



Australian Garden History Society
Southern Highlands Branch Tour
*70th Anniversary of the
Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers
and
Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah*
Thursday 19 - Thursday 26 September 2019

Tour Cost and Conditions

- Cost - 35-40 passengers \$2,310; 30-34 passengers \$2,360; 25-29 passengers \$2,430 per person and, where applicable, a single supplement \$542 per person – includes coach travel, all admission charges, meals (*breakfast and lunches daily and five dinners as specified in the itinerary*); and accommodation. Flights to Brisbane and return from the Gold Coast (Coolangatta) are **not** included. Please see the special note below.
- **Deposit** - \$250 per passenger at time of booking **Final payment** – Thursday 25 July 2019.
- Due to the popularity of the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers **limited single accommodation is available in Toowoomba.**
- **No refund** will be given for cancellations **within 8 weeks of departure** (after 25 July 2019) unless the booking can be resold.
- Bookings are to be made on the enclosed booking form.
- The tour is limited to a maximum of 40 passengers and a minimum of 25 passengers.
- The Committee reserves the right to change the itinerary without notice.
- Due to weight constraints passenger luggage must be limited to 23 Kilograms.
- Please ensure all **luggage is clearly identified** with your name and contact details.
- **Travel insurance is strongly recommended and is the sole responsibility of the passenger.**

Please note:

- Some venues may have steps and/or slopes, unsealed and/or uneven pathways and grassed areas and may require a reasonable amount of walking due to the size of the venue. Please ensure you wear suitable footwear and that you are capable of walking and standing for a period of time.
- Due to the nature of the tour with flights, heavy traffic in Toowoomba with limited access to some venues all tour participants must travel on the coach.

- **SPECIAL NOTE** - The cost of **travel to Brisbane and return from The Gold Coast is not included** – Tour Leader, Ray Bradley, will travel to Brisbane on Thursday 19 September - Virgin Flight VA 935 departing Sydney at 11.00 am arriving Brisbane 12.30 pm. If a passenger/s is not travelling on that flight arrangements should be made to arrive in Brisbane by 12.30 pm to meet the group at the airport or alternatively the lunch venue (*specified in the itinerary*) at 1.30pm.
- Passenger/s travelling to Brisbane in advance of the tour should be at the lunch venue not later than 1.30pm
- The tour will conclude with lunch at Murwillumbah on Thursday 26 September. Ray will return to Sydney on Virgin Flight 528 departing the Gold Coast at 3.05pm – arriving Sydney 4.35 pm.

Enquiries and bookings:

- Ray Bradley (E) aghs.sh.info@gmail.com; (T) 02 4861 4090 or PO Box 2327 Bowral 2576.

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Toowoomba (The Garden City) is a university and cathedral city which hosts the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers in the Darling Downs region of Queensland. The City has more than 150 public parks and gardens and is the 16th-largest city in Australia and the second most populous inland city after Canberra. At 691m above sea level Toowoomba has a temperate climate with average September temperatures of 10-21 degrees.

Since its inception in 1949, the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers has flourished and is recognised as one of Australia's best events - a celebration of food, art, music and, of course, flowers. On 21 October 1950 the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers commenced with a street procession stretching three miles in length. Led by a bullock team and watched by an estimated crowd of 50,000 the Parade was a resounding success. 2019 will be the event's 70th year celebration.

Awards - For the third year in a row, Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers received Gold at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards and was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Australian Major Festivals and Events. For the past three years, the carnival has won the Gold Award for Major Festivals and Events at the Queensland Tourism Awards earning a place in the Hall of Fame.

Day 1 - Thursday 19 September 2019

Travel to Brisbane by air – *refer to flight details in tour conditions.*

After lunch at **Riverbar & Kitchen**, Riparian Plaza, 71 Eagle St, Brisbane we will travel to Toowoomba.

Overnight and Dinner– Park Motor Inn, 88 Margaret Street, Toowoomba (T) 07 4632 1011 (6 nights)

Day 2 - Friday 20 September 2019

Our visit to Toowoomba will start by following an avenue of Hoop Pine and Southern Queensland Kauri to Picnic Point Lookout to meet our guide for a two hour guided tour of specially selected private gardens. We will then visit the **Japanese Garden** (Ju Raku-en Garden) Australia's largest and most traditionally designed Japanese strolling garden. Built on a 4.5ha site, it is recognised as the best in the country and rated in the top 10 Japanese gardens in the world outside Japan. It is a peaceful place to stroll with 3km of pathways to appreciate the traditional elements of mountain streams, sculptured trees, shrubs and rock displays.



Lunch - picnic lunch at the Japanese Gardens

Returning to the City we will visit **St Patricks Floral display** created by Toowoomba's Flowers to Impress School of Floristry with spectacular floral artistry adorning the Cathedral. Music will fill the cathedral during your visit.

Dinner - Gips Restaurant; set amongst beautiful gardens and housed in one of Toowoomba's most historic buildings.

