

Skywest



# OUTthere

The in-flight magazine of Skywest  
Spring 2006

## AMAZING ALBANY

Unique accommodation  
experiences

### INSIDE

#### THIRSTY WORK

Margaret River's Colonial  
Brewing Company

DISCOVER THE  
KALGOORLIE RACE  
ROUND





The Rocks has been lavishly transformed to its former glory



# ALBANY..... EXPERIENCE THIS

They say you've got it made if you live in a place where you would love to holiday. In Albany, three tourism providers have achieved that goal. You can enjoy their hospitality at a five-star bed and breakfast in town, a luxury bushland retreat, or a happily family getaway at a picturesque holiday cottage. **By Clare Valley**

**T**he Governor of 1912 was a man ahead of his time. When he took up a summer residence in Albany, some may have questioned his judgement. But each morning, he would have walked out from his gracious mansion onto his two sweeping acres, watched the sun light up the natural haven of Princess Royal Harbour and punched the air at his good fortune.

By the late decades of the 20th century, that same residence they call The Rocks had fallen on hard times. Now it's been lavishly transformed to its former glory, thanks to the bold ambitions of a farming family.

For manager Noelene Evans and her parents, the goal of restoring the faded grandeur of the Rocks into five-star bed and breakfast luxury was hard-won. They had never undertaken such a

project, and the task was huge.

"It turned out to be a much bigger challenge than we anticipated," Noelene says. "The house has six bedrooms and six living areas. We've completely redone the interior and exterior of the house including all the windows, verandas and timber floors. We've done the landscaping too. It's been a major project."

The Rocks is a heritage listed building





The hostess with the most. Noelene Freman.

and grants from both the Federal and State governments helped to foot part of the bill. Friends were a big help too – a small army spent Easter 2004 stripping back the grand old stairway and all of the fireplaces surrounds.

The end result has a 'wow' factor louder than any cursing that might have gone on during the renovations. There's an authentic sense of history with beautiful handcrafted furniture enhanced by contemporary luxury. All bathrooms are designed for maximum indulgence, whether it's the deepest claw-foot bath you could ever imagine, or the decadence of a French tub.

For Noelene, a cartographer by trade, the transition to hostess of the Rocks has been easy.

"I feel like this is the place for me. I've got the best views, best living conditions and I love looking after people. I love seeing joy in people's faces when they arrive and the same

joy when they leave. It's kind of fallen in my lap and now that I'm here, I can't imagine being anywhere else."

Four-year-old Sam Freeman pushes his bike to the top of a sloping lawn and careers down to do circle work in the crunch of fallen leaves below. They're from one of the spectacular trees that frame the entrance to the Freeman home and the reception for guests at Coraki Holiday Cottages.

His mum and dad, Graham and Rebecca, are on the deck, enjoying a stunning afternoon of winter sunshine. Charlotte, nearly two, is asleep. Somehow they keep an eye on Sam, appreciating but not distracted by the beauty of four landscaped hectares and the view of Albany's Oyster Harbour.

The Freemans have been at Coraki for six years. They have six cosy cottages, all well spaced around the grounds, popular with

families and adults alike.

"It's been a bit of a juggling act, managing the cottages with two small children in tow, but when things get too hectic at home, it's great to enjoy the peace and quiet of the property," Rebecca says.

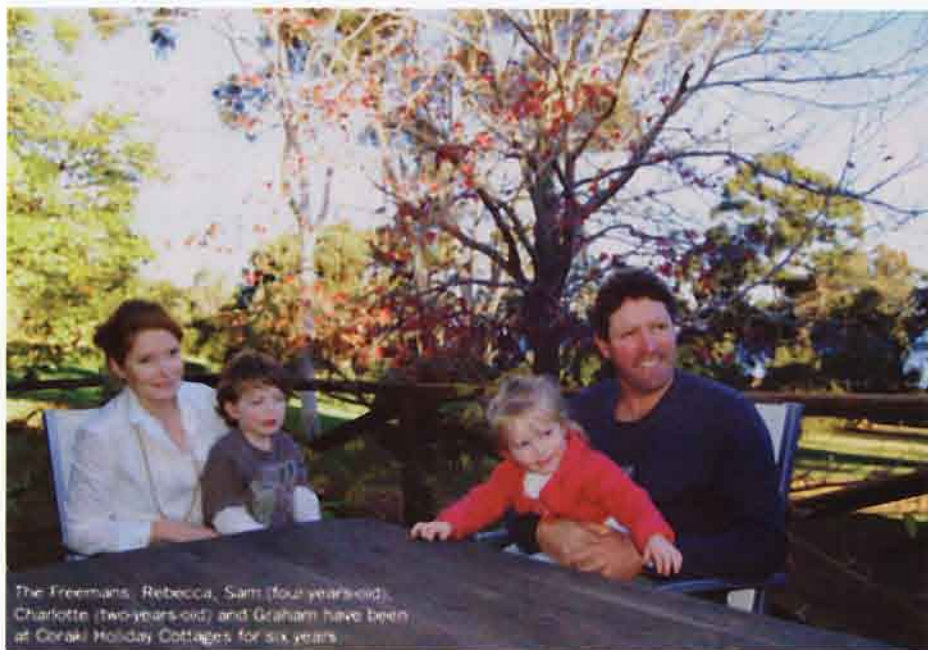
Coraki means the meeting place of waters and as you look out, you can see Oyster Harbour, where the King River and the Kalgan River merge. This 'two rivers' region is just ten minutes from the City but you can realistically anticipate catching a feed of fish for dinner. Graham's best catch is a two-kilogram bream, a challenge for guests to beat.

