



About Ilkley



Ilkley is a 33 acre property, named after the Yorkshire Moor where Carol spent her youth. Just 11km north of Mudgee as the crow flies, Ilkley is barely on the outskirts of town by country standards. In fact all cottages look down the valley to the town, and the nest of distant lights at night completes the feeling of being away from the cares of the madding crowd. We have encouraged native critters over the years, with a local family of kangaroos, and birds ranging from a resident pair of Little Eagles to Magpies, Owls, Blue Wrens, Yellow Robins, various honey eaters, parrots and many less common fowl. As with any wild animals we cannot guarantee they will deign to visit you.

Common features

All of our cottages have been designed and decorated by us, and each is different within the broad category of Australian country style. The common theme is the use of farmhouse style antique furniture and recycled timber. All have wood fires for romance and warmth, backed up by reverse cycle air-con for frosty Mudgee mornings.

The air-con similarly backs up the ceiling and pedestal fans in the occasional summer heatwave. Each kitchen is equipped for cooking, and it's surprising the number of guests who go into town to buy ingredients for a romantic candle lit dinner at home, rather than take advantage of our excellent deal with Blue Wren restaurant.

The cooking thing also extends to the wood fired BBQ and outdoor setting at each cottage. Cottages are stocked with three cereals, milk, juice, tea (leaf and bags), coffee (instant and ground), home baked bread (usually), and a bowl of fresh fruit. As well as condiments, sauces, jams etc, and a bottle of local port or some similar tippie open on the sideboard (much better than a glass of champagne). Bacon and egg breakfasts, home made soup and Mudgee-meat BBQ's are available (see prices and packages).

For more information about the cottages, or to arrange a booking, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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Maggie's Cottage

Named in honour of the magpie tribe that rules the area, though if you leave a door open it is more likely for a wren or robin to pop in.

This is our biggest cottage; with three bedrooms and three bathrooms it can give 6 people complete privacy, or sleep up to 12 if you're good friends or a family. Each bedroom has a décor themed around antique brass or iron beds that we have restored to original glory. The two upstairs loft bedrooms have their own balconies with expansive views over the hills to Mudgee, while the downstairs bedroom has the same views from a private verandah.

The lounge room features a leather corner lounge suite facing the open fire, and the adjacent dining room seats 10 to the one huge table.

Bedrooms: 3

Master bedroom with queen size bed + 2 bunks, 2 upstairs bedrooms with queen size beds.

Bathrooms: 3

Master bedroom downstairs with bath + shower, ensembles in both upstairs bedrooms

Sleeps: Maximum of 12

4 in master bedroom, 4 in upstairs bedrooms, 2 on futon, 2 on trundle beds.

Blackman's Cottage

Our first built cottage that utilizes some materials from the original Blackman's cottage built in South Mudgee in 1849.

Blackman's has a main bedroom with a magnificent restored brass and iron half-testor bed (double width, queen length), and two long singles in the second bedroom.

The lounge room with its' pot belly stove has a double sofa bed if required for extras, and a third bed can be set in the twin room if necessary. Blackmans' has the same views as Maggie's, but filtered through the branches of a majestic old angophora tree.

Bedrooms: 2

Master bedroom with queen size bed, secondary bedroom with 2 single beds.

Bathrooms: 1

Claw-foot bath + shower

Sleeps: Maximum of 7

2 in master bedroom, 2 in secondary bedroom, 2 on sofa bed, 1 on trundle bed.

Calving Gully Cottage

Tucked into a nook in the side of the hill, shielded by tall trees is Calving Gully Cottage. So named because this is where in days past the cows went to be alone and have their calves. The feeling of safety, privacy and seclusion persists.

It is no accident that this is where we chose to build our most intimate and romantic cottage, designed for two with room for two more on a sofa bed at a pinch.

This cottage looks down through the trees to our reed fringed dam and windmill, with the lights of Mudgee visible at night off to the side.

Bedrooms: 1

Master bedroom with queen size bed

Bathrooms: 1

Claw-foot bath + shower

Sleeps: Maximum of 5

2 in master bedroom, 2 on sofa bed, 1 on trundle bed.

