

## The Polish Place Restaurant on Tamborine



**Phil & Ania Sowter  
with Bella and Kathryn**



## Closing the Door on 40 Years of Memories

### Part 2





**After 40 years of trading, Ania and Phil Sowter have made a very difficult decision to close The Polish Place Restaurant on Tamborine Mountain from September 4, 2023.**

**They first opened on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1983, so it is befitting that they chose to celebrate 40 years to the day and closed at sunset on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023.**

**Being at Tamborine Mountain we did have a pleasure to talk to Ania Sowter.**

**Danusia** - What do you think the Polish Place provides to the community beyond the basics of food and accommodation?

**Ania** - We are part of the tourism community. Everyone provides something different, so people can have a choice. You have bed and breakfast, Airbnb, hotels, motels, cottages, everything for everybody.

**Boguś** - On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017 your main building has been burnt to the ground, but you've recovered well. What has it been like to rebuild your business so successfully?







**Ania** - Fire broke out in the kitchen area about 2.15 am and quickly engulfed the entire main building, a beautiful timber chateau reminiscent of central Europe. We were woken by





a smoke alarm and managed to rush outside. We were taken to hospital for smoke inhalation and after coming home we realised that we have lost everything. Our pride and joy, and all memories were gone in a flash. My dream was always to share a slice of my homeland with Australian people and having all gallery items gone with the fire was for me a real personal tragedy. But despite a fire, destroying our home and restaurant, it was with the local community's support that we were able to rebuild and re-open the restaurant.





**Danusia** - It was just amazing. I read about this somewhere in the newspaper, but you have recovered well.

**Ania** - Yes, two years later we announced on Facebook that we were reopening, a television



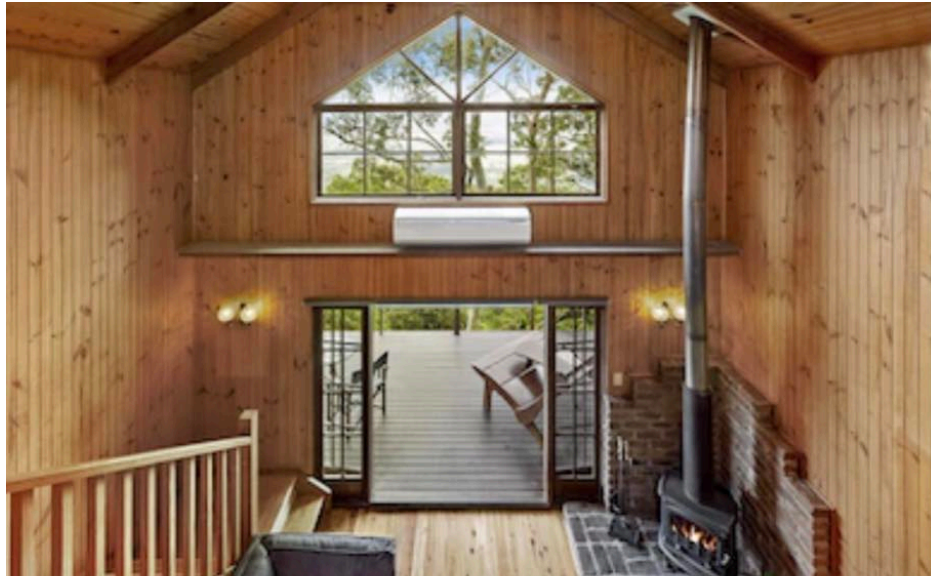
crew came up, we had people coming in from all over, so many congratulating us for reopening. It was magnificent. We had encouragement from previous customers over the past three years that kept us going.

**Bogus** - And you were recognised by your community for your effort to open your business again, weren't you?

**Ania** - Yes, we have been humbled to receive many awards over the years, including "Best Specialty Restaurant" on the Gold Coast in 2020 and "Best European Restaurant".



But after 40 years of trading, we have made the very difficult decision to close The Polish Place Restaurant on Tamborine Mountain from September 4, 2023. Although our restaurant will be closing, our accommodation will continue, offering guests a wonderfully unique experience as we always have.

