

Join Helen Young on WA garden tour



CARPET OF COLOUR – Wildflowers in the Kalbarri National Park.

TRAVELLERS can join gardening identity and radio regular Helen Young on a tour of the magnificent gardens and national parks of Western Australia.

Helen will introduce you to the horticultural highlights of the 'sunniest city in Australia', including Eneabba, home to the spectacle of 2000 species of flowering plants; the magnificent Kalbarri National Park; a visit to Sue McDougall's veggie garden; and a tree-top walk through the magical forest at Bow Bridge.

Priced at \$4790 per person twin share, the 14-day tour departs on September 21 and travels through Perth, Geraldton, Pemberton, Albany and Margaret River. ■ 1800-630-343, www.travelrite.com.au

Shh... whisper is this is the place to relax

ACCORDING to Lorraine Allanson, owner of Mountain Whispers, a boutique portfolio of historic homes in the Blue Mountains, the patient and health recovery holidays segment is growing.

An increasing number of Lorraine's guests are cancer and heart disease patients looking for a place to stay during their recovery.

"Being in an environment that is conducive to a smooth recuperation without the city chaos, noise or pollution is important to many patients who have just gone through major

RECOVER – Varenna offers a welcome respite.



surgeries or long-term treatments," she said.

"While the travel and hospitality industry caters to the masses that largely go on fun-driven holidays, it is equally important to cater to those needing recovery holidays.

"From my guest bookings, I can safely say this is a growing trend; and while it's not the happiest of topics, it is an essential one." Having had family mem-

bers affected by cancer Lorraine says she understands the importance of a comfortable and safe environment – not just for those recovering, but also for terminally ill patients who want to create special memories in the time they have left.

Mountain Whispers is a collection of four 4.5 star restored historic homes. ■ www.mountainwhispers.com.au



FOOD BOWL – Farm gate tours this month.

Fabulous farm gates

GREATER Port Macquarie will showcase its thriving food bowl this winter and give people the opportunity to enjoy its fresh, warming flavours at a new Farm Gate Tour event on the June 8-10 long weekend.

Visitors can self-drive to more than 10 farms and hear from the farmers and specialist speakers on topics such as free range, regeneration, biodiversity and

water quality. An initiative of Landcare, the event offers the chance to tour farms that don't normally open to the public.

A fee of \$30 covers all events.

One of the farms is Ewetopia, a 130-acre property producing ewes' milk cheese.

■ (02) 6586-4465, 1300-303-155, email portmacquarieinfo.com.au

Grand new look for Melbourne Rendezvous

ONE of Melbourne's most historic hotels, Rendezvous Grand Hotel Melbourne, has recently undergone a multi-million dollar refurbishment of its accommodation rooms and public spaces. The hotel has a number of bespoke

spaces, from the Roof Terrace overlooking the city, to the worldly Heritage Lounge or the light-filled Atrium Room.

■ (03) 9250-1811, www.rendezvoushotels.com/melbourne/

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*Conditions apply. Prices are in AUD, based on per person, twin share. Single supplement is available. Packages and airfares are subject to availability. Airfares based on Economy class flying Singapore Airlines valid on departures ex MEL/SYD/BNE/PER/ADL. Taxes are correct as of 01 March and are subject to change. For full details view our website www.toptours.com.au. ** Phone for details.