

Episode 240 Saturday 28 June 2008

On The Ridge Cooking School Taryn Onofaro

On the Ridge Cooking School is perched high in the Blackall Ranges near Mapleton, on the Sunshine Coast.



It was created by Tonya Jennings, a former librarian turned chef who decided to take a chance and open her very own cooking school.

Tonya has a range of classes that vary from 'Slice of the Hinterland' which uses all local produce, to the more widely-sourced and traditional 'Italianicious' class!

Class sizes are kept to a maximum of just 8 and once everything has been cooked up, students can taste for themselves just how they did with a delicious lunch of their own creation.

Classes usually run from about 9am until after lunch, and cost \$145. Organised groups can also book a day and time of their choosing with their own menu selection.

Contact: On the Ridge Cooking School
ontheridge.com.au; Ph: (07) 5441 3715

AgForce Wool-Overs Buddha Handy

Thousands of sheep on Brent and Margie Finlay's property on Queensland's Southern Downs wear white, nylon coats – and, believe it or not, it is all in the name of fashion.



Seven years ago, the Finlays switched their flock from medium-quality wool to super-fine grade fibre, used to make Italian suits and high quality woolen wear. That meant the need for protecting the quality of the fleece in the paddock became paramount.

Not entirely satisfied with existing protective coats for sheep, the Finlay's decided to design and manufacture their own. The adjustable, nylon coats – designed by Margie who has a background in children's fashion - protect the wool from vegetation, sticks, dust and dirt ... ensuring the fine quality of the wool when it comes to shearing. Using a special race, the Finlay's can coat up to 200 sheep an hour.

Contact: Wool-Overs
wool-overs.com

Contact: AgForce
agforceqld.org.au; Ph: (07) 3236 3100

QLD Event – The Cairns Show

This year The Cairns Show is on from the 16th to the 18th of July at the Cairns Show Grounds and as always, has something for the whole family. There'll be the usual suspects, cattle shows, agricultural demonstrations, industry displays and the animal nursery. Old favourites too – plenty of rides, yummy treats and the biggest side show alley in regional Queensland.



Contact: Cairns Show
July 16-18 - Adults \$17; Child \$8; Concession \$12; Family Pass \$40
Cairns Show Grounds, Corner Severin Street & Mulgrave Road
cairnsshow.com.au; Ph: (07) 4042 6699

Shaolin Junk Chris Parsons

A highlight for visitors to Port Douglas has long been a day out on the Shaolin, an authentic Chinese Junk. She's been cruising out of Port Douglas for 23 years. Before her seafaring days in North Qld, the Shaolin sailed boldly around the world twice! She departs from the marina at noon everyday to Low Isles, on the Great Barrier Reef.



Morning and afternoon tea are included, as well as a buffet lunch. Once they arrive at Low Isles, visitors are free to do what they want for the remainder of the afternoon. They can explore the tiny island, relax on the beach, or go for a snorkel in the sheltered lagoon. Here visitors can see more than 150 species of coral, and a range of marine life, including green turtles.

The Shaolin can accommodate 23 people and it costs \$90 for a child and \$150 for an adult.

Contact: Shaolin Low Isles
shaolinportdouglas.com; Ph: 1800 085 674

Peppers Spicers Peak Experience Dean Miller

Peppers Spicers Peak Lodge, surrounded by the magnificent Scenic Rim, is an hour-and-a-half drive south-west of Brisbane, or forty minutes by helicopter.



It's another world away offering a luxurious getaway for two. During your stay, you'll experience fantastic food and wine, real seclusion and a sense of space far away from everyday life.

A two-night package that includes all meals and beverages starts at \$1190 per person.

Helicopter transfers from the Gold Coast with Ocean Air cost \$1400 return.

Go on, lash out!

Contact: Peppers Spicers Peak Lodge
peppers.com.au; Ph: (07) 4666 1083

Contact: Ocean Air Helicopters
Ph: (07) 5529 4744

Where the Heck Is..... The Bloomfield Track?

The dirt road connecting Cape Tribulation in Queensland's Tropical North with the Bloomfield River, is today a challenging and popular 4WD Track, but was once at the centre of a world-wide controversy.

The track winds its way through the Daintree Rainforest, which is full of ancient animal and plant life, but at the time of the track's conception, was not heritage listed. When conservationists found out about the plan, they launched a dramatic protest, burying themselves to the neck in the path of the bulldozers.



Though the protest was unsuccessful and the Bloomfield Track went ahead, the area has been well cared for and did eventually receive a World Heritage listing in 1988. If you are planning to tackle the Bloomfield track in your 4WD, be sure to do your research, because during the wet season, it can be a real struggle, or even impossible, to pass.

Contact: Cape Tribulation Tourist Information Centre & Shop
Cape Tribulation Road, Cape Tribulation
masonstours.com.au; Ph: (07) 4098 0070