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Briserenia Gardens

SHORT STAYS

IN THE DANDENONG RANGES

WINTER / SPRING Newsletter Vol 5

Welcome to **Edition 9** of "Short Stays", the Bi-annual newsletter for patrons of Briserenia Gardens B&B. Celebrate, indulge and enjoy the "Hills" this winter and spring. 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. 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 the romance of the Dandenong's! Cosy cottages & suites, luxurious spas, crackling fires, port and chocolates, fine food and even a little snow at times.

June 2008	July 2008	August 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wineries Shortest Lunch ▪ Warburton Winterfest ▪ Puffing Billy Luncheon Train ▪ Winter Blues & Jazz ▪ Food & Wine Classes ▪ Kallista Market 1st Saturday ▪ Yarra Glen Market 1st Sunday ▪ Farmers Market 3rd Sunday ▪ Gembrook Market 4th Sunday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christmas in July Celebrations ▪ Emerald Winterfest ▪ Winter Miracles Orchid Show ▪ Master Wine Class ▪ On the Palate ▪ Kallista Market 1st Saturday ▪ Farmers Market 2nd Saturday ▪ Mount Dandenong Market ▪ Gembrook Market 4th Sunday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Theatre Productions ▪ China Painting Exhibition ▪ Seville Hill Jazz & Wine ▪ Cooking School at Wild Oak ▪ Ballooning Events ▪ Puffing Billy Dinner Train ▪ Kallista Market 1st Saturday ▪ Farmers Market 2nd Saturday ▪ Gembrook Market 4th Sunday

Experience the colours and tastes of the Dandenong's! Enjoy spectacular floral displays, family picnics, pampering massages, croquet challenges, musical ensembles, gourmet food and wine tastings.

September 2008	October 2008	November 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tulip Festival ▪ Fathers Day Picnics ▪ Open Gardens ▪ Daffodil Show ▪ Monbulk Quilt Show ▪ Dawn Lyrebird walks ▪ Ferny Creek Flower Show ▪ Spring harvest events ▪ Thomas The Tank Engine Show ▪ Kallista Market 1st Saturday ▪ Farmers Market 2nd Saturday ▪ Gembrook Market 4th Sunday ▪ Emerald lake Market 3rd Sunday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shed Fest Wine Festival ▪ Azalea Show ▪ Tulip Festival ▪ Morning Melodies in the Forest ▪ Concerts in the Vines ▪ Golfers Round ▪ Horticultural Field Day ▪ Kallista Market 1st Saturday ▪ Yarra Glen Market 1st Sunday ▪ Farmers Market 3rd Sunday ▪ Gembrook Market 4th Sunday ▪ Emerald lake Market 3rd Sunday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Melbourne Cup Luncheons ▪ Lavender Harvest Festival ▪ The Patch Valley Fair ▪ Strawberry Festival ▪ Rhododendron Show ▪ Outdoor Cinema ▪ Kallista Market 1st Saturday ▪ Yarra Glen Market 1st Sunday ▪ Farmers Market 3rd Sunday ▪ Gembrook Market 4th Sunday ▪ Mount Dandenong Village Food & Wine Festival

FEATURE EXPERIENCES

Choose from one of our chic spa cottages, provincial apartments or traditional suites to complement your desired experience with us. We can provide you with a range of suggested itineraries and package options for any of our feature experiences.

- Ø The Gardens & Valley Experience
- Ø The Village & Forest Experience
- Ø The Family & Adventure Experience
- Ø The Bridal & Wedding Experience
- Ø The Wine & Connoisseur Experience
- Ø The Romantic & Indulgent Experience



Winter 2008 is treating guests to snow in the Dandenong's!

WHAT OUR GUESTS SAY

As has been the custom in the past, this season we have again welcomed many international, interstate and Victorian guests. All of our guests have the opportunity to complete a guest evaluation survey. Here is what some of our recent guests had to say.

