

GREATER PORT MACQUARIE  
**abode**  
 property guide

TONY GUNNING HOMES.



TONY GUNNING HOMES.

With a name meaning wide valley with steep sides and pleasant place, "Stratheden", May FOCUS Home of the Month, is an outstanding display of timeless elegance expertly built by highly regarded local builder Tony Gunning Homes.

**L**ocated in a rural setting on Old King Creek Road, Wauchope, the home exudes a country feel with stunning mountain views to Bago Mountain and its forest surrounds. Spaciousness is the key to the tranquility. The home being specifically designed in close consultation with builder, architect and to the owners exacting brief to create their dream home.

Having a large collective of family and friends that often visit, one of the prerequisites was a home built with privacy and comfort in mind for not only the owners, but

also for their guests.

This has been achieved with the inclusion of a private Master Bedroom with en-suite, formal dining, media, gym and rumpus rooms, 3 large bedrooms along with a combined open plan lounge, living and kitchen space that conveniently opens out onto an alfresco tiled patio.

Varied textures and colours of the exterior facade are in keeping with the country charm of the overall design. The 3 gable terracotta tiled roof line, aluminium framed DecoWood bay windows and combination of layered PGH Monier sand stock brick; "Con-

vict homestead blend" and cement rendering on the exterior walls are eye-catching. A grand entry patio with sandstone look tiling from Color Tiles With Style, welcomes you into the home's generous foyer through a beautifully crafted timber and lead-light glass entrance door from Bagowoodworks. The foyer has a 10ft high ceiling with a beautiful chandelier from Rover Lighting overhead. Cream floor tiling is the choice for the extra wide foyer and adjacent high traffic areas of the lounge, living and kitchen areas.

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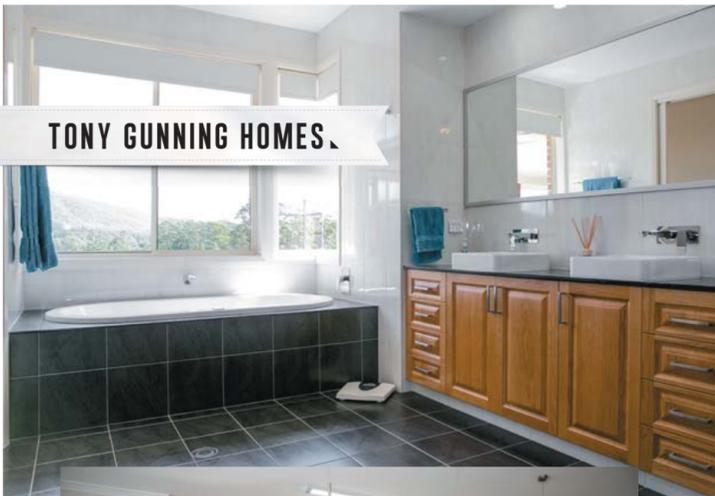
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TONY GUNNING HOMES.



The home has been skilfully painted by Ted Bartlett Painting.

Right of entry, the carpeted formal dining room has panel windows, 3 step cornice and 2 lovely chandeliers overhead that have been given a new home after travelling with the family from Sydney, then to their home at Mount Seaview and now take pride of place over the formal dining table.

An open plan living, lounge, dining and kitchen features matching built-in handcrafted cabinetry in American Oak and black granite. Uninhibited hinterland views are readily available from all living areas through the windows and glass sliding doors on the western side of the home.

The fireplace from BBQ's Galore, adds winter comfort and also style all year round. It has a black granite mantle piece and American Oak surround. On either side is both built-in overhead American Oak wall shelving and cabinetry.

The country style kitchen is a stunner. Designed and installed by Shaw's Kitchens with a continuation of American Oak for the cabinetry and black granite bench-tops from North Coast Marble and Granite, the kitchen is well thought out and has all the mod cons at hand.

An L-shaped island bench has many uses; as a divider for the open plan living area, a breakfast bar, a place to serve at family get togethers or dinner parties and is also a great easy clean food preparation work area.

Under bench storage, with both soft close drawers and cupboards plus a microwave nook have been provided. Along the back wall of the kitchen is further under bench and overhead cabinetry that is divided by a centrally placed De Longhi electric oven with gas cook-top and stainless steel range-hood. A stainless steel splash-back gives a modern look and is a contrast to the cream wall tiling above the black granite bench. The double stainless steel kitchen sink has been strategically spaced in on the western wall to take full advantage of the views, washing up is not a chore in this kitchen.

A separate butlers pantry is tucked away behind the kitchen through a wooden sliding door. It is huge, has purpose built shelving for all cooking condiments and Laminex bench-tops with loads of storage underneath. Another wash-up area with a deep sink plus a dishwasher and wine storage, all provide a fantastic haven for the home cook or budding chef.

