

Enjoy French cuisine at beautiful Barrington

FRENCH couple Ginette and Remi Bancal are living in a tranquil dream since moving to Barrington last year.

About 20 years ago the couple left the busy cities and kitchens of London and Paris to discover a different life in Australia.

They lived in Melbourne, Sydney and Deloraine and established Deloraine's Calstock Country Guesthouse in 1999.

Last October they discovered an old dairy farm on 9.7ha at Barrington.

The couple fell in love with the place, completely renovated it and are now sharing their passion for cooking and the area with guests at what is now the Glencoe Rural Retreat.

"We really enjoy what we are doing and I think people can feel it," Mrs Bancal said.

"It's so peaceful and quiet and the garden is beautiful. We offer something very simple and very friendly and of course with the French twist."

The Bancals worked for many years at the Ritz in Paris as well as in Australian

restaurants such as Miettas in Melbourne and Banc in Sydney.

They serve traditional, slow-cooked French meals for their guests and also light gourmet lunches, which are available to the public.

Mrs Bancal said many guests worried about having to eat snails.

"We will not dare do this," she laughed.

A hobby farm, where the Bancals grow their own herbs and vegetables, surrounds the retreat.

In future years, they hope to grow strawberries and raspberries from which they can make their own ice-cream and jam.

Glencoe Rural Retreat is nestled among fertile Kentish plains and has Mount Roland as a backdrop.

Mrs Bancal said it was a place to escape.

"It is very peaceful and you can get away from everything."

■ For more information visit www.glencoe ruralretreat.com.au.



Ginette and Remi Bancal enjoy the relaxed lifestyle at their Glencoe retreat.