

2016 MEETING – KATOOMBA



	Wednesday 16 th	Thursday 17 th	Friday 18 th March
10am		<p>Katoomba Street walk - history & special business. meet opposite the Railway Station level crossing before we walk down the hill to <i>Up-Beet, Omnia, The Post Office, Macarthur's Antiques & Vintage, Hominy bakery, Food Coop, One88 Gallery, Yellow Deli, Art Walk, Gingerbread House...</i> a guided tour of what is local, historic and special.</p> <p>Cultural Centre- art gallery & World Heritage Interpretive Centre – explore.</p> <p>Lunch, Cultural Centre showcasing local food (sponsored by <i>Katoomba Chamber of Commerce & Community</i>). Meet local business and community representatives.</p> <p>Cittaslow Australasia Board Meeting – Cultural Centre 2 – Minutes Business arising: external funding; website; possible accreditation structure... Reports from member towns.. Reports from other towns ... Finances... Business on Notice: Accreditation processes, Future of Cittaslow Australasia Next meeting. Free time – or a short bushwalk.</p>	<p>Meet at the Paragon Blue Room, to include morning tea and heritage tour of the 'back of house' incl. 1920's kitchen.</p> <p>Cittaslow Australasian AGM and other business, including preparations for 2017 international Cittaslow gathering.</p> <p>Bus Jaunt: the near region A packed lunch will be included as we head to Everglades Gardens (weather dependent) at the start of our local bus tour. This includes ... Everglades gardens, Echo Point, Hydro Majestic Hotel, Govetts Leap Heritage Centre & lookout, stroll thru Victory Theatre Antiques market and the Artisans Hub at Blackheath.</p> <p>Our bus tour will drive past Leura Village, Scenic World, and The Gully (a designated aboriginal place). See the famous Mountains sights plus hidden gems on this guided mini-bus tour.</p> <p>Or departure.</p>
11am			
12pm			
1pm			
2pm			
3pm			
4pm	Meet at The Carrington Hotel - big house bar – top end of Katoomba Street. Meet your hosts for billeting.		
5pm	Carrington Cellars , History tour plus microbrewery tasting. Wines and deli...		
6:30pm	Socialise over dinner at The Carrington Hotel dining room*	Cittaslow Katoomba – Blue Mountains Civic Reception – at The Lookout , 1F, 33-37 Echo Point Rd, Katoomba. To welcome the delegates & visitors to the fourth Australasian National Cittaslow gathering, including Mayor Keith Parkes (Alexandrina Council, SA) and wife Tracy. Enjoy drinks and nibbles as we watch the sunset and talk about special places...	Rest - or share a drink at The Carrington*
7pm			Blue Mountains Music Festival Friday night headline act* (or Saturday, or stay for the weekend)
8pm			Optional – <i>Hotel Blue</i> for music, beer & gourmet pizza*

*self-funded – price indications below

SAMPLING KATOOMBA (*Citta*) SLOW:

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE: Including a regional art gallery, café, library and excellent World Heritage interpretive centre. The centre occupies the top floor over a supermarket with panoramic views over Katoomba & setting. We'll hold a meeting here plus the Mayoral reception. The World Heritage Interpretation is a must-see! <http://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/>

CARRINGTON HOTEL: This beautiful and grand old lady of Katoomba continues to provide an anchor for both the community and visitors, playing a front and centre role in local events and festivals. Her library, sitting room, bar and restaurant are both evocative and convivial. And her restaurant is grand and reasonably affordable. Two course dinner \$55, drinks extra. <http://www.thecarrington.com.au/>

CARRINGTON CELLARS: Great food and wine in a wonderfully adapted late Victorian powerhouse that used to provide lighting for Katoomba. The microbrewery is new and in-production, but not yet open as a public venue... we get a preview! The Carrington Cellars also specialise in wines from the central west of NSW and have gourmet deli items. <http://www.thecarrington.com.au/cellars-deli/>

ECHO POINT: One of three top international tourist destinations in Australia, the viewing platform of Echo Point gives a spectacular view of the Three Sisters and deep into the Jamison valley. See what three million visitors see each year, plus join us for a short local bushwalk to see newly developed disabled accessible walking tracks. <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/Walking-tracks/three-sisters-walk>

EVERGLADES GARDEN: Paul Sorensen was a Danish trained gardener and landscaper who arrived in Australia in 1914 and subsequently transformed many Mountains gardens. *Everglades* is commonly regarded as his finest creation. Let's hope the weather's good, because this is pure garden magic on a clear day. <http://www.everglades.org.au/>

GINGERBREAD HOUSE: This conversion of a church into café and meeting place (nicely set up for children) will be where we have a coffee stop and experience chocolate bliss – being owned by Leura's Jodie Van Der Velden (where last time we did chocolate tasting at Josephans). <http://www.gbhousekatoomba.com/>

HOTEL BLUE: Wind down at this boutique venue with free music, gourmet pizza and beer on tap (if you wish and have the stamina!). Catch the end of that night's music – Jim Jarvis - a solo, world class blues performer with distinctive haunting voice and fine guitar style. <http://hotelblue.com.au/>

HOMINY BAKERY: The home of fantastic bread cakes and pastries – and what could be the best potato sourdough in the whole world. The shop is much photographed and can be found at the low end of Katoomba Street near the taxi rank.