"We love it here because you feel like you're away from the city, even though you're just a short drive from town," Graham says.

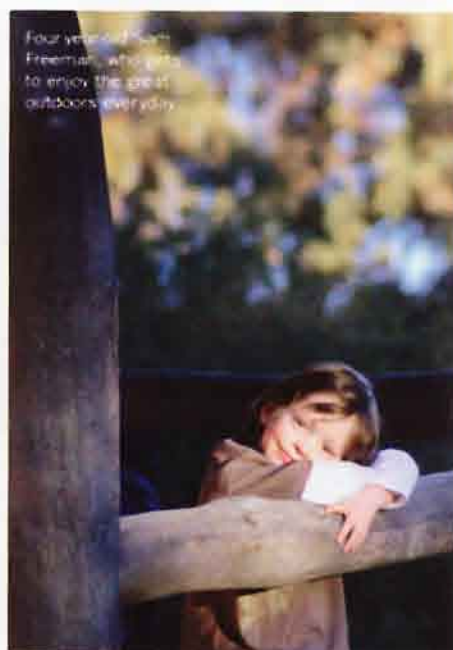
Rebecca acknowledges that little Sam and Charlotte take all of this for granted but she hopes that, like the families who holiday here, there'll be special memories when they're grown up.

"They get to enjoy the great outdoors every day, whether it be looking for little crabs at the water, or picking plums from the orchard. If the children who visit can enjoy on their holidays what our children experience on a daily basis, then that's got to be a positive."

Back in their Perth commuting days, there was little for David and Gaynor Clarke to look out for but red lights and traffic congestion. These days, when Gaynor pulls up outside one of the four Cape Howe holiday cottages, she treads quietly and looks around for two baby boobook owls.



The Freemans. Rebecca, Sam (four years old), Charlotte (two years old) and Graham have been at Coraki Holiday Cottages for six years.

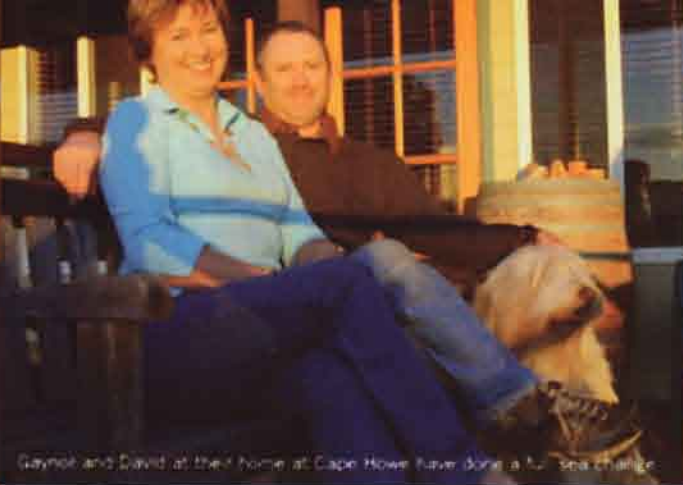


Four-year-old Sam Freeman, who gets to enjoy the great outdoors every day.





Gaynor and David Clarke built the cottages and their home businesses.



Gaynor and David at their home at Cape Howe have done a full sea change.



At Cape Howe holiday cottage.

Gaynor and David have done the full sea change, swapping high-flying corporate careers for the beauty of the South Coast. They built their own home and four cottages on 21 hectares of native bush, between Albany and Denmark. The beach is just a walk away.

"It's spectacular out here and we love it. You don't see any neighbours. All you see is the trees and the water. It's quiet, it's pretty special," Gaynor says.

One of their proudest achievements is the King's Den, a luxury retreat for adults. The theme is sheer indulgence, designed to make the most of a secluded bush setting. As well as all the romantic essentials, the show stopper is

the outdoor shower.

"It's under a canopy of karri trees and in the winter you turn the hot tap on and you can have rain falling with the water from the hot shower and the steam that comes off is beautiful, it's Balinese inspired I guess," Gaynor says.

For this couple, the change of pace from the city couldn't be greater. They're still every bit as ambitious, but this time, their goals are their own.

"It's more rewarding when it's your own business," Gaynor says. "It's your personal efforts that get your personal rewards. If you work hard it's incredible, and you make friends with people all over the world."

**JEWELLERY**  
**nina's**

Australian Jewellery Design Award 2014  
 Melbourne (03) 9584 0000 | Sydney (02) 9550 1000 | Perth (08) 9442 1000  
 www.ninajewellery.com.au

**ARGYLE**  
DIAMONDS

ARGYLE DIAMONDS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

# Lucynda's

Ladies Fashion, Shoes & Accessories

Exquisite range of day and special occasion wear for all ages and sizes. Labels include YB, Black Pepper, Extra Pepper, Naked Art, V.O.K. Toronto and introducing edgy new designs from Mei Mei, China Doll and CarlOpik.

New to WA "swimming with sharks" shoes with a difference.

Stockists of Missence certified organic skin, body & hair care including organic cosmetics.

**26 OLD PERTH RD  
BASSENDEN**  
100 metres from  
Bassenden train station

Mon - Fri 10am - 5pm  
Sat 10am - 2.30pm  
Other times by  
appointment. Delivery to  
country areas arranged.

Ph/Fax: 08 9278 5575  
Mobile: 0419 867 788

**Mention  
this ad for a  
FREE Gift  
with any  
purchase!**