion is to paint your samples on to large pieces of white cardboard with 2 coats. This is so you get the true colour and are not thrown by the original wall colour. Then take the cardboard around to different parts of the room to see if you like it in different areas.

My last tip is to NOT put all your samples close together like a patchwork, as mentioned above. When you are trying to decide between very similar colours, placing them together can confuse the eye, so put them a good distance apart and stand back to look at them individually.

Following these few simple rules can make it a less stressful experience.

If after all this you are still feeling overwhelmed, come in for a chat in-store on Thursdays, Friday’s and Saturdays.

ANNA BARDUCCI, COLOUR CONSULTANT, MERILUX PENRITH.
THE NATURAL CHOICE
Quality, enthusiasm and outstanding customer service. These are the fundamental building blocks upon which Lithgow Furniture & Bedding have built, and continue to build their business. Proprietors Wendy and Don Pearce and their dedicated team are always hard at work to ensure you find what you are looking for when you head through their door.

Throughout their years of operation in the Lithgow area, they have developed a strong knowledge of the local market and are always evolving their business to meet the needs of their customers.

Lithgow Furniture & Bedding is a must-stop shop for all those looking for furniture, both in and outdoor and bedding at a great price, and is a proud member of the Unified Homemaker group of independent furniture stores giving them greater buying power and handing on the benefits to shoppers.

If you are in the market for a new mattress, Lithgow Furniture & Bedding is the natural choice, with an impressive range of new mattresses on display including best selling Australian made brand A.H. Beard, with their store being awarded top sales in their group for the last 5 years running. Not only are their prices competitive, Lithgow Furniture & Bedding are pleased to offer a lay-by service on their items, as well as providing a delivery service for customers. With these services and more at your disposal, Lithgow Furniture & Bedding are here to make your shopping experience as convenient and enjoyable as possible.

Head in store today to browse the wide range on offer, or give the friendly team a call on 02 6352 2000 to find out more.

VALENTINES DAY
If you want to make a great impression visit Quicksew in Bathurst for an outstanding range of Giftware and Home Decorator Items. For the perfect gift or the perfect way to treat yourself they have designer giftware for all occasions:
• Woodwick Candles and melts, Peppermint Grove candles & diffusers all designed to be a treat for the senses and an ideal gift for that someone special.
• Why not view their range of home decorator items including lamps, mirrors and designer furniture - we have something to enhance any room.
• Add a touch of colour with their range of ready-to hang Artworks, including canvas prints and framed artwork ranging from photography to paintings and poster art.
• Blinds, Curtains and Fabrics - their display room is packed with the very latest in styles and patterns from the best suppliers, ready for you to choose.
• Interior Design - Their staff can assist you with fabrics, decoration, colour combinations and styles to ensure your home has a unique and individual look.
• Showroom - Their huge, purpose-built showroom features products and room displays setout with an extensive range and friendly staff ready to help.

Quicksew are at 16 Bradwardine Road, Bathurst (past the RTA) or call them on 1800 065 068.
SPECTRUM WINDOW FASHIONS

A variety of energy efficient window covering solutions are now available from Spectrum Window Fashions who sell the entire range of Luxaflex Window Fashions, ensuring the right interior design fit for your home.

Finding the right solution can drastically cut your energy consumption in both summer and winter, helping to minimise the extreme weather conditions often experienced in the local area.

Luxaflex Duette Shades is one of the most energy efficient ranges on the market, featuring a unique honeycomb structure, creating cells which trap air and act as insulation for your windows.

Exclusive to Luxaflex is the revolutionary Duette Architella Ménage Shades which elevates the insulation property of the window by way of the cell-within-a-cell-within-a-cell design.

The shades have the ability to reduce the heat transfer through a window by up to 83 per cent and the average home’s heating and cooling costs by up to 49 per cent.

For an external solution, Luxaflex Evo Awnings can help save up to 60% off cooling costs in a typical year. Luxaflex Evo Awnings are designed and engineered in Australia to suit local weather conditions and housing styles.

Available in five style choices, Evo STC, Evo Channel, Evo Cable, Evo Drop and Evo Pivot, they come with multiple options to stylishly shade your home.

The Luxaflex New Year Sale is now on at Spectrum Window Fashions. Visit the team to enjoy 20 per cent savings off the total cost of a range of interior and exterior window coverings, including Duette Shades, Roller Blinds, Polyresin Shutters, Evo Awnings and more.

Visit your local experts at Spectrum Window Fashions at 153a Havannah Street, Bathurst, or give them a call on 6331 8811 to discuss your window covering needs today.

**LUXAFLEX® DUETTE® SHADES. SMARTER DESIGN BEGINS WITH US.**

Our exclusive Luxaflex Duette Shades range is proof that smart design and innovation can benefit you and your home. Featuring air pockets which trap the air, resulting in superior energy efficiency through the increased ability to insulate your home in summer and winter. With a large range of operating systems and design styles, there is a solution for doors, windows and skylights. Choose the cordless LiteRise Operating System or PowerRise motorised control for enhanced child safety. Visit our Luxaflex Gallery to see the Luxaflex Designer series exclusive DUETTE® ARCHITELLA® Ménage Shades and discover for yourself why smarter design begins with us!

153A Havannah Street
BATHURST
PH: 6331 8811
FEATURE

GREAT CHOICE
The friendly staff at Choices Flooring in Bathurst understand the significant investment of time and money which goes into creating your new home or renovation. They can offer you many years of experience in the coordination of your interior decor having operated in Bathurst and the surrounding region for over 25 years.

Everything starts from the floor up! Whether it is a luxury vinyl, floating timber, bamboo or laminate floor or beautiful comfortable carpet, they will help you to make the best decisions for your particular circumstances.

So, call in with your paint samples, fabric swatches and decor ideas and get started on your flooring selections at Choices by Brights, 61 George St Bathurst (next to Dan Murphys bottle shop).

SMART SOLUTION
At Insulate Double Glazing it is their mission to make uPVC Double Glazed Windows the windows of choice for architects, designers, builders and homeowners across Australia.

It amazes most that the most thermally inefficient aluminium single glazed windows are still being used to glaze the houses in Australia, North America, Europe and the UK had moved away from using these years ago and the market leader for the last 30 years has been uPVC framed double glazing.

Insulate Double Glazing quickly realised that there was a need to bring uPVC double glazed windows and doors to Bathurst and the Central West and let people know there is a far better option out there.

Located in Bathurst, Insulate Double Glazing was formed in April 2013 to supply Australian made thermally efficient uPVC Double Glazed windows and doors to builders and homeowners of the Central West, NSW.

At Choices Flooring we know that good interior decorating starts from the floor up.

Choices Flooring by Brights
61 George Street, Bathurst
(next to Dan Murphy’s)
6331 4866
choicesflooring.com.au

Smart Solution
At Insulate Double Glazing it is their mission to make uPVC Double Glazed Windows the windows of choice for architects, designers, builders and homeowners across Australia.

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The use of fruitwood and iron is a perfect union in this honest ‘Workman’ sideboard and these two stellar handmade stallion heads. Available at Naturally Timber has 2 showrooms and are open 7 days. Call 1300 558481 or visit www.naturallytimber.com.au.

Workman 3 door Sideboard 1860mmW x 450mmD x 915mmH $1999; Stallion Head Large 80cm high $849; Stallion Head X Large 90cm high $949

Stay safe and warm this winter with our modern, energy efficient double glazed windows. Plan ahead and receive your free quote now.

Experience a new way of living with double glazing.

We can also retrofit your existing windows with Magnetite glazing.

