

The epitome of luxury

– Deb Myers and Yvonne Paulke have transformed Kyneton's historic Bank of New South Wales into a genuine visitor drawcard



Yvonne Paulke.

Words and photos: Em Stewart

Situated on Mollisons Street in central Kyneton, the old Bank of New South Wales has been transformed to become a drawcard for those wishing to experience the epitome of luxury.

The vision of Melbourne duo Deb Myers and Yvonne Paulke, Mollisons, as it is now called, is home to both a specialised gift and home-ware shop and lavish boutique hotel-style accommodation.

With a love of design and renovating, Deb and Yvonne purchased the building four years ago after seeing the historic landmark advertised for sale in the newspaper.

"We saw the building advertised and thought it looked interesting. We made the purchase on a whim, excited by a possibility," Deb says.

The pair, who had originally worked together in an importing business, thought they might rent the property, but changed their mind after spending some time getting to know the town.

"We were steered towards the idea of boutique hotel-style accommodation. I think people like independence and the freedom of not having people around them," Yvonne says.

After undergoing extensive renovations, Mollisons opened eighteen months ago, attracting those looking to experience the area's fine cuisine and country atmosphere while living independently of hosts.

Separate from the accommodation is the downstairs shop, which enables the pair to showcase their wares and flare for design.

With a shop-front opening onto one of Kyneton's main streets, passersby are drawn to the sparkling glass ornaments illuminated by one of the many contemporary lamps featured in store.

Upon entry, shoppers are greeted by the vast array of beautiful gifts, stylish clothes and jewellery and the finest quality home wares and modern furniture.

Hidden beside the shopfront lies the entrance to the secluded front hotel rooms, which opens to reveal the polished floorboards and modern interior of the century-old building.

The hotel consists of eight individual rooms, each with their own unique feel, influenced by the one off pieces handpicked by Yvonne and Deb during their weekly travels to auctions across Victoria.

"Pieces have been selected to keep the rooms spacious, yet comfortable and in keeping with designing a beautiful space," Yvonne says.

Set against the backdrop of the contemporary design, which includes white walls, modern amenities and structured fabrics, the distinct pieces become a feature, without overtaking the room.

"Placing pieces of character within a contemporary space allows them to breathe," says Deb, who also offers an interior design service.

The rooms' ever-changing individuality is part of Mollisons' charm, with the furnishings changing regularly.

Unlike most hotels, guests are invited to select their favourites pieces to take home with them, including the beds, linen and lamps.

"It's a design style that suits a lot of people," Deb adds.

"We've combined this eclectic mix with the character of the building ... we choose something that fits into the nooks and crannies."

www.mollisons.net.au



Deb Myers.