- "We loved it, very cosy & relaxing"
- "Fantastic place, we have not experienced such personal care before"
- "What a wonderful and peaceful stay. Thank you for making us feel so welcome"
- "Took relaxation to a new level"
- "Fantastic, great area"
- "Level of service was brilliant"
- "We were very impressed with the feel of the place"
- "Thoroughly enjoyed, exactly what we needed"
- "Thank you for everything, we had a perfect time"
- "Absolutely beautiful"
- "Thankyou for making our wedding night very special"
- "Lovely and peaceful"
- "Best location ever"
- "Impeccable attention to detail"
- "The spa was amazing"
- "We couldn't have asked for a better stay, it was perfect"
- "One of the nicest places we have stayed in; the cottage was spotless and everything was provided"
- "Lovely atmosphere and surrounds"
- "The gardens are magnificent"
- "Fabulous bed, beautiful views"
- "Very friendly, caring and personalised service"
- "Perfect romantic getaway"
- "This place is beautiful, really well equipped"
- "Thanks for the great shuttle service"
- "The cottage gave us more than what we paid for"
- "There is nothing we could fault"

We are continually striving to provide you with the best possible experience when you stay with us. The following percentages indicate how our guests rated us for quality and excellence in each survey category for meeting or exceeding their expectations. Results are based on collated evaluations December '07 to May '08.

- Booking confirmation.....98%
- Personal service and assistance..... 100%
- Décor and ambience..... 97%
- Value for money..... 99%
- Serenity of gardens 99%
- Cleanliness and presentation..... 100%

STAFF PROFILE



We warmly thank our founding staff member Pushpa who has been head of housekeeping for 5½ years. Her dedicated service and outstanding work ethic has been a cornerstone for standards which have become a notable benchmark of quality for the benefit of all our customers. We wish her all the very best when she concludes with us in mid October.

NEWS & IDEAS

Our new corporate tariffs and packages can be tailored to suit your staffing needs. Why not provide a motivational reward with one of our many overnight corporate packages or day spa facilities.

GARDENERS ADVICE

Many winter and spring flowers make not only a beautiful garden display but are also ideal for picking and placing in vases indoors. Examples include camellias, dahlias, daisies, daffodils, foxgloves, iris, snapdragons, and lupins. It is best to pick flowers early morning when their moisture content is at the highest. Avoid snapping stems off; cut the stems with secateurs to make a clean cut and angle the cut slightly to aid water uptake. Place flowers immediately after cutting into fresh tepid water. Change water every 2 days, removing any spent flowers. To prolong the life of your cut flowers keep arrangements away from heaters or cold draughts.

CONNOISSEURS TREAT

A simple and appealing alternative for using up your winter vegies is Cream of Broccoli Soup. Serves 6.

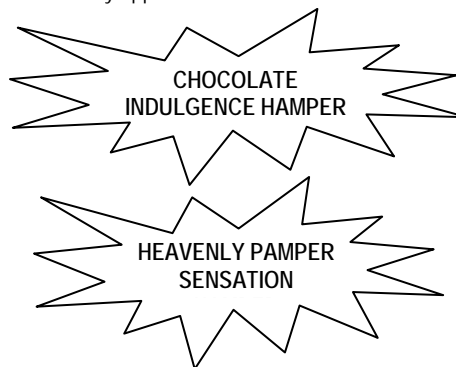
- ✓ 1 onion
- ✓ 1 carrot
- ✓ 1 stick celery
- ✓ 1 clove garlic
- ✓ 1 large head broccoli
- ✓ 1 cup chicken stock
- ✓ ½ cup cream

Peel and chop vegetables and place into a saucepan. Add ½ cup boiling water and a pinch of salt. Cover and cook until tender. Puree then add crushed garlic and chicken stock. Stir in cream and season with pepper. Heat and serve with crusty rolls or pita crisps.

SEASONAL OFFERS

Seasonal offers are not available with any other offer, discounted tariff or special packages.

Daffodil Day Bonus Donation. We will donate 15% of the booking value (up to \$100) of any new booking made between July 17th and August 30th to the Cancer Council's Daffodil day appeal.



These sensational hampers have been custom created for Briserenia Gardens patrons. They are crammed full of treats to make your time away even more enjoyable. Valued at \$125, the first 100 customers who book 2 or more nights are eligible to go into a draw to win one.

* Conditions apply

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.