The Old Cinema Restaurant

Casual Dining with A Touch Of Class

Russell Bald is a hard person to track down. Not surprising really, as this busy Food and Beverage manager spends his days arranging menus, managing functions and delivering the best in dining and service at the Old Cinema Restaurant in Frankston.

A former executive chef at both Manyung and Salix at Willow Creek, Russell lives and works on the Peninsula and has been with the Old Cinema Restaurant since it opened in December 2007. Located adjacent to the old Village Cinema complex in Frankston (hence the name), the restaurant offers what it describes as 'casual dining with a touch of class', catering to a variety of clients from families to corporate types. The menu is made up of a variety of dishes with international flavours and Russell recommends the Trio of Duck and the Tasting Platter as two of his favourites. The Tasting Platter in particular is a great idea for those of us who have trouble choosing just one dish, as it offers a selection of different tastes from the menu, allowing you to indulge without blowing the budget.

The $10 Café Style Lunch is also popular, especially if you're in a hurry – offering a selection of smaller meals served quick and fresh, this menu is great value when you're on the go.

'Fresh is best' describes Russell's food philosophy, with everything from bread to desserts being made in house and using the freshest possible produce often from local suppliers.

The Old Cinema Restaurant hosts regular events such as the recent Literary Luncheon with David Stratton, as well as their regular Wine & Dine A Friend night, held on the first Tuesday of every month. This popular event features 4 courses matched with wines from a local vineyard, with the added treat of having the winemaker there to talk about the different vintages. However, they do tend to book out over a month in advance, so if you're interested in attending, get in early.

One way to get a heads up on upcoming events at the Old Cinema Restaurant is to join their Loyalty Scheme, otherwise known as the Director's Cut. Membership is free and benefits include 5% discount on every meal as well as email updates sent every 2-3 weeks detailing all upcoming events and offering advance tickets to members. You don't even have to dine at the restaurant to join – simply visit their website at www.oldcr.com.au and you can sign up online to reap the rewards.

-Helen Jones

The Old Cinema Restaurant is open for lunch Tuesday to Friday and Dinner Tuesday to Saturday, & can also host functions for up to 90 people by prior arrangement. Located at 444 Nepean Highway Frankston ph: 8796 0150 for more details.