Talk to us now:
New showroom open at 82-86 George Street, Bathurst
Call 0413 924 553
sales@insulatedoubleglazing.com.au
www.insulatedoubleglazing.com.au
They offer a wide range of flooring - in various colours, textures and shapes.

**Tiles for all occasions**

Owner Paul Wetstyn and his wife and business partner, Maxine purchased the Tile Power Penrith business eighteen months ago, continuing the tradition of a local Tile Power business that’s been established for 20 years. It’s proved to be a good fit with their successful bathroom renovations business and a valuable use of Maxine’s skills as a qualified interior designer. Tile Power Penrith offers the very latest in indoor and outdoor tiles for the home, garden or patio area. As well as offering a wide range of floor and wall tiles in various colours, textures and shapes, Paul and Maxine are specialist suppliers of Rendition Tiles, which can add a heritage style beauty and elegance to any home. Paul and Maxine, together with sales consultant, Cindy, pride themselves on offering customers superior service and attention to detail.

Since opening the Tile Power showroom the business has grown from strength to strength and services a wide area including the Blue Mountains region. The team at Tile Power Penrith are happy to talk with you about your renovation or make over plans and their expert advice could make all the difference in choosing the right tiles for your inside and outdoor living space. Visit the showroom at 135 Coreen Avenue, Penrith, or call 02 4722 2550.
Winter BLUES

WITH WINTER ON ITS WAY IT’S TIME TO LOOK AT THE MANY OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO HOMEOWNERS.

e spoilt for choice this winter with the impressive range of fireplace designs from three of the regions leading businesses.

Whether your home is a country mansion or period cottage, look no further than Hawkesbury Heating, Sydney Home Energy Solutions and the Penrith Mower Center to create a stunning focal point for your room.

Offering only the highest quality products each of the businesses features leading manufacturers from overseas and Australia.

WARM UP THIS WINTER
Homeowners can enjoy the modern or traditional, well-loved fireplaces in various fuel types. But the two which are best for the Blue Mountains are gas and wood-burning fireplaces.

In response to the increasing demand for gas and wood heaters, Sydney Home Energy has teamed up with a number of leading fireplace manufacturers to provide red-hot heaters and a comprehensive range of fireplaces for every taste.

Their eye-catching range appeals to a wide range of homeowners. With their clean geometric designs and subtle curving form, they have a range of stylish and modern-traditional heaters that will create an inviting atmosphere whatever the time of year.

Located in Penrith, this local business caters for all your gas/wood needs with 25 years of experience. Their store features 22 gas and 7 wood fireplaces on show.

“Our wood fireplaces are 80 per cent efficient while our gas fireplaces have an efficiency of 92 per cent,” said store owner Masood Khan.

The store stocks three of the country’s best brands in Archer, Real Flame and Euro Fireplace.

Archer: Undoubtedly the World’s Most Efficient Gas Log Fire. All the generated heat is channelled through the heater in your room, with minimal heat loss. Versatility is key; it can be flued horizontally, vertically, diagonally, under floor or within the wall cavities through its unique 45-65mm PVC flue. With its 5.4 to 5.9 energy star rating is today the world leader in modern day gas heating technology with heating capacities from 180 sqm to 250 sqm. Its elegant, and beautiful styling and the natural look of a log fire will complement any home décor. This is the most superior product in the market today, with installed humidifier as standard. With its programmable remote, life has never been so easy before. Available in free standing or as inbuilt models, in logs, beach log sets and crystals options.

Real Flame: The Hearth of Australia. When it’s all about style and sophistication, where function fuses with flair, a truly cutting edge design to provide timeless elegance for any style of home. With the ability to add glass to one, two, three or four sides, allowing designer total flexibility. Realflame offers Classical, Modern and Most panoramic fires with a range of stylish finishes and full width, with glass (up to 1600mm) or without glass (up to 3300mm),...
viewing area to maximise the brilliant flame pattern’s impact. A stunning centrepiece for your room, as a decorative gas fire or as a proper gas heater. The “Landscape” fires look great and impresses with its high energy efficiency star rating, with remote as standard. You can flue any fire vertically or horizontally with their specialised flueing systems. Realflame delivers both a practical and stunning heating solution for any home, a must to view and experience.

**Euro Fireplace:** They are invigorating the world of Australian wood-heating with an extensive range of stylish, modern, ultra-low emissions and efficient freestanding and inbuilt wood heaters. The fireplaces are built on the long European tradition of sustainable heating with wood. They are highly efficient, environmentally friendly and do not require electric fans to produce and distribute the heat. Their fireplaces heat your home through radiant heat and the process of natural convection. These methods of heating combined with heat bank technology ensures that you harvest every bit of energy from the wood you burn, with efficiency of up to 80 per cent.

Sydney Home Energy Solutions also have a qualified builder who can provide expert advice on current homes or properties that have yet to be built.

Masood says people should bring in their plans and they can provide advice on where and which type of fireplace to use.

“The installation of a fireplace only takes half a day and our qualified installers will make sure the job is done right,” he says.

“As homeowners think about home heating options for their home this winter we will take a number of factors into consideration: fireplace aesthetics, efficient home heating, product quality and a worry-free warranty.

“Our range offers these solutions and more. From traditional and contemporary wood fireplaces, gas fireplaces and inserts for existing fireplaces.”

Sydney Home Energy Solutions are at Unit 13, 2187 Castlereagh Road, Penrith. Phone: 4721 4405. Web: heatingncooling.com.au
LATEST RANGE
The Mower and Heating Center Penrith specialise in Regency Fireplaces. Some of the toughest and best built fireplaces they are design to warm houses in the Blue Mountains. Some of their range include the Narrabri, Cardinia, Hume and the Gosford. They use only the finest materials in our manufacturing facilities, taking pride in building a reliable, quality product. Their state of the art facility spans over 240,000 square feet and is constantly being upgraded with the latest tools of the trade. Their commitment to quality is practiced at every step of the process, including a final inspection before anything is approved for shipment. So confident is Regency in the quality workmanship, the finest materials, and durable heavy-duty construction invested in each and every product, that they offer a Limited Lifetime Warranty. Of particular note is Regency’s Hume collection. Being the largest member of the Regency wood fire family, the Hume will provide a dramatic wide glass view of an incredible fire while warming larger living areas. The firebox is specially designed to maximise heat output and is fitted with a 3-speed fan for extra circulation. The resulting heating capacity is an area of approximately 300 sq.m. To view range visit The Mower and Heating Center Penrith at 87 York Rd, South Penrith ‘Jamisontown’. Phone: 4720 5800.

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**KEEPING WARM**

Clean, unadorned interiors are at the heart of contemporary design. Creating smooth lines, with a less is more attitude, has defined the mind set of the 21st century designer.

This changing mind set had come much to the dismay of lovers of the classic fireplace. Bulky looking and without much design flexibility, the classic fireplace did not fit the vision for these designers.

Fortunately along with contemporary design ideals have come contemporary gas fireplaces. These fireplaces provide sleek, slimline design with large glass viewing areas, convenient, easy operation, and a wide range of options to match any interior.

Central to this evolution in fireplaces is the “clean face” design. These innovative new fireplaces are designed so non-combustible wall sheeting, or other non-combustibles such as tiles, can be finished straight to the edge of the glass frame. Unlike other fireplaces, no frills or vents are seen, meaning the glass frame containing log and fire blends seamlessly into its surroundings. The design still allows convection heat to exit the fireplace, so heating ability is not affected.

This clean design perfectly complements the most in-demand heating trend going around, the linear gas fireplace. With wide landscape viewing area and smooth lines these fireplaces provide a unique centrepiece to any room without taking away from the original design and décor.

Leaders in the distribution of the finest fireplaces, Lopi Fireplaces offer a range of linear and traditional direct vent gas fireplaces to the Australian market.

These fireplaces provide the beauty of fire with a large viewing area, adding to the aesthetics of a room without the distraction of grills or vents.

The Lopi range of linear fireplaces is available in sizes from 950mm wide, for smaller rooms or walls, through to a massive 1550mm, for a fireplace that is guaranteed to make a statement, with the entire linear range providing the sought after clean style.

The entire range of Lopi gas fireplaces features GreenSmart 2 technology, which includes comfort control, accent lighting, invisible safety screens and smart thermostat remote controls as standard.

The clean minimalist lines of Lopi gas fireplaces are the ideal addition to any contemporary living area, with a sleekness and style to complement even the most modern of design.

Lopi Fireplaces are on display at Hawkesbury Heating in North Richmond. Visit Hawkesbury Heating at www.hawkesburyheating.com.au or phone them on 4571 2295 them today.
Reset Your SENSES

IF YOU NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF CITY LIFE THEN A STAY IN MUDGEE COULD BE THE PERFECT PLACE.

Swirl and sip your way across over 40 family-owned cellar doors, a distillery and brewery. Eat and treat yourself to our local produce. Potter around the regions boutique and chic shopping precinct and find hidden gems exploring this country’s heritage.

If you’ve been here already, you’ll know the culinary passion runs deep, with Mudgee now a household name among foodies across Australia.

And for those of you, who are yet to visit, allow us to set the scene.

Mudgee has a rich pastoral history that is reflected in its heritage streetscapes which are wide and tree-lined, just as you would imagine a refined country town to look like.

From the fertile farmland surrounds comes great local produce available at cafes and restaurants in town, farm gate tours, cellar doors and epicurean outlets.

With a continuous history of winemaking since the 1850s, Mudgee is the third largest grape-producing region in NSW. It’s from this rich source that our chefs and winemakers draw inspiration, certain to delight your palate.

Many ‘tree changers’ now call Mudgee home, taking a slice of their city life and gently connecting it with the authenticity of the country.

What this means to you, our guest, is that you have an abundance of sophisticated yet earthy experiences to indulge in.

With a range of breath taking natural attractions, delectable wine and scrumptious local produce (designed to impress the fussiest of foodies), events to excite, an impressive boutique and chic shopping precinct, lush golf course and picturesque streetscapes, it’s time you jumped in the car or hopped on a train or a plane to visit Mudgee.

You won’t be disappointed.

And let’s face it, one visit just isn’t enough.

You’ll be sure to impress your mates at your next dinner party when you expertly pair Mudgee produce with Mudgee wine, so you may just find yourself returning to restock sooner than you think.

MATERIAL WORLD

Material World makes shopping for curtains, blinds and shutters a breeze.

For over 25 years they have been helping to beautify homes in Mudgee, offering friendly service with helpful information about the latest trends in colour, textures and design.

Material World Mudgee is the only Luxaflex Dealer in the area.

Clients are invited to visit the showroom in the Mortimer Centre and view the range operating blinds so they can appreciate the quality and innovative products in the Luxaflex range.

Exciting products such as Luxaflex Internal and External Sunscreens and Luxaflex Duette Shades that are proving extremely popular among homes owners because of their high energy efficiency as well as aesthetics and glare reducing benefits.

The staff will be pleased to assist customers with their choices and our professional team can advise on what is suitable for your windows.

Each curtain, blind and awning is custom measured and installed by our team of experienced in-home technicians who take pride in a job well done.

We invite you to drop in to discuss your next home decorating project. Whether it’s a small project or a whole house full, our team is on hand to help.
Have you ever noticed — HOW THE MOST — BEAUTIFUL THINGS can be hiding in THE MOST UNLIKELY OF PLACES?

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Spice It Up

It doesn’t take much to add a bit of spice to your favourite meals.
CHESTNUT & PORK NOODLES

300g fresh chestnuts
1/4 cup light soy sauce
1 tblsp brown sugar
Zest & juice of 1 lime
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 long red chilli, finely sliced
1 tblsp fresh ginger, grated
400g minced pork
400g thin egg noodles
4 spring onions, chopped
1 bunch bok choy, quartered
125g bean shoots
1 tblsp vegetable oil
Vegetable oil, for shallow frying

1. Remove the outer shell (don’t worry about the inner skin it can be left on). Place the semi-peeled nuts in a medium saucepan. Fill with enough water to cover the chestnuts, and boil for 15 minutes. Drain. Finely slice ⅔ of the chestnuts, chop the remaining ⅓ into matchsticks and set aside (refer to photo overleaf).

2. Place soy sauce, brown sugar, lime zest and juice, garlic, chilli and ginger in a medium bowl and stir to combine. Add pork mince along with the sliced chestnuts and stir. Set aside for 10 minutes to infuse.

3. To make the crispy chestnut garnish, fill a small saucepan with approximately 5cm of vegetable oil. Place on high heat. When a piece of bread dropped into the oil sizzles, the oil is ready. Carefully place the chestnut matchsticks into the oil and gently move them around the pan until golden brown. Remove from oil and drain on paper towel.

4. Prepare noodles according to packet instructions (they need to be cooked until almost soft) and set aside.

5. Heat ½ tbs of the oil in the wok. Strain the pork mince mixture, reserving the marinade in a small bowl for later. Transfer marinated pork to hot wok. Cook pork for about 5 minutes, until golden in colour but not fully cooked. Remove pork from wok, and drain any excess marinade or juices into the bowl of marinade.

6. Heat remaining oil in the wok, add spring onions and bok choy and toss for 1 min. Add reserved marinade to wok and bring to the boil for 1 min. Add noodles and return pork mixture to pan. Cook for a further couple of minutes until cooked through. Stir through most of the bean shoots and coriander.

7. Place into serving bowls, top with remaining bean shoots, coriander, and crispy chestnuts.

CHESTNUT, PEAR & ORANGE POWERBALLS

500g fresh chestnuts
100g dried pear, roughly chopped
1 tblsp honey
2 tblsp vegetable oil
Juice of 1 orange
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp sea salt
1 tblsp white sesame seeds
Additional black and white sesame seeds to coat

1. Place chestnuts in a medium saucepan with about 1 litre of water, so the chestnuts are fully submerged. Bring to the boil, and boil for 30 minutes or until tender, topping up water if required. Drain and cool in cold water. When cool enough to handle, cut in half and scoop flesh out (refer to photo overleaf).

2. Place chestnuts in a mortar and pestle or food processor, and grind until smooth.

3. Add the honey, vegetable oil, orange juice, pear, cinnamon and 1tbs of the white sesame seeds. Process or ground until well combined.

4. Roll tablespoons of the mixture into balls, and coat with the additional black and white sesame seeds.
MCCORMICK FLAVOUR SHOTS PAD THAI

4 serves

1 x McCormick Pad Thai Flavour Shot
250g chicken fillets, sliced
1 egg, lightly beaten
375g pkt flat rice noodles (cooked for 5-6 minutes in boiling water and drained)
1 tbsp kecap manis (sweet soy sauce)
1 tbsp fish sauce
250g bean sprouts
6 spring onions, finely sliced

Stir contents of Flavour Shot, then spoon into a large pre-heated wok with the chicken. Stir to coat and cook on medium heat for 8 minutes, or until cooked through. Add the egg and stir through the chicken. Add the noodles, kecap manis and fish sauce, gently stir through and cook for 7 minutes on high heat. Add the bean sprouts and spring onions and stir through.

