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# COUNTRYSTYLE



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## STAYS BERRIMA NSW

Towering trees border the Lodge, which has several indoor and outdoor settings for downtime or entertaining. **FACING PAGE** The Lodge's master bedroom features an inviting king-sized bed, vintage artwork, an ensuite and a dressing room.



# THE GREAT ESCAPE

THINKING OF GETTING AWAY THIS CHRISTMAS? HEAD TO COROMANDEL HOMESTEAD BERRIMA. WITH TWO BEAUTIFUL HOMES TO STAY IN, IT'LL BE A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER.

WORDS KYLIE IMESON & LISA EASEY PHOTOGRAPHY ABBIE MELLÉ





**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT**  
A box elder maple tree provides shade outside the Lodge; wheelie bin painting by Janis Clarke; fresh garden blooms; enjoy a long lunch at the Lodge, with wall-to-ceiling windows overlooking the garden. **FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT** Styled by Carlie Philby of CP&Co, the Lodge is filled with artworks, vintage curios, and old volumes of *Commonwealth Law Reports* that belonged to Catherine's father: "The Lodge was the perfect spot for them aesthetically"; cushioned window seats beckon in the Lodge's lounge room, which also features a portrait by Janis Clarke; the Lodge's elegant Queen Room.





AS YOU DRIVE THROUGH THE GATES and down the drive lined with flowers and lush shrubs to Coromandel Homestead Berrima, you find yourself exhaling. This is the perfect place for large families or groups seeking a relaxing countryside escape.

Located outside Berrima in the NSW Southern Highlands, the one-hectare property is a passion project for owners Catherine De Giorgio and Iain Melhuish, who purchased Coromandel Homestead two years ago and have renovated the two residences on site that were built in the 1980s.

“We have several projects in the pipeline, including a glasshouse and a big vegie garden,” says Catherine.

The Lodge, the larger of the two dwellings, is a weatherboard abode that accommodates up to eight guests, with generous communal living areas. The lounge room – also known as the Coromandel Great Room – is centred around a vast sandstone fireplace, while the dining hall overlooking the lawn and gardens beyond is just made for entertaining, hosting up to 14 people around the table – perfect for Christmas lunch.

Vintage and antique treasures create a sense of history throughout the Lodge. “I wanted to fill the home with personal pieces for a few reasons: because I love old things, as a nod to the older style of the property, and to be as sustainable as possible,” says Catherine. “Both homes also have original artworks – many are by Olsen Gallery artist Janis Clarke, my talented brother-in-law.”

The Lodge has four bedrooms in various configurations – the master one with a king, the other a queen, the next >

“I wanted to fill the home with personal pieces... I love old things.”





CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE Soak in the alfresco bath at the Cottage; Catherine's five-year-old son, Gabriel, adores the neighbour's friendly border collie, Del; three striking paintings by Janis Clarke are displayed in the Cottage's master bedroom. The Georgia velvet king bed in Forest, from Life Interiors, is topped with Sheridan sheets, a French flax linen quilt cover from Bambury, and cushions from Anthropologie. FACING PAGE, FROM TOP Get cosy on the couch in the Cottage's light-filled living area; fire pits call for toasted marshmallows and a nice bottle of red.



with two king singles, and finally a king single and trundle – and all the beds are topped with quality linens. I stayed in the master suite and loved waking up and looking across the lawn to the pond with ducks and other birds flitting about.

For even more space, Coromandel Cottage is a short stroll from the Lodge, but remains private with its own driveway and entrance. The timber A-frame cottage, which sleeps four people, was built as the smaller accompaniment to the Lodge, but boasts the same gorgeous features, such as a fully equipped kitchen and living area, plus an outdoor claw-foot bath for a leisurely soak amid the greenery. You can book both homes, which works well for big groups and families that want to spread out. I'd thoroughly recommend it for a Christmas get-together.

The hero feature of Coromandel Homestead – named after the ship that transported original owner Billy's ancestors to Australia – is its sprawling gardens. Persimmons, pears, crabapples, cherry blossoms, Japanese maples, romantic old roses and huge conifers provide beauty and shade across the landscaped grounds. You'll also find a clay tennis court, fittingly named Coromandel Tennis Club, for some friendly competition.

For a change of scene, explore the town's antique stores, art galleries and gift shops. Book at Eschalot, Berrima's lauded restaurant, for a superb meal and visit Bendooley Estate to sample the region's cool-climate wines.

Time to plan that big family getaway. *CS*  
 Book your stay at [coromandelhomesteadberrima.com.au](http://coromandelhomesteadberrima.com.au)



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