



Presents a

## **9 DAY GRAFTON & THE JACARANDA FESTIVAL**

**Departing Tues 31<sup>st</sup> Oct – Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017**

**All-inclusive price is \$2260.00pp & \$525.00ss**

*The world-renowned Jacaranda Festival is held yearly in Grafton, Northern Rivers, New South Wales. It was inaugurated in 1934 and was the first of Australia's folk festivals. It is based upon the magnificent spectacle of the hundreds of lilac-blossomed trees which grow in Grafton's broad tree lined avenues and it expresses the people's thanksgiving for the generosity with which nature has blessed this part of Australia.*

### **DAY 1 (D): ADELAIDE TO HAY: Tuesday 31 October 2017**

Welcome to our 9-day tour to **Grafton** and the **Jacaranda Festival**. This morning we load the coach to begin our first day's drive, making our way across the border into Victoria. We'll stop for lunch and comfort breaks enroute before arriving at our overnight destination of **Hay**. We'll settle into our rooms and freshen up for dinner (*lunch at own cost / dinner in motel*).

*Bishop's Lodge, Hay (ph 02 6993 3003)*

### **DAY 2 (BLD): HAY TO COONABARABRAN: Wednesday 1 November 2017**

We have a travel day today as we continue our north-easterly direction on the Mid Western Highway. Travelling via West Wyalong and Forbes, we stop for our **picnic lunches** at a suitable place along the way. Our afternoon run sees us driving through Parkes, Dubbo and on to **Coonabarabran** where we'll stay for the evening (*breakfast & dinner in motel / picnic lunches enroute*).

*Matthew Flinders Motor Inn, Coonabarabran (ph 02 6842 1766)*

### **DAY 3 (BLD): COONABARABRAN TO GRAFTON: Thursday 2 November 2017**

This morning's route takes us through Tamworth and onto the pretty town of **Uralla**. Home to many historic buildings and residences, it is also where bushranger Captain Thunderbolt was buried in 1870 after being killed at Kentucky Creek, just outside the picturesque town. Thunderbolts Rock quite near the town was one of his hideouts. From here we travel onto **Armidale** where we break for lunch at the **Ex Services Memorial Club**. Armidale is a city of magnificent buildings, situated in the middle of the country's richest wool producing districts. It is one of the founding cities of this historic region and provides a wonderful contrast between a bustling modern commercial centre and a bygone era. Departing Armidale we head along Waterfall Way, a road running east-west connecting the New England Highway to the coastal areas of the Pacific Highway. We stop to view **Ebor Falls** from the viewing platform giving us dramatic vistas of the falls as well as the rugged country to the north. For many years hand tinted photographs of these picturesque falls featured in the carriages of New South Wales railways.

From here we continue through to our final destination of **Grafton**. We check into our motel and settle in to our rooms prior to dinner (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch in club*).

Quality Inn Grafton (ph 02 6640 9100)

#### **DAY 4 (BLD): GRAFTON: Friday 3 November 2017**

We take a look around **Grafton** this morning. The town is situated on the broad Clarence River, surrounded by river flats. Grafton is a gracious, historic city famous for its Jacaranda trees, originally planted in the 1870s by a local seed merchant. We are joined on the coach by a **local guide** who will give us a sightseeing **tour** of town. Next we head out to the small village of **Tucabia**. Here we visit the **Squatters Rest Private Museum**. Surrounded by vintage tractors, engines and farm machinery there are 16 old style buildings including a replica 1880 cookhouse. We'll enjoy a **tour** of the old house and take a look at the fascinating range of rural memorabilia followed by **lunch**. From here we head to Junction Hill to visit **Lanbruk's Gunyah** – a property belonging to Dorothy and Don Enders. Here we'll be taken on a **tour** through the Olive grove; see the animals (Alpacas and Dorper Sheep to name a couple) in the paddocks before a delicious homemade **afternoon tea**. We have the opportunity to browse through the gift shop to admire local handicrafts and, of course, pick up a supply of the organic olive oils produced here. There is even a museum housing the fully restored and still running, 1926 Chevy Utility. From here we return to our motel for dinner (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch in Tucabia*).

Quality Inn Grafton (ph 02 6640 9100)

#### **DAY 5 (BD): GRAFTON JACARANDA FESTIVAL: Saturday 4 November 2017**

Grafton is at its very best when the Jacaranda trees erupt in mauve blossoms in Spring and today we are here to enjoy the spectacle of the **Jacaranda Festival**. We have the opportunity this morning to wander through the markets to view the many stalls selling local wares. This afternoon we admire some local open gardens before free time to enjoy the festivities. Today is **Parade Day\*** so we will have the opportunity to see the **Grand Float Procession\*** down Prince Street before returning to the motel for a slightly later dinner (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at own cost*).

Quality Inn Grafton (ph 02 6640 9100)

#### **DAY 6 (BLD): GRAFTON TO CENTRAL COAST: Sunday 5 November 2017**

We depart Grafton this morning and join the Pacific Highway, heading towards the coast. We'll drive via Coffs Harbour and Kempsey and onto our stop at **Ricardoes Tomatoes & Strawberries**, just north of **Port Macquarie**. The greenhouses here boast five varieties of hydroponic strawberries and eight varieties of tomatoes. After a delicious **lunch**, we have the chance to stock up from their shop before reboarding the coach. We make our way, via Newcastle, to Forresters Beach on the Central Coast. We arrive at our overnight accommodation at the **Forresters Beach Resort** to find our rooms and settle in for dinner (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at Ricardoes*).

Forresters Beach Resort, Central Coast (ph 02 4384 1222)

#### **DAY 7 (BLD): CENTRAL COAST TO HOLBROOK: Monday 6 November 2017**

Our route this morning takes us through Western Sydney and the Southern Highlands to **Goulburn**. Here we explore the artefacts and gardens of **Riversdale Homestead**. The property was once part of the 'old township' of Goulburn – it is now an iconic property preserved by the National Trust of Australia. A **light lunch** will be served by the apple trees and 19<sup>th</sup> century barn. This afternoon we continue our journey through Yass and Gundagai to our overnight stop in **Holbrook**. Holbrook is known locally as the submarine town as it is home to the decommissioned Australian submarine HMAS Otway and a 1/5<sup>th</sup> scale model of the British submarine HMS B11 from 1914 (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch in Goulburn*).

Byer Fountain Motor Inn, Holbrook (ph 02 6036 2077)

**DAY 8 (BD): HOLBROOK TO SWAN HILL: Tuesday 7 November 2017**

After breakfast we have time to visit the **Holbrook Submarine Museum**. This museum is dedicated to the role of the submarine and Commander Norman Holbrook VC. We'll see HMAS Otway (an Oberon Class Australian submarine), and the B11 submarine model, as used by Commander Holbrook during World War I. Inside the museum is HMAS Otway's control room which allows us to walk through and operate the periscope. We visit the Commander Holbrook room where a Victoria Cross replica is on display as well as a hologram that tells the story of Commander Holbrook and how the town came to be named. From here we get underway for our drive through to Deniliquin for a lunch break (*own expense*) and onto **Swan Hill** (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at own cost*).

*Ibis Styles Swan Hill (ph 03 5032 2726)*

**DAY 9 (BL): SWAN HILL TO HOME: Wednesday 8 November 2017**

Following breakfast we begin our final leg home. We'll travel through Ouyen and cross the border into **Pinnaroo**, stopping for **lunch**. This afternoon we express home to complete our sensational 9 day tour (*breakfast in motel / lunch in Pinnaroo*).

*All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures, inclement weather etc.*