

WOMBAT HOLLOW



IRON BED & LAMP CO.

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Yabsley sheds light on his art

FORGET the traditional Southern Highlands bed and breakfasts - for former NSW Liberal corrective services minister **Michael Yabsley** and his wife, **Susie**, it's more a case of bed and bulb. The couple are selling vintage iron beds and intriguing lamps from their Kangaloon-based Wombat Hollow Iron Bed & Lamp Co. The new lamp range - made from "carefully selected industrial and historic artefacts, bespoke shades and sympathetically adapted

electrical fittings" - will be launched on August 3. Among the pieces will be a "1940s wooden shoe last, trade marked 'Monaco', fitted with a brass riser and a coolie-shaped duck feather shade" (\$1100). Yabsley, an MP from 1984 to 1995, began collecting iron beds at school and admits his 14-year-old daughter "thinks that's sad". Now a fully-fledged temperamental artist, he is refusing to describe his most



expensive - \$12,000 - lamp. It will be revealed at the launch and, if it doesn't find a home in the highlands, no doubt one of his former constituents in Vacluse will take it off his hands.