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# The Adelaide Hills Weekender Herald

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# RESTORE IT

Your vehicle back to better than new



Peter Roberts with his team at Finch Restorations and a selection of vehicles they have worked on. Photo by Phil Martin

by Samantha Smith

A 50-year-old Mount Barker company, comprising a dozen-strong team of highly skilled professionals, is taking on a unique automotive challenge to showcase their expertise.

Over the past 13 months, the Finch Restorations proprietor Peter Roberts and his team have been designing and building their SS 120, an homage to the original Jaguar SS 100. They will be presenting the SS 120 at this

year's All British Day. Peter has been a supporter of All British Day for years and said 40 to 50 per cent of the cars they restore are from British origin.

Jaguar, formerly known as Swallow Sidecar, changed their

name during World War II due to connotations associated with Nazi soldiers. The SS 100 was also known as the Jaguar which is where they got the new name for their company.

(continued on page 9)

## Land to create local jobs

by Thomas Luke

Local business and the district's residents association have welcomed the proposed 'employment land' for Totness which could create upwards of 550 jobs in the Mount Barker region.

Under a draft development plan, approved for public consultation by Mount Barker District Council last week, 34.6 hectares of land in Totness would be rezoned for uses ranging from commerce and industry to food production and technology enterprises.

The proposed zone is immediately north of the South Eastern Freeway near the Mount Barker exit and extends west to the border of the Totness Recreation Park, with frontages on Crompton Road, Milne Road and Follet Close.

To the north, the proposed zone abuts the existing light industry zone in Totness which is currently used by successful businesses including Prancing Pony Brewery and Buzz Honey.

The affected area is currently zoned for rural living and production with a council report stating that the land has "limited productive use".

It is hoped that by rezoning the area a source of much needed jobs will be provided for the Mount Barker region. (continued on page 4)

## Heat concerns

by Thomas Luke

Wineries across the Hills have begun to consider postponing, making changes or canceling outright Crush events planned for this weekend over concerns around bushfire risk and heat.

Both Saturday and Sunday are predicted to be above 40 degrees, but the CFS has so far said the weekend is not likely to be rated as catastrophic.

Executive Officer of the Adelaide Hills Wine Region Kerry Treuel said that hot weather policy was up to individual wineries, with the festival still set to go ahead. However, she urged all

individual wineries and venues to make sure they were ready if a bushfire did break out over the weekend and follow their own risk management and bushfire safety plans.

At the time of writing however, four wineries across the Hills had opted to "bite the bullet" ahead of time and cancel their events, many of them for the first time.

Claire Anderson of Anderson wines said the decision had been "absolutely heartbreaking" for her, but she felt that cancelling had been the most responsible choice. (continued on page 4)



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**FREE VALENTINE'S DAY MESSAGE - SEE PAGE 3**

# TOURISM

This month I am pleased to introduce Julie Peter who with husband Ed has brought a committed and refreshing approach to development in the Adelaide Hills. Bill Nehmy



Julie Peter

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

JP: I was born in New Zealand to a Kiwi mum and an Aussie dad. We lived in Auckland until I was about 3 and then moved to Adelaide.

I have one brother, Bruce, who is 18 months older than me and who works in the wine industry in the South East.

I attended Stirling East Primary School, followed by Seymour College, graduating in 1984.

After that I completed a degree in Advertising Graphic Design, and worked in two ad agencies before setting up my own little graphics company on Greenhill Road, sharing a tiny office with an architect.

In 1991, I left Australia with a friend to travel around Europe. My goal was to work in bars and restaurants and then to weasel my way into a large ad agency in London!

I never made it to London, as I met my future husband along the way, and I moved in with him in Geneva. We married and lived in Switzerland, France, Hong Kong and Singapore. We moved to Adelaide in 2010 with four children in tow.

BN: You have a strong passion and are a keen advocate for the Adelaide Hills. If you have visiting friends or relatives and you want to give them a memorable Adelaide Hills afternoon where do you take them?

JP: I have always loved the Adelaide Hills. I think we are so lucky to have this region only 20 minutes from the city and to have the diversity of businesses, wineries, restaurants and food artisans on our doorstep.