Hints & Tips: Squeeze over fresh lime and sliced chilli. Use prawns as an alternative to chicken. Add more colour and crunch to the dish by adding fresh coriander and chopped peanuts.
THAI GLAZED SALMON

Serves 4
Cooks in 15 mins

1 McCormick Pad Thai Flavour Shot
4 Salmon fillets
¼ Red cabbage, finely shredded
100g Snow peas, sliced
3 Spring onions, sliced
½ bunch fresh Coriander, chopped

In a pan mix flavour shot contents and salmon together in a bowl and marinate for 5 minutes. Toss cabbage, peas, onion and coriander together and arrange on a plate. Heat oil in a large frying pan and cook marinated salmon 3-5 each side or until cooked to your liking and serve on top of the vegetable slaw.
Vietnamese Chicken & Mint Salad

Serves 4
Prep: 20 minutes

½ head cabbage, finely shredded
½ red onion, peeled and very finely sliced
2 cups loosely packed mint, roughly torn
1 carrot, peeled and cut into very thin matchsticks
2 cups Shredded Chicken (page 18)

¾ cup fried shallots
¼ cup crushed roasted peanuts

Dressing
100ml lemon juice
1 tbsp caster sugar
2 tbsp fish sauce
1 bird’s-eye chilli, seeds removed and finely sliced
1 clove garlic, minced

1. For the dressing, mix the ingredients together and allow to stand for a few minutes.
2. In a large bowl, combine all the ingredients for the salad except the shallots and peanuts and toss to combine. Pour over the dressing and toss again to coat.
3. Transfer to a serving plate or bowl and scatter with the shallots and peanuts.

TIP: To shred the cabbage and onion I use a mandoline slicer – it’s done in seconds, but you really have to watch your fingers!
**HOKKAIDO SOUP CURRY**

Serves 4  
**Prep:** 15 minutes  
**Cook:** 40 minutes

- 2 carrots, peeled and quartered  
- 1 ear of corn, husk and silk removed, cut into thick rings  
- 1 eggplant, cut into thick wedges lengthways  
- 1 green capsicum, deseeded and cut into 5cm strips  
- 2 king oyster (eringi) mushrooms, halved lengthways (or quartered if very thick)  
- 4 tbsp vegetable or olive oil  
- 1 tsp salt flakes  
- 4 chicken Marylands, skin removed

1 brown onion, peeled and grated  
2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped  
1 tbsp grated ginger  
1 tbsp ground cumin  
1 tbsp ground coriander  
1 tsp paprika  
1 tsp garam masala  
1 cinnamon stick  
½ cup tomato passata  
1 bay leaf  
1½ litres water, Whole Chicken Stock  
1 tbsp soy sauce  
1 tbsp sake  
1 tbsp mirin  
½ cup loosely packed basil leaves, roughly torn  
2 Steamed Eggs (page 228) or hard-boiled eggs, halved

Steamed rice or thickly sliced, buttered bread, to serve

1. Heat the oven to 190°C (fan-forced). Toss the vegetables in 2 tbsp of the oil and arrange on a baking tray lined with baking paper.  
2. Scatter with salt and bake the vegetables, uncovered, for 25–30 minutes, or until they are roasted and tender.  
3. Meanwhile, season the chicken Marylands with salt and brown, two at a time, in a little oil in a large pot over high heat then set aside.  
4. Add the onion, Garlic Paste and ginger to the pot and fry over medium heat for about 2 minutes, or until softened (add a little more oil if you need to).  
5. Add the spices, tomato passata and bay leaf and fry for a further minute until fragrant. Add the water or stock, soy sauce, sake and mirin and bring to a simmer.  
6. Return the chicken to the pot and simmer for 30 minutes, or until the chicken is tender. Stir through the basil leaves.  
7. Place each chicken Maryland in a bowl and add the roasted vegetables and half a steamed egg. Pour over the curry soup and serve with steamed rice or thick sliced, buttered bread.

**TIP:** If you don’t want to roast the vegetables, you can boil or steam them, or slice them thinly and pan-fry or grill them. It’s up to you.
**BANANAS IN COCONUT MILK**

Serves 6  
Prep: 10 minutes  
Cook: 15 minutes

- 600ml water
- 150g palm sugar, roughly chopped
- 6 bananas, peeled and cut into large, irregular pieces
- 1 can (400ml) coconut milk
- 2 pandan leaves, tied in a knot, or 1 tsp vanilla extract (optional)
- A good pinch of salt

1. Bring the water and palm sugar to the boil in a large saucepan, stirring to ensure the sugar is completely dissolved.
2. Add the bananas, coconut milk, pandan leaves or vanilla (if using), and salt.
3. Stir gently and bring to the boil. As soon as the coconut milk boils, remove from the heat.
4. You can either serve warm, at room temperature or chilled with cubes of ice floating on top for a refreshing summer dessert.

TIP / Pandan leaves are available both fresh and frozen from Asian grocers. If you like you can add ¼ cup of dry sago pearls at the same time as the bananas and coconut milk and simmer for about 10 minutes until the pearls are translucent, then allow the mixture to stand covered for a further 10 minutes before serving.
Cosmetic company Tom Ford introduces a limited edition colour collection inspired by his new signature fragrance, Tom Ford Noir Pour Femme. Specially packaged in glossy jet-black packaging, the Noir Collection captures the Tom Ford woman’s compelling play of intimacy and exposure, intrigue and extravagance.

Cream and Powder Eye Colour in the deepest shade of black with reflective pearls creates the ultimate smoky eye. The new Lash Tips Mascara in cobalt or gold adds an extravagant and flirtatious flash of light. Nude lips and onyx-black nails complete the decadent and alluring look.

Of note is their product Night Sky, a new shade of Tom Ford Cream and Powder Eye Colour, creates the ultimate smoky eye. The bottom layer is a deep black cream colour while the top layer contains an intense black powder with light-catching pearls.

Presenting a new innovative and flirtatious product used to colour the tips of lashes. Lash Tips Mascara comes in two eye-catching shades of Pure Cobalt or Burnished Gold. This long-wearing formula adds an extravagant and flirtatious flash of light to subvert the mysterious mood.

Tom Ford Lip Colour in First Time provides the perfect nude to complete the look. Rare and exotic ingredients including soja seed extract, Brazilian murumuru butter and chamomile flower oil create an ultra-creamy texture with an incredibly smooth application. Specially treated colour pigments are blended to deliver pure colour with just the right balance of luminosity.

For those who are looking to break the cycle of chronic dehydration and re-ignite skin’s natural lifting power then check out Resilience Lift Firming/Sculpting Oil-in-Crème Infusion, from Estée Lauder’s Resilience Lift Collection. This ultra-rich, oil-in-crème moisturiser with 20 per cent ultra restorative oils quenches skin and brings dry, vulnerable skin an intensive infusion of deep hydrators and ultra-restorative lipids so skin feels comfortable and deeply hydrated all day long.

With powerful new densifying complex and advanced lifting complexes, the oil-in-creme moisturiser helps even very dry skin boost its natural production of collagen and elastin and reveal a more sculpted, defined look.
One of the many things that we love to do for our clients at York Jewellers is help them with the design and manufacturing process. We have designed hundreds of custom made pieces for our clients and can truly say that no two pieces are the same. That’s the beauty of it!

Whether it be the special task of transforming well loved pieces of jewellery into future family heirlooms, using gems with meaningful memories from many years ago, or designing a customized wedding band to sit along side one of our stunning engagement rings. Each and every concept is important.

