

SA STATE OF LUXURY

STORY BY CHRISTINA PFEIFFER

City Slickers

EXPERIENCE LIFE ON A WORKING
STATION WHILE LIVING IN STYLE



THE FIRST thing I notice when I arrive at Angorichina in the Flinders Ranges is its green lawns, lavender hedges and rose bushes. In the vast dry land that surrounds the homestead, the garden appears like a mirage in the midst of a sea of dust.

No sooner had I unpacked my things and settled into my cosy room complete with ensuite (which is located in what used to be the family's school house), than I am whisked into a 4WD by Ian Fargher who runs the station with wife Di. We navigate barren rocky hills to reach Carey's Peak, one of the highest on the station. In every direction – as far as I can see – there are undulating sun-scorched hills that teem with wildlife. Over champagne and Brie, I gaze in wonderment at the golden hue cast by the setting sun across the vast dry country. When we return to the homestead, Di has a mouth-watering meal of roast lamb served with a provincial chunky tomato basil sauce waiting for us, and I spend a fascinating evening listening to tales about life in the outback.

The next morning, after accompanying Di on her daily walk, I jump into the co-pilot's seat of Ian's Cessna aircraft and wave goodbye to the inquisitive kangaroos. Ten-minutes later we touch down at the dusty air-strip outside the Prairie Hotel at Parachilna, where Ian is scheduled to pick up passengers booked for a joy-flight. The whole experience is somewhat surreal, an eccentric yet oddly familiar scene from an outback movie. On our flight back, Ian flies to the far corners of his 650-square-

kilometre property, a landscape that has been owned by his family for four generations. The property is so vast that it takes Ian flying his plane, as well as three men on the ground, a couple of weeks to muster the stock. I'm keen to see how mustering is done and Ian's two sheep dogs are equally eager to oblige.

Angorichina provides the well-travelled an authentic first-hand experience of life on a remote outback station, while living in comfort. Di has a graceful sense of style and has decorated the homestead with cane and timber, achieving an elegant yet warm country feel. Rates are \$675 per person per night, twin-share and include accommodation, meals, drinks, station activities and a tailored personalised experience. A direct flight from Adelaide is just over 2hrs, (08) 8354 2362, www.angorichinastation.com ■

SA OUTBACK **Prairie Hotel, Parachilna:** Tuck into a 'feral' mixed grill, (08) 8648 4844, www.prairiehotel.com.au; **Coober Pedy:** Opal festival at the opal capital of the world in April, 1800 637 076, www.opalcapitaloftheworld.com.au; **Wilpena Pound:** Fly over the heart of the Flinders Ranges, www.wilpenapound.com.au; **Pichi Richi Railway:** A heritage steam train journey from Port Augusta to Quorn on Saturdays (between April and November), 1800 440 101.