

Fact Sheet

Episode 280
Saturday 18th April 2009

Mt Barney Special

About a ninety minute drive from Brisbane, the Scenic Rim is defined by the Great Dividing and McPherson ranges and is home to some of the best known peaks in SE QLD, such as Mt Barney and Mt Maroon.

Dean and Bridget toured the region and explored some of the accommodation options, food producers, vineyard, eateries and farms, all within a short drive.

Rathdowney Alpaca Farm

A popular first stop for visitors is the Rathdowney Alpaca Farm. It is run by Sheila Woolf, and she opens it for farm visits. Guests will be able to meet Sheila's Alpacas, shop in her store, the Alpaca Shack, and even enjoy a BYO picnic on her lovely property.

Families and groups must book ahead, and the Alpaca Shack is open Wednesday – Sunday, 11am – 3pm.

Contact: **Rathdowney Alpaca Farm**
www.ausalpaca.com
5544 3272

Rathlogan Grove

There are no grapes growing at Rathlogan Grove, but they still produce a lovely drop. In 2002, Colin and Marilyn Liebke planted 1200 olive trees and now they're reaping the rewards. Their trees produce up to 1000Litres of olive oil a year, which the Liebke's sell on site and throughout the Scenic Rim.

Visitors are invited for a behind the scenes tour of the operation, and also to the on site café, where they can have lunch and try some of Rathlogan's olive oil.

Contact: **Rathlogan Grove**
5544 1024

Pizze Alla Pietro

Italian Cooking Classes at Pizze Alla Pietro are a favourite activity for locals and

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visitors to the Scenic Rim. Pietro is an authentic Italian pizza chef who wowed Brisbane diners with his pizzas at the Schonell Pizza Café for 16 years.

Now Pietro and his wife Desley have opened the cooking school and Pietro is keen to share his recipes. It's a fun filled class where students cook up wood fired pizzas and then devour them, washing it down with some local wines, and finishing with a dessert of home-made gelato.

Contact: **Pizze Alla Pietro**
5544 1008

Barney Creek Vineyard Cottages

There are two very special reasons why visitors to the Scenic Rim enjoy staying at Barney Creek Vineyard Cottages. First is the beautiful accommodation. There's a lakeside bungalow, a garden cottage, and an old railway station that has been moved to the site and renovated for guests.

There's also the Barney Creek Wines label. The vineyard is on site and the first class wine is available for guests to enjoy and take home.

Contact: **Barney Creek Vineyard Cottages**
www.barneycreekcottages.com
5544 3285

Thistledown Country Retreat

Thistledown Country Retreat is another popular accommodation option for visitors to the Scenic Rim, with a lovely self contained cottage as well as a B&B on offer.

Any Thistledown experience is very much about reliving the elegance of a bygone era. A particularly enriching experience is a night of gourmet dining in the opulent candlelit dining room. Thistledown also offers life changing focus workshops and retreats.

Contact: **Thistledown Country Retreat**
www.thistledowncountryretreat.com.au
5544 3232

Mt Barney Lodge Country Retreat

Innes and Tracey Larkin manage the sprawling property of Mt Barney Lodge Country Retreat. They offer camping facilities with full amenities, as well as homesteads and lodges for couples, families and groups.

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Mt Barney Lodge also offers a big range of adventure and outdoor activities for both adults and children. There's abseiling, rock climbing, navigation training and lots more.

One of the most popular activities is bushwalking, and the lodge offers a huge range of self guided and guided bushwalks, depending on your level of fitness. For those wanting to take it easy, they can enjoy a leisurely guided wildflowers walk. The more adventurous can be led up big peaks like Mt Maroon and even Mt Barney.

Contact: **Mt Barney Lodge Country Retreat**
www.mtbarneylodge.com.au
5544 3233

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