

THE CONVENT

Media Kit

"Built on a hill to be close to heaven, and it still is"



welcome to the convent daylesford

I take much pleasure in welcoming you to The Convent. I trust your visit will be an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

The Convent, once known as the Holy Cross Convent and home of the Presentation Sisters, has always been a place of creativity, learning and reflection. My dream with The Convent is to continually reinforce this purpose. I believe in the need to promote the visual arts and to expose everyone to the work, inspiration and talent of the artists in our wider community.

Many people feel very attached to The Convent. Past students and nuns return to relive part of their history,

while many art lovers attend our exhibitions regularly. Visitors enjoy the gift shops and café, and I am constantly delighted by people's warm response to this special place.

Now in its 17th year of establishment, The Convent enjoys its function wing, taking the place of what was the near derelict St Michael's Day School. The extensive renovations include two state-of-the-art reception/conference areas, a large function kitchen, penthouse apartment, stylish lounge bar and new art exhibition areas. Our magnificent gardens have also expanded and we are pleased to have had them equalled to the gardens in Versailles, France.

I invite you to come and experience our latest developments and also to enjoy the more established areas of The Convent. With our constantly evolving art and events program, new menus, 4 season gardens, and generally uplifting atmosphere, we hope that a visit to The Convent can be enjoyed regularly.

With best wishes,

Tina Banitska
Managing Director

profile

Owner and director of The Convent, Tina Banitska, envisioned a “place to promote the arts and to expose beautiful things to everyone”. She was careful to maintain the history and spirituality lingering within the walls of The Convent, paying tribute to the legacy of the Presentation Sisters. “From any spot in the gallery, it is possible to absorb the life that once existed here.”

Majestic Galleries

Boasting seven individual galleries, The Convent has been described as the “most beautiful gallery in Australia”. As one room merges with another you will encounter displays of traditional and contemporary paintings, prints, glassware, pottery, sculpture, jewellery, furniture, ceramics and textiles. The ongoing exhibition program is dedicated to promoting the work of renowned local, interstate and international artisans.

Retail Heaven

The shopping experience at The Convent is heavenly. Winner of five national retail awards and represented in the hall of fame for tourism retailing, the decadent retail areas are laden with unique pieces of jewellery, exclusive gifts, individually crafted items and much more.

Divine Tastes

Situated under a high, glass-encased atrium, surrounded by pleasant aromas and the anticipation of the stunning

galleries, you will find the Bad Habits Cafe. Serving breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea the Café gives visitors a break from their wanderings with an exceptional meal.

Daylesford’s first world-class Lounge Bar

Stylish and contemporary, ‘The Altar’ bar and lounge serves a wide selection of light refreshments, cakes, cocktails and local Central Victorian wines. Whether you’re after an intimate rendezvous or a vibrant get together, the Altar Bar provides a seductive backdrop for any occasion.

Original Chapel

Offering an exquisite private chapel, spectacular views of Daylesford and the Central Highlands, The Convent is the perfect place to experience a truly distinctive wedding. With access to our beautiful gallery, you and your guests will be treated to a unique wedding celebration.

A Venue with a Difference

The Convent now has two stunning glass fronted function areas providing the perfect backdrop for any event or photo shoot. Featuring state of the art facilities The Convent is ideal for hosting small and large functions, conferences and parties.

Bad Habits Cafe

The fine architecture of the ‘Bad Habits Cafe’. Dine among the glassed atrium, with it’s light filtering palms and Mediterranean scents.





“The beauty of the Convent Gallery is enhanced by the serenity, music, flowers and ambience of this magical, spiritual, creative environment. It is certainly the jewel in Daylesford’s crown: sitting on top of the hill, overlooking the township. Shining like a glistering diamond at night-time, taking on another magical dance of light. Forever shine your light amongst the stars.”

Leanne Maree Shannahan, Visitor



weddings at a glance...

“voted in the top 10 wedding venues in australia”

The Convent is truly unique. It offers an exquisite private chapel, six acres of fragrant gardens, two beautiful, architecturally designed glass fronted reception rooms and a bar/lounge for winding down. Your entire wedding experience can be held all under the one roof!

With an award winning art gallery as a backdrop, you and your guests can enjoy the visual delights of fine art, sculptures, architecture and picturesque gardens throughout your celebration.

Photographs can then be taken throughout the building and grounds. The sunsets over the central highlands are superb and the photographic opportunities endless.

The combination of historic features, modern architecture, magnificent views, art and natural light create an unforgettable atmosphere for your wedding. The St Lawrence room, featuring a glassed conservatory, seats up to 60 guests and the St Michael’s room seats up to 120 guests.

Come see why The Convent is one of the most popular wedding venues today.

- An unforgettable day.....
- It will linger in the memory of every guest.
- Customised wedding packages.
- Chapel and gardens for your ceremony.
- Two new stunning glass fronted function rooms.
- Seating 25 – 125 guests.
- Stunning floral arrangements.
- Dimmable lighting system.
- Menu “choices” for guests.
- Outdoor decking area overlooking Daylesford and the beyond.
- Unforgettable sunsets.
- The Altar Bar & Lounge open for the “after party”.
- Penthouse apartment, for that special night.

the convent experience

By Tilly Morris

When was your last Convent experience? If you haven't visited the magnificent Convent Gallery in the last eighteen months then you are in for a pleasant surprise. And if you have never seen it at all then you're missing out!

Since it's opening in 1991, after two years of inspired renovation and restoration of both building and grounds, the Convent just keeps on growing.

From its inception it was of great importance to owner/director and award-winning artist Tina Banitska that the Gallery be a complete sensory and cultural experience. This desire saw the inclusion of a Mediterranean style café where the finest of local produce and wine can be savoured between viewing the fine art, antiques, jewellery and architecture, and strolling around the stunning fragrant gardens.

