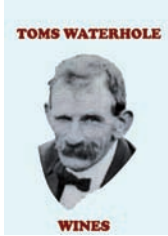


# canowindra**faces**



*It is the people of a town that give it character. Meet some of those behind the friendly reputation of Canowindra...*

Photography by Kristy Dyke


 <p><b>TOMS WATERHOLE</b> WINES</p> <p>ALL WINES MADE &amp; BOTTLED ON SITE Ploughman's lunches by request, with speciality breads &amp; espresso coffee OPEN WEEKENDS &amp; PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 10:00AM-4:00PM</p> <p>Contact Graham &amp; Jan Kerr, Longs Corner Road Canowindra Phone 02 6344 1819 Fax 02 6344 2172 Email <a href="mailto:pieman@westserv.net.au">pieman@westserv.net.au</a></p>	<p><b>BALLOON JOY FLIGHTS</b></p>  <p>Early morning champagne balloon flights. Group discounts and gift certificates available. OPERATING 23 YEARS</p>
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*“people who seek a better quality of life - the fresh country air, abundant local produce and relaxed pace”*

**Janeen Abbott from Raw Canvas Art Supplies** has been a resident of Canowindra for 27 years after marrying a local: “Canowindra is a nice drive from some of the larger centers, which makes it a good destination for lunch or a picnic. It is also becoming a cultural hub for art and crafts,” she explains. Raw Canvas Art Supplies caters to this demand, selling good quality art materials to artists and students, as well as classes when there is demand. “I originally lived in Sydney and Canowindra is very relaxed in comparison. I think like most small towns there is a familiarity among residents that is sometimes missing in larger towns. Some may think it would be a bad thing, but if anybody needs a hand there is always someone there to help.” This extends to the business community as well; “Locals have tended to support local business as it means the continuation of the town and the lifestyle they are used to.”

**Troy and Katie Kelly from Essentially Childs Play** moved to Canowindra two years ago and their toy store has now been open for 10 months. “We focus on providing beautiful wooden toys; puzzles, musical instruments, play sets ride ons and more – wherever possible sourcing Australian made products,” says Troy. “We are so fortunate to live in this wonderful community that has an eclectic mix of farmers, vigneron, artists, foodies, academics, national and international businesses and people who seek a better quality of life – the fresh country air, abundant local organic produce and relaxed pace.” Troy is quick to reel off the advantages of living in Canowindra – that it is

a fantastic town to raise children in, “giving them the foundation for a happy life,” and that – even as relative newcomers – his family has an absolute feeling of belonging. What of the disadvantages? “I’ll let you know when I come across one.”

**Toby Newcome and Matt Dunn and from Belubula Butchery** are Canowindra ‘lifers’, having lived here their whole life. As the only butcher’s shop in town, Belubula sell a range of locally produced meats as well as out sourcing from Victoria and Queensland. “In good times, our local farmers have some of the best and richest crops and produce around, and combined with other businesses and trades in the area it makes for a well groomed and well run town,” says Matt. As far as Canowindra being a tight knit community, Matt believes that when the need arises the local emergency services all work in well together, giving the community confidence. “The advantages of living in Canowindra is that everyone knows everyone, and the disadvantages is that everyone knows everyone,” he laughs.

**Tom and Georgie Ward from Swinging Bridge Estate** believe that what makes Canowindra unique from other towns is the readily extended welcome and the willingness to help others. Tom was born in Canowindra and Georgie moved there when they were married in 2003. The vineyard was planted in 1995 and the family-owned business delivers distinctive, handcrafted premium wines. “Having lived elsewhere in larger cities I found that I was just another face in the crowd,” explains Georgie. “We receive a lot of support from the town who seem to value wine from their own area.” As an example of how the community can pull together Georgie cites the running of the community pre-school, which has recently been renovated and landscaped. Georgie and Tom appreciate the fact they can walk down the main street and always run into someone for a chat.

**Graham and Jan Kerr have been operating Balloon Joy Flights** for 23 years and opened Tom’s Waterhole Wines in 2000. The couple were tree changers from Sydney 25 years ago, before the term tree change was even coined. “Nothing we can conceive would take us back to the city to live. We have travelled extensively in Australia and overseas but Canowindra is home,” says Jan, who values the charming heritage of the main street and the friendly ambience of the locals. Balloon Joy Flights offer sunrise balloon flights followed by a champagne breakfast at Toms Waterhole – a small, Organically Certified winery making handcrafted table wines and port. Their alfresco café serves Ploughman’s lunches with homemade breads, smoked meats, pates, pickles and chutneys.

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