The process to have something designed and hand crafted can take time vs. choosing something ready made but the end result is well worth the wait! We make the process very enjoyable, easy and pressure free for you.

You will be invited to come into the store and consult with a designer about what you would like to do. Common requests often include engagement rings, wedding bands, combining diamonds or gemstones from family heirlooms to create a new piece, gifts for loved ones and refreshing older designs as the taste of the wearer evolves. Sometimes our clients bring in images of things that they like, or point out something in the cabinet that catches their eye and we can work from that.

We will discuss your wants and needs, your profession, preferences and make suggestions based on what’s important to you. Because our designers work so closely with the workshop, we will be able to give you a great understanding of what can and can’t be done, and how to create the look and feel that you want to get the best end result. We then begin sketching by hand right in front of you to bring your concept to life! What looks to be a simple design can sometimes be quite complex when it comes to the manufacturing process, depending on what needs to be done.

Seeing the smile on a clients face when they try on their unique, one of a kind piece of jewellery for the first time is a great feeling.

At York Jewellers our designers are available by appointment and bookings can be made by simply calling the store or emailing through our website. Please visit www.yorkjewellers.com.au to make your appointment or for more details.

We look forward to welcoming you into the store soon to create your dream piece of jewellery!
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Blue MountainsLife Reader

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Peter Leith, Blue MountainsLife reader,
about the support Blue MountainsLife has given him.

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Blue MountainsLife Reader
Most athletes know that they have to work major muscle groups like their biceps, quads and glutes. But even elite athletes may neglect one of the most important muscle groups - those in the neck.

The neck can be the weakest link in anyone’s physical condition. In a game or vigorous activity, the neck has to support 6.8kg or more - the average weight of the human head - and balance this weight as the arms, shoulders and back make sudden and powerful athletic moves.

You can actually build bulk in the neck, which provides a beach-body balance to a well-built upper body. But it’s far more important to build strength in this body part, which will help protect your upper back muscles and spinal cord against impact.

Whiplash isn’t limited to car accidents; a hard fall or a tackle can literally rattle your brain and cause months of lingering pain and downtime. Protect yourself by working the neck muscles to make them stronger and more flexible. This will also help prevent spinal injuries.

There are over 15 muscles in the neck area. The most noticeable of these is the multisyllabic sternocleidomastoids - those two front side muscles that stand out when your neck or jaw is tensed.

You can easily strengthen these, as well as all the other muscles in the neck, with your own two hands. As with every other muscle-resistance work-out, you need to warm up the muscles first.

A neck warm-up is easy: simply turn the head from side to side, then flex it in a full range of motion. Let your head relax and lean back, then to each side, then forward. Finally, move your head in an upright circle in both directions.

Put your palms together in a “prayer” position, then put them over your ears on one side of your head. Push upward with your hands, while pushing your head downward. You should feel this in your head, neck, upper back and upper arm. Do this on both sides of the head. Then, bracing your elbows on a solid surface like a desk or table, put your head in your hands and push down.

You’ll feel this in the back of your neck. Next, interlace your fingers at the back of your neck and pull your hands forward while pushing your head back against your hands. Breathe deeply with each rep.

The neck should not be worked out every day; twice a week is sufficient to build both strength and bulk in this important area. Give those small muscles enough time to fully recover from every work-out. They will also be stretched as they are worked, thus becoming more flexible.

While self-resistance from the hands will do the job, it’s much more efficient to use a head strap. This is a “cage” of canvas straps that fit over the head and allow a weight to be attached under the chin. It can be used while lying on a bench or a bed, or even while bending over at the hips. It can be found at most sporting goods stores as well as online.

When using a head strap, start with small weights of less than 2.25kg feel a bit of soreness the following day when you first begin working this area, but once the muscles are accustomed to being exercised, there should be no soreness. If so, you’re lifting too much weight; lower the resistance.

Once your neck has become strong and flexible, it won’t matter whether you take a hit on the field or in a fall from your bike; your “weakest link” will help protect you from injury.
When Japanese submarines attacked Sydney Harbour in 1942, the Council of Scots College, Bellevue Hill decided to provide an alternative site for junior boys which was away from Sydney and therefore considered safer. The Council chose a farm just East of Bathurst named "Karralea", a farm which was owned by the Arnott family.

The end of the war came in 1945 and a move back to Bellevue Hill was imminent. However, by this time, there were a number of boys from regional and rural New South Wales who had enrolled at the School because of its location in the Central West. The parents of these boys successfully asked the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of NSW to allow the school to continue and so The Scots School Bathurst was born in January, 1946.

Throughout the past seventy years, the school has enjoyed a reputation as being a school for the children of the Central West of New South Wales and many parts of the State. It has also welcomed students from a number of countries around the Asia-Pacific area. The school has a balance of boys and girls from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 and also a small campus in Lithgow for Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6 students. It has maintained an excellent academic
record, strong sporting and co-curricular activities and is particularly known for its Pipes and Drums and Cattle Team success at Sydney Royal Easter Show.

2016 will see a number of events throughout the year which will celebrate 70 years of The Scots School. Alongside plenty of moments especially planned for students, there will be four major events to which the wider community are also invited, culminating in the Blue Black and Gold Ball to be held on Saturday 5 November.

The remaining three events will be held during a gala Anniversary Weekend from 12-13 March. The Official Opening of the Tim Richards Pavilion will be held at 4pm on Saturday 12 March.

The schools traditional Highland Gathering will be held on Sunday 13 March with esteemed past Headmaster, Mr John Hunter being Chieftan for the day. It promises to be a fabulous day that includes a round of the NSW Pipe Band Competition, Highland Dancing displays and an Equestrian Event.

GREENWOOD

Greenwood Early Education Centre is a purpose-designed Centre that occupies a 1000sqm outdoor space, offering children the perfect environment to connect with nature and be inspired through play based learning.

With the working family in mind extended opening hours, from 7am-6:30pm Monday to Friday makes Greenwood the easy choice for many Katoomba families.

Responding to Greenwood’s vision to improve the standard of childcare, Greenwood Katoomba is like nothing you will have ever seen in the childcare industry. From a fully qualified in-house chef preparing fresh meals daily with a varied and balanced menu designed by Greenwood’s Head Chef and In-House Nutritionist, to a flourishing vegetable garden, a chicken coup, and an animal pen which will soon feature more animals who will be able to call Greenwood, home, the opportunity for your child to have a comprehensive and inspiring educational start to life is assured.

Greenwood’s uniquely designed Learning Curriculum will build the foundations necessary for lifelong learning and success for your child. Facilitated through a combination of structured and play-based learning, children are encouraged to explore their environment and interests everyday. The G Learning Curriculum is complemented with a range of programs from Music and Yoga, Urban Gardening, Sports Education, French Language and a Pre-Kinder Program that prepares your child for a seamless transition into kindergarten.

To secure your enrolment go to https://www.greenwood.com.au/enrol-now-n/

YOUNG SCIENTIST

Recently, the Rotary Club of Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise invited year 11 students from Katoomba High School keen on Science to apply for the National Youth Science Forum. This is program is held every January at the ANU in Canberra. Ira Dudley applied for the program and was successful; this not only involved a written application but also an interview. Ira was congratulated by the committee for being a candidate of high calibre.

The Rotary Club will sponsor Ira for the cost of the program which is close to $3,000. The program highlights include visits to significant laboratories and installations around Canberra such as the CSIRO, Mt Stromlo Observatory.

