

# Get Your PET PROJECT Polished And Ready For Next Monday's Deadline.

## Spurred On By A Couple of Curious Windfalls

Dear Hamish,

### *Was it only 3 days ago when we tried to nail this?*

Our 'great idea', to work on this in a 'relaxed spot', with maybe a glass of wine - to get the creative juices going - failed miserably.

We couldn't hear a blessed thing! All that jabbering. Tables too close. Music too loud. Conversations growing louder by the minute. And the food? Well, we won't go there...

A less than relaxing experience.

### *Enter "VERSATILE"...*

Now, our original 'great idea' is STILL A GREAT IDEA. We just need to find a different 'relaxed spot'. And find it soon, given that your submission deadline is bearing down. I know how much winning this project means to you.

We need to get cracking.

So what are these "curious windfalls"? I can't believe I didn't think of it before. You see, Hamish, Maria and I have a favourite restaurant. It's called "VERSATILE", and its motto is '*Fine Casual Dining in a Relaxed Contemporary Setting*'.

The restaurant is renowned for its seasonal menus, and Andrew Holland (Owner and Head Chef - now a good friend) has **just announced** his new *Winter Menu*. But before releasing it, he wants to try it out on a handful of valued clients.

A new menu doesn't happen all that often, so the timing couldn't be better. That, though, is only number one of the two out-of-the-blue "curious windfalls" - Keep going to discover number two.

### *The real CLINCHER though is the VENUE...*



VERSATILE is just what the doctor ordered. The single most attractive reason for its "favourite restaurant" status with us, is that you can actually have a meaningful, uninterrupted conversation at the table.

Not only is the table layout exceptionally generous, but also, the dining room acoustics have been ingeniously

designed to minimize echoing (something to do with “*echo-cancellation technology*” they tell me).

But wait. There’s more! The background music. I’ve consulted with Andrew, and he has agreed to put together a selection of your favourites - soothing and unobtrusive classical.

Result? The much sought-after ‘relaxed spot’ is ours for the taking.

***Just to cap it off there’s the FOOD of course...***

...and the WINE - VERSATILE sources its cellar from Canberra’s acclaimed local wineries. Andrew’s award-winning team members are trained exclusively in matching the best local varieties to accompany your chosen dishes. They like showing off their knowledge (which I, for one, need a bit of help with. Do you?).

The food? Well, I could include the new menu here, but surely it’s more fun to leave that as a surprise. It is a remarkable, ***versatile*** array of specialized, innovative dishes. Things like *Pan fried scallops*; *Prosciutto wrapped beef fillet*; *Black Pudding* to satisfy your Scottish cravings. Are you getting hungry?

Keep in mind Hamish that everything is prepared from scratch at the time of ordering. That means Andrew can, and is more than happy to, make adjustments for any food quirks you may have. They can be handled when the dishes are being prepared.

Needless to say, the restaurant boasts dozens of 5-star reviews. *Tripadvisor* lists about 60 of them. The VERSATILE Facebook page has more. Here is a sample of what people are saying:

*“Amazing food, one of the best dining experiences I’ve had in years!” - Chris Gorman*

*“The food is cooked to perfection and portions are just right - the chef has the magic touch and flavours to die for.” — Sarah Malekin*

*“We had the best evening, incredible service, food, music and atmosphere - we were able to just unwind and enjoy the evening - was perfect!” — Ruth*

*“A delight to discover such an elegant restaurant in Canberra. The menu was varied and sophisticated and the food on arrival lived up to all expectations. There were six in our party and yet not one dish disappointed. The service was excellent and the ambience extremely pleasant. It was one of the most enjoyable dining experiences I have had in recent times.” - Andrew Rostron*

I think you get the drift Hamish.

***So what is number two of the unexpected “curious windfalls”?***

Well, because we love this restaurant so much, we often (always!) recommend it to friends, acquaintances, passers-by (chuckle). They all love the place. What a surprise then, when just yesterday, one of our VERSATILE ‘converts’ gave Maria a *VERSATILE dinner voucher*. It was her birthday!

Maria insists that we use it for our brainstorming session. So it’s **all paid for**. She will even take us there and pick us up later. Isn’t she a gem!

And that completes the serendipitous “curious windfalls”!

**So SHALL WE DO IT?**

The time is right Hamish. All the ducks are lined up. I’ve already spoken to Andrew, and he can fit us in on Friday - say 7 o’clock.

That will give you all weekend to meet your Monday deadline.

Don’t forget I’m away on business for a fortnight starting next week, so might wish you a *bon appétit* for Friday evening. See you soon.

Sincerely  
Your Friendly Business Aide

*Alistair R.*



P. S. Given that it is winter, Andrew has offered to light up the fireplace and set us up nearby.