Fondly named the mud room, a separate

“A separate butlers pantry is tucked away behind the kitchen through a wooden sliding door.”



“An open plan living, lounge, dining and kitchen features matching built-in handcrafted cabinetry in American Oak and black granite.”



shower, WC and vanity has been placed handily alongside the laundry. With easy external rear access through the laundry, this is a great addition that provides a space to kick off your dirty work shoes after a day in the garden, have a quick shower and clean off before relaxing in the rest of the home.

The laundry has all attachments for the washing machine hidden away under the deep stainless steel sink in the Laminex topped cabinets which also provides a bench space and has cream tile splash-back in keeping with the floor to ceiling tiling.

A plush carpeted Master Bedroom is very generously sized and like the rest of the home has a 9ft ceiling height. Two exquisite mini ball crystal chandeliers from Rover Lighting, ceiling fan and a wide bay window enabling views to the east of the property, add to the tranquil ambience of the master. A wall behind the bed head divides the room giving way to a walk-around wardrobe. Alan Howe has fitted out the robe with very sturdy handcrafted shelving and hanging fixtures, plus both his and hers inbuilt dressing tables with mirrors that add a touch of flair.

The Master's en-suite is exquisite, with a deep spa bath its centrepiece. Charcoal floor tiling has been used to encase the bath that has its very own window allowing views to the hinterland whilst relaxing in the tub.

A separate WC is tucked away behind a cavity sliding door next to the glass walled shower that has feature tiled recess, stainless steel rope shower rose and cream floor to ceiling tiling. His and hers above bench square set hand basins are housed in an American Oak vanity with black granite bench-top adding to the luxury of the en-suite. A stand-out

is the way that the floor and wall tiler, Chad Collyer, has laid the charcoal floor and cream wall tiles to line-up perfectly, creating a very smart, clean linear look.

Next door to the Master bedroom is the home office that has also been expertly fitted out by Allan Howe with custom-built double sided cabinetry from Shaw's Kitchens. On one side is shelving for the home office and behind, facing the hallway a conveniently placed linen cupboard services the mud room and Master en-suite.

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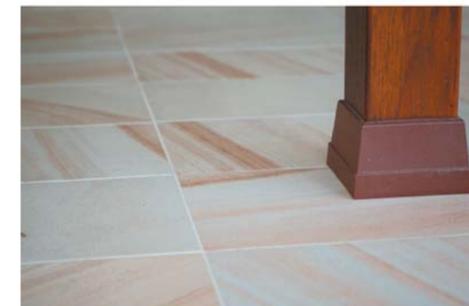
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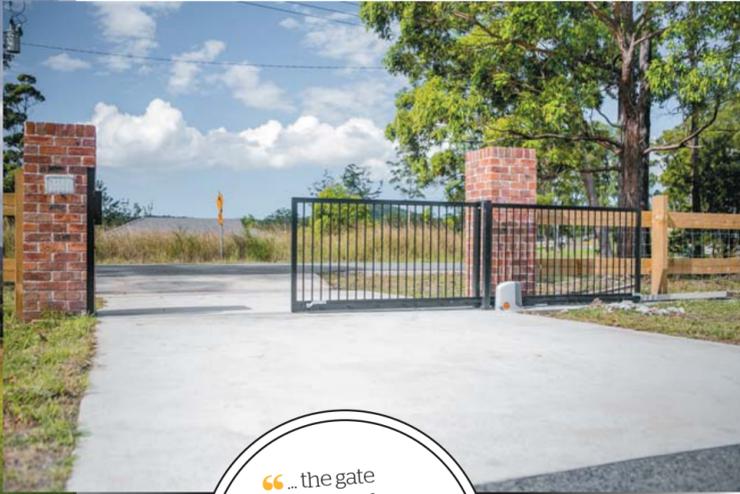
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“... the gate stays open for 20 seconds to allow you to drive through and then automatically closes...”

Left of entry, concealed behind a Constantine wooden door, is the media room. American Oak handcrafted built-in cabinetry, in keeping with the rest of the home, provides a place for the electronic equipment. Stainless steel mesh covers on the cabinets centre doors allow remote control devices to function, whilst keeping the doors closed and thus the system protected. Push carpeting, ceiling fan and wide window with block out blinds, all add to the comfort. 3 queen sized bedrooms, all with custom-built wardrobes, soft carpeting under-foot and ceiling fan are mirror image and positioned at the opposite end of the home to the Master bedroom. A centrally located rumpus also doubles as dormitory style accommodation for extra guests and a craft room for Kirsten.

Hard wearing wool berber carpet, storage cupboards, access to the rear yard and alfresco plus an extra sliding door access to the WC and guest bathroom, are very practical aspects of the rumpus. A three way bathroom services the guest bedrooms and is styled the same as the Master en-suite; American Oak vanity with black granite top, stainless steel handles on soft close drawers and his/hers above bench square set hand basins. Separate WC and bath/shower sections add individual privacy.

