

What's new in the Heritage City this February...

Spicers opens new restaurant

Rising from the ashes and taking inspiration from world's best restaurants, the Homestead opens its doors in time for Valentines Day....

Guests and diners will have their first look at the highly anticipated 'new homestead' at Spicers Hidden Vale on **February 14**. The beautiful bespoke building embraces the history of the site with a timeless yet thoroughly contemporary ambience... a legacy for future generations.

The homestead, with *Homage Restaurant* at its heart, was rebuilt following a fire that destroyed the previous building almost two years ago. Notice we didn't say 'original' building – that's because the actual first-built homestead was destroyed by another fire 99 years earlier. Framed prints of these two previous buildings can be viewed in the new homestead. Since the fire, *Homage*, the highly awarded and hatted restaurant (two hats in the 2020 Australian Good Food Guide) has operated from a century-old barn on the property. Here, Executive Chef **Ash Martin** and his team have embraced a 'cooking with fire' concept – initially out of necessity because their ovens were destroyed – and this has become a key theme of the menu.

The new kitchen includes an imported **Mibrasa grill**, fuelled by coals from local Mulgowie pruned olive trees that continue to weave the fiery edge into Chef Martin's thought-provoking creations. Although favourite dishes will remain on market-garden-driven menu, expect to be tempted by a collection of new dishes inspired by the property, region and season – Beef fat crumpet, caramelized honey, pickled scallions, wood roasted marrow (with honey from *Homage's* own bee hives); or Red Claw yabbies, smoked yolk, orchard citrus (locally farmed yabbies, with oranges and limes from the market garden, and eggs from Hidden Vale's own heritage breed hens); or Coal roasted suckling pig, stone fruit aged over olive wood charcoal (with piglets from *Goombungee's* ethical 5th generation Schultz Family Farms) and many other...

Full press release in google drive.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Se8kUM5INqysSIWAqB7ye7oKI9dDISqW?usp=sharing>

Contact Elaine Millar 0414 258 633

Holiday Here This Year

There's plenty of ways that you can #holidayherethisyear in Ipswich. The new campaign was kicked off by Tourism Australia in the wake of the devastating bush fires that have swept through Australia and is designed to help aid the national bushfire recovery effort. The campaign is urging Aussies to see their own backyard, whether it be a weekend away near home or a trip discovering another Australian city.

There's plenty of things to explore Ipswich - book a Floating Images Hot Air Balloon Flight and see the city and countryside from 2000 feet in the air. Or you could opt for a staycation at Spicers Hidden Vale, Quest Ipswich, Quest Springfield, Springfield Lakes Hotel or top rated BnB Cumquat House. If you're discovering what's on offer don't miss The Workshops Rail Museum, events at the Ipswich Motorsport precinct, and the Ipswich nature centre.

Catch a show at the Ipswich Civic Centre. Explore the Ipswich Art Gallery's national touring exhibitions and eat at a local restaurant.

Contact Carly Morrissey 3810 7712

The Wiggles are coming back to Ipswich

This week the Wiggles have announced they will once again be in the Heritage City to put smiles on little faces. They will be bring their new show to the Ipswich Civic Centre stage with Emma, Lachy, Simon and Anthony singing and dancing with wiggly friends, Captain Feathersword, Dorothy the Dinosaur, Wags the Dog, Henry the Octopus and the newest wiggle friend Shirley Shawn the Unicorn.

Creator of the Wiggles and Blue Wiggle Anthony says: "The Fun and Games Tour is a truly wonderful show and I can't wait for our fans to experience it! You'll hear all the classic songs you love plus new ones! The show will highlight different styles of dance that go with different styles of music. Children will see and hear drums, keyboards, banjo, guitars, bagpipes and singing. We hope to see you there!"

This is your chance to experience all the fun of The Wiggles show in person. Join in and be a part of the Fun and Games Tour! With so many sold out shows last year, you better get a wiggle on and get your tickets now as tickets to the Fun and Games Tour will sell like hot potatoes!

See the Wiggles on April 15 at 10am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm.

Contact Carly Morrissey 3810 7712

Earth Frequency Festival

Did you know that Ipswich is host to a transformational festival called Earth Frequency, every year? The music festival has a strong focus on arts, education, healing and community spirit and is capped at 5000 people.

The event takes place from February 14-17 at Ivory's Rock Conventions and Events in Peak Crossing right next to Flinders Peak.

Contact Paul Abad 0419 878 798

The Workshops Rail Museum opens new exhibition

Opening February 29, peek inside the new and exciting interactive exhibition, How Cities Work! Based on the popular Loney Planey book, this immersive cityscape is full of magical, tactile experiences to discover how the city works.

Contact Glenn Price on 3432 5100

Romantic wedding locations

Ahead of Valentine's Day, wedding photographer Tabatha Del Fabbro has put together her top 9 places to say 'I do' in Ipswich.

1. Queens Park Bush Chapell
2. Kholo Botanical Gardens

3. Brookwater Golf and Country Club
4. Darling Street Chapel
5. Spicers Hidden Vale
6. Marburg Countryside
7. Spring Lake
8. Robelle Domain
9. Our Lady of the Southern Cross

She has also mentioned Nerima Gardens as one of the best places to take your wedding pics.

Contact Tabatha on 0410 649 023

Best ways to celebrate Valentine's Day in Ipswich

1. Best of Buble Tribute Experience - \$49 at the Ipswich Civic Centre
2. Lunch or dinner at the new Homestead at Spicers Hidden Vale.
3. Forbidden Broadway Greatest Hits Volume 1 at Casa Mia Italian restaurant – champagne on arrival and three course meal \$70. Forbidden Broadway Greatest Hits Volume 1 is an off-Broadway revue parodying Broadway musicals by Gerard Alessandrini. The original version of the revue opened on January 15, 1982, at Palsson's Supper Club in New York City and ran for 2,332 performances.
4. Date night at Orion Shopping Centre with childminding at mini-minders - \$5 for 1 hour 45 mins childminding and get a \$10 voucher for dining.
5. Degustation dinner at Brookwater Golf Course - \$75, \$25 for paired wines
6. Dinner at Dovetails - \$89pp 3 course menu and drink on arrival
7. Dinner at Fourthchild with a special romantic menu
8. Hot and cold seafood board for two with fish, calamari, oysters, prawns and more at Brothers
9. Fresh local seafood platter at Char'd
10. 5 course degustation at The Cottage Restaurant - \$99pp, \$155pp with wine
11. Fillet mignon or pan-fried salmon, dessert, and wine \$50 per couple (members) at Ipswich Jets
12. Live music and four course Italian dinner at BLVD \$69pp
13. Sip 'n' Dip paint your love Picasso Style at Cineplex Redbank Plaza
14. Dinner at Bakehouse Steakhouse, 2 course special striploin steak, side, dessert and a wine or beer \$55pp.
15. Live music, dinner and drinks at The Racehorse Hotel
16. 3 course dinner at the Retro Diner, \$100 per couple with a glass of wine.

Ipswich Tourism figures reach new milestone

In the year ending September 2019, Ipswich had 2 million visitors. The new Tourism Research Australia figures show Ipswich has had 14 consecutive quarters of positive growth and for the period saw 28.3% growth on visitation year on year.

The research shows that more New Zealanders are visiting, with food and visiting friends and family the top reasons to visit.

Contact Carly Morrissey 3810 7712

Images can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Se8kUM5INqysSIWAqB7ye7oKI9dDISqW?usp=sharing>

For famil opportunities or more information contact Carly Morrissey on 3810 7712.