

WHEN TWO STORIES

MEET AS ONE

Hamish Wight



For further information
phone 1300 651 211
www.gawler.org
email info@gawler.org

Here we are, ten years since my first visit to Yarra Valley, our chalet has just been completed. The hexagon design is based on the meditation room at The Gawler Foundation's retreat. It was my late wife Jacqui's dream to build a beautiful space based on this.

It's now seven years since Jacqui's passing and I look back at the time we spent at the Yarra Valley with a full heart. Love and joy was what we left with after attending the *Life and Living* retreat. Emotions abounded while there and we met some of the most lovely people, all of whom enriched our stay.

My second visit with Jacqui was confronting, though it was beautiful and we left with the most positive mindset imaginable. My third visit was on my own, about six months after Jacqui passed. Again, I found it healing, seeing trees we had planted were thriving, absorbing the peace in the grounds and of course I had to go in for meditation, it was exactly what I needed.

The Gawler Foundation helped us learn about unconditional love, hope and understanding. After Jacqui's passing I realised our journey was as much about me as it was about her. I do wonder sometimes why looking after my own health is no longer such a priority - I should know better after all my experiences. I do still meditate, eat well and juice (though not as much as I should).

While I was trying to rebuild my life without Jacqui, a whole, other story and soon to be new chapter of my life, was developing.

Unbeknownst to me, a lady I had met 20 years ago called Jenny, her husband Gavin and six-year-old daughter Molly were living an idyllic life on the banks of the Kalgan river just out of Albany, West Australia. Life for them was pretty rosy. However, while working in Perth, a melanoma was detected on the top of Gavin's head. As no real treatment options were offered, they undertook a regime like many others had, of enjoying vegetarian whole food, counseling, amid lots of positive thoughts and love. During Easter 2004 they moved to Perth, for family support, friends and many hospital visits. Sadly, two days after Christmas, Gavin passed away.

Seven years later another chapter has now begun. Jen and I reunited, and through sharing the stories of our lost loved ones, a lovely romance soon emerged.

I was keen to move into the property, just out of Albany, that Jacqui and I bought together. Jen and Molly had to be encouraged a little, but three years later a happy home has produced a beautiful, luxury retreat, which is a celebration of our loved ones.

Albany Luxury Retreat includes a space dedicated to my late wife, *Jaq's Shack*, based on The Gawler Foundation's Yarra Valley meditation room. This space is a way for us to both honor the memory of lost loved ones, and to provide somewhere nurturing for both cancer patients and their support crew to have some valuable time out. We are finally at peace and our loved ones will always be in our hearts.

Albany Luxury Retreat

www.albanyluxuryretreat.com.au