



## **CHRISTMAS EVENT**

### **ADAPTING TO THE LANDSCAPE OF THE SOUTH ESK RIVER REGION**

SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> and SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

ESKLEIGH, GLEN IREH, PERTH, RICHMOND HILL,  
BRICKENDON

### **ADAPTING TO THE LANDSCAPE OF THE SOUTH ESK RIVER REGION**

This weekend of visits to gardens and cultural landscapes includes historic and heritage listed rural properties; historic buildings, many convict built; magnificent old trees; beautiful gardens and the cultural landscape of Perth township, all located in the stunning rural landscape of the South Esk River region of northern Tasmania.



#### **ESKLEIGH (FORMERLY SCONE) 16087 MIDLAND HIGHWAY, PERTH**

The property Scone, on which Eskleigh now stands, was granted to Captain John Ritchie and passed to his brother Thomas on his death. Thomas built a new house on the riverbank and by 1833 had a flour mill operating by water power. This was washed away in the Great Flood of 1852, and then rebuilt only to be destroyed by fire in 1867, a few days after the property was purchased by William Gibson.

In 1870 William engaged Launceston architect Henry Conway to design the Italianate Villa which was extended and embellished by William's son, also called William. The early 1880s additions which included the distinctive campanile were designed by Melbourne architects Terry and Oakden and built by J and T Gunn of Launceston. Water power from the old mill race was used to run a generator, providing power for electric lighting. Scone was one of the first private dwellings in Australia to have electric lighting.

The property remained in the Gibson family for generations and became famous for its merino sheep. In 1943 the family granted the house and 20 acres to the Eskleigh Foundation as a place of care for people living with a disability.

## ESKLEIGH (CONT'D)

The Eskleigh Memorial Home opened in 1947 and was the first of its kind in Australia. The villa is now used by Eskleigh Foundation as an event and conference centre and a separate home for people living with a disability has been built on the site.

Ornamental gardens and many large old trees surround the villa and form avenues and old boundary plantings. Plants imported from overseas by the Gibsons, including spruce, larch, cedar and birch are still evident. At the end of the drive is a brick coach house, brick barn, several service buildings and a timber cottage. Many of these date from 1830s.



## GLEN IREH ESTATE AND ADAMS DISTILLERY, 5 ESKLEIGH RD, PERTH

Glen Ireh homestead was built in C19. The property was purchased in 1984 by Professor Bernie Einoder, a surgeon at Launceston General Hospital. 'The Prof' renovated the house and carried out extensive plantings in the 7 acre garden, raising native plants from seed, grafting shrubs and cherry trees, planting chestnuts, walnuts and 27 varieties of hydrangea.

In 2016 he joined the two Adams in their whisky business, and provided the land for their new distillery. Glen Ireh now has 3 paddocks (140 acres) planted with barley for whisky.



## PERTH

The town of Perth was established in 1821 by Governor Macquarie, who was staying nearby with pastoralist David Gibson and named the town after Gibson's home town of Perth, Scotland. Perth is a historic town with many heritage buildings dating from early nineteenth century. The main street has remained relatively unchanged since Georgian times when many of the buildings were constructed.

One of the town's most impressive buildings is the octagonal Perth Baptist Tabernacle, an ornate Romanesque revival style building, constructed in 1889 with a domed roof and large panelled doors.



### **CATARACT ON PATERSON, 135 PATERSON ST, LAUNCESTON**

This award winning restaurant is the brainchild of Southern Midlands farmers Karen and Stuart Burbury, who wanted to spread their passion for home-grown produce. Opening in 2013 after they outgrew their first foray into food culture at the Watermill, Cataract quickly became a Launceston institution.

It is respected for its innovative yet inexpensive food and its decadent desserts, as well as the honest, welcoming vibe that its decor and team provide. Cataract emphasises the importance of Tasmanian food products and takes pride in supporting the hard-working Tasmanian farming community, by sourcing products from a variety of local producers who practice sustainable farming principles.



### **RICHMOND HILL, 1097 CRESSY RD, CRESSY**

When James Brumby retired from the British Army in 1809, he was granted 100 acres of land, now known as Richmond Hill, on the Macquarie River. Once settled at Richmond Hill, Brumby prospered and was put in charge of soldiers as the special constable guarding the crossing on the Macquarie River. It is believed that he built the cottage and homestead overlooking the river at Richmond Hill. The Cressy Company purchased Richmond Hill from Brumby in 1826, completed the main house in 1827 using convict labour, and imported the first Hereford cattle into Australia, bringing them to the property. In 1855, Richmond Hill and the adjoining property Cressy House, were bought by James Toosey, the manager and solicitor of the Cressy Company. The substantial brick and sandstone granary 150 metres from the main homestead was built by convicts and has had many uses over the years: granary, stables, workers quarters, shearing shed and now provides visitor accommodation. Majestic oak trees form the backdrop to the beautiful gardens which have been brought back to life by current owners, Nick and Fiona Moses.



## **BRICKENDON, 236 WELLINGTON ST, LONGFORD**

Brickendon is one of Tasmania's oldest farming properties, settled in 1824 by William Archer, the eldest of four brothers to emigrate from Hertfordshire, England, to make a new life in Van Diemen's Land. Bringing with him sheep, cattle, horses, pigs and seeds for sowing, William set about developing his land into a model English farm. Hawthorn hedgerows, small paddocks and a team of assigned convicts allowed Brickendon to prosper. Now with the six and seventh generations still farming the land, Brickendon not only has an intensive sheep and cropping business but also offers visitors a glimpse into Australia's convict and colonial past.

In July 2010, Brickendon Estate along with its neighