



BATHURST, A HISTORY IN MOTION

Bathurst has come of age in more ways than one. **Carla Grossetti** visits the town ahead of its 2015 bicentenary, and finds much to celebrate.

Bathurst's most recognised landmark is Mt Panorama. But look beyond that ribbon of asphalt when it empties of cars going up the hill and back again and you'll find a tranquil township that remains somewhat of a time capsule, with much of its rich history perfectly preserved in its beautiful buildings.

Bathurst has staked its claim as the site of the first gold discovery in Australia and, fascinatingly enough, in 2015, will celebrate its bicentenary, as the country's oldest inland colonial settlement.

Bathurst Regional Council Mayor Gary Rush says it's tremendously exciting for the local community to celebrate 200 years since the proclamation of the town's settlement on May 7, 1815.

"Most Australians know Bathurst and Mt Panorama through the establishment of the great race in October every year, but we want Australians to recognise Bathurst beyond its status as the premier motor racing precinct in the country," says Rush.

"Bathurst has wonderful history and heritage – be it built, social, cultural, natural or environmental – and we feel very blessed that we are in a position to be able to showcase that. We have so much to offer."

Bicentenary revving up

Mayor Rush says the bicentenary will present many opportunities for Bathurst to show its best side and offer insights into a township where art and culture are brilliantly conjoined. ♦



Join our global learning community, educating and empowering young women to serve and shape their world.

Scholarships

Visit www.wenona.nsw.edu.au to register online.

For further information, please email enrolments@wenona.nsw.edu.au or phone +61 (02) 9409 4440.

Wenona School,
176 Walker Street, North Sydney.

@Wenona_School



THE ULTIMATE (FREE) GUIDE FOR URBAN EXPLORERS SYDNEY

FASHION DESIGN FOOD LIFESTYLE PERTH

URBANWALKABOUT.COM



While stalls showcasing local produce will celebrate the bicentenary year-round, the centrepiece of the activities will revolve around Proclamation Week, which will run from May 3-10. In the meantime, it's business as usual for the bricks-and-mortar establishments that are helping to put Bathurst on the culinary travel map.

While some visitors to Central NSW overlook Bathurst in favour of neighbouring Orange and Mudgee, the town's proximity to the Murray Darling Basin – one of Australia's most productive food bowls – puts it in reach of really great ingredients.

Cobblestone Lane chef and owner Heath Smith says it's that link between food and the farm that saw him return to Bathurst eight years ago.



The fork in the road

The 35-year-old was working at Bathers' Pavilion, in Sydney, when he had an epiphany: "I noticed that many of the ingredients that appeared on Sydney menus were grown in the Murray Darling Basin. It made perfect sense to open a country restaurant that was close to those key suppliers," he says.

The decision has paid off in spades with his restaurant, housed in the original 1850s Webb & Co emporium, earning acclaim for signature dishes such as the suckling pig served with pears, caramelised in cider and honey carrots or the smoked Mandagery Creek venison with pumpkin and pepita puree and delectable horseradish cream.

Cobblestone Lane's success has paved the way for other young creatives to colonise the rustic warehouse space, with the queues at hole-in-the-wall café Crema catching the eye of the caffeine-addled, while beverage emporium Webb & Co offers an alternative to the town's gritty pubs.

Action Man a load of bull

Husband-and-wife team Shannon and Jesse Morgan have brought the small-bar revolution to town with Webb & Co, which is awash with memorabilia that tells a story about the city and the space. While Shannon, 23, works the floor, husband Jesse, 31, heads the bar, which has been fashioned from old wrought-iron signs from the Zigzag Railway and timber from the old pits at Mt Panorama.

Taking pride of place above the bar is Action Man, a beloved Speckle Park bull from Wattle Grove Stud that belonged to a local family who loved him so much, they wanted to have him immortalised.

Action Man is about more than just the art of taxidermy. He was the prime breeder at the local stud, where the big fella was considered to be part of the family. "He is a big advertisement"

FAST FACT

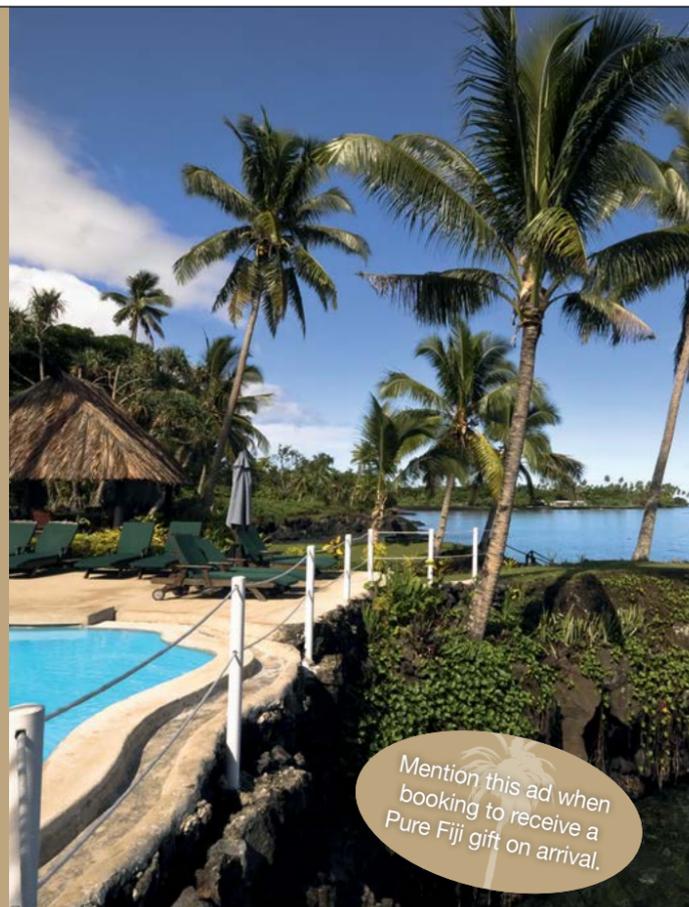
The local Bathurst Aboriginal Land Council has applied to the Geographical Names Board for the dual naming of Mt Panorama/Wahluu to honour the Wiradjuri people.

Mention this ad when booking to receive a Pure Fiji gift on arrival.

PARADISE
TAVEUNI - FIJI

Paradise Taveuni, situated on the southern tip of Taveuni, is a secluded and remote boutique oceanfront Resort. Nestled amongst lush tropical gardens with Rainforest Mountain as a back drop the resort caters to discerning travellers looking for their own piece of paradise. Its unique deep water frontage allows Guests to dive, snorkel and swim from the lava flow edge into pristine warm tropical waters at any time. If you're searching for true Fijian hospitality and long to experience the culture of this mystical land, spend some time in Paradise.

info@ParadiseinFiji.com | www.ParadiseinFiji.com



for living in the country. Action Man is a real fixture. But he also gives us the chance to share with customers the wider story of a fantastic local farming operation who are advocates for ethical and humane treatment of animals in farming," Shannon says.

"Action Man is like a mascot for change. Jesse and I grew up in the country and we wanted to bring a bit of the sophisticated city bar scene into Bathurst. We love it here and the food and beverage scene is something we are all, collectively, very proud of."

Amazing grazing

Customers can graze (under the watchful eye of Action Man) on snacks such as mini confit duck burgers, spicy chicken wings and beer-battered potato scallops, while enjoying Fish River Brewery ales on tap and gin made at Stone Pine Distillery, on the outskirts of town.

Stone Pine Distillery's Ian Hemp and his wife Bev, along with son Lewis, now 12, and Charlotte, now 10, moved from Scotland back to Bathurst, the scene of his childhood, in 2006. The 44-year-old, who is a biochemist and holds a post-graduate diploma in brewing and distilling, produces premium spirits and wines infused with a bouquet of native botanicals. While it was a leap of faith to relocate his wife and two kids to country Australia, Hemp says they have been warmly welcomed within the community. "I have such fond memories of my childhood in Bathurst. The place has changed quite a bit – it's getting more cafes, more bars and high-end places – but it's not losing its identity," he says. 📍

Below and above: Bathurst is steeped in tradition and culture.



Round-up

GET THERE

Bathurst is 200 kilometres west of Sydney. For flights, visit regionalexpress.com.au

STAY

Bishop's Court Estate Boutique Hotel

226 Seymour Street, Bathurst,
02 6332 4447, bishopscourtestate.com.au

The Dairy B&B

15 Waterworks Lane, Bathurst,
0412 933 213, milkhouse.com.au

EAT & DRINK

Cobblestone Lane

2/173-179 George Street, NSW
02 6331 2202, cobblestonelane.com.au

The Hub

52 Keppel Street, Bathurst
02 6332 1565, facebook.com/thehubbathurst

EXPLORE

Visit the Bathurst Information Centre for details on heritage walks and tours and for a map of the cellar doors. visitbathurst.com.au; winesofbathurst.com.au

Abercrombie Caves

Learn all about the Ribbon Gang who retreated to Abercrombie Caves before being tried and hanged in Ribbon Gang Lane. abercrombiecaves.com

MORE INFO

visitcentralnsw.com.au



ENJOY THE VIEW

Melbourne Parkview Hotel

\$139 PER ROOM, PER NIGHT*

We will even throw in breakfast for 1 or 2 daily!

*T&C apply. Subject to availability. Must mention 'Rex special offer' at time of booking. Valid for travel until 30 December 2014.

MELBOURNE HOTEL ON TRIPADVISOR
TOP 20



BOOK TODAY

03 9529 8888

reservations.pv@viewhotels.com.au

www.viewhotels.com.au

VIEW
MELBOURNE
PARKVIEW
HOTEL

HELLO OR GOODBYE?



To make sure it's not goodbye, the Tasmanian devils need your help!

Log onto www.tassiedevil.com.au for more info and ideas.

AN INITIATIVE OF THE SAVE THE TASMANIAN DEVIL PROGRAM
COORDINATED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA FOUNDATION

Devil Facial Tumour Disease was discovered in Tasmanian devils in 1996. It's a contagious cancer spread through biting, and it is **always fatal**.

The devil population has suffered immensely and, **more than 80% have been lost**.

The 'Save the Tasmanian Devil Program' supports the survival of the devil in its natural habitat, the Tasmanian wilderness.

Funding is vital, and we need your help.



STANBISH



RATUA Private Island offers
unique luxury steeped in authenticity.

Ratua

PRIVATE ISLAND

Ratua is a private island right in the well-preserved Vanuatu archipelago. This 146-acre jewel of unexplored nature is covered with lush tropical vegetation, and bordered by sandy beaches, turquoise water and amazing marine life. This eco-luxury hideaway was developed with a strong ambition to preserve an untouched sanctuary while establishing some modern comforts.

information +678 300 20
reservations +678 75 111 02
management@ratua.com
www.ratua.com