Opening to crowds of thousands, with beautiful art adorning the walls, uplifting music enveloping the senses and light filtering through the stain glass windows, Tina was careful to maintain the history and spirituality lingering within the walls of the Convent, paying tribute to the legacy of the Holy Cross nuns. She succeeded in creating a place where art, food, culture, history and spirituality converge to offer visitors a soul satisfying experience.

But that was only the beginning. Having been described as 'The most beautiful gallery in Australia', the next



step in the Convents' expansion has seen it become one of the most beautiful venues in Australia. With its restored Chapel, two stunning glass fronted function spaces with heavenly views, a relaxing and stylish lounge bar, and a penthouse apartment that is an artwork in itself, the Convent now has it all.

Situated on the slope of the Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens looking out over Daylesford and the Central Highlands, the grand old mansion was originally built as a private residence for the Gold Commissioner during the Gold Rush Era of the 1860's. By 1880 it transferred ownership to the Catholic Church. Almost 100 years later the inadequate heating and high maintenance requirements became unbearable and in 1973 the nuns that inhabited the

building left in search of more suitable accommodation.

When comparing the original derelict building and overgrown unkempt gardens with the majestic building that stands proudly before us today, we can see how hard work and dedicated passion can lead to the creation of something very special. Like other visionary leaders of the Victorian art scene such as the Jorgensen's with Montsalvat and the Reid's with Heide Museum of Modern Art, Tina Banitska has created an icon. A visit to the Convent Gallery is a special and meaningful experience, enriched by the mix of history and contemporary culture. It is a gift that will be treasured for generations to come. Come and share this totally unique experience!



Packages

Packages for groups, weddings and conferences are available.

Awards

1995 Winner of the Australian Tourism Retailing Award
 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, & 1996
 Winner of Premier Tourism Retailing Awards
 1992 Finalist in the Victorian Government Small Business Award for Best Business Run by a Woman

Operating Hours

Open daily 10am - 4pm
 Closed Christmas Day

The Altar Bar & Lounge
 Open Weekends

Bad Habits Café
 Open daily 10am-3pm

Entrance Fee
 \$5 Individuals
 \$4 Conssesions/Seniors



“We’ve never been so relaxed. To think we had the whole building to ourselves. An extended thanks to all the staff, who couldn’t do enough for us. A soul-full stay in an enchanted building”

Joe & Mary Phillips



the penthouse at a glance...

Tucked away on the second level of this magnificent convent is a secret, sacred and lavish penthouse suite that can be yours.

Including two private balconies with expansive views over The Convent Gardens, Daylesford and beyond, a luxurious hydrotherapy spa, a boudoir style curtained bed, fully equipped kitchenette and living area; this stylish penthouse suite will make your stay in Daylesford perfect.

Please enquire about our indulgent packages that are sure to inspire and delight.

With a complimentary wine and a cheese platter on arrival, refreshments and a sumptuous breakfast, your stay will leave you relaxed and satisfied.

- 1 night mid week \$295
- 1 night weekend \$350
- 2 nights mid week \$495
- 2 nights weekend \$595



conferences at a glance...

Fully equipped with power outlets and network access, the St Michael's and St Lawrence functions rooms can cater to all your conferencing or event technical requirements. With large white walls for projecting onto, stylish and comfortable white leather seats, fabulous catering staff, and breathtaking scenery, a conference or event at the Convent will be successful and enjoyable.

General Facilities

- Electrical Outlet
- Adjustable Dimming System
- Central Air-Conditioning
- Hydronic Heating
- Fire Protection
- Natural Lighting
- Men & Ladies Toilets
- Disabled Access
- Coffee/Tea Room
- Balconies over looking Daylesford

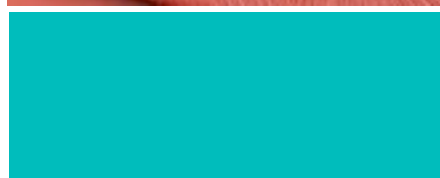
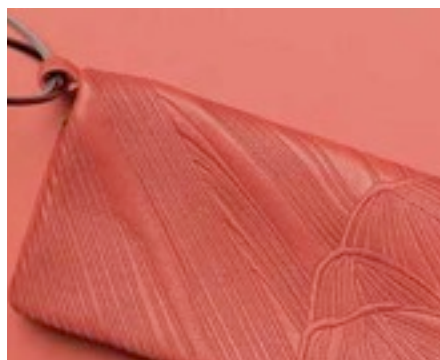
Technical Facilities

- Microphone Wired
- Microphone Wireless
- Overhead Projector
- LCD Data Projector
- Flip Charts
- Electronic Whiteboard
- Telephone
- Fax Facilities
- ADSL Internet
- CD/DVD/Video Capabilities
- Lectern with Microphone



the altar bar and lounge

The most recent addition to the Convent is the 'Altar Bar'. A contemporary and stylish bar and lounge, the Altar Bar offers a fabulous selection of cakes and light snacks, cocktails, refreshments and an extensive wine list. Architectural features include pieces from the original chapel and recycled wood and marble. Whether its an intimate rendezvous or a vibrant get together, the Altar Bar provides a stylish and seductive backdrop for any occasion. The Altar Bar is also a great place to finish your wedding celebration.



retail & gifts @ the convent

The Convent Gallery is host to a remarkable retail area specializing in exquisite and unusual jewellery, ceramics, pottery and glassware. You will also find tasty local produce, stylish home wares, body products, accessories, books and other interesting gifts.

THE CONVENT
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