

Elizabeth's Raspberries, Ice Cream Etc

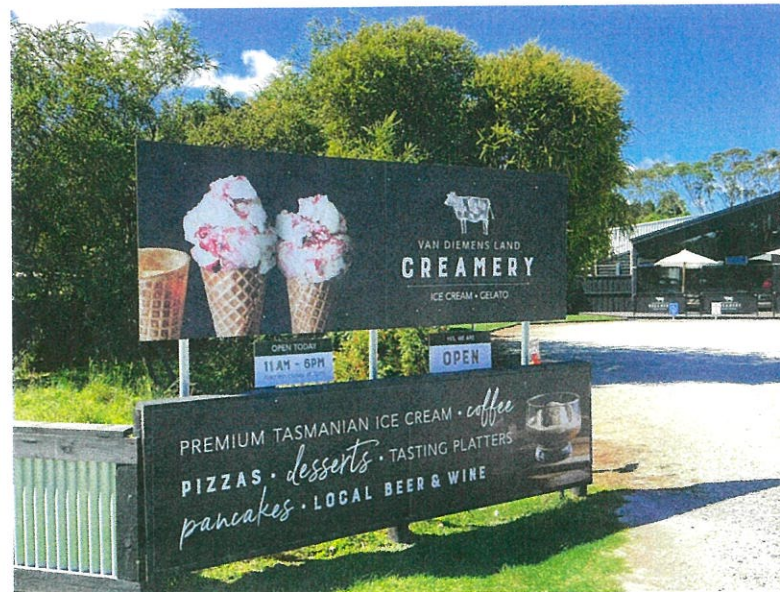
by Damien Thomas

It took a bungled highway robbery to lead to one of the best little Cafes in northern Tasmania. **'Etc' is an unusual name for a café**, but the sweet and savoury foods are worth stopping for. Whatever takes your fancy. For me, I can't go past a wicked cronut. For you, it could be a full cooked breakfast, toasted sandwiches, or salt 'n' pepper calamari a little later. Just be warned, the cabinets of cakes are extensive and bursting with deliciousness.

Originally built and occupied by John Spicer, he ran it as a hotel for 15 years. Imagine, if John had been better at his original craft, holding up coaches in England, he would not have been deported to Van Diemen's Land. He would not have taken up residence in **Elizabeth Town**, and Etc may not be here today. It's pure serendipity.



An unusual name for an unusually good café



Something for everyone!

Set off early and aim to drop into Etc for brekkie on the day you explore Elizabeth Town. Elizabeth Town is conveniently only 45 minutes-drive from **API's delightful 3-bedroom, Eglington Street cottage in Launceston**, so there is no excuse not to visit this area. By now, assuming you are avid readers of my previous articles, you will realise there is a tonne of stuff to do while staying in Launceston. People sometimes ask me if there is enough to do if they stay for a week at Eglington Street. I am confident you can guess my answer. 'You will need at least two weeks. In just one week, you will only scratch the surface'. I totally understand that allocating more than a week for one location in Tasmania can be a stretch, so, the great thing about my job is seeing the same guests coming back for another visit when they realise there really is so much to experience in and around Launceston.

When you have finished your coffee and vitals, it's time to head over to **Van Diemen's Land Creamery** for 40 of the most delicious ice cream and gelato flavours. The best thing about being an adult is not having to ask your parents if you can have an ice cream at the most inappropriate times! It's the quality of the produce which makes the flavours so unique. Paul milks the cows out the back, and Jan makes the ice cream. You could be enjoying a salted caramel ice cream that yesterday was fresh from being milked. Take a cold bag and freezer blocks, so you can take a tub or two back to Eglington Street for after dinner treats!

Don't worry if you can't decide which flavours to lick, slurp and guzzle into a brain freeze. If your holiday extends to Hobart, you can indulge in more flavours, licking, slurping and brain freezing at their other outlet on the fabulous floating ice creamery at the dock.



Raspberry heaven

Great produce attracts talented artisans, so it is not surprising that right next door you will find **Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm**. I am helpless when it comes to raspberries. I love them. The prices are so amazing that I am in heaven. The chocolate coated raspberries are my daughter's favourite. The café is exceptional and the tranquillity together with the views over the lake make it a perfect destination for lunch. The menu is extensive and there are so many desserts to choose from that deciding which one to have may be quite difficult. Before I discovered this gem, I did not realise how many desserts could incorporate raspberries.



Take a stroll in Deloraine

“ The best thing about being an adult is not having to ask your parents if you can have an ice cream at the most inappropriate times! ”

In winter there is a cosy fire to keep you warm, while still enjoying the view.

You may recall in a previous article I mentioned the cool glow worm caves in **Mole Creek**. The good news is that they are not far away. You can break up your festival of all things edible with a walk through the caves - highly recommended. Not only do you get to participate in a very unusual opportunity to be able to boast about seeing glow worms, but the experience gives your appetite time to recover for the next round of food sensations. Your hardest decision is in which order to try them all without having to go back to the same one twice - or perhaps that is part of your cunning plan - is there any time of day when an extra ice cream is not allowable!



Don't miss the Ashgrove Dairy

I have run out of room to tell you about the nearby **Ashgrove Dairy** and delightful Deloraine - remember my comment about too much to cram into just one week! **API**

Check out the facilities and book your API holiday online at www.apilifestyle.com.au or call us on 1300 653 322.