Kinross Wolaroi School is situated in the heart of the city of Orange in the Central West of New South Wales, on 100 acres of beautifully established landscaped grounds.

We offer the unique opportunity for co-educational learning from Pre-Prep to Year 12 with separate boarding sites for boys and girls from Year 7.

The distinctiveness of Kinross Wolaroi School centres on the wide range of opportunities available to students, both inside the classroom and beyond.

Please phone our Admissions Office to start your enrolment process today.

P: 02 6392 0300
E: admissions@kws.nsw.edu.au
St Stanislaus’ College, Bathurst

EMBEDDING EXCELLENCE IN BOYS EDUCATION

Scholarship applications are now open.

Stannies offers outstanding educational opportunities for boys through a rich and diverse curriculum. We have a broad range of co-curricular opportunities that cover all interests including sport, creative and performing arts, agriculture, equestrian, chess, public speaking, debating, computing and stage management.

A boarding enrolment in 2016 of more than 120 students will provide rich diversity, meeting a range of interests in a total enrolment of 600.

The main College campus is set on 38 acres near the centre of Bathurst incorporating 7 playing fields, an Olympic swimming pool, tennis courts, an indoor recreation venue, well-appointed classrooms and specialist areas in a combination of modern and heritage listed buildings.

If you are interested in providing your son with an educational experience which has demonstrated consistent success, please contact the Registrar for enrolment forms and details on 02 6331 4177 or email registrar@stannies.com.
The Renault Clio is the fourth generation of the model – one of Renault's best known and highest selling nameplates globally. The Clio is the first production model to be developed from the ground up by Renault's Senior Vice President Corporate Design, Laurens van den Acker, and demonstrates the contemporary face of the marque through Renault’s new brand identity.

The Clio exudes warmth, simplicity and sensuality through an instantly appealing design. Smooth flowing and free from hard edges, Clio’s design was inspired by the DeZir concept car — a car that symbolised Love — and this inspiration has been carried through all elements of the vehicle, including the signature launch colour, Flame Red.

The striking appeal of the Clio is further enhanced by an affordable personalisation program that is unprecedented for this section of the light car market. Depending on the specification level, this personalisation program enables a customer to choose their wheels, exterior colour accents, interior colour accents and even the colour of their dashboard coving from several thousand combinations to ensure their Clio demonstrates their personal style and expresses their individuality.

The Renault Clio debuts two in car entertainment platforms — Renault’s MEDIA NAV and RLink. Both systems use an 18 cm touchscreen display and enable satellite navigation, radio, Bluetooth connectivity for handsfree telephony, as well as USB and 3.5mm connectors.

New Clio is characterised by exceptional road holding and dynamic natural feeling handling. This is assisted by more direct and precise steering thanks to the linkages between the front suspension and the stiffer engine subframe. The Clio range debuts Renault’s new Energy Engine range in Australia with the introduction of two new engines – TCe 90 and TCe 120. Developed using Renault’s Formula 1 downsizing proficiency, both engines deliver exceptional hybrid challenging fuel consumption and CO2 emission figures while ensuring a sprightly driving experience.

The new Clio is available with two gearboxes. The TCe 90 engine is mated with a 5-speed manual transmission while the TCe 120 is fitted with a 6-speed Efficient Dual Clutch (EDC) automatic gearbox made by Getrag. Clio features standard active safety equipment such as ESC, ASR, emergency brake assist and Hill Start Assist. Achieving highest scores in its segment for three of the four criteria, new Clio secured five stars in the EuroNCAP crash tests and was awarded Best Supermini of 2012. Available in three generous specification levels – Authentique, Expression and Dynamique – and starting with a recommended retail price of just $16,790, the new Renault Clio is set to shake-up the light car segment in Australia. The new Clio has a 5 year/unlimited kilometre warranty and is eligible for Renault’s Capped Price Servicing program of just $299 per calendar year for the first three years. For more details call Annlyn Renault on 4722 9900.

Annlyn Renault
93-99 York Road, Penrith
ph: (02) 4722 9900
annlynrenault.com.au

0% p.a. comparison rate with no deposit required across all passenger vehicles. Offer ends March 31.

0% p.a. comparison rate across the range

0% p.a. comparison rate available for new Clio, Megane, Captur and Koleos models ordered between 1/1/16 and 31/3/16 and delivered by 30/4/16 to approved personal applicants and 0% annual percentage rate available to approved business applicants of Renault Financial Services (Australian Credit License Number 391464) only; 36 month term. No deposit for approved applicant only. Excludes Government, Rental and National Fleet customers. Terms, conditions and fees apply. WARNING: This comparison rate is true only for the example given and may not include all fees and charges. Different terms, fees or other loan amounts might result in a different comparison rate. Comparison rate for the purpose of the National Credit Code is based on a 5 year secured loan of $30,000 although this offer relates to a 36 month term only. Renault reserves the right to vary, extend or withdraw this offer. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Full of Surprises comparison rate across the range p.a. 0% with no deposit required across all passenger vehicles. Offer ends March 31.

0% p.a. comparison rate available for new Clio, Megane, Captur and Koleos models ordered between 1/1/16 and 31/3/16 and delivered by 30/4/16 to approved personal applicants and 0% annual percentage rate available to approved business applicants of Renault Financial Services (Australian Credit License Number 391464) only; 36 month term. No deposit for approved applicant only. Excludes Government, Rental and National Fleet customers. Terms, conditions and fees apply. WARNING: This comparison rate is true only for the example given and may not include all fees and charges. Different terms, fees or other loan amounts might result in a different comparison rate. Comparison rate for the purpose of the National Credit Code is based on a 5 year secured loan of $30,000 although this offer relates to a 36 month term only. Renault reserves the right to vary, extend or withdraw this offer. Not available in conjunction with any other offer.15 years unlimited km warranty applies to all new Renault passenger vehicles. Demonstrator vehicles receive balance of new vehicle warranty. Roadside Assistance terms and conditions apply. Call our Customer Service Team on 1800 039 038 or view the Terms and Conditions statement at www.renault.com.au/driverseasurermifnd for details. First 3 scheduled maintenance services capped at $299 per service on new and demonstrator Renault Passenger and Renault Sport vehicles, based on standard scheduled servicing from new and on normal operating conditions. Scheduled maintenance services required every twelve (12) months or 15,000km whichever occurs first. If vehicle is not presented within three (3) months of when the scheduled service is required, right to that capped-price service under the program is forfeited.
The dynamic-looking all new Mégane has been revealed. The European version comes with soft-touch dashboard that extends in a continuous sweep to the top door cappings while the high-end versions feature a full-grain Nappa leather-trimmed steering wheel with elegant chrome detailing. The flagship of the new Mégane range at launch will be the Renaultsport-inspired GT, featuring unique exterior and interior embellishments, a 205hp TCe engine mated to a seven-speed dual-clutch transmission.

FRENCH FLAIR
Expert judges at Drive’s panel have voted the all-new Carnival as the best People Mover on the market. The markers were impressed by the size of the eight-seater, particularly the ability to take plenty of luggage, even with the third row seats in place.

Carnival is most popular people mover with a market share of almost 40 per cent of the segment. It also comes with a 7-Year Warranty, 7-Year Capped Price Service program and 7-Year Roadside Assist. This model is available at Kia Lithgow.
The new Volvo S90 is Volvo Cars’ entry ticket to the prestige sedan club. Equipped with a host of new technologies ranging from cutting edge safety to cloud-based apps and services, the S90 is further proof of the brand’s continuing transformation.