Day 3 - Saturday 21 September 2019



This morning, experience a riot of colour wandering between rows of beautiful floral garden beds at **Queens Park Botanic Gardens** which has retained the charm and character of 19th century public parks and botanic gardens. Spread across 25 hectares, Queens Park has bright flower beds, large canopies of stately trees and acres of expansive green lawns. Thousands of seedlings are planted in attractive geometric shaped garden beds.

A short walk from Queens Park, we will see the **hanging basket display at the Cobb & Co Museum**. The display presents 60 spectacular hanging baskets each created by community members from the Toowoomba region as part of a design competition. We will then tour the National Carriage Collection

Lunch - Cobb & Co Café

After lunch we will return to Toowoomba CBD to take our reserved seats for the **Grand Central Floral Parade** which will wind its way through the city streets. Watch street performers, carnival characters and roving entertainment escort the stunning floral floats on their journey.

Dinner - Picnic Point Café



Day 4 - Sunday 22 September 2019



After breakfast, at Park House Cafe (*a short walk from the motel*) we travel to Warwick and visit heritage listed **Glengallan Homestead**, once described as “the finest house in the colony”. Rescued from ruin, Glengallan Homestead was uninhabited for more than half its lifetime. The 1867 two-storey sandstone mansion is an iconic heritage home and is a rare example of a substantial 19th century country house boasting views from the fertile Glengallan Valley to Cunningham’s Gap in the Great Dividing Range.

Our next stop will be Allora a charming and interesting small, rural settlement with a large number of well preserved historic buildings including the **‘Mary Poppins House’**, the childhood home of author PJ Travers.

Lunch - **Rudd’s Pub** in Nobby, best known for its links to the classic Dad & Dave stories.

After our return to Toowoomba the rest of the afternoon will be free.

Dinner - At own expense

Day 5 - Monday 23 September 2019

This morning we will drive north along the picturesque New England Highway to the highland village of **Highfields** to visit specially selected **exhibition and competition gardens**. After a picnic lunch at **Spring Bluff Railway** while listening to the Big Band we will return to Toowoomba by train from Spring Bluff.



On our return to Toowoomba we will join a guided **torchlight tour of Laurel Bank Park** with the resident curator.

Dinner - At own expense

Day 6 - Tuesday 24 September 2019

After breakfast we will visit the **historic Empire Theatre** for a behind the scenes tour. We will then visit an **Exhibition Garden** in North Street Toowoomba.

Lunch - Inbound Restaurant in the historic Toowoomba Railway Station.

After lunch we will visit the heritage-listed **Boyce Gardens** named after Leslie and Margaret Boyce. The gardens were established in 1930 and given to the University of Queensland in trust in May 1969 for educational purposes, preservation and maintenance. The gardens include a pine forest, an avocado orchard, Australian flowering shrubs along side rose gardens, native orchids, camellias and manicured lawns.

Dinner - The Irish club Hotel

Day 7 - Wednesday 25 September 2019

Depart Toowoomba and travel to Murwillumbah - situated on the banks of the beautiful Tweed River. Murwillumbah is in the heart of the Tweed Valley Volcanic Caldera and is centred by magnificent Mt. Warning which is the first place on the Australian continent to greet the sun's rays each morning. The surrounding landscape consists of five World Heritage National Parks and spectacular rainforests.

Lunch - Tweed Art Gallery Cafe

After lunch we will visit the Margaret Olley Art Centre (MOAC) which celebrates the career, life and legacy of Margaret Olley – Australia's most celebrated painter of still life and interiors. The MOAC combines exhibitions of paintings and objects. Central to the MOAC is the recreation of areas of the artist's famous home studio, mainly the Hat Factory and Yellow Room featuring original architectural elements such as windows and doors, relocated from her home studio at Paddington. The interiors are filled with over 20,000 items which Margaret Olley collected over many years as subject matter for her paintings.



Dinner - The Balcony Restaurant, 70 Main Street, Murwillumbah

Overnight – Murwillumbah Motor Inn, 17 Byangum Rd, Murwillumbah (T) 02 6672 2022

Day 8 - Thursday 26 September 2019



After breakfast in our rooms, we will travel to Tumbulgum and join a **Seafood Rainforest Lunch Cruise** to experience the natural beauty of the Tweed Valley on the Spirit of Wollumbin, a traditional Huon Pine River ferry. Sailing slowly upstream through lush rainforest on the majestic Tweed River and/or the scenic Rous River enjoy views of some of the Tweed Valleys unique landscapes including beautiful Wollumbin Mount Warning. At the conclusion of the cruise enjoy lunch at a riverside cafe.

Mount Warning Tours, 108 Riverside Dr, Tumbulgum 0422 405 011

After lunch we will transfer to the Gold Coast Airport for a return flight to Sydney - *refer to flight details in tour conditions*. For those wishing to extend their time in Queensland, arrangements can be made to return to Brisbane on the coach.

Enquiries/bookings to Ray Bradley (E) aghs.sh.info@gmail.com (T) 02 4861 4090 or PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576