

**LIFELONG
COMMITMENT
A SUCCESS
STORY**



COLIN Read and Ted Purves met 35 years ago in Frankston when Colin was a teacher and Ted a decorative artist.

Ted's skills and eye for design led him into retail. Starting from scratch with a concept to establish a specialty hand-crafts store, Ted set about designing and building all the shop fittings and display units.

The store soon became the largest in Australia and on the global itineraries of many of the major international distributors.

Ted and Colin enjoyed life in Frankston for 20 years before deciding to move on.

As regular visitors to the Macedon Ranges it is no surprise that this is where they decided to experience their first "tree change".

Falling in love with a property at Tilden, the couple set about converting 2.5 acres of sheep farming country into a stunning formal garden and tea rooms. Many Melburnians will be familiar with Wardlin Craft & Garden, an extremely successful business for nine years specialising in rare Iris's.

The name Wardlin continues to spark a smile and a shimmer in Ted's eye.

"My nieces are into writing poetry and

every time they visit, they interpret their stay with a few rhyming words," Ted said. "In one particular poem, after their initial visit to our new Tilden property, the girls decided to combine our names using Edward and Colin and hence Wardlin was born!"

But after nine years it was time for yet another change. This time, however, with a view to downsizing.

"We decided to drive around and see what was on offer," Colin said. "We were keen to move closer to a regional city so headed in the direction of Ballarat. We grabbed a local paper one Saturday morning and spotted the discontinued Brewster Primary School

and residence was on the market."

With limited time that day, a friend decided to pop over to Brewster (about halfway between Ballarat and Beaufort) to check it out. The friend rang them immediately exclaiming "it's you. You must buy it or I will!"

A couple of weeks later the property was purchased, renovations began, they moved in and continued working to develop what is now Wadlin Gallery & Cafe.

The gallery and cafe showcase Ted's exceptional work and cooking skills and is supported by Colin working the front of house. Or in his terms "fluffing around!".

Their move to an even smaller community is proving to be yet another rewarding and successful adventure in their journey together.

The cafe serves delicious fresh food and features produce from the property's Edible Garden, a work in progress for Colin and Ted that showcases a range of premium Pyrenees wines.

Both are very happy with the way life is unfolding!

For Information on Wadlin Gallery & Cafe and the Pyrenees Region call 1800 206 622 or email adminav@netconnect.com.au.

Website: www.pyreneestourism.com.au