The home gym and a handily placed storage wall cupboard at the end of the hallway complete the well thought out living areas.

Internal access to the fully lined double garage is also convenient. Fitted by Port Garage Doors with an automatic panel-lift door, the

garage is easily accessed yet secure. Warren Krogh Concreting Services has laid the exposed aggregate concrete drive that leads to both the garage and the storage sheds at the rear of the property. Further exposed aggregate pathways provide a walkway around the home and also lead from the front gate to the entrance patio.

To complete the homes surrounds, Steve Norrie Fencing has installed treated pine fencing around the perimeter and incorporated a mesh wire to contain the resident blue heeler, Nellie. Steve also installed an electric gate system to the driveway to not only add to the

security of the property, but also allow for an easy and convenient car access; the gate stays open for 20 seconds to allow you to drive through and then automatically closes; it can also be closed manually if needed.

A lot of thought, inspirational ideas and a fantastic collaboration between tradesmen and owners has resulted in a modern, elegant design. Tony Gunning's team of highly skilled carpenters, Jarem and Dane Gunning, Alan Howe and Darren Hoad have excelled themselves presenting a beautifully built country homestead that fits in perfectly with Kristin and Allan's lifestyle, now and into the future.

## FROM THE BUILDER Tony Gunning

### Tell us about your business - How long have you been operating?

I have been building in the Hastings area since 1988. I completed my trade as a carpenter in Gunnedah and then spent some time gaining experience in Canberra before moving to Laurieton. In 1995 my wife Sue and I decided to branch out on our own, starting our own business, we haven't looked back. We specialise in custom design homes as I feel no two clients are the same and no two blocks are the same. Building has changed and evolved so much over the past 20 years, but one thing that has remained a big part of my business is that building a home to the highest calibre and not skimping on what we put into them is paramount.

We have developed many long term friendships with our clients, some building numerous homes with us. The biggest highlight of what we do is handing over the finished home and knowing the client is truly happy with the end result. It is a partnership between our team and the client.

### What are the types of building that you specialise in?

Whether it's your plan or one of our custom designed homes, we specialise in the building of new homes and renovations from small to extensive additions and alterations. I am a hands on builder and am involved in the whole process,

from the onsite meeting working out that perfect design for my client's, right through to the day the keys are handed over of the finished home.

Over the past 20 years homes have changed so much. Gone are the days of simply picking a plan and putting it on a block, there is so much more involved. We work closely with our clients and designer to maximise the aspect and features of the site and try to create a home that truly reflects our client's needs. Keeping up with changes in design and bringing new ideas and design aspects to my clients is what I enjoy.

Probably the biggest challenge I have had was the construction of the Anglican Church in Laurieton, it was a massive undertaking for my team and one that still looks fantastic today.

### How do we go about commissioning you to build for us? What is the process?

We offer a no pressure service for our clients. Generally we meet on site and discuss some ideas of what clients are looking to achieve or if they have plans we would love to look over them and go from there. We pride ourselves on providing a fixed price contract and everything between us and our clients is very transparent. You can give me a call at anytime on 0417 815 960 or 65 59 0036; or find me in the yellow pages.

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TONY GUNNING HOMES.



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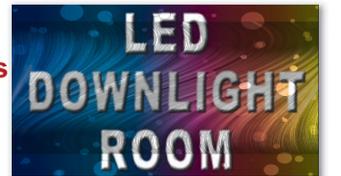


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“The area surrounding the fireplace is outstanding with the shelving made from American Oak to match the timber kitchen”

**FROM THE OWNERS**  
Kristin and Allan Laird

**You chose Tony Gunning Homes as the builder of your new home - how has it been working with Tony and his team?**

The best way to describe the experience of building a home with Tony and his team is the complete lack of stress associated with the project. From the design stage to completion the professionalism of everyone associated has been first class. We met all the people who worked on our home and we were consulted on exactly what we wanted and nothing was too much trouble. We can honestly say it was a pleasurable experience.

**Would you recommend Tony Gunning Homes to other prospective home owners?**

We would recommend Tony Gunning Homes without reservation to prospective home owners.

**What are some of the featured design elements of your new home that you love?**

There are a number of featured design elements in our new home. The area surrounding the fireplace is outstanding with the shelving made from American Oak to match the timber kitchen. There is also a large butler's pantry separate from the kitchen. The Media

room has an American Oak cabinet specifically designed for all of the entertainment equipment. The kitchen itself is a feature with black granite tops. The large ensuite together with the walk in wardrobe provide the perfect setting for the master bedroom. There is also an Alfresco area which is ideal for BBQ and entertaining.

