

SPRINGTIME IN THE CENTRAL WEST – DAILY ITINERARY

DAY 1 - Crossing the Blue Mountains via Bells Line of Road with a lunch stop at Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens and a guided tour of the gardens. On the way to Oberon we pass through Lake Lyell to Rydal. In this tiny village by the main western railway line we visit Chapel House garden at its Spring best. This beautiful garden environment provided inspiration for the artist John Olsen, a former owner of Chapel House. After Rydal we follow the western line to Tarana (where we will have dinner at the old hotel tomorrow evening) then down to Oberon for our first two nights.

DAY 2 – With a full day in the Oberon region we are joined by a local guide on the coach for the whole of the second day of the tour. This day will include garden visits – places like the “Falkirk” (Daffodil Farm) out of Oberon and Mayfield Garden off the Bathurst road. We will stop for lunch in the old Rockley hotel. See the views from Shooters Hill, visit the old bluestone Bunnamagoo Homestead. Then in the afternoon back to Tarana along a different route from yesterday for dinner in the small hotel in that village.

DAY 3 – Today we will be in Millthorpe in time for lunch at the Old Mill Cafe. On the way we will pass through Bathurst and out to the Scottish mansion that is Abercrombie House – stopping at Abercrombie House for morning tea. In the afternoon another guide will join us on the coach for a guided tour in and around the Millthorpe District. Dinner this evening somewhere nice in Millthorpe.

DAY 4 - The fourth morning we travel to Carcoar for morning tea and a leisurely stroll through that village. Then on to Boree Cabonne for lunch and a tour of the magnificent old mansion. From Boree Cabonne we travel on to Canowindra where we will spend the next two evenings in the Old Vic Guesthouse - the proud 2008 winner of a NSW Tourism Award for work done over the last five years to convert the old hotel to somewhat more modern guest house, licensed, accommodation.

DAY 5 - We will use Canowindra as our base for our visit on the fifth day down to Cowra and that region. Travelling in the morning along back roads through substantial canola fields we will arrive in Cowra to visit the Japanese Garden. After lunch in or near Cowra we will travel in the afternoon 40km south west on the Grenfell Road past the mansion Iandra and afternoon tea in the old Greenthorpe Hotel. We return to Canowindra for a second evening – travelling once again, and this time in the soft light of the late afternoon, through the green and yellow fields of canola and wheat.

DAY 6 - On the sixth day we travel through Eugowra, Manildra and Cumnock to stop at Yeoval for lunch. From Yeoval we travel via Wellington to the Burrendong Arboretum where it is very easy to spend at least 2 hours. Then late in the afternoon we travel 75km east of Wellington to Gulgong for our sixth evening. We will be spending two evenings here at the Ten Dollar Motel.

Day 7 – A local guide joins our tour for most of this day which will be spent at a leisurely pace in and around the historic village of Gulgong. After breakfast we will stroll round to Gulgong Museum, perhaps the largest museum anywhere in Regional NSW. Allowing plenty of time at the museum, including a morning tea break, our guide will escort the tour for the remainder of the day. Visiting significant and other places of interest in and around Gulgong (including of course the Gulgong Opera House) we will be back in town time for dinner at the Prince Of Wales hotel – an easy walk up the road from the Ten Dollar Motel.

DAY 8 - The last day we will travel some of the lesser used roads through the Munghorn Gap Nature reserve down to Bylong for morning tea. Thence following the course of the Goulburn River with the Wollomi National Park on our right, we will travel to Broke for lunch in The Mill Restaurant. From there back to Sydney through Cessnock and down the F3 Freeway – arriving Sydney about 6pm.