

# 9 Day Northern Ranges & O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat

☞ 2<sup>nd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018

*Enjoy the scenic mountaintop drives and Northern Rivers villages on our way to the historic O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat high up in the World Heritage listed Lamington National Park.*

## Tour Highlights

-  Historic Wingham and Wingham Brush
-  Spectacular Apsley Falls and walks
-  Highlights of Walcha - Open Air Gallery, Handmade Co-op, Pioneer Museum, Tynkers Gallery
-  Spectacular Lions Road over McPherson Range crossing into Queensland
-  Scenic drive via Natural Arch and Tyalgum
-  Alternative lifestyle town of Nimbin
-  Bulga Plateau and Ellenborough Falls
-  Langford Homestead tour and fascinating history
-  Australian Standing Stones monument
-  Historic Old Coach Road and tunnel drive Glen-Innes to Grafton
-  3 x nights at the famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat
-  Cane field scenery of the Northern Rivers

### Day 1: Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> August TO WINGHAM (L,D)

Depart central pick-up point for the club members at 9:00am then via the Pacific M1 with stops at the Hawkesbury River for morning tea and Nabiac for a picnic lunch. Arrive at Wingham on the Manning River mid-afternoon with time to browse the oldest town in the Manning Valley. You may prefer to visit the Wingham Brush remnant floodplain rainforest with boardwalks amongst giant Morton Bay Figs and numerous sub-tropical species. Later we settle in to the 4 star rated Golf Club Motor Inn with a two course dinner enjoyed in the "Hook and Slice" restaurant.

### Day 2: Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> August WINGHAM - WALCHA (B,L,D)

After a full cooked buffet breakfast we take a mountainous gravel road up onto the Bulga Plateau via Marlee and Elands to Ellenborough Falls. The falls drop 160 metres making them one of the longest single drop falls in the Southern Hemisphere. Take the easy walk to a viewing platform or the longer rim walk for a better view. After Morning tea we take forestry trails to join the Oxley Highway and follow this to our next highlight stop at Apsley Falls. These falls are quite spectacular and we allow time to enjoy some of the cliff-top walks and stairways to the various viewing opportunities. On then to Walcha where we settle in to our motel for the next two nights.

### Day 3: Sat 4<sup>th</sup> August HIGHLIGHTS OF WALCHA (B,L,D)

First up we visit Langford Homestead, an impressive Federation style 22 roomed home featuring a 5 storey high central tower and learn about the original owner who made his fortune (£41,000) betting on a single horse race in 1901. Next we visit the Walcha Museum complex featuring a Pioneer cottage, machinery display and historic Tiger Moth aircraft.

After a picnic lunch you have time to take a walk around town to see the Open Air Gallery - a collection of 49 sculptures and artworks that are scattered throughout the town's streets and parks. Do a self-guided heritage walk or drop into the Walcha Handmade Community Co-operative store or the Antipodean Tynker's Gallery of Steampunk Metalwork.



*Tunnel on Old Coach Road*

**Day 4: Sun 5<sup>th</sup> August                      WALCHA - OLD COACH ROAD - GRAFTON                      (B,L,D)**

From Walcha our route is via Uralla, Armidale and Guyra to Glen Innes where a morning tea stop is enjoyed at the Australian Standing Stones Monument to commemorate the role played by Celtic people in pioneering this country. The layout was inspired by the Ring of Brodgar in Scotland's Orkneys and features a ring of 3.5 metre high granite stones each weighing 17ton.

The adventure starts from here when we drive the historic Old Coach Road over the Great Dividing Range to Grafton. This gravel track was constructed in 1867 when gold was discovered at Dalmorton and during that era Cobb and Co ran a twice weekly service along the road. Eventually the gold ran out, people moved away and the Gwydir Highway bypassed this area and the once thriving settlements became ghost towns. The drive is very scenic and at one point passes through a tunnel just big enough for us to squeeze the coach through. Overnight motel accommodation and dinner in Grafton.

