



TOURISM

I am pleased to introduce Jayne Bartsch, proprietor of The Katze of Hahndorf.
by Bill Nehmy

BN: Welcome Jayne, please can we start with your early years, where you were born, went to school, your early plans and aspirations?

JB: I spent my childhood in Tumbly Bay and started school there.

My overriding memory of attending a small school is one of no secrets from anyone here!

Every day we walked home for lunch and then had to run like crazy to get back to school before the bell rang.

Summer was always spent at the beach while keeping a wary eye out for snakes (black, brown, tiger and the elusive but terrifying Death Adders).

I finished high school in Port Lincoln and planned to go to university to study economics.

One day, while at the school office, I was asked to take back a pile of applications to study teaching.

On an impulse I applied and this led me down a different path. My classes always had a wide variety of animals: guinea pigs, turtles, rabbits, fish, sleepy lizards, birds and spinifex hopping mice which found homes in my class rooms.

Peter and I started Gallery Gifts way back in 1980. We chose to focus on the best quality collectibles available.

The challenge of finding new and exciting products has always inspired us.

BN: Please can you elaborate on The Katze of Hahndorf, a gift shop with a difference!

When I visited you had 15 cats 'in residence'.

JB: About 14 years ago we made the move to Hahndorf.

As Peter's ancestors came to Hahndorf on the Zebra

in 1839, this was perfect for us.

Gallery Gifts very soon had its first resident cat. We quickly found that our customers loved "Miss Sophia".

We saw how much an animal could help someone going through tough times. Our staff member Eileen was battling breast cancer and Miss Sophia soon became best friends with her.

They were the inspiration for The Katze of Hahndorf.

We still love our traditional Gallery Gifts products, Swarovski Crystal, Moorcroft, Walt Disney and Lladro but The Katze just gives us that feel good buzz.

It warms my heart when I see great connections between our cats and their visitors.

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

JB: We are so incredibly spoilt for choice in the Adelaide Hills. Every season has its own unique colour palette.

Spend the day capturing the colours of the Hills on your smart phone.

You might like to start at Mt Lofty House; the view across the valley is spectacular. Then, why not wander along the Amy Gillett track, enjoy the walk while recording the experience on your camera.

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

JB: As a grandparent I'm always looking for activities to do with my grandchildren. Our daughter, Samantha is



Jayne Bartsch

opening a sensory play/party venue in Hahndorf in early December.

We think that this will be a great resource for families wanting to relax with a great coffee while watching their children enjoy a sensory learning experience.

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

JB: My love of swimming still gets me up early in the morning to head over to the Woodside Pool.

Around 7 o'clock quite often sees the steam still coming of the water. Once I'm in it's fine, just some days I do need to psych myself up to it.

We have lived in the Hills for about 14 years now and there is still lots of exploring to do.

I'm very pleased to see

the new boutique gin distilleries popping up in the hills; they will keep me busy for a while.

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

JB: This might sound crazy (as probably you expect from the slightly wacky owner of The Katze) but I don't believe in a 'right career'.

Life is constantly changing and we need to embrace change.

Take risks and be bold. You are never too old to start a new chapter in your book.

The ending of my story hasn't been written yet and neither has yours.

Thanks Jayne for giving us the opportunity to get to know you and The Katze of Hahndorf better.