I love to show people our hotels and villages like Balhannah, Woodside, McLaren Vale, Mylor, Stirling... there's so much around and it's nice to surprise people with the landscape and cafes, shop etc.

BN: Your attention to detail and flair have been significant in your Adelaide Hills business development including Uraidla, Crafers, Stanley Bridge and Stirling.

What have been your key considerations and insights?

JP: I like to do things properly. To my own detriment, I'm quite a perfectionist and sometimes get stuck not starting something if I think I won't do a good job!

I think advertising was an appealing vocation for me as I love/need a deadline!

The other thing is that I work with a wonderful builder, Carmine, from Advanced Building Concepts, and he's a stickler for detail and a properly done job. High standards rub off!

My quirky bent is my passion for old things, which I think are often better made, have a history and a story, and which bring a dimension of depth and interest which new items lack.

I spend a lot of time in

auctions and second hand shops. I also like that money spent at op shops is going to a community cause.

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

JP: I think a better network of transport to and around the various eateries, wineries, picnic areas would be beneficial. I love ideas such as Will Ride in Stirling where Will Rischbieth rents out electric bicycles and organises tours – so cool!

We also need more unique accommodation in the Hills.

BN: Please share any other key interests/activities that might surprise us (besides wine appreciation!)

JP: I am not sure if it's really a surprise, but I'm quite an experienced photographer, and one reason I love the pubs so much is that I get to photograph the food – and eat it!

We have a wine distribution company in Singapore and I used to run a magazine we published for our clients, which threw me into the often fickle world of food photography.

I also designed the logos for both Crafers Hotel and Uraidla Hotel, as well as the menus.

I have graphics people help me, but the Crafers one I painted myself, and Uraidla I drew out and employed a chap in Sweden to help create the finished product. I can also bake a mean cake!

BN: What advice would you give a young graduate in respect to finding the right career/running a successful business and to have an enriching life?

JP: I think it's harder now, as the world and technology changes so rapidly, but go for what you love, don't worry what anyone else thinks!

Hang lamps upside-down if you want! I love the saying "those who never make mistakes never try anything new".

I'm still learning to let go of the idea of perfection – because it doesn't exist, but just go for it! Life is short and it's worth a shot!!

Thanks Julie, it has been very interesting to get to know you better. I am looking forward to checking out cakes at The Uraidla Bakery to see if there is one of your home made specials!

Thanks for your ongoing vision, influence, advocacy and continued support for tourism in the Adelaide Hills.

## Stage win a highlight for our world cyclist

by Melina Scarfo

After taking home a stage win during the Women's Tour Down Under earlier this month, there is no break in sight for pro cyclist Annette Edmondson.

The Aldgate local placed first in Stage 1 of the tour in Gumeracha and said it felt amazing to win in front of a home crowd.

"I really wanted to win – that was the target for my team, Wiggle High5," she said.

"When we won Stage 1, that took a lot of the pressure off. I know these roads really well, like the back of my hand.

"I've trained in the Hills many times so that kept me calm and relaxed. We definitely had the upper hand because of that."

Wiggle High5 also had a Stage 4 win in their sights, but came in at third place.

"The team did absolutely everything they could, they couldn't have done anything more," Annette said.

"Stage 2 and 3 were really tough due to the weather. There was a lot of wind and hills at the finish – that took a lot out of the legs and was part of the reason why I wasn't feeling so fresh on the last day."

After dealing with health issues during the past few months, which kept her off the road, Annette wasn't sure what to expect from the tour.

"I haven't been feeling amazing lately but during the last few weeks of December I started to feel good on the bike for the first time in a long time," she said.

"After watching my brother win the National Road Race Championships I was really excited about racing in the Women's Tour Down Under."

## Crowds out in force despite extreme heat

(continued from page 3)

"I reckon there will be quite a few families who will be eating nothing but sausages for the next few weeks."

But despite the disappointment of having the challenge cancelled, Damien said locals had embraced the first Tour Down Under finish for Uraidla.

(continued from page 1)

Peter wanted to design and build the SS 120 to fully realise what the original SS 100 would have looked like.

"The car we've built is our interpretation of what the car would have looked like if production hadn't been interrupted. It's also what we think it would have evolved into," Peter said.

The process which is set to take 16 months all up is in its final stages.