**Day 5: Mon 6<sup>th</sup> August                      GRAFTON-O'REILLY'S RAINFOREST RETREAT (Lamington Plateau)                      (B,L,D)**

From Grafton we drive via Casino to Kyogle where we stop for morning tea before driving the extraordinary Lions Road through the Richmond Gap in the McPherson Range and over the border into Queensland. This route was constructed 45 years ago by the local Lions Club as a community project. It is funded by user donations and allows for a scenic short cut drive into Queensland. One of the highlights along the way is a stop at 'The Loop' lookout with views down to the spiral loop in the main Sydney - Brisbane railway line. Trains pass through the mountain twice to cross the original track and in doing so gain 20mtrs elevation thus reducing the length required for the main tunnel through the mountains ahead. We continue on then through Beaudesert and Canungra and up onto the Lamington Plateau to O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. O'Reilly's is located at 920mtrs elevation in the heart of the World Heritage listed Lamington National Park. For over 90 years the O'Reilly family has welcomed visitors into their mountain top home to share the spectacular beauty of the area. Accommodation in balcony view rooms for the next three nights with breakfasts and dinners in the dining room.

**Day 6 & 7: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> August O'REILLY'S RAINFOREST RETREAT (B,D)**

Two days at your own pace to enjoy the many walks, organised activities and optional tours (at your own expense). Each day O'Reilly's have a published program of activities and the adjacent National Parks office have detailed walking maps and information available. Most will enjoy the nearby elevated treetop walk, included afternoon tea and managers welcome talk, film screenings on relevant topics, full sized replica of a Stinson airliner (like the one that crashed nearby in the 1930s) and numerous other highlights.

**Day 8 : Thur 9<sup>th</sup> August O'REILLY'S - COFFS HARBOUR (B,D)**

The drive today takes the less travelled route back into NSW via Natural Arch to Tyalgum and then to Nimbin where a lunch stop allows for time to browse the hippie town (lunch at your own expense.) From here we drive via Lismore and Woodburn to Coffs Harbour for our last night on tour. Dinner tonight in the motel restaurant.

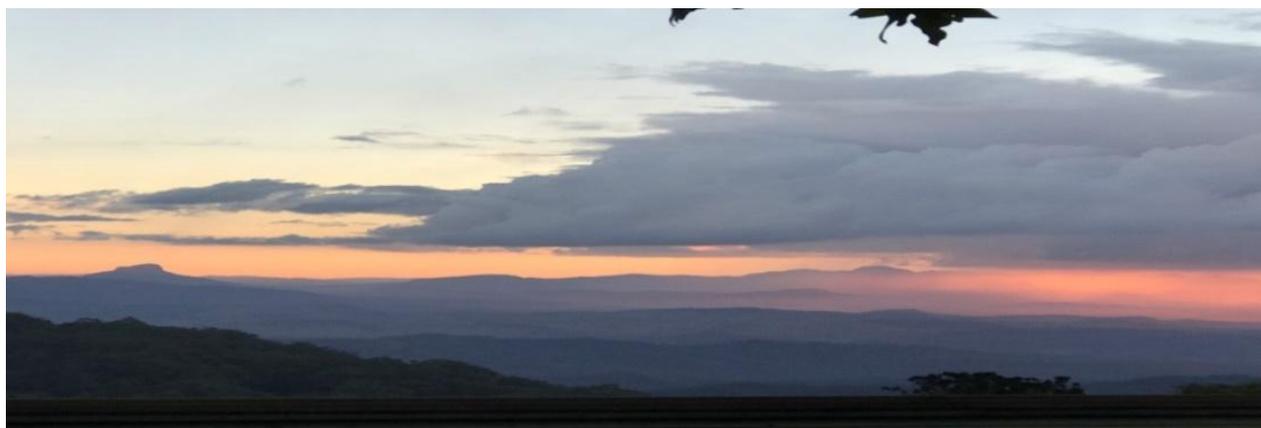
**Day 9: Fri 10<sup>th</sup> August COFFS HARBOUR - HOME (B,L)**

We follow the Pacific Hwy with stops along the way for morning tea and lunch arriving at Turrumurra at approximately 5:30pm.

**Tour Price**      **\$2,665** Per Person, Twin Share (+ **\$450** Single Supplement)  
(based on a minimum of 20, maximum 24 passengers)

**Inclusions**

- ✓ *Travel in comfortable air-conditioned mini coach - maximum 24 passengers*
- ✓ *Country style en-suited motel accommodation (3-4 star rated)*
- ✓ *Meals as shown (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner) plus morning teas*
- ✓ *All attractions and admissions as per the itinerary*
- ✓ *Well researched driver commentary and information*
- ✓ *Tour led by Bruce and Lindy Bishop*



*Sunset at O'Reillys Rainforest Retreat - high up in World Heritage Listed Lamington National Park*

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