The new Volvo S90 also comes equipped with an advanced semi-autonomous drive feature, Pilot Assist in which the system gives gentle steering inputs to keep the car properly aligned within lane markings up to motorway speeds of around 130 km/h.

It will go on sale in Australia in August, 2016.

Citroen has launched The new-look DS 5. Alongside new features such as the sculpted, vertical grille with the DS monogram in the centre, the DS LED Vision headlamps, touch drive interface and a new, efficient, more powerful diesel engine.

The new, single variant also better reflects the specification of DS 5 vehicles sold over the past two years, with close to 90 per cent of all models sold being diesel. The new DS 5 D Sport will carry a recommended retail price of $56,990.
Great reads

BOOKS THAT YOU CAN ENJOY.

**STRICTLY BETWEEN US**
*By Jane Fallon*
Tamsin and her best friend Michelle have been inseparable since they were teenagers. So when Tamsin hears a rumour that Michelle’s husband is having an affair, she is incensed. Unwilling to ignore it, she plots a scheme to catch him in the act, using her assistant Bea as live bait.

**HONEST ILLUSIONS**
*By Nora Roberts*
Roxy Nouvelle understands the art of deception. The daughter of a world-renowned magician, Roxy has inherited her father’s talents - and his secret life as a jewel thief. She loves the thrill of the game and can take care of herself. Roxy is smart and resilient, but she has one weakness: Luke Callahan, an escape artist with a roguish reputation. Now Luke is back, trailing secrets and danger in his wake. Why did he run out on Roxy all those years ago? And can she ever trust him again?

**PHILLIP HUGHES: THE OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY**
*By Malcolm Knox and Peter Lalor*
Told through the voices of those who knew him best, Phillip Hughes: The Official Biography is the incredible story of the boy from Macksville who became Australian Test cricketer 408. It charts the folkloric rise of the banana grower’s son with the axe-handle batting technique, reliving his adventures on and off the field and celebrating his many triumphs and travails.

**CALM**
*By Michael Acton Smith*
Based on the popular iPhone app, a visually exciting, practical, and playful interactive guide to twenty-first century meditation that provides simple tools, tricks, and habits to find tranquility and focus, improve creativity and productivity, achieve better mental and physical health, and ultimately transform your life.

**WHO’S AFRAID?**
*By Maria Lewis*
Mixing elements of fantasy, mystery and romance, Who’s Afraid? is a must-read tale about one woman who takes on the world, one bite at a time. Author Maria Lewis got her start covering police rounds in a newsroom as a teenager and has been working as a professional journalist for the past 10 years. Making the switch from writing about murders to movie stars was not a difficult decision. A former reporter at The Daily Telegraph, she also wrote about all things film and entertainment related as the reporter for The Daily Mail.
Michael Stone, an author that specializes in customer service, is a man who is unable to interact deeply with other people. But, when he went on a business trip, he met a stranger - an extraordinary stranger, which slowly became a cure for his negative view on life that possibly will change his mundane life.

**ANOMALISA**

In 1947, Dalton Trumbo was Hollywood’s top screenwriter, until he and other artists were jailed and blacklisted for their political beliefs.

**TRUMBO**

Right before his wedding, an uptight guy is tricked into driving his grandfather, a perverted former Army general, to Florida for spring break.

**DIRTY GRANDPA**

Stepdad, Brad Whitaker, is a radio host trying to get his stepchildren to love him and call him Dad. But his plans turn upside down when the biological father, Dusty Mayron, returns.

**DADDY’S HOME**

Beatrice Prior and Tobias Eaton venture into the world outside of the fence and are taken into protective custody by a mysterious agency known as the Bureau of Genetic Welfare.

**THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT**

**Film preview**

**LATEST MOVIES FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.**
On stage
THEATRE & MUSIC

MARK VINCENT - Love Will Lead The Way

Mark has emerged as one of the most remarkable voices of his generation after winning Australia’s Got Talent in 2009 at the age of only 15 years old. Mark’s career has taken on a stratospheric rise being signed by Sony Music record label he became the only classical artist in Australian history to have released 6 albums by the time he was 20 years old. Sales from those albums are close to a million. This made the world really sit up and take notice.

Mark recalls growing up and listening to beautiful arias and great songs of the last 60 years. It was his beloved Grandfather who firstly recognised the magnificence of his voice. He became Mark’s greatest mentor. In these series of concerts, Mark continues to grace the world with his dulcet tones and to keep showcasing old school classics laced with the Mark Vincent slant. It’s what he wants; it’s what his fans want. And Mark Vincent - with the world at his feet - is ready to give his all and more.

Date: 2 April
Venue: Dubbo Convention Centre

4000 MILES

Twenty one year-old Leo rocks up unannounced at the Manhattan apartment of his 91-year-old Jewish grandmother Vera. Having broken up with his girlfriend and cycled across the country, he needs a place to crash for the night, no questions asked. But Vera – prickly, stubborn and sharp as a tack – isn’t about to let him off that easily.

As an overnight couch-surf turns into an extended stay, 4000 Miles unearths a surprising parallel between these two generations in this emotionally compelling drama. With disarming frankness and surprising candor, the two negotiate social potholes and trace emotional fault lines that link them to a painful family history.

From one of America’s brightest playwrights, this compassionate and unsentimental play explores the funny, frustrating, and ultimately life-changing relationship between a grandson learning to face his life, and a grandmother who is starting to forget hers.

Date: 20 February
Venue: Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre
Date: 18 February
Venue: Orange Civic Theatre

Date: 2 April
Venue: Dubbo Convention Centre
**THE TEN SOPRANOS**

The Ten Sopranos Featuring Internationally Renowned Soprano Penny Pavlakis.
Possibly the most powerful all female group in Australia, The Ten Sopranos combines classical and contemporary singing providing a musical feast to whet the appetite of true music fans of all ages. Performing all time favourites in a way which has seen audiences so moved by the performances that some have left theatres in tears, others left exhilarated, and others just loiter around the venue to savour the moment, a little longer.

The group is led by the Internationally Renowned Soprano Penny Pavlakis, who is known to her peers as “the singer’s singer”.  

*Date: 27 February*

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**THE MIST-MADE**

Heavy hitters The Mis-Made and Blackbreaks hit the road this week on an East Coast run of shows together through 2016. These bands are no strangers to sharing the stage, having members of both hailing from seminal rock acts Nitocris and iNsurGe who were prominent on the Australian rock scene in the 1990s and 2000s.

*Date: 13 February*

*Venue: The Family Hotel, Katoomba*

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**ANDY GRIFFITHS**

The 52-Storey Treehouse is now 52 storeys high, with yet more fantastic inventions; a rocket powered carrot launcher, the Disguise-o-matic S5000 and even a Ninja Snail Training Academy!

Today is a special day. It’s Andy’s birthday, but Terry has forgotten! To make matters worse Mr Big Nose has mysteriously disappeared, and to top it all off Jill has fallen into a deep sleep and they just can’t wake her up. So Andy and Terry set off on a crazy adventure tackling a world of startling obstacles including a hungry caterpillar, an angry vegetable kingdom, and a 100 year ninja-snail epic voyage. Will they solve the mysteries and survive the dangers that test even their ingenuity?

*Date: 5-8 March*

*Venue: Orange Civic Theatre*

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**WILLIE & ROY - THE LEGENDS**

Introducing the International Production of “Willie & Roy – the Legends”

John Robertson as Willie Nelson and Mark Shelley as Roy Orbison without a doubt perform the world’s best characterisations of Willie & Roy. Their appearance, voices, manner and ‘spirit’ of Willie and Roy are uncanny.

On the Road Again, To All the Girls I’ve Loved Before, Always on my Mind, Pretty Woman, Crying, Only the Lonely …… their list of hit songs seems endless.

The story begins when during a Willie Nelson concert, Roy appears for one final unforgettable performance. Share the highs, lows, laughter and sadness of their livers…

Even the most conservative of audiences laugh, clap and sings.

“The Big O stood head and shoulders above his contemporaries; his vocals were peerless, his range extraordinary”

*Willie Nelson*.

*Date: Saturday 12 March*

*Venue: Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre*

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**ROY ORBISON & THE EVERLY BROS**

For the first time in Australia Roy Orbison & The Everly Brothers – Together In Concert in a two hour International Concert Experience. Come and relive the magic and the classic hits of ‘Roy Orbison & The Everly Brothers’, some of the world’s greatest and most successful Rock n Roll Music Legends of all time.

Dean Bourne has been described as having “The Spirit Of Roy Orbison” within him as he performs Roy Orbison’s iconic hits such as “Pretty Woman”, “Crying”, “Dream Baby”, “Leah”, “Penny Arcade”, “Danny Boy”, “Only The Lonely”,”In Dreams”, “Candy Man”, “You Got It”, “Workin For The Man”, “Running Scared” and many many more.

The magical sounds of ‘The Everly Brothers’ come alive again with Special Guests & Internationally Renowned vocal harmony duo – ‘The Robertson Brothers’.  

*Date: 19 March*

*Venue: Orange Civic Theatre*
GREYSTANES ART EXHIBITION

The 11th Annual Greystanes Art Exhibition commenced with the official opening held at the Lost Bear Gallery, Lurline Street, Katoomba. A big thank you once again to Geoff White at the Lost Bear Gallery and Neil Haigh from Hope Tree Framing who helped in the exhibition.
CLASS ACT

Every year Merilyn Rice holds her annual arts exhibition. This year’s event at Bathurst Chase showed some of her students’ works and many locals not only attended but purchased many of the artworks on display. Merilyn is a professional artist and teacher in most media, with more than forty years’ experience. She trained initially at the National Art School, and later with Allan Fizzell (oils), Greg Hansell (pastels) and Joshua Smith and Yve Close (portraiture).
HAWKESBURY AUSTRALIA DAY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Hawkesbury Australia Day Awards are an integral part of Australia Day celebrations, recognising and honouring the outstanding achievements of everyday Australians in the Hawkesbury. The 2016 Hawkesbury Australia Day Awards are proudly sponsored by Hawkesbury City Council and Richmond Club.
The subject of play was explored in all its colorful variations in this group exhibition designed to amuse and delight, and an opportunity to ponder (for those who wish to go there) the role of play in life and art. It was David Hockney (the influential British artist) who said, ‘People tend to forget that play is serious’, a sentiment with which exhibition curator, Elissa Blair, is in complete agreement. She gathered together some of the most exciting contemporary artists of the day to help elucidate the theme.
Crossword

ACROSS
1. Spicy honey liquor
4. Bleaker
8. Wading bird
11. America, ... Sam
13. Clay-based rock
15. Marine growth
17. Morning vapour
18. Betrays secret
20. Age
21. Unnecessary
24. Urge to action
27. Fah, ..., lah, te, doh
28. Sugar-coated
30. Pre-decimal coin
31. Bumps into
33. Skimmed
34. Rule (country)
35. Measure of length
36. Copenhagen native
39. Voguish fads
42. Pivot
44. Poke
45. Fast jet effect, ... boom
46. Apiece
48. Shoplift
49. Steers off course
50. Looked up & down
52. Coupled
54. Legumes
55. Long tales
56. Forcible restraint
57. Comfort
60. Frosted (cake)
62. Rue
65. Draining tube
67. Chilli con ..
69. Crow relative
70. Avid
72. Soaked
73. Support garment
75. Publicist, press ..
77. Negative advb
79. Greatly love
81. Morse Code distress signal (1,1,1)
82. Stringent
84. Fete, ... Gras
85. Cowboy’s noosed snare
86. Fizzy drinks

DOWN
1. Self-defence aerosol
2. Of the ear
3. Smallest carton
4. Castrate (horse)
5. Truly!
6. Cutting (grass)
7. Unwell
8. Monster
9. Silk band
10. Silk band
11. Silk band
12. Brooding hen sound
13. Silished
14. Cigar receptacle
15. Tedious
16. Heat or lung
17. Ship’s officer
18. Approached
19. Short-sighted
20. Trench coat
21. Shoplift
22. Interested
23. Overhanging roof edges
24. Removes skin from
25. Knife
26. Builders
27. All through
28. Peacock & ...
29. Formed a curve
30. Avid
31. Soaked
32. Demise
33. Support garment
34. Peacock & ...
35. Tedious
36. Approached
37. Overhanging roof edges
38. Removes skin from
39. Soaked
40. Movie parts
41. Fizzy drinks
42. Employed
43. Overhanging roof edges
44. Removes skin from
45. Stopping
46. Overhanging roof edges
47. Invitations to parties
48. Support garment
49. Favourite
50. Looked up & down
51. Knife
52. Builders
53. All through
54. Peacock & ...
55. Formed a curve
56. Avid
57. Soaked
58. Demise
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61. Soaked
62. Tedious
63. Overhanging roof edges
64. Removes skin from
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King Koil 'Platinum Posture Dolce' Queen Ensemble.
The combination of Gel-Infused Latex, Memory Foam and Micro Comfort Coils creates a sumptuous comfort layer that gently cradles your curves. 10 year guarantee.
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King Koil 'Platinum Posture Lusso' Queen Ensemble.
Breathable natural Latex moulds to the body. Gel-Infused Latex combines with Micro Comfort Coils to reduce pressure and minimise partner disturbance. 10 year guarantee.
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The King Koil ‘Chiro Luxury Firm’ delivers the ultimate in pressure-relieving comfort. Memory Foam gently cradles your body while King Koil’s Reflex MAX support system features maximum Active Coils that respond to your body and provides enhanced support with a firmer feel. 10 year guarantee.

Also available to order:
Double . . . $2199  King . . . $2899

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0% p.a. comparison rate available for new Clio, Megane, Captur and Koleos models ordered between 1/1/16 and 31/3/16 and delivered by 30/4/16 to approved personal applicants and 0% annual percentage rate available to approved business applicants of Renault Financial Services (Australian Credit License Number 391464) only; 36 month term. No deposit for approved applicant only. Excludes Government, Rental and National Fleet customers. Some conditions and fees apply. WARNING: This comparison rate is true only for the example given and may not include all fees and charges. Different terms, fees or other loan amounts might result in a different comparison rate. Comparison rate for the purpose of the National Credit Code is based on a 5 year secured loan of $30,000 although this offer relates to a 36 month term only. Renault reserves the right to vary, extend or withdraw this offer. Not available in conjunction with any other offer.†5 years unlimited km warranty applies to all new Renault passenger vehicles. Demonstrator vehicles receive balance of new vehicle warranty. Roadside Assistance terms and conditions apply. Call our Customer Service Team on 1800 009 008 or view the Terms and Conditions statement at www.renault.com.au for details. ^First 3 scheduled maintenance services capped at $299 per service on new and demonstrator Renault Passenger and Renault Sport vehicles, based on standard scheduled servicing from new and on normal operating conditions. Scheduled maintenance services required every twelve (12) months or 15,000km (whichever occurs first). If vehicle is not presented within three (3) months of when the scheduled service is required, right to that capped price service under the program is forfeited.