

Blue Mountains Whispers calling

PROFILE

By Maria Silvestri

As I sit and have a coffee with Lorraine Allanson whom I met through one of my networking associations last year, I wonder why people tell me that "Lorraine was born in the wrong Era."

Lorraine Allanson, is the owner of Mountain Whispers - four gorgeous award winning properties in the Blue Mountains, which she has lovingly restored from the ground up with her own hands right down to the Edwardian and Art Deco colour schemes and the lighting and furnishings in each property.

Each cottage is an experience; to travel

back in time but with the luxury and sophistication you must experience for yourself.

Most guests that stay at one property will eventually stay at all four, just to experience the difference.

You will be spoiled from the moment you enter each property starting with *Varenna* the former residence of the granddaughter of Arch Deacon William Cowper.

Miss Cowper's father was the Very Reverend William Macquarie Cowper (Dean of Sydney), and her uncle was Sir Charles Cowper (five times Premier of NSW).

Then Strawberry Patch, and Leura Rose which are all in Leura, and then finally to the gorgeous "The Gatsby" in Katoomba perfectly located on the doorstep of the region's most famous attractions, is a luxury self-contained cottage meticulously restored in unmistakable Art Deco style.

I asked Lorraine why "the Blue Mountains" especially since she lives in Sydney and



Mountain Whispers is my passion, I truly love what I do. To be in a position to then share my dream with my guests is rewarding beyond words can say.'



Lorraine Allanson.



The interiors of Lorraine's properties.



travels at least five times a week in excess of 1,000 kilometres a week to provide an incredible service to her guests.

Lorraine replies: "The Blue Mountains has always had a special place in my heart. During my early 20's, much time was spent on weekends horse riding in the picturesque Megalong Valley or bushwalking and house sitting in Leura. This is where my love affair with the region began, later in 1999, my husband Roger, proposed to me on Valentine's Day at the majestic Carrington Hotel - yet another romantic attachment to the Blue Mountains. With such a strong personal and heartfelt connection to the Blue Mountains, I felt a calling. So in 2006, I left the corporate world to pursue my dream of recreating yesteryear settings for the discerning luxury seeking vacationer."

I ask Lorraine about if her business was derived from a need or niche. Lorraine replies: "It was a Dream, and I love it!"

"Mountain Whispers is my passion, I truly love what I do. To be in a position to then share my dream with my guests is rewarding beyond words can say. The perfectionist in me ensures that no detail has been overlooked or expense spared with all my restorations."

I thought I was back in time sitting in "The Gatsby" one winter night last year when I was invited by Lorraine for drinks.

If you would like to get away for an experience in one of the Mountain Whisper properties, please contact Lorraine@mountainwhispers.com.au and tell her I sent you, you won't be disappointed.

To end my column this month, Heavenly Curves and Mountain Whispers are finalist in the Australian Small Business Champion Awards for 2014 so wish us luck for Saturday April 5, 2014.



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