



TOURISM

by Bill Nehmy

BN: Welcome Brian & Lynn Schirripa (pictured), please can we have a snapshot of your early years, where you were born, went to school, your early plans and aspirations?

B&L: I (Lynn) was born in Woodville, South Australia and attended Henley High School. I went on to study commercial arts with the aspiration to work in the advertising field. I later worked as a layout artist in an advertising agency up until 1980.

Following this I opened up three retail stores in SA, two were children's stores and the third was a women's clothing shop.

I (Brian) was born in Henley, South Australia. I began my venture into the wholesale fruit and vegetable business in 1964. I spent these early years learning everything there was to know about this industry, and later my brothers and I became the largest wholesale fruit and vegetable company in South Australia, specialising in rockmelons, watermelons and pumpkins.

Lynn and I were married in 1979, and in the following years had our three children; Karlyn, Trent and Luke.

Later on, in 1984 I purchased a mushroom farm with my brothers in Reynella, which we then shifted to Monarto, this was the start of our Adelaide Mushrooms endeavour. In 2012, and after almost 30 years of trading, we decided to sell the business. A year later in 2013 we had become bored with retirement, and Lynn and I decided to purchase the 32-acre Hahndorf property, which welcomed us into the tourism industry.

BN: Please can you elaborate on your diverse range of experiences offered?

B&L: Our property offers a number of diverse experiences which cater to different markets. The BIG4 Hahndorf Resort offers quality accommodation types, scenic caravan and camping sites, modern facilities, an on-site

bistro and event spaces including the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre (AHCC). The AHCC is a purpose-built multi-award-winning function centre which hosts weddings, conferences, exhibitions, and gala dinners, just to name a few.

BN: If you have visiting friends or relatives and you want to give them a memorable Adelaide Hills day, what do you recommend?

B&L: We love welcoming family and friends to the beautiful Adelaide Hills region, there is so much to see and do. We recommend that everyone spends a day walking up and down Hahndorf's Main Street, which is full of eateries, artisans and cute shops. Also enjoy a scenic drive around the Adelaide Hills region, while stopping off at roadside stalls, attractions and cellar doors while enjoying the delicious local food and wine!

BN: What do you think is the most significant tourism opportunity waiting to be realised in the Adelaide Hills?

B&L: We truly believe that the beauty and views of our Adelaide Hills region is what we should continue to utilise and promote. The breadth and diversity of what's on offer up here means there's something for everyone!

BN: Please share any other key interests/activities that might surprise us!

B&L: We are proud Adelaide Crows supporters and love to attend all home games with our family and friends. We also enjoy supporting and following our local football and sports clubs.

We simply love Hahndorf and everything it has to offer, such as sitting and having a coffee along the tree-lined street or enjoying a dinner



out with friends. It has such a great atmosphere.

I (Brian) also enjoy pottering around our olive farm, we pick the olives every year and make it into delicious olive oil for our family and friends.

BN: What advice would you give a young person in respect to finding the right career and to have an enriching life?

B&L: Follow your passions, never stop learning about the industry you're in and be dedicated to everything you do. Don't forget the importance of relationships, it is the key to good communication especially face-to-face in today's world becoming more and more dominated by technology.

Thanks Brian and Lynn for giving us the opportunity to get to know you and your award winning businesses better.

An amazing transformation from the run down caravan park of many years ago! Congratulations on your ongoing development (more cabins imminent) and your community and regional spirit. We are lucky to have you, your family and energetic team in the Adelaide Hills.