

We visit Lyrebird Luxury Apartments

The unimposing façade of 105 Falls Road belies what lies beyond. The original house has been very cleverly refurbished into 2 beautifully modern and luxurious apartments.

Lyrebird Apartments are well described as being 'luxurious'. No detail has been overlooked. The finish is excellent, right down to every last detail of the tasteful décor.

Just 3½ years ago, whilst managing some local B&B Cottages for the owner, Elizabeth and Neale Johnston purchased the original house from Thelma and Ken West who had raised their family there.

We felt that we had served our B & B apprenticeship and were ready to go into business for ourselves. We bought the house in August 2005 and opened up the front apartment for business that October.

Neale's mum and dad came up regularly and helped over a period of months in early 2006 with the renovating of the rear studio. Designing the studio was all about taking advantage of the magnificent view and garden.

At about the same time the Marysville postal contract came up and Neale decided to take that on. His route of two hundred homes and businesses takes up until midday and then he is free to help out with the running of the apartments. We are very much in hospitality/customer service mode when getting the apartments ready for guests - we like everything about them to be spot on; we are very particular.

TN: And it shows Elizabeth. What were your backgrounds prior to entering the B & B business?

I had been in IT and Admin previously - mainly to finance my hippy travelling lifestyle. My travels started with a West-East trip across the USA in a VW Kombi van with a girlfriend. The highlight of my travels was when I lived and worked in The Netherlands for a couple of years and really got to integrate into another culture. I probably covered most of the country by push-bike in that 2 years (which isn't hard - very few hills!) and learnt the language whilst working in a secretarial pool, chatting with the girls. Travelling overseas really made me appreciate home and I loved coming back to Australia and New Zealand.

I met Neale 15 years ago after returning to Australia and settling in Melbourne. Neale is a horticulturalist by trade having done his apprenticeship at Melbourne City Council. He had a successful landscape & design business, mainly in the Essendon/Strathmore area - but when I met him he was a full-time single dad bringing up 3 girls, which I thought was pretty impressive! After we married we moved from Coburg to Doncaster then to Heathmont - slowly migrating out of the city. The opportunity to come to Marysville came up at a time when we felt we were ready for a real 'free change'. We love it here and have met some really great people. Both our boys have gone through the local primary school and have now moved onto secondary college.

Neale now plays bowls for Marysville - he loves it and is very involved within the club and plays pennant on Saturdays from October through until April, however once the new green is in good shape and the lights are up we will be able to bowl socially all year round.

TN: Lyrebird Apartments have an exceptionally large back garden with very established trees and plants. We were doing this interview sitting under the most glorious burgundy coloured Copper Beech tree. Like the apartments themselves, this garden is lovingly groomed to perfection. The Johnston's are justifiably proud of what they have achieved through their labour. I commented on the fact and asked Elizabeth if it gives her time for any other interests in her life.

My other passion is eco-friendly products - we sell a variety of bags made from parachute silk, a tough, light-weight fabric and a stylish alternative to plastic and those bulky green-bags. I like products that can make everyday life easier as well as satisfying environmental ideals.

For information regarding Lyrebird Apartments contact :
info@lyrebirdatmarysville.com
www.escapetomarysville.com.au -
phone 0411 460 414

(a TN feature article - call 5774 7336 to share yours or suggest another)

AUSTRALIA DAY 2009
 MARYSVILLE AND DISTRICT
 THANK YOU



Photo - Dave Nicholson

What a great day we had! The weather was perfect, the streets were crowded, the music was fantastic and the community loved the parade.

A big thank you to all the parade participants, without you the day would not be the success it was.

Thank you to the Emergency Services, it was fantastic to see so many of you out there and joining in. We are lucky in this area to have so many at our door steps.

Thanks to Sgt Kev for helping to make the parade what it was.

Thanks also to Manical Mechanicals for the donation of toys for our cute little Vampires.

And thanks to Lynne at Marysville Bakery for donating all the bread for the sausages, and to Reddrops Marysville, for their valued support.

Thanks to Murrindindi Shire Council for your contribution to the day.

Over the next few weeks we will put in a few more photos of the day.

Last but not least HUGE thank you to all the Lions members who ensured that the day went off without a hitch.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year, and the parade getting bigger and better.

