

Pampered at Witches Falls

Cottage hosts certainly know how to deliver a weekend of relaxation

A WEEKEND getaway to Witches Falls Cottages on Tamborine Mountain in the Gold Coast Hinterland cast a relaxation spell on Sue Fuller.

Arriving just before sunset, we slipped across the road from the cottages to watch the Great Dividing Range lit with the day's last rays before the sun dipped below the horizon.

Asian-style lamps cast a welcoming glow as we checked into Witches Falls Cottages. There are five cottages hidden among lush tropical gardens which have a distinct Asian flavour with their stands of bamboo and peaceful water features.

Owners David Kennedy and his Swiss-born partner Daniela Kuratli have made some thoughtful renovations during the 12 months they have owned the property, which borders Queensland's first national park, the Witches Falls section of the Tamborine Mountain National Park which this year celebrates its centenary.

Each stone gable cottage now features a bathroom with a glass ceiling and sliding doors which completely open up to a small garden.

The conditions must be ideal for plants judging by the "fern wall" flourishing on one side of the spa, adding to the feeling of bathing in the middle of a tropical garden.

Private outdoor courtyards have also been added.

David, who worked for many years in the North Sea oilfields and Daniela, who hails from a small Swiss village, are generous hosts and have added many thoughtful touches to make a stay extra special. The fireplace is set to be lit on arrival, while freshly-ground local Tamborine Mountain coffee is supplied in the well-set-up kitchen and a decanter of complimentary port and chocolates is ready for after dinner.

On David's recommendation, we headed down the

TRAVEL INFO

Witches Falls Cottages

Corner of Hartley and Main Western Roads
North Tamborine
Ph: 5545 4411
www.witchesfalls-cottages.com.au

Ripple Massage

Mob: 0438 567 906
www.ripple-massage.com.au
www.verygc.com

road to check out their local, Clancy's Irish Bar & Restaurant. Warm and cosy, Clancy's has Kilkenny (first brewed in 1710) and Guinness on tap and a tempting menu of hearty fare, including Beef and Guinness pie, Kilkenny beer-battered fish and some Irish specialties – Irish stew and breaded mushrooms, all of which were resisted as our dinner awaited back at the cosy cottage.

For an additional \$80, David and Daniela will supply a barbecue pack including steak, German sausages, potatoes in their jackets and corn on the cob (pre-cooked and ready to warm on the barbie), plus beautiful salad, dessert and a bottle of good local wine.

The next morning, a breakfast hamper is discreetly delivered complete with a freshly-baked loaf of bread. Guests can choose from continental, or bacon and eggs barbecue hampers. Our continental hamper included orange juice, fresh fruit, yoghurt, as well as local ham and cheeses, which we enjoyed sitting outside in the sunny courtyard.

Perhaps the most indulgent part of the weekend came next with the arrival of two therapists from Ripple Massage. Ripple, which offers mobile massages in the Tamborine Mountain, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Byron Bay regions, has developed a signature Sea Shell massage.

While my husband soon



CUTE COTTAGES: Witches Falls Cottages on Tamborine Mountain in the Gold Coast Hinterland is the perfect place to unwind.



TASTY TREATS: Clancy's Irish Bar & Restaurant.

fell asleep during his two-hour "bokes massage", I was treated to a deeply relaxing massage using mainly cowrie shells which were heated and filled with scented oils. The smooth surfaces of the shells are used for a massage that is both relaxing and definitely ironed out some muscle knots.

The two-hour treatments all include a full body exfoliation with lime, tangerine and walnut and an organic clay and cucumber face mask. Best of all, you can slip into the shower in your "outdoor bathroom" while the therapists pack up.

Ripple also offers a range of treatments including hot stone massage, ka huna, Vietnamese four-hands

massages and Himalayan ayurvedic treatments.

The rest of the weekend was spent on equally indulgent pursuits. Food and wine is a big part of the mountain's appeal and three wineries are within easy walking distance of the cottages.

Don't miss the chance to sample the exquisite cheeses at the Witches Falls Cheese Company, or to try the international award-winning liqueurs at the Tamborine Mountain Distillery, one of only a handful of privately-owned distilleries in Australia.

Russian-born Alla Ward uses a traditional copper pot still and locally grown fruit to produce an amazing array of liqueurs, schnapps, vodkas and spirits, all beau-



WONDERFUL WITCHY: Witches Falls inside is luxurious.

tifully presented in hand painted bottles.

With its focus on fresh air, food and wine and wel-

coming hospitality, Witches Falls Cottages and Tamborine Mountain are perfect for a weekend "spell".

St Joseph's Wandal Raceday Garden Party

Flower Power & The Psychedelic 60's Raceday Garden Party • Callaghan Park, Saturday 4 October



Whether you were born in the 60's, grew up in the 60's, or just embrace all things groovy, join us for a great day out!

- Includes entry to Callaghan Park Racecourse
- Reserved seating in the St Joseph's Wandal VIP Marquee
- Magnificent Acton Super Beef luncheon
- Five beverage tickets
- Spring Fashion Preview Parade By Boutique Diva
- Prizes for The Grooviest Hat & the Hippest Outfit

All this for just
\$60 ticket

Marquee opens 12 noon. Bring your friends, workmates, clients and get a table together and support St Joseph's School Wandal. Tickets available from ...

- St Joseph's Wandal School office, Herbert St, Rockhampton
- Sweet & Shabby, 92 Denham Street, Rockhampton
- Enquiries Debbie 0408 156699

See YOU there . . . it'll be groovy!