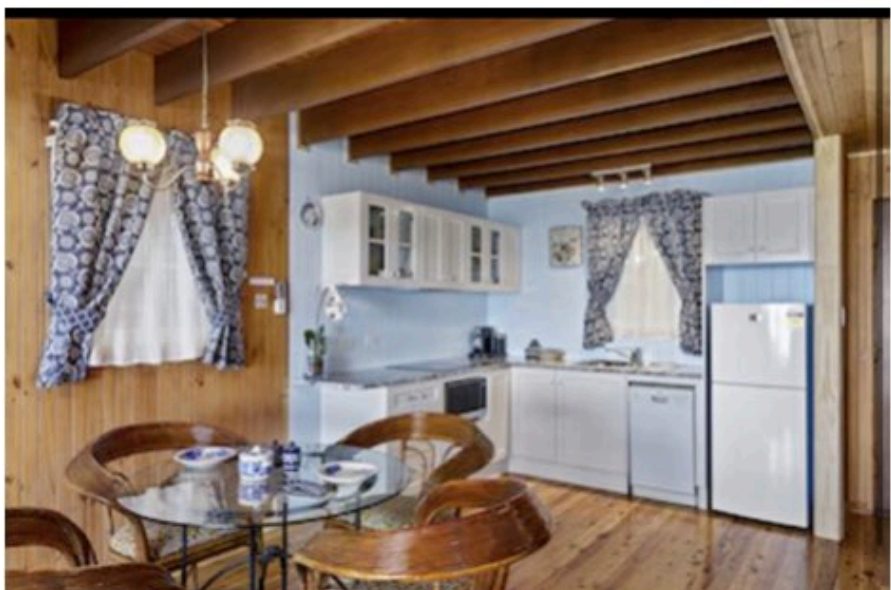
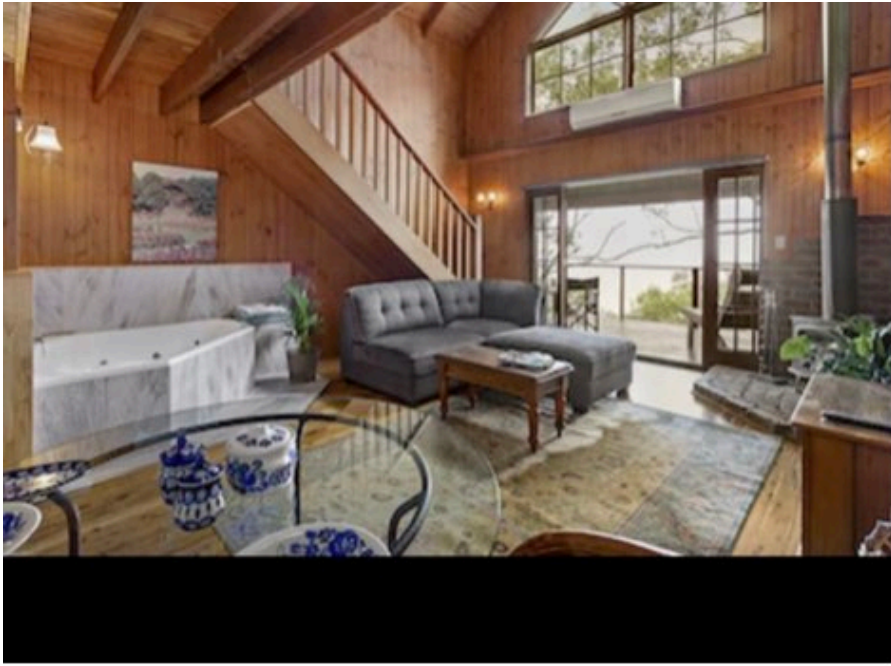




Thank you Ania and Phil for your hospitality. We wish you all the best for the coming years!

**Good luck - means in Polish Powodzenia!**









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Address

333 Main Western Road, Tamborine  
Queensland, 4272 Australia

Phone 07 5545 1603



**Authors:** Danuta and Bogusław Piotrowscy

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