

Daylesford



The towns of Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, which sit snugly in the Central Highlands at the foot of the Great Dividing Range, have long been known as the spa capital of Victoria. The area surrounding the towns contains 80 per cent of Australia's natural mineral springs, and it is conveniently located just an hour north of Melbourne.

Daylesford is also the playground of Melbourne's gay and lesbian travelling set, and hosts the Chillout Festival held annually in March, the unofficial recovery weekend from the month of Midsumma in Melbourne.

The area is renowned for its tolerance and diversity: in fact it boasts the highest percentage of gay and lesbian residents in rural and regional Australia. There are

a plethora of gay and lesbian owned businesses here. The area is very scenic, from the vast Wombat State Forest, to the tree covered Wombat Hill and Mount Franklin (an extinct volcano), and the majestic Daylesford and Jubilee lakes. But most visitors head straight for the mineral springs. Several day spa therapy centres have sprung up here. Acqua Viva Day Spa opened in March 2000, and claims to be the first to offer mineral water for its guests to bathe in. Acqua Viva also offers excellent remedial or relaxation massage, mud and seaweed wraps and body scrubs, facials and foot treatments.

Acqua Viva Day Spa,
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