

RENAISSANCE ROCKING HORSES OPEN WEEKEND A BOUTIQUE EVENT - A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

This year's boutique event at Rocking Horse Lodge, home of Australia's largest and only full time rocking horse makers & teachers, Chris Woolcock and Viktoria Darabi, will be loaded with old fashioned country pleasures, nostalgia, a dazzling array of artists, artisans, displays and demonstrators, plus top notch food and gourmet food stalls.

Following on from the success of their inaugural Boutique Open Weekend featuring Iain "Huey" Hewitson in October last year, Renaissance Rocking Horses is keen to again share and show off the Hawkesbury's world class, fresh and gourmet food bounty and the diverse density of artists, artisans and craftspersons. The event, which is part of the Hawkesbury Festival, was enjoyed by over 1200 people some from the Mountains, Bowral, Camden and the Hunter Valley.

"I've tried to create a boutique event that is a real tonic for the 'world weary'. And I must say that in the Hawkesbury, we are really spoiled for choice as we have an exciting and eclectic range of artists and artisans, plus a plethora of high quality farm gate producers making outstanding gourmet products," says Viktoria Darabi, organiser of the event.

In addition to artisan *Rocking Horse Maker, Chris Woolcock's* popular talks and demonstrations in his workshop, acclaimed *Porcelain Potter, Christine Sullivan* will demonstrate 'wheel throwing' of pots, give visitors a go at her wheel and will talk about pottery making. The award winning cake decorator turned potter, will be debuting some magnificent special occasion 'cakes' made in porcelain especially for this event. The pieces will be a demonstration of her technical skill and are also exquisite functional cake keepers. Some of her highly collectable pieces will also be for sale.

Other features of the weekend include:

- *Amazing Greys* Barbershop Quartet will sing classic barbershop, popular and Australian songs. The money raised for their performances goes to support the Oncology Research Unit at The Children's Hospital at Westmead NSW
- *Executive Chef, Ry Cunningham from Riverside Oaks Golf Resort* will be cooking up a storm on Saturday with tips on how to give that 'chef-ly' twist to your summer barbeque cooking
- Hawkesbury's own international profile *Equine Artist, Tara Brown* will conduct painting demonstrations and show some of her beautiful works in our newly constructed Victorian Carousel Pavilion.
- Alfresco dining in the 'high-top' will be catered by well-loved and well-known *Sassafras Creek Restaurant of Kurrajong*
- There will be a display of vehicles from the *Australian Pedal Car Club* and an ensemble of *Vintage Vehicles* for visitors to admire
- There will be lively sheep shearing demonstrations and a scrapbooking activity tent for the children, along with a rocking horse figurine and antique tin toy display from two private collections.
- *Rare tradesman John Dunnachie, 3rd Generation Cooper* will demonstrate the dying art of barrel making using traditional tools
- Viktoria will again be conducting the popular tours of the *Childhood Memories Collection* which includes vintage prams, bassinets, her handmade porcelain dolls and assorted interesting old wares and collectables
- Fresh and gourmet food sales and tastings with some *Hawkesbury Harvest* members plus great coffee, old fashioned drinks and slices available all day.
- Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 Concession, \$2 for under 15 yrs, under 5 free and parking is free. For more details go to www.rockinghorses.com.au and click on the Open Weekend link

RENAISSANCE ROCKING HORSES OPEN WEEKEND

Part of the *Hawkesbury Festival*
143 Pitt Town Road, McGraths Hill,
OCTOBER 11& 12, 2008
Sat/Sun 10am to 3pm

Ends-

For more information, to schedule an interview or photo shoot
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