**Did you have any specific requirements when you first decided to build your new home?**

The first thing we said to Tony and George Watt was that we did not want small pokey rooms in the house. We required a butler's pantry and a "mud" room incorporated adjacent to the laundry. The design of the façade was triple gable with bay windows as well as the brick base with cement rendered top. Also the entry to the garage was not to be part of the street façade. **Tell us a bit about the design of your new home and its functionality. How does it suit your lifestyle?**

The house, while it appears large for a couple, was designed to accommodate our immediate family as well as friends and relatives when they visit. The design of the house accommodates this scenario perfectly.

We would like to say "Thank You" to all the suppliers and everybody who worked on our home. The quality can only be described as excellent.

**Thank you Kristin and Allan.**

TONY GUNNING HOMES.



“Each room has been designed with generous proportions and 2.7m high ceilings.”

**FROM THE DESIGNER**  
George Watt & Associates

**Did the owners have any specific requirements when they first asked you to design the home for them?**

We first met Allan and Kristin on their vacant lot in King Creek with the Builder Tony Gunning. We walked over the gently sloping site taking into consideration the view of Bago Mountain to the west and forest vistas to the east. We then discussed the design brief that Allan and Kristin had prepared in advance.

The design brief was spatially concise, indicating the rooms required and the proposed use so an appropriate size could be determined. Design elements of space and place were very important. Space for family and friends to stay comfortably and a place for their collection of furniture and memorabilia. The style of the home was also important to Allan and Kristin, with the request for gables

to the facade, wooden pillars on a brick base and a garage hidden from the street.

**How have you incorporated these into the design?**

With a detailed design brief, large site and beautiful views the layout of the home came naturally. The first design only needed a few tweaks to satisfy the clients. The home is elongated along the site running north to south allowing every room in the home a view of the mountains, the forest or both. The benefit of this building footprint was the minimised cut and fill of the site, allowing the home to be level throughout and having direct connection to the front and rear yard.

To reduce the heat gain from the western facade a wide verandah wraps along this elevation whilst the remaining elevations enjoy a 0.6m eave projection, providing shading to the windows in the summer months. Each room has been designed with generous proportions and 2.7m high ceilings. The home has a con-

temporary country feel, it's elegantly long facade is articulated with a mixed use of brick and render, gabled roof forms and bay windows.

**Tell us a little about your association with Tony Gunning Homes...**

Allan and Kristin had built with Tony Gunning before and were very confident in his expertise as a builder. We have worked with Tony Gunning Homes for the past couple of decades on a number of diverse projects including homes, churches and commercial buildings. We were only too happy to oblige when Tony Gunning introduced us to Allan and Kristin to work through the design process with them.

**Tell us a little about your business...**

GW + A is a small building design office located in Bonny Hills. We have been provid-

ing building design services to the local community for over 25 years. We thoroughly enjoy getting to know our clients and listening to their requirements. It was a pleasure to go back and visit Allan and Kristin and sit in their lounge room and see the home fulfilling the purpose for which it was designed.

With their Grandchildren content watching a movie in the media room, Allan and Kristin expressed their delight and satisfaction with their new home whilst also recounting stories of their recent travels. We design homes that are tailored to suit individual lifestyles and homes that take into consideration their surroundings. We believe homes should be a reflection of their inhabitants and have a positive effect on one's lifestyle.

**Thank you George.**

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**BORAL**



**TONY GUNNING HOMES.**

Tony would like to make mention of all the highly skilled tradesmen involved in the building of this charming home:

Ben Bell Electrical, K & M Bartrim Plumbing, Telfer Plastering, Warren Krogh Concreting, Chad Collyer Tiler, Jarem Gunning Tiler, Carpenters Dane Gunning, Alan Howe and Darren Hoad, Andrew Cross Bricklaying, Mick Burton Renderer, Ted Bartlett Painting, Wayne Ross Waterproofing and Kyle Morrow Cleaning.

**BEAUTIFUL TILES - FROM TILES WITH STYLE**

Tiles With Style have a long and proud association with Tony Gunning Homes, which dates back to the early 1990's. We enjoyed working with Tony on his latest project, this beautiful and functional home in King Creek.

The clients wanted a warm and inviting colour scheme, so a natural and earthy colour palette was chosen. Stone look ceramic tiles with a matching wall and floor combination were used for the wet areas. We then utilised a large format version floor tile within the same range to run through the main living areas.

To tie in with the stunning face brick exterior, the clients chose a laser printed sandstone

glazed porcelain tile in a non slip finish for the extensive deck areas. We are very proud of the overall look that was achieved.

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**THE FIREPLACE - THE "EUREKA SOVEREIGN EDWARDIAN"**

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In this home they have provided most of the electrical light fittings and fixtures including an elegant chandelier in the entrance foyer and also a set of stunning crystal ball chandeliers in the Master bedroom. Rovert ceiling fans, security cameras and video system along with an audio door chime which were all installed by AR & DL Bell Electrical.

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