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JOHN ROZENTALS visits the Blue Mountains and takes a trip back to the 1920s.

February 4, 2014 Travel Deals No Comments Print Email



performing the dance.

Led by TV presenter Claudia Chan Shaw — panellist for ABC's *The Collectors* program and self-confessed 1920s tragic — the participants lined up in six long files to kick their heels and swing their hips for five minutes in a routine once considered very risqué indeed.

Blue Mountains towns abound with architecture and businesses built during, or closely associated with, the 1920s —



the Carrington Hotel, The Paragon Café, and the fabled Hydro Majestic Hotel, currently under complete refurbishment and due for reopening on July 4 this year, the 110th anniversary of its official opening as a health resort by Sydney retail king Mark Foy.

The passion that people have for the 1920s and its relevance to the Blue Mountains is no better exemplified than by Lorraine Allanson, who, with her husband Roger, purchased a Katoomba cottage four years ago and lovingly transformed it into The Gatsby (phone 1300 721 321 or visit www.mountainwhispers.com.au) — wonderful tourist accommodation and a charming treasure trove of period mementoes.

To stay there, within relatively easy walking distance of Echo Point and surrounded by just so many personal touches, certainly proved one of life's great pleasures.

The Roaring 20s and All That Jazz Festival runs until February 23. For a full program of events, phone Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Oberon Tourism on 1300 922 492 or visit roaring20s.com.au.

Coming highlights include the highlands Steam and vintage Fair at Oberon on February 8, the Roaring 20s Glamour & Gowns Ball in Lithgow on February 15, a Historic Chifley Cave Tour and High Tea at Jenolan Caves on February 16, and Jazz in the Garden at the Norman Lindsay Gallery at Faulconbridge on February 22.



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