



Presents a

## **MUDGEE & GULGONG TOUR**

**(Featuring the Glen Innes Celtic Festival)**

All-inclusive price is \$2660.00pp & \$600.00ss.

*Mudgee is the oldest town west of the Blue Mountains and was 'discovered' by Lawson and Blaxland in 1821. It was settled soon after by pasture hungry squatters and their flocks of sheep and cattle. Surrounded by hills of green and blue, it is situated 265 km north-west of Sydney, 470m above sea-level and has a population of around 10,000. The area is noted for its fine wool, beef, fat lambs, cereal crops, lucerne, vegetables, vineyards and honey. Mudgee reputedly derives its name from the Wiradjuri Aboriginal term 'Moothi' meaning 'nest in the hills'. Today boutique shopping, cafes and restaurants, markets and a vibrant arts community give the town an edge, and an ambiance which the locals revere and visitors covet.*

### **Day 1 (D): VICTOR HARBOR TO HAY: Sunday 29 April 2018**

Welcome to our Mudgee & Gulgong tour. After our pick-ups this morning we begin our day's journey through to our overnight destination of Hay. We'll make a stop in Ouyen for lunch (*own expense*) before arriving into **Hay** later this afternoon. We'll check into our motel and freshen up for dinner (*lunch at own cost, dinner in motel*).

*Cobb Inlander Motel, Hay (02 6993 1901)*

### **Day 2 (BD): HAY TO MUDGEE: Monday 30 April 2018**

Following breakfast we get underway, travelling via West Wyalong and into **Forbes** for a break and the chance to stretch the legs. This afternoon we express to **Mumbil** where we pay a relaxing visit to the **Burrendong Arboretum**. The Arboretum was designed to provide a sanctuary and living museum for the preservation of much of the flora unique to Australia. Established in 1964 the Arboretum comprises 160 hectares and has more than 50 000 plants representing over 2000 species. The aim is to grow 10 000 species which will take up to 100 years to achieve, which will then represent only half of the known species. For bird lovers the floral displays attract a great variety of bird life. A feature of the Arboretum is the suspended brush covered canopies, which house a huge collection of ferns and shade loving plants. Late afternoon we arrive in Mudgee which will be our base for the next four nights so we make ourselves comfortable before dinner in the Resort (*breakfast and dinner in motel, lunch own expense*).

*Parklands Resort, Mudgee (02 6372 4500)*

### **Day 3 (BLD): MUDGEE: Tuesday 01 May 2018**

This morning we start our day with a **local guide** joining us on the coach to show us around town. Mudgee's street plan was designed by Architect Robert Hoddle which proved to be so successful that Melbourne was designed from the same basic grid. He ensured Mudgee's wide streets were

broad enough to turn a team of oxen. Many of the fine old stately buildings from the last century thankfully remain and most are now classified by the National Trust, so as to preserve the town's heritage. We also drop into **Honey Haven**, offering both honey and mead tastings. Next is a visit to the **Hazelnut Farm** for a factory tour. Our afternoon is spent at **Gooree Park** where we enjoy **lunch** and hear a **talk** on their diverse operation. Our visit is topped off with a **wine tasting** of their superb range of wines. We then return to our motel to relax prior to dinner (*breakfast and dinner in motel, lunch at winery*).

Parklands Resort, Mudgee (02 6372 4500)

#### **Day 4 (BLD): GULGONG: Wednesday 02 May 2018**

Today we head off to visit the interesting town of **Gulgong**. On arrival we collect a **local guide** who will take us on an intriguing tour of this historical town. Gulgong was also the boyhood home of the author Henry Lawson who grew up at nearby Eurunderee and attended the "Old Bark School". He was inspired by the goldrush days to write his poem "the Roaring Days". After our **tour** our guide will take us to the **Henry Lawson Centre**. This centre is a living memorial to one of Australia's greatest storytellers and houses a fine collection of Lawsonia from all parts of Australia. It is also a repository for books, writings and all forms of memorabilia on Lawson. After a **light lunch** we are entertained at the **Prince of Wales Opera House** with a stage presentation based on the works of Henry Lawson, with traditional music and an Australiana theme. This afternoon we have the opportunity to further explore the town - perhaps visit Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong's former Town Hall which has been beautifully restored to hold exhibitions of ceramic pottery from world acclaimed potters, or maybe call into some of the shops housing locally made jewellery, wood carvings and paintings. We then head back to Mudgee (*breakfast and dinner in motel, light lunch by CWA*).