Just a short note to say thank you to all who have participated in the Community Consultation Group meetings over the past few months including Peter Cownley (Murrindindi Construction Resource Manager) and Mark Leitingner (manager Murrindindi Construction). We are already seeing very positive results including new gardens in Murchison Street, Pack Road, in front of the VIC and opposite the General Store.

The inclusion of more Elm trees on the Elm leaf beetle eradication program.

Plans to plant advanced Oak trees where diseased trees have been removed

Groups working to bring more life into the village with various street art projects being planned

Anyone interested or with a project in mind are welcome to attend as are the rest of the community

Meetings are held at 5pm in the Village Hall on the 3rd Monday of the month

Terry Donovan

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part time position**

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You will be based at Alexandra but travel around the shire liaising with families needing child care, and supporting the people who provide this care in private homes. As well you will promote our services and assist with administration.

The position is initially for two days per week but this could increase if we work together to expand our services. You need a Victorian driver's licence and must pass Police & Working With Children checks.

You can get more information from Louise Flowers on 5772 0356, and find the job description at www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au or by ringing Lisa Ryan on 5772 0365

Applications close on Monday 16 February 2009 at 9am 2009.

Marysville Police News

The holiday season in 'The Triangle' was fairly trouble free. Motor vehicle incidents and even domestic problems have been at a relatively low incident rate. This is pleasing for all. Over holiday periods, many people lose property such as wallets, mobile phones, jewellery, etc. this property is usually left at shops, walks, and other public places. If anyone finds property belonging to someone else, please do the correct thing and hand it in to police.

Local issues needing attention, include damage being done to our primary schools, in particular Buxton Primary. Petty, nuisance level crimes have been committed there over the Christmas period. These consist of taps being turned on and water tanks being emptied, graffiti and other annoyances. The main problem however, being damage caused to the sail sun-shelter over the children's play equipment area. Small holes have been burned into the sail cloth, probably with a cigarette lighter or similar. I find it very disappointing that this type of behavior exists in our small community. It is believed that children are responsible for this damage, and I would urge each and every parent to keep track of their children's movements, especially at night. Underage children found in the areas of the school grounds without lawful reason may be asked some serious questions. The Marysville Primary School has for some time now banned children within its grounds after school hours. The reasons for this are simple, damage occurs when unsupervised children use the area. The concrete area within the school grounds is favored by skateboarders, and these children are now being told to keep away, along with others.

The Acheron Youth Training Centre at Buxton, is presently closed-down. This premises will later be used for other youth related activities. Over the last few weeks, unknown offenders have visited this establishment and stolen a number of air conditioner units, water pumps and other pieces of equipment. As a result, security has been improved with the placement of covert cameras and police will be making regular impromptu visits. If anyone has any information re the above crimes or the stolen property, please call police with information - remember, you do not have to leave your details.

The tree issue has raised its head once again. This involves the targeting and removal of so-called 'woody weeds' or certain types of 'exotic' trees. The trees in question include Sycamore Maples, Pittosporums, Laurels, Hollies, etc. While there have been various local efforts by groups in and around the walks and tourist areas of The Triangle, these efforts are overseen and co-ordinated by the D.S.E., and therefore sanctioned. It has come to our attention recently, that certain people have been operating outside these guidelines and targeting trees within the Marysville township, including private property. This action is obviously **not sanctioned**. The size of the tree, their age or placement probably are not considerations. A number of trees have been drilled and poisoned, including a small group on the Woods Point Road close to the Murchison Street, round-about. If anyone has any information regarding illegal killing, poisoning or removal of trees within the Marysville area, or have been approached by people on your own property, please contact Marysville Police with details A.S.A.P.

Prepared by Senior Constable Peter L. COLLYER - Marysville Police Station.

Scottish Country Dance Workshop

If you enjoy Bush Dancing you'll really enjoy this dance form, as it has many similarities.

Instruction in this style of dance by a very experienced dancer, dance caller & musician, given at a level to suit all participants.

Comfortable footwear & clothing is all you need- tartan is acceptable but by no means necessary!

A small donation to offset hall-hire.

Marysville Village Hall, Murchison St. Marysville.
Saturday, 21st February 2.00pm-4.00pm as a part of the
Wirreanda Festival weekend.
Ph. Diane 59633277 for more details.

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Marysville Tennis Courts

are now open and ready for hire. Bookings made via the Marysville Visitor Information Centre. Court hire is by the hour @\$15 per hour, tennis equipment is also for hire at a small fee. Further enquiries ring the VIC on 5963 4567