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# Briserenia Gardens

## SHORT STAYS IN THE DANDENONG RANGES

### SUMMER / AUTUMN Newsletter Vol 5

Welcome to **Edition 10** of "Short Stays", the Bi-annual newsletter for patrons of Briserenia Gardens B&B. Celebrate, indulge and enjoy the "Hills" this summer and autumn. Beautiful vistas, gourmet foods and wines, quaint villages and of course luxurious accommodation at an affordable price. For our latest accommodation choices view the photo galleries at [www.shortstays.com.au](http://www.shortstays.com.au). Located in the heart of the Dandenong Ranges, central to all that the region offers.

#### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*"Our vision is to offer within affordable and sustainable benchmarks, boutique accommodation experiences encapsulating superior levels of service and quality, placed serenely in the heart of the Dandenong Ranges"*

#### WHATS ON

Experience cool summer days and twilight evenings in the Dandenong Ranges. Enjoy a family picnic or BBQ, pick fresh berries, stroll in the forest, play a game of coquet or just relax with a fine wine.

December 2008	January 2009	February 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Twilight market</li> <li>▪ Mt Dandy Food &amp; Wine Festival.</li> <li>▪ Kallista Market 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>▪ Yarra Glen Market 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Farmers Market 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Carols by Candlelight</li> <li>▪ Puffing Billy Santa Specials</li> <li>▪ Lavender Harvest Festival.</li> <li>▪ New Years Eve festivities.</li> <li>▪ Berry &amp; Cherry picking time at pick your own fields.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New Years Day Celebrations.</li> <li>▪ Pantomime by the Lake.</li> <li>▪ Emerald Market 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.</li> <li>▪ Yarra Glen Market 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Farmers Market 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Australia Day Celebrations.</li> <li>▪ Music in the Vineyards.</li> <li>▪ Yoga in the Gardens.</li> <li>▪ Berry &amp; Cherry picking time at pick your own fields.</li> <li>▪ Open Studios</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gourmet Food &amp; Wine Festival.</li> <li>▪ Valentines Romantic Interludes.</li> <li>▪ Kallista Market 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday.</li> <li>▪ Yarra Glen Market 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Farmers Market 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor Cinema</li> <li>▪ Grape Grazing Festival.</li> <li>▪ Tee Off Golf Competition.</li> <li>▪ Photographic exhibition at Karwarra</li> <li>▪ Monbulk Twilight Fete</li> </ul>

Experience the vibrant arbour displays and falling leaves of the Dandenong Ranges. Browse at a market, enjoy local produce, indulge in some art or create your own memories.

March 2009	April 2009	May 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gardeners Weekend.</li> <li>▪ Classic Film Festival.</li> <li>▪ The Patch Valley Fair.</li> <li>▪ Labour Day Long Weekend.</li> <li>▪ St Patrick's Day Events.</li> <li>▪ Kallista Market 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday.</li> <li>▪ Yarra Glen Market 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Farmers Market 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Gembrook Market 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Rosella feeding at Kallista.</li> <li>▪ Day out with Thomas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leaf Fall Festivities.</li> <li>▪ Kallista Market 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday.</li> <li>▪ Yarra Glen Market 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Farmers Market 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Gembrook Market 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Trout Farm Big Catch.</li> <li>▪ Oxfam Trailwalker.</li> <li>▪ Day out with Thomas</li> <li>▪ Easter Celebrations.</li> <li>▪ Dawn Lyrebird walks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Puffing Billy Great Train Race.</li> <li>▪ Mothers Day Celebrations.</li> <li>▪ Chestnut Festival.</li> <li>▪ Ranges Folk Festival.</li> <li>▪ Kallista Market 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday.</li> <li>▪ Emerald Market 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.</li> <li>▪ Yarra Glen Market 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Farmers Market 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.</li> <li>▪ Ranges Open Studios.</li> <li>▪ Apple &amp; Wine Festival.</li> </ul>

#### SEASONAL OFFERS

Seasonal offers are not available with any other offer, discounted tariff or special Girls Getaway package offer.



## NEWS & IDEAS



We welcomed the arrival of our beautiful daughter Emilee Paige Hawthorne who was born on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Emilee recommends that you invite your family and friends to a garden tea party or have mum and dad organise a cocktail's and jazz function in the gardens for their corporate friends.



Catering, drinks and balloons can also be arranged as required. Why not plan your own unique occasion at Briserenia.

Marques can be set up on the croquet lawn and string quartets can complement the beautiful garden surrounds.



Individually tailored group packages are our speciality. Day use, overnight and extended stays welcome.



## WHAT OUR GUESTS SAY

As has been the custom in the past, this season we have again welcomed many international, interstate and Victorian visitors plus numerous Melbournians to our beautiful 4 ½ star property.

All of our guests have the opportunity to complete a guest evaluation survey. Here is what some of our recent guests had to say.

- "A great city escape, I loved every minute of it"
- "Thankyou for your attention to detail"
- "Very relaxing, we saw heaps of native birds"
- "The spa was divine and the balcony views were beautiful"
- "Fabulous as usual, thanks again"
- "What a wonderful place, beautiful gardens, great accommodation"
- "Way beyond our expectations"
- "Thankyou for making our first night as husband and wife an enjoyable one"
- "Lovely place, lovely people"
- "Excellent accommodation, very well presented with everything we needed. Ideal family stay"
- "The spa was absolutely gorgeous and the bed was extremely comfortable, best sleep ever"
- "Beautiful cottage, excellent service"
- "Loved it. Felt very comfortable & at home. Quiet & restful"
- "Went over & above our expectations of service"
- "Loved the log fire"
- "We had a wonderful time. Thank you for your hospitality and suggestions, they were great"
- "A great experience"
- "Thankyou for all your support leading up to the wedding. We enjoyed our stay & appreciated the shuttle service"
- "What a gift we were given, we felt invigorated & so well looked after"
- "My retreat from madness of modern day living"

The following percentages indicate how many of our guests rated us as **meeting or exceeding their expectations**. Results are based on collated evaluations June '08 to November '08.

Personal service and assistance .....	100%
Décor and ambience .....	98%
Cleanliness and presentation .....	100%
Value for money .....	94%
Appearance & Serenity .....	100%
Overall experience of stay .....	100%

## GARDENERS ADVICE & CONNOISSEURS TIP

Fresh home grown tomatoes & basil are the perfect ingredient for Bruchetta ala carte.

- ✓ 1 bread stick
- ✓ Diced tomatoes
- ✓ Basil leaves
- ✓ Crushed garlic
- ✓ Olive oil
- ✓ Red onion rings
- ✓ Grated cheese

Cut the bread stick into thick slices. Mix crushed garlic and olive oil and spread generously over bread. Top with diced tomato and add torn basil leaves, onion and cheese. Place under grill. Serve warm.

## STAFF PROFILES



Julie is our Hospitality Services and Administrative Assistant. She has been part of our team for over a year now and works hard behind the scenes to ensure that quality standards are maintained in your rooms prior to your arrival and that all of your booking paperwork is in order. Her pleasant persona and flair for detail ensures all who stay have a superior experience.

Going from strength to strength is Judy, our Hospitality Services Officer who received her 5 year service award with us. Congratulations and thanks to Judy for her invaluable input and loyalty to Briserenia.



We are looking forward to you returning to our beautiful property and experiencing all that the region offers year round. "Feel like you're a world away less than 1 hour from Melbourne CBD".

Brian and Tania Hawthorne  
And staff of Briserenia Gardens B&B



*NB. Whilst the editors of this newsletter take every care in checking the content, no guarantee is offered on the accuracy of information presented.*