Parklands Resort, Mudgee (02 6372 4500)

#### **Day 5 (BLD): LOCAL TOURING: Thursday 03 May 2018**

This morning we have time to take a look around **Arts & Crafts Mudgee**, a co-operative shop displaying a wide range of quality art and craft. Next is a visit to the **Olive Nest**, established by three Mudgee olive growers who have a similar philosophy of producing extra virgin olive oil of exceptional quality. We call in for a taste of some of the best extra virgin olive oils in the area and to see what other taste sensations await us. Our **lunch** today is at the **Mudgee Brewing Company**. This afternoon we head to the **Baker Williams Distillery**, where they make handcrafted spirits and liqueurs focusing on regional flavours and influences. Opened in September 2012, the distillery is part of the ever growing Australian Craft Distillery industry with an expanding range of flavoursome spirits and liqueurs. We are taken on a **tour** to see the distillation process followed by some time for a taste test which rounds out our day (*breakfast and dinner in motel, lunch at Brewing Co*).

Parklands Resort, Mudgee (02 6372 4500)

#### **Day 6 (BLD): MUDGEE TO ARMIDALE: Friday 04 May 2018**

Our morning is spent packing up after breakfast with a bit of time to take one last stroll around the area before we say goodbye. We hit the road and travel to **Tamworth** where we stop at the **Big Golden Guitar Tourist Centre**. Our lunch will be ready for us when we arrive but we will also have time to take a look at the facility that includes the wax museum and collectors' museum as well as the visitor information facility. Our destination this evening is **Armidale**. We will be here for the next two nights enjoying dinner at the hotel restaurant both evenings. (*breakfast and dinner in motel, lunch Tamworth*).

Country Comfort Armidale (02 6772 8511)

## Day 7 (BD): GLEN INNES CELTIC FESTIVAL: Saturday 05 May 2018



We have an exciting day planned. Travelling an hour north has us arriving in **Glen Innes** for their annual Celtic festival. Each year the festival celebrates one of the Celtic nations and this year it is highlighting **Brittany, Galacia and Asturias**. Today, Glen Innes citizens cherish the area's Celtic heritage. A group of locals established the Australian Standing Stones, based on the megalithic structures found in the ancient Celtic world. They are unique in the southern hemisphere and have been officially recognised as the national monument to Australia's Celtic pioneers. It's only natural that the Stones are the venue for the annual Australian Celtic Festival. The festival attracts clans, cultural groups, dancers and performers from around the world. We will arrive in time for the morning street parade. The program is full of fun and interesting things to do and see so be prepared to have a wonderful time. We have left the day free to take part in the days' events which most appeal to us. *(breakfast and dinner in motel, lunch at own cost).*

*Country Comfort Armidale (02 6772 8511)*

## Day 8 (BD): ARMIDALE TO COWRA: Sunday 06 May 2018

There is sure to be lots to talk about as we use today for travelling south. Making our way to **Cowra** we break along the way and arrive for an overnight stop late this afternoon. *(breakfast and dinner in motel, lunch at own cost).*

*Cowra Services Club Motel (02 6341 1999)*

## Day 9 (BLD): COWRA TO BALRANALD: Monday 07 May 2018

From Cowra we'll be heading south through to **Narrandera**, perched on the Murrumbidgee River and its corridor of red gum. We'll make a stop here for **lunch** at the local club and take some time to view the memorial gardens which houses a ceramic fountain made by Royal Doulton and was presented to the people of the town, in honour of all those who served in World War I. There are only two of these fountains known to be in existence, the other one is in India. We continue on the **Sturt Highway** taking us to our last overnight stop of **Balranald** *(breakfast and dinner in motel, lunch at club).*

*Balranald Motor Inn (03 5020 1104)*

## Day 10 (B): BALRANALD TO VICTOR HARBOR: Tuesday 08 May 2018

Sadly our tour has come to an end. We load the coach with our belongings and begin our return to **Victor Harbor**. We arrive home later today to complete our tour to Mudgee and Gulgong *(breakfast in motel, lunch at own cost).*

*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.*

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