"In doing this process we've looked at other one off vehicles and post-war models that were created in the 40s and 50s," Peter said.

Peter and his team ensured they also looked into the philosophy behind Jaguar while building the SS 120.

"We researched what the creator of Jaguar, William Lyons, was doing at the time of war as well as what he built post war to ensure we were fully informed," Peter said.

While the car is certainly reminiscent of the past, Peter said it is not completely authentic.

"Parts are becoming harder for authentic models, so with this car you are not bound by authenticity, it's a great way to showcase our talents."

"It was all a good learning experience," he said. "We're definitely looking to do it again next year."

Following the Uraidla stage, cyclists tackled the 151 kilometre McLaren Vale to Willunga Hill on Saturday, before returning to the Adelaide CBD for the final stage on Sunday.

South African rider Daryl



Annette Edmondson crossing the finish line in Gumeracha after winning Stage 1 on Thursday, January 11. Photo Santos Women's Tour Down Under

Annette began cycling as a teenager when she was selected through a talent search program.

During those early years, she used to follow the Men's Tour Down Under and often questioned why there wasn't a tour for women.

The Women's Tour Down Under started in 2011 and last year became internationally recognised, allowing professional teams to gain points to go towards their team ranking.

"There was nothing for women about 10 years ago," Annette said.

"So to see the women's tour doing so well and attracting so many international riders is fabulous.

"We are lucky to have so many people helping to make it bigger and better."

Prior to the tour, Annette won gold and silver medals at the 2014 Commonwealth Games

and gold at the 2015 Track World Championships in France.

She has also represented Australia at international events such as the UCI Track Cycling World Championships, where she took home silver medals.

Annette's sights are set high for 2018 as she aims to compete in the Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast and the 2020 Tokyo games.

The next few months are set to be filled with non-stop training for Annette.

"I train every single day, so there's not much time to do anything else," she said. "When I'm not cycling, I like to chill out, go for a swim and have some quiet time."

Annette is based in the Hills during the Australian summer and spends winter cycling abroad in Spain.

Imprey was the overall winner of the Tour, the first rider from his country to win the title.

His fellow countryman Nicholas Dlamini took out King of the Mountain for his performance in the Tour's hill stages, while the Slovak world champion Peter Sagan proved the race's strongest sprinter.

Bahrain Merida was the strongest overall team for the tour, with a 26 second margin ahead of the next closest team, thanks in part to the efforts of their sprinters on the final day.

More information about the Tour including results from each day is available online at [www.tourdownunder.com.au](http://www.tourdownunder.com.au)

## Restore it

Peter explained there are major differences between the Finch SS 120 and Jaguar SS 100.

"The SS 100 was a wooden bodied car with a metal skin, whereas our car is all metal, as were the post war Jaguars."

The differences are also in the structure and overall comfort of the car.

"The car we've built is much more comfortable, it suits modern adults better."

Peter pointed out that, pre war, people were generally a lot smaller and shorter.

"I'm over six feet tall and there is enough elbow and leg room for me," Peter said.

It's clear why the SS 120 will take 16 months to complete as everything is fashioned individually. "This is a hand built car, it's not manufactured in a factory offshore. We use local, highly skilled artisans. I call them a grey beard work force," Peter said.

While Finch Restorations offers a lot of expertise into maintaining and reviving older cars they are also proficient in areas like mechanics, panel beating and more.

"We have to have the old school skills, mechanics, paneling, coach

building – old worldly skills. Those with the knowledge are older and going into retirement."

Peter stressed the importance on having the skills to maintain these older model cars.

A customer of Finch Restorations said they were really impressed with the company's services.

Cameron Mighall, a Strathalbyn local, bought a speedy two door MGB to take his wife on drives.

"The car was riding too low so we took it to Finch Restorations for some mechanical work," Cameron said.

"It was a big process and a complex job but I wasn't held up unduly."

Cameron highlighted that the process went smoothly.

"They know what they're doing, they have the skill-set you can't find anywhere else."

Cameron would recommend Finch Restorations to anyone needing mechanical help.

You can view the SS 120 at All British Day at Echunga on Sunday, February 11.

To find out more about Finch Restorations head to [www.finchrestorations.com.au](http://www.finchrestorations.com.au) To make an inquiry phone 8398 2332.