



MEDIA RELEASE

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YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONGS: FAMILY FUN

The Yarra Valley & Dandenongs Ranges has long been known as a region for couple escapes, however, today the region also offers up a heady mix of activities accommodation choices and spectacular scenery – appealing to families and the best part is that it is all in easy reach of Melbourne – and can be experienced all year round no matter what the season.

RAYNERS STONE FRUIT

Head out to ***Rayner's Stonefruit Orchard*** and experience the amazing range of freshly grown fruit they have on hand. From December to March take a guided walk or a tractor tour through the vast orchards where fruit ranging from peaches and apricots through to plums and nectarines are grown in abundance.

For more information please visit: www.raynerstonefruit.com.au

THE BIG BOUQUET: ALPACA AND FLOWER FARM TOURS

Although at first glance it may seem a rather eclectic mix, ***The Big Bouquet and Alpaca Farm*** is an excellent family destination. With a 12,000m² greenhouse holding over 62,000 plants, a mixture of gerberas and anthuriums, as well as a fully fledged alpaca breeding farm, there is a collection of different and unusual sights for the whole family.

For more information please visit: www.bigbouquet.com.au

KELLYBROOK CIDER FESTIVAL

This annual event held at the ***Kellybrook Winery*** is a great day out for the whole family. Watch traditional cider being made right before your eyes, feast on traditional farmhouse meals such as roast pork and apple sauce, enjoy the ample live music as well as children's entertainment. Take a seat on the lawns and simply enjoy the fantastic atmosphere!

For more information please visit: www.kellybrookwinery.com.au/ciderfestival.php

YARRA VALLEY TOURIST RAILWAY

The **Yarra Valley Tourist Railway** is a popular tourist attraction for all groups, but in particular families. Catch one of their famous trolley trains from Healesville to Tunnel Hill whilst taking in the amazing sights of the region. Or for the more adventurous, get dressed up and take part in the annual Ghost Themed Night, scare yourselves silly and have a great time doing it!

For more information please visit: www.yarravalleyrailway.org.au

BUXTON TROUT AND SALMON FARM

For the ultimate family fishing experience, you can't go past the **Buxton Trout and Salmon Farm**. With a great, natural setting there are fish to be caught by young and old alike.

Hook yourself onto a rainbow trout or salmon to take home with you or, alternatively, cook on our BBQ facilities. There is also a wide variety of mountain ash smoked trout, trout caviar, and salmon caviar at the farm for purchase.

For more information please visit: www.buxtontrout.com.au

PUFFING BILLY

Parks, forests, wildlife, nature trails and flowering gardens define the adjacent **Dandenong Ranges** where Australia's oldest steam train, **Puffing Billy**, winds its way through the thick forests and lush fern-filled gullies, stopping at historic towns in the hills.

The world famous Puffing Billy Railway is Australia's favourite steam train and one of the finest preserved steam railways in the world. The railway - which commenced operation in Australia on December 18, 1900 - operates every day except Christmas Day and is a genuine relic of our more leisurely days.

For all bookings and enquiries phone (03) 9757 0700 or visit www.puffingbilly.com.au

TREES ADVENTURE

For an unforgettable adventure head to **Trees Adventure**, an obstacle course in the sublime surrounds of Glen Harrow Gardens, which features some of Australia's rarest and most

remarkable trees. Participants adventure from tree to tree, taking on thrilling mid-air challenges up to 15 meters high.

For more information please visit: www.treesadventure.com.au

HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY -

The Healesville Sanctuary is famous around the world for its wide range of Australian native species, with over 200 different varieties it is one of the most acclaimed in Australia. Ranging from dingoes, kangaroos and emus right through to wombats and birds of prey, there's plenty for all to experience and enjoy.

Spread over 30 magnificent hectares, the park also boasts a large number of native species of fauna, enabling the animals to live as close as possible to their natural environment.

For more information please visit: www.zoo.org.au/HealesvilleSanctuary

LILYDALE TO WARBURTON BIKE TRAIL

For those who are interested in a longer walk or ride, Warburton is at one end of the well known Lilydale-Warburton trail, a 38 kilometre track modeled closely on the old railway line.

Take this opportunity to see some of Victoria's most picturesque countryside whether it be via bike, horse or even on foot. There are car park, picnic and even horse facilities located along the trail to ensure that the adventurous types are able to stop and enjoy the scenery.

SKYHIGH

For a magnificent view head to Mt Dandenong's **Sky High**, this romantic destination was awarded the Melbourne's Favorites award for best tourist attraction in 2009. SkyHigh has something for the whole family including, an exquisite English garden, adventurous SkyHigh Maze and links to trail walks in the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

For more information please visit: www.skyhighmtdandenong.com.au

The Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges have some great dining favourites for families like **Cuckoo**, **Flip'n Pancakes**, as well as the famous **Beechworth Bakery**. For a sweet treat for the kids head to **You Scream Ice Cream** for fresh handmade ice-cream, ice-cream sorbets and gelato. They also have soy, gluten free and diabetic flavours plus old fashioned favourites so nobody should miss out!

With so many fabulous family friendly destinations on offer in the Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges it's time to start planning your next family getaway.

For more information please visit: www.yrrml.com.au

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