HYDRO MAJESTIC HOTEL: At Medlow Bath and was recently re-opened after a \$30m refit. Looking like white icing on the escarpment edge, the heritage interpretation and adaption of the Boiler House to a trendy café needs to be experienced. This 1903 building has succeeded in drawing tourist patronage past Katoomba to Medlow and Blackheath. Recent home to the "Charleston Challenge" where 250 people (in a pea-souper fog) just failed snatch the Guinness Book of Records title for the largest number of costumed people dancing the Charleston by a mere flick of beads and boas! <http://www.hydrumajestic.com.au/>

KATOOMBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY: The Katoomba Chamber developed out of, and took over from, the Katoomba Mainstreet organization in 1999. The Chamber has had a significant impact on the local area, and the dedication and commitment of many members over the years has resulted in great improvements in and around the town. The organisation meets monthly and has a wide and active membership – that includes *Cittaslow – Katoomba Blue Mountains* <http://www.katoombachamber.com/>.

KATOOMBA FOOD COOP: One of Australia's most successful community operated bulk and fresh food outlets plus new adjacent shop is a thriving community hub. If you are looking for ethically grown quinoa, asafoetida, black eyed beans or eco-cleaning products, you won't be disappointed.

<http://bmfoodcoop.org.au/>

KATOOMBA ART WALK: This was a dingy back lane that no-one wanted to enter – until SAMA livened it up with street murals. Attracting local, national and international talent, and curated by the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, the main work was done on a frenzied long-weekend in 2015. Now the murals make it a tourist attraction. Some of the local participating artists have subsequently been able to make a full time living from their street art. <http://streetartmurals.com.au/>

OMNIA: It's not so often we see a mature-age person throwing in an earlier successful career and blossoming with creative energy within a new local shop. Lynn has done just that, creating her own affordable designs (made in Hoi Ann Vietnam) teamed up with kokeshi dolls, calligraphy brushes and local jewellery. Meet Lynn, but do bring along your wallets and purses! <http://shop.omniagiftboxes.com.au/>

PARAGON CAFÉ: This establishment of national heritage significance retains a century of décor and fittings, making it well worth a visit and more. You can read the full heritage listing here: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1170394> During a kitchen tour Robin will show us the baking equipment of the 1920's that she recently rediscovered, hidden behind a false wall. And we'll sample some of their produce at morning tea during a Cittaslow meeting. <http://www.theparagonkatoomba.com.au/>

SLOW FOOD BLUE MOUNTAINS: This parallel organisation under the active leadership of Anne Elliot (also a Cittaslow committee member) has recently run a remarkable 'Summer Harvest' festival through January and February. This ranged from very popular 'chooks tour' through 'garlic soiree' and on to bees, breadmaking, food workshops, special dinners and much much more (32 events!). We can't replicate all of this for our Cittaslow gathering, but you'll get a 'taste' of it! <http://www.slowfoodbluemountains.com.au>

ENJOY!

Additional Places to visit:

BLUE MOUNTAINS MUSIC FESTIVAL*: This follows the Cittaslow gathering, from Friday to Sunday evening. It features local, national and international performers across folk roots and blues, with around 6 venues at any time. It's regarded as one of Australia's best small festivals, which all happens in and around Katoomba Primary School, the Clarendon and RSL so close to the town centre. Buy your tickets early – it often sells out! <http://www.bmff.org.au/program>

BYGONE BEAUTIES: Recently extended, this Leura landmark has the biggest collection of teapots and dining paraphernalia in the southern hemisphere. It's famous for its Devonshire teas with over 100 teas to choose from! Even though it's not on our tour, it's included here for the collectors among you and because it has a wonderfully intact interior for an Edwardian house.... <http://www.bygonebeautys.com.au/>

KATOOMBA COMMUNITY GARDENS: Some of you may remember your visit to this place at the last Cittaslow event held in Katoomba. These community gardens are still going strong and well worth another stroll through! <https://bluemountainscommunitygardens.org/>

SCENIC WORLD: This amazing local business is now in the hands of the third generation of the Hammon family, who have continued its development as a world class attraction of national significance. Situated on the escarpment at Katoomba it includes the famous “Skyway” cable car with a disappearing floor, and the Scenic Railway which will take you to the bottom of the valley floor where there is a boardwalk through the rainforest. This business supports local products through their extensive shop and hosts a major sculpture exhibition annually. <http://wwwscenicworld.com.au>

THE GULLY, CATALINA PARK: Catalina Park now commonly known as The Gully, is a beautiful piece of land situated immediately west of Katoomba town centre which forms the headwaters of the Katoomba Falls Creek and is therefore part of the Warragamba Catchment area that provides Sydney’s water. It is an ecologically and culturally sensitive place. Before white settlement the Traditional Owners of the Gully – the Gundungurra and Darug peoples – used the Gully as a summer camp. Settlement at the foot of the mountains forced many Gundungurra and Darug people to resettle permanently in the Gully well before 1950. The flooding of the Burratorang Valley in the 1950s made this process irreversible. Around 1960 the last community of Aboriginal people were evicted from their homes in the gully to build a motor racing circuit. This circuit was briefly popular before the climate, topography and increasing standards for managing racing circuits eventually forced it into disuse. In 2002 the history of the gully and a description of its significance to Aboriginal people was published in “Sacred Waters: The Story of the Blue Mountains Gully Traditional Owners” by anthropologist and local resident, Dr. Dianne Johnson. The Gully now has formal state recognition as a place of Aboriginal significance. There is a walk incorporating the old racetrack, new boardwalks and significant interpretive panels.