



BY SEAN EDWARDS

review



OLIVER'S



F3 Freeway, NSW

No more disappointing highway food and coffee. Newly opened, healthy food concept Oliver's is situated on the Pacific Highway, North of Sydney at Wyong. The highway traveller has traditionally never been treated to good coffee and healthy food.

Walking into the smart looking Oliver's and seeing the lime La Marzocco coffee machine lets you know that you are in for something great.

The food complements the coffee, with a clever selection and wide variety of healthy choices from sushi to toasted pocket breads. Even children would be satisfied with kid's packs of vegetable sticks, yummy dips, a wholemeal vegemite sandwich and a bottle of branded water. They may even get an Oliver's frisbee thrown in!

Oliver's has been branded

professionally by owner, Jason Gunn, giving this café concept real credibility. Everything around the business is geared towards health lifestyle choices. Even the very clean bathroom facilities - which are often hard to find on the highway - use water efficient plumbing and safe chemicals.

The business has a very good feel, so let's all hope that the public supports this healthy alternative to travelling food. Oliver's is located at two of the busiest Caltex sites in Australia, opposite each other on the F3 Freeway, half way between Sydney and Newcastle, at Wyong, north-bound and south-bound. The cafés are about 40 minutes out of Sydney.

The stores are open from 6am-10pm, 7 days a week.

Go to:
www.oliversrealfood.com.au
for more information.



COMMON GROUND



Wauchope, NSW

I am very proud to introduce Alison McKinlay's first venture, "Common Ground". Ali (as she is affectionately known) was one of my first barista students to really show a passion for coffee and now, five years later, she has her own successful café business.

Common Ground is situated in the regional village of Wauchope on the NSW North Coast, just outside of Port Macquarie.

Most people know Wauchope for the historic theme park, "Timbertown".

Common Ground is situated directly opposite the pioneer park's main entrance at Shop 5, Nursery Lane, Oxley Highway, Wauchope.

Ali is not only a great barista, she is a fantastic cook and bakes daily. Her fresh scones are her biggest seller and she has a terrific selection of home made cakes and cheesecake. Gluten-free desserts

are another item that Ali provides.

Common Ground uses Campos Coffee from Sydney and the café, in its short business life, has created quite a caffeine following. At this stage, Common Ground is the only regional café using Campos Coffee.

Ali and her all girl team are totally passionate about coffee and strive for perfection with every pour.

Latté art comes naturally to these girls and all of the milk based coffees come out perfectly presented every time.

Common Ground is situated in a pioneer style, rustic timber hut with a great, wide verandah that catches the morning sun.

The café is ideally situated to attract passing highway traffic, with motorcyclists and other travellers calling in for a meal and coffee on their westwards trek towards Tamworth, but is also proving to be popular with the locals.