



## Kirkton Park HUNTER VALLEY

### **Mother Nature a lovingly tended guest at Kirkton Park**

Nestled as it is into one of this country's most idyllic environments, it's little wonder *voco* Kirkton Park in the Hunter Valley is so committed to leading the way in sustainable practices geared to preserving and supplementing the bountiful gifts Mother Nature has bestowed on the iconic region.

Not only has the hotel implemented a spectrum of onsite sustainable initiatives to protect the planet, it's also shaped its Meeting and Events arm to encourage clients, guests and partners to do so as well. Versatile, convenient and inviting facilities, combined with a 'Meet for Free' policy, ensures a steady stream of conferences and meetings to *voco* Kirkton Park – which is counterbalancing meeting and event carbon emissions with its unique 'Trees For Bees' program.

The enterprise has been developed to minimise the hotel's impact on the local environment and provide flowers for bees, the world's most important pollinator of food crops. To do so, *voco* Kirkton Park calculates the carbon footprint of every event it hosts and offsets emissions by planting the number of trees to create a carbon neutral effect.

Additionally, through its partnership with Carbon Neutral Australia, *voco* Kirkton Park Hunter Valley is encouraging these organisations to take additional steps by planting a tree for every attendee and by providing them with statistics to enable them to take further action in best offsetting their event's carbon emissions.

*voco* Kirkton Park General Manager Penny Crossley, who has trained with Climate Reality Project founder Al Gore and is now a mentor of the program, says the hotel believes the best approach to reducing its environmental impact comes from working hand-in-hand with guests and partners.

'In addition to our onsite solar farm, vegetable garden, bee farm and other waste reduction initiatives, we are planting trees to future-proof our region,' she says.

'And we believe working with the organisations we work with is the best way forward.'

Ms Crossley says the hotel has been steadfastly pouring its efforts into becoming a sustainable business, particularly so in the past 18 months. Part of the IHG Group of hotels, *voco* Kirkton Park participates in the group-wide 'Green Engagement' program.

'Under our Green Engagement program we record our carbon production,' Ms Crossley says.

'Year-on-year we have reduced our carbon emissions by 20%, energy usage by 20%, water usage by 13% and increased our recycling by 26%.





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‘Our vegetable garden is a vital part of our paddock-to-plate philosophy, as are our onsite beehives which produce honey for us. It’s our aim to be producing 80% of our vegetables grown on site in the very near future.’

What’s more, voco Kirkton Park meeting rooms are powered by its solar farms, the beautiful gardens are watered with recycled water and resident farm animals ensure landfill and waste is kept to a minimum.

‘It’s nice to know we are protecting and safeguarding the incredible environment we’ve been blessed with. After all, it’s the bounty of the Hunter Valley that sustains so many local businesses and it’s vital we respect that by playing a part in protecting it for future generations.’

**For all sales inquiries: Email: [sales.kirktonpark@ihg.com](mailto:sales.kirktonpark@ihg.com) or phone 02 4998 7680. Or visit our website: [hunervalley.vocohotels.com](http://hunervalley.vocohotels.com)**



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