



## 23<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL TOUR.

Tour Bulletin No 1.

‘North Coast Ramble’

Plans for the tour have been completed so now is the time to book your accommodation if you are to participate in this event.

### **OUTLINE OF OUR TOUR.**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Day 1. Hunter Valley to Shoal Bay.

We leave ‘Kirkton Park’ and travel to \* Maitland Gaol for a tour of Australia’s oldest continuously occupied prison; the tour will be conducted by an ex-inmate who will give a colourful insight as to life inside, and stories of famous and infamous inmates.

It is then a short distance to Morpeth, a historic town on the banks of the Hunter River, and a favourite with the ladies having many boutique shops for their inspection. For lunch, we will reserve a venue for our group. It is then a comfortable drive to our o/night accommodation at ‘Shoal Bay Resort’ with time to explore surrounds.

*Breakfast included*

*Dinner (At own choice and cost). There are a number of restaurants close by to suit all requirements.*

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Day 2. Shoal Bay to Port Macquarie.

Depart ‘Shoal Bay Resort’ for a short drive to \* Williamtown RAAF Base to inspect ‘Fighter World’. Our host for this tour is AMOC member Wing Commander Jack Foley. At the conclusion of the tour we then head north on the Pacific Highway; our next stop is at Nahiack to inspect the ‘National Motorbike Museum’. A BBQ lunch is planned at this stop. Then we continue on to Port Macquarie for a two night stay at \* ‘Northpoint’.

*Dinner (At own cost): Either an in-house BBQ and get-together on the pool deck or a local restaurant of your choosing.*

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Day 3. Port Macquarie.

*Breakfast (At own cost)*

Port Macquarie has many and varied attractions e.g. \* whale watching (we will be there in peak season), camel rides at Lighthouse Beach, Timbertown, Cassegrain Winery, Billabong Koala Park, Rain Forest Centre Shelly Beach etc: all your choice. Tonight we board our boat for a \* ‘Sunset River Cruise’ to ‘Oyster World’ (accessible only by boat) for a seafood feast.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Day 4. Port Macquarie to Armidale.

*Breakfast (At own cost).*

Today we leave Port for the run to Armidale along the much vaunted Oxley Highway described in 'Two Wheel' Magazine as the 'Best ride in Australia', but we would suggest it is a road built for Astons!! It starts at Wauchope and winds up through rain forest to the New England Plateau. We take a break at 'Gingers Creek', a rustic roadhouse set in spectacular surrounds, for a coffee break then travel on through rolling countryside with straight roads affording several km of clear views. We stop to inspect Apsley Falls then continue on to the historic rural towns of Walcha and Uralla. Our schedule should allow us to arrive in Armidale early afternoon, with time to relax after checking in to our accommodation. \* For those interested, an 'Historic Tour' can be arranged (for approx 3.30pm), which takes in the attractions of this University Town with its many heritage listed architectural buildings. Alternatively, a helicopter flight over the 'Oxley Wild River Gorges' can be organised. This is a N.S.W. Tourism Awards Winner and featured on the T.V show 'Getaway'.

*Dinner At own costs*

*n.b. In Armidale we will have to split participants - our chosen venue 'Moore Park' can only cater for 20 rooms so overflow will be accommodated in the Cattlemen's Motel nearby.*

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Day 5. Armidale to Coffs Harbour.

*Breakfast included.*

An early start from our motel will take us along 'The Waterfall Way' to Coffs Harbour, with stops to inspect the many points of interest. These include the award winning 'Dorrigo Rainforest Centre' (light refreshments or lunch available) and a short detour to 'Point Lookout', at 1564m above sea level offers spectacular panoramic views to the Pacific Ocean 70 km away. We then travel on down the mountains to Bellingen through stunning countryside. A visit to the 'Butter Factory' at Bellingen is a must for the ladies and from there we continue north along the Pacific Highway through Coffs to the 'Big Banana'. Our accommodation is situated close by, on the ocean front at 'The Nautilus Resort'.

Our farewell dinner is at the resort. T.B.A.

*\* Northpoint Accommodation includes self catering facilities.*

*\* Optional activities require bookings and deposits to be lodged. We will advise costs for payment closer to the events for those participating.*

#### ACCOMMODATION WEB SITES:

Shoal Bay Resort, Shoal Bay:

[www.shoalbayresort.com](http://www.shoalbayresort.com)

Northpoint, Port Macquarie :

[www.northpointapartments.com.au](http://www.northpointapartments.com.au)

Nautilus, Coffs Harbour :

[www.nautilusresort.com.au](http://www.nautilusresort.com.au)

Moore Park Inn, Armidale :

[www.mooreparkinn.com.au](http://www.mooreparkinn.com.au)

Your Tour booking details are attached