



MEDIA RELEASE

AUGUST 26, 2010

YARRA VALLEY AND THE DANDENONGS: NEW PRODUCT

The Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges is home to some unique, new product exclusive to the region which highlights the diversity of the region: food and wine, family, nature, cultural and history experiences.

One industry that has shown a particularly strong surge in recent years is that of the microbrewery. Perfectly aligned to the existing food and wine industries these new brews and ciders are yet another way to sample Australia's finest gastronomic experiences. A number of local producers have begun selling their own individual brews, adding to the rich tradition of the region.

With their very own fleet of accomplished home brewers and beer fanatics, the **Innocent Bystander** is one of the key wineries in the region who are rolling out their own brand. And whilst on the topic of the golden drop the **White Rabbit** brewery located in Healesville needs a mention as it is sure to intrigue you with the complex flavours and handsome character of their White Rabbit Dark Ale.

Buckley Brewery must get a mention here as a fine example of small scale craft beer-making business as well as the **Hargreaves Hill Brewing Company**, a family operated microbrewery and restaurant. Enjoy one of their ales or lagers or even taste one of their delicious Abbey Dubbel and Stout! **Kelly Brothers** cider is literally a knock out! At seven percent it is not for the faint hearted by the fact that it constantly sells out suggest there are lot's of brave people out there.

For those who prefer cider to beer there is plenty on offer, from the **Coldstream Brewery** through to the less traditional ciders of **Punt Road Wines**, and taste one of the Napoleone family's unique pear ciders which has been hand-crafted using fresh Yarra Valley pears.

LOCKTON FARM GOURMET SAUSAGES

Lockton Farm is one of many local producers in the Yarra Valley who are taking what was once a sterile view to food and giving it a fresh twist. Not only is every single item in the store gluten free, but there

are a number which are now also fructose free, allowing them to provide their products to a wider range of customers.

With a stunning array of products from Red Thai Chilli sausages through to Pork Pumpkin and leek and Honey Mustard/Lemon it's no wonder that more and more people are beginning to head to Lockton Farm.

TREES ADVENTURE

For an unforgettable adventure head to ***Trees Adventure***, an obstacle course in the sublime surrounds of Glen Harrow Gardens located just a two minute walk from Puffing Billy in Belgrave it 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: ADVENTURE INTO CORANDERK

One of the most amazing and enlightening ways to experience the Yarra Valley's bushland is ***Adventure into Corranderk*** which will take you into a world you've never quite experienced. Take a guided eco-tour and learn more about our native flora and fauna of Australia than you could ever have imagined.

Spot rare animals, learn about conservation and take afternoon tea at the rustic bush hut, all part of your package which includes entry to the internationally renowned ***Healesville Sanctuary***.

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

FREE ENTRY TO PARKS AND GARDENS IN DANDENONGS

From July 1, 2010, Parks Victoria declared that entry into all National Parks and gardens will be free of charge. This means that visitors to the Dandenongs are now able to experience the National Rhododendron Gardens and the William Ricketts Sanctuary without paying a cent. Check out the stunning natural beauty of these gardens without having to worry about entry fees or charges.

WILLIAM RICKETTS SANCTUARY: AUDIO GUIDES

Parks Victoria has recently released a new audio guide for visitors to the ***William Ricketts Sanctuary*** in the Dandenongs. Visitors to the sanctuary can now download the 30 minute audio guide online for free

and choose to listen to it before they visit or load it onto an MP3 player and take it with them when they visit.

YARRA VALLERY DAIRY – NEW CHEESES

Yarra Valley Dairy a small family business which was started by the Mooney family in 1995 to make handmade farm house cheese. Yarra Valley Dairy has recently launched three new cheeses to add to their range of quality handmade cheeses these include: Cardi, Saffy & Juno.

CARDI is a soft fresh goats' milk cheese marinated with cardamom pods, shallots coriander and black pepper.

SAFFY is a creamy fresh cows' milk cheese marinated with saffron, lemon zest, cumin seeds and garlic.

JUNO is a soft fresh goats' milk cheese marinated with juniper berries, green olive, rosemary, red capsicum and garlic.

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

DRIVEN INDULGENCE: DESIGNATED DRIVER SERVICE

Driven Indulgence provides custom designed Yarra Valley wine tours where every care is given to delight and be of service the guest. Visitors have the option of taking their own vehicle or to hire a luxury sedan.

With destinations including wineries, breweries, cheese and chocolate stores and restaurants Driven Indulgence offers you your very own driver so you can really enjoy an ultimate day of relaxation.

Your host and driver for hire is Sandy Bogusis, who will take you right from your doorstep and back again, your safety and comfort is taken care of, while you enjoy the full magnificence of your day in the Yarra Valley.

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

YARRA RANGES IPHONE APPLICATION

Yarra Valley & the Dandenongs Marketing has also recently launched a new Tourism iPhone Application where businesses in the region have the opportunity to list their products on the world's most popular device, the iPhone.

This ground-breaking iPhone application allows the region to become leaders in the development of a location-aware application which will deliver useful Yarra Valley & Dandenongs Tourism Data and on-location to those who are interested.

For more information please visit: www.yrrml.com.au/iphone-details/

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