



Experience a farm stay

JOHN CROOK discovers Millamolong, in NSW, for that real Aussie feel.

A GROUP of minerals in the Belubula River, including calcium and magnesium help the Ashton family of Millamolong produce a range of great wines, even though the literal meaning of the property's name is Sick Man's Creek.

Aboriginal families knew it by that name, but latter-day owners of the property prefer to give it the more acceptable name of Healing Waters.

Millamolong has a rich heritage, made up of men and women of the First Nation, through the gold rush, bushrangers, the wool boom and the associated pleasures which belonged to the era of squattocracy. Polo for one!

These days polo horses continue to play a key role on the property. The Ashton family is well known and respected throughout the world of polo.

Present day owner James Ashton is a leading figure of the global game, both as a player and also with a string of executive appointments.

It may be that the majority of the property's guests pay in the euro currency, yet the historic Millamolong property, in the central highlands of New South Wales, has just about everything Australians seek in a holiday destination within their own country.

Riding the ponies along the various trails form part of the overall experience. Touring Millamolong's historic sites is another. Tasting the property's excellent wines is a popular

evening's pursuit.

Accommodation ranges from the fully serviced 1930's homestead which can accommodate up to 18 guests, through the original historic slab farm house — with its 10 rooms, or one of the cottages, namely Primrose or Wattle.

This variety of accommodation options means guests may select the package that best suits their budget.

Staying in the grand homestead means a flirtation with days of yore.

Celebrities of the past have slept here, one room was used by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the vice regal couple of the 1930s.

At the other end of the scale, but so much fun for children, is the 1840's post office, at one time, the smallest post office in Australia.

A little further down the track and into the undulating topography of the property, is where bushranger Ben Hall did much of his mischief.

The 9000-acre property is rich in history and its golden days can still be experienced.

Recent rains have been so beneficial with farming activities continuing to entertain and educate city slickers as they mix it with cattle, sheep, horses, wine and soon truffles, which will be harvested next winter.

Play pretend farmers by day and at night over dinner and a wine or two, becoming would-be squatters.

— AAP



PIONEERING: Some of the friendly horses amid acres of wide open spaces on Millamolong Station



IN THE MAIL: The historic stone post office in Millamolong can sleep up to seven people and is a hit with the children.



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IF YOU GO

Location: Millamolong is a four-hour drive from Sydney and close to Bathurst, Cowra and Orange.

For booking, phone (02) 6367 5241 or email: millamolongsbigpond.com

Price: The Homestead. \$1200 per night (sleeps up to 18). The price can be adjusted for smaller groups. Local caterers can be arranged for dinner parties or general catering.

The Farmhouse. The cost for entire farmhouse is \$800 per night. It can sleep up to 28.

Primrose Cottage sleeps four and is priced at \$220 per night.

Wattle Cottage sleeps seven and the tariff is \$280 per night.

The Post Office is, these days, a bunkhouse sleeping six to seven people. It is often used as an overflow for the Farm House.

Tariffs subject to change.