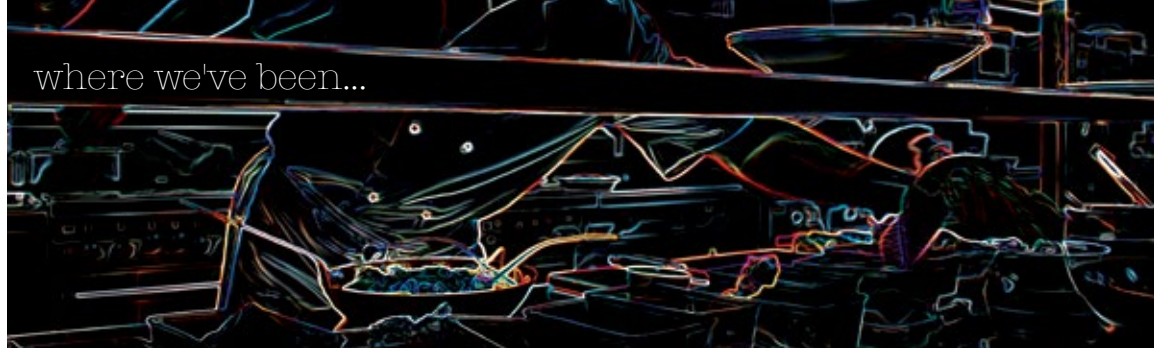


where we've been...



### **VILLAGE THAI** Gregory Hills

An opportunity for a midweek dinner with any of my kids is always jumped at, but this one included Thursday night accommodation for my Friday choc full of appointments. Chad and his partner Lizzie live at Gregory Hills, walking distance to Gregory Hills Shopping Village, with any number of great restaurants. That number of great restaurants grew recently and I hadn't seen the centre since the extensions had opened. I've always liked this small community shopping centre, because for starters, it doesn't look like any other I've seen. And the stylish facade houses plenty of dining options, so that makes it more than just a small community shopping centre, Gregory Hills Shopping Village is a food destination.

It was a night threatening storms and BOM Radar suggested we had time to get to the strip of restaurants before getting wet. It was right and the cooling breeze that preceded the storms meant our walk was very pleasant. I had never noticed that parts of Gregory Hills have spectacular views of the distant Great Dividing Range. It was a lovely walk on curved designated walking paths through well kept but casual parkland.

We slipped into the bottleshop inside the centre to grab a chilled bottle of riesling before taking a seat in the very well presented Village Thai. I had only ever had lunch specials at this restaurant and had always been impressed, so I was a bit excited to try out

the expanded night menu. And it is expanded! There is a lot to absorb, including a long list of enticing Chef's Specials.

The extensive menu slowed us down, but we eventually got our order together. We shared three entrees: Peking Duck Spring Rolls; Fish Cakes; Coconut Prawns. Each dish had four pieces so we all got to pick our leftover fourth item. I love Thai fish cakes so my choice was quick and easy. I might have snatched - sorry.

Our mains were three share plates: Salt and Pepper Squid; Sizzling Pork Belly Hot Plate; Vegies in Oyster Sauce. This is a style of Thai dining of which I am well acquainted. Indulgent dishes with plenty of vegies. I eat by Yin and Yang. Even when I'm at a restaurant, I try to maintain the mantra.

Village Thai is a really nice restaurant. The menu has a full list of Chef's Specials that offer some excitement outside of the regular Thai menu - which we could all list if pressed.

Take a nice chilled bottle of your favourite white, or maybe a pinot noir - and enjoy great company and lovely food. It's that kind of restaurant.