



# Backroads Touring Co.

## Newsletter



**Bushwalking, Excursions & Getaways...**

Backroads Touring Co. - PO Box 7428 - East Brisbane - 4169 Queensland

The final Newsletter for a big year that was.

As per usual, we have enjoyed some amazing and interesting excursions!

Looking back, we did pretty much everything we wanted to do. The middle of the year was perhaps the only exception, where we all had a little snooze for a couple of months. Anyway.. the end of the year has arrived with a rush. One of my favourite trips this year surprisingly, was Sydney in January! Not sure why, because I am not a city lover.

How did the recent big trips go?

### Kangaroo Island. Trip Report

If you haven't been to Kangaroo Island (K.I. in local lingo) then go when Backroads next offers this trip. It was a wonderful experience - so much green vegetation and colourful birds, not at all like the usual Qld experience. There 12 of us including Steve the driver and tour leader (thanks Steve for looking after us so well - we appreciated your good humour and easy going nature).

Our trip began with a 45 minute ferry crossing from Cape Jervis to Penneshaw on K.I. and was unusually calm and a good omen for the rest of the trip. We strolled around this peaceful little town and then south on to Antechamber Bay for picnic lunch and a short bushwalk beside the Chapman out to the bay itself. What a pristine area with little blue fairy wrens for company. Our accommodation for the first 2 nights was in cottages at Cape Willoughby, the first lightstation on the island. On the way (a long and winding road) we were amazed to see so many clusters of bright wattles lining the road as well as our first of many

### Dates for 2011

Sunday Jan 23

**O' Reilly's \*\* Early Start\*\***

Saturday Feb 5

**Bribie BBQ Boat**

Sunday Feb 27

**Mt Cordeaux**

Saturday 5 March

**Crystal Waters & Markets**

Sunday 27 March

**Binna Burra \*\* Early Start\*\***

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

*After much research, I have unearthed a book that will be helpful to 'those that limp'.*

*My Kitchen to Yours (Gluten-free recipes) by Sally Wise, ABC Books, \$24.99: Chicken Parmigiana, Monkfish with Parmesan and Hazelnut Crust, Scarborough Pork with Apricots, Apple and Lemon Curd Tart, Apricot Mousse Cake, Blackberry Meringue Pie, Jaffa Mud Cake with Grand Marnier Sauce are only a few mouthwatering recipes included.*

*I urge that mention be made in the next Newsletter as a matter of national importance.*

*Carpe Diem*

*Clive Hodges*

sightings of the typical K.I. kangaroo, brown and furry.

During those first days we toured the lighthouse (and were lucky to be able to stand outside on the top level without being ripped apart by the "galeforce" winds once again because of the unusually calm conditions); we bushwalked while carefully avoiding the kangaroo and sheep dung; and searched for original sites of the first lightkeepers.

Our visit to Pelican Lagoon was marked by the absence of pelicans (probably all out at Lake Eyre!) except for a persistent one with a deformed beak who badly wanted some of our afternoon tea. We invaded the only grocery store for miles around stocking up on nibblies for our evening glass of wine and hilarities. These hilarities included singing what seemed like every song from the 50's to the 80's with some good old Scottish ones thrown in for John and Mary, all while some of us cooked up a treat of sausages and hamburgers smoking out the back kitchen in doing so. Each team in the 3 lighthouse cottages took it in turn to cook dinner at night and I have to say the meals were a gourmet of delight. But the piece de resistance was Eric's rice to accompany Dianne's stirfry. You've never tasted anything like it and I'm sure he'll be called on numerous times to repeat this effort !

On the next 2 nights we stayed at Cape du Couedic lighthouse (minus the ghost that Steve and I definitely heard at Cape Willoughby). We climbed Prospect Hill (all 512 steps to the top!) for a great view of Pelican Lagoon, American River, and beautiful Pennington Bay; we trekked the Rocky River (well named) and were thrilled Admiral's Arch where we were greeted by countless seals lolling around on the rocks or expertly surfing the treacherous waves.

Another highlight was the visit to the outcrop "Remarkable Rocks" created by weathering over 200 million years ago. Luckily the wind blowing in from the Southern Ocean was only "light" galeforce (another calm day) and Steve was able to prove his mountain goat skills while taking a group photo of us draped outn the large boulders (like giant weathered marbles).

After leaving Cape du Couedic, we headed for Stokes Bay across on the northern side of the island and finally on to Kingscote, the site of Australia's first free settlement in 1836 for our last night.

What a fabulous time we had with unusually good calm weather and great company with exceptional culinary and vocal skills (you can keep the earplugs John !).

Thanks for a great trip Backroads.  
Kay Toth

#### ***Feedback***

*Liked: Relaxed pace, scenery, lighthouse accommodation, Steve & seals*

*Didn't like: Sharing bathrooms*

*Suggested: Visit the honey farm,  
if only it was longer,*

*sometimes too many cooks in the kitchen*

## Great Ocean Road Trip Report A Personal memoir

Each clutching a towel, clean sheet and small pillow  
Twelve bushwalkers keen  
Were a sight to be seen  
As they greeted each other: 'ello

From Queensland, K I and Tasmania  
We were meeting, you see  
Eleven others and me  
At Norfolk Inn, Glenelg, South Australia

To cater for amazement and wonder  
Darryl, the Dude  
Worked hard to include  
Undulation, Op Shops, Bushes Lavender

Gemini Downs Holiday Centre  
Had a pot-belly stove to remember  
But there was only one tablecloth clean  
Which half of us thought rather mean

Using a large table for dinner that night  
And having only one cloth in place  
Later-comers received such a fright  
When 'below the salt' was their base

The Grampian's scenery was awesome  
And Margaret Rose cave surprised some  
But Mount Gambier's jail was fearsome  
And its RSL meal over-fullsome  
The fish meal at Beachport was great  
The walk on the jetty a delight  
But a male member  
Underpants on his head  
Was really a frightening sight

Port Fairy, the finals, footie season  
Avec un restaurant d'Angleterre  
Finding it closed for unexplained reason  
Caused frustration and a pulling of hair

Twelve Apostles are now only eight  
London Bridge - slowly meeting its fate  
But we didn't care  
For we knew we could snare  
Fine wines, flat whites and choc'late

At the hotel on Richmond Hill  
For breakfast one could eat one's fill  
We were slightly miffed  
To discover no lift  
But helpful staff soon coped with the shrill

## The Group

Eccentricities and foibles  
We all had a few  
Tolerance we all had in spades

This was no better illustrated  
Than when the birthday girl  
Made a wish on cutting the gluten-free cake

Looking around  
Nobody had disappeared  
In a puff of smoke

## Clive Hodges

### Feedback

*Liked:* 3 night stays, flexibility, scenery, Princess Margaret Rose Cave, Grampians, Bimbi Park

*Didnt like:* Lunch at Otway Fly, Dinner at Mt Gambier RSL Club, Own cooking at Port Fairy, Gemini Downs Accommodation



**It's a little late now to do anything more in 2010.  
We will concentrate on 2011 instead.**

2011 May well be our last year. As such we thought we would offer a "Greatest Hits" style program; interwoven with some surprises as they come about.

The program will feature :

A traditional style (Swag & Cabin) Easter trip: SUGGESTIONS??

An 8 day tour May. Showcasing The Hunter Valley, Barrington Tops & Port Stephens areas, All nights based at one property in the beautiful Dungog area . Guaranteed twin-share accommodation. Single upgrade will be available.

The tour starts/finishes at Newcastle Airport.

**Here are some dates for your 2011 calendar...**

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Saturday Feb 5            Bribie BBQ Boat

Sunday Feb 27            Mt Cordeaux

Saturday 5 March            Crystal Waters & Markets

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At this stage we are not planning any extended tours in September.  
Thank you most sincerely for your support throughout 2010.

We are hoping to have our next newsletter out in the first week in January, 2011. This newsletter will contain further detail on the above excursions.

*Merry Christmas EVERYONE!*