



Hume Leader
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MICKLEHAM

Next big tourist drawcard

Restaurant, winery, brewery and day spa in \$35m plan to restore homestead at Marnong Estate

Bridie Byrne

A HISTORIC homestead in Mickleham is being restored to its former glory under a \$35 million plan that will add a restaurant, winery, day spa and brewery.

The Marnong Estate on 445 hectares in Mickleham Rd is set to become the next big tourism attraction in Hume.

The *Leader* was last week given a sneak peek of the development, which began construction a year ago.

Stage one to open in March next year will include homestead accommodation, a 250-seat restaurant, event space for 250 guests, farmers' market and a children's petting zoo.

Future stages will feature a vineyard, microbrewery, coffee roasting house and day spa. The site is also a working farm with a 650-head herd of Angus cattle.

The homestead, built in the 1860s, was originally the family home of William Angliss.

The resort sits high on the hills with views overlooking

the valley between Deep Creek through to Emu Creek and the Macedon Ranges.

Marnong Estate general manager Gerald Ackroyd said the site would be a world-class tourism facility like no other in regional Australia.

Mr Ackroyd said the estate was already fielding a huge amount of interest from potential visitors.

"The northern suburbs is devoid of world-class community facilities and it is my wish to create a place where people can meet, take their families and get away, even for a short time, from their day-to-day routines," he said.

"It will raise the profile of the region and give its community a local and vibrant destination of which they can be proud."

Mr Ackroyd said residents would have a range of employment opportunities with more than 200 jobs to be created and they would also be sourcing local produce.

Hume Mayor Drew Jessop said the estate was a great addition and would put the area on the map.



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Marnong Estate general manager Gerald Ackroyd at the site in Mickleham.

Picture: HAMISH BLAIR