

FREEMAN ON FORD BED AND BREAKFAST

By JIM and HEIDI FREEMAN

WITH a host of meticulous renovations and restorations taking place recently at Freeman on Ford Bed and Breakfast, Beechworth now has its first bed and breakfast with its own foyer similar to those in boutique hotels.

Freeman on Ford is currently the first five star and only five star accommodation in the region and it also is the only Green Star Accredited Bed and Breakfast in Beechworth.

The owners are aware that star ratings awarded are precarious and they have been proactive in providing state of the art technology and services for its guests so that the business maintains its five star rating.

They also aim to provide services which in the past were afforded to guests staying in larger hotels.

They are hoping that by providing a separate reception/check in area with sumptuous guest room, guests will be able to be welcomed to Beechworth

with a more sumptuous and memorable experience.

Even though the owners were awarded a Certificate of Commendation in the past from Indigo Shire for their extensive renovations for both the inside and outside their building, they have recently had major renovations which have once again made their services stand alone in the local bed and breakfast industry.

They have recently refurbished the original Banking Chambers which for 100 years operated as a bank (80 years as a State Savings Bank and 20 years as The Oriental Bank).

Changes made in the former banking chambers have included polishing the chamber floors and taking down the manager's office, rewiring and plastering extensively and demolishing one portioned wall.

They have taken out the old box heating and the former old lighting.

The owners said they took down the low and large lights in the chambers recently so as to enhance the intricate and stunning cornices in the rooms.

They have replaced these old lights with three stunning original Victorian crystal chandeliers.

They have even put in a picture wall to show the original granite safe and have installed new ceiling roses and removed former old power boxes.

Specialised plasterers have been employed to replace some missing florets and cornices which were removed previously.

Moulds had to be made to replicate original florets and pieces had to be meticulously pieced together like a jigsaw.

They had to be manoeuvred from the floor and painstakingly put together on the high ceilings.

These renovations have taken many months and involved great expense for their owners.

The owners however believe that they are fortunate to have purchased such a stunning historical building.

Their extensive and thorough renovations are their way of giving back to the town and making it a drawcard for tourism in the area.

Included in their tariffs are gourmet cooked breakfast and a silver service afternoon tea.

Their mission statement is to make guests feel like kings and queens of a bygone era both with luxury and decor of a bygone Victorian era.

The service provided is personalised hosting with great attention to detail.

They have spared no expense to put in phones

in all bedrooms which connect to reception.

This has been a huge undertaking as the walls are so solid and high.

They have further installed extensive cabling which allows guests to have complimentary phone calls throughout Australia thus allowing guests to have many options and conveniences afforded to them.

Further major improvements have been to install Ethernet connection which allows guests to use computers in rooms and allows for stronger and quicker connection than wireless networks.

No doubt these new innovations stand alone enabling guests to have superior services.

All bedrooms offer the luxury of fireplaces and ensembles.

Luxurious decor with modern conveniences have always been a feature of Freeman on Ford.

Freeman on Ford owners are currently extending their building.

They recently extended their allotment which ironically was part of the original title.

In the gold rush days, the building ran from Ford Street right up to Loch Street.

The owners have reinstated the original land holding and hope that guests will further enjoy the many delights which Beechworth has to offer.

A detailed history of the building can be found on their website: www.freemanonford.com.au and bookings and enquiries are welcome on: (03) 57282371 or by emailing freemanonford@westnet.com.au.



► PAINSTAKING WORK
BEECHWORTH BED AND BREAKFAST FREEMAN ON FORD HAS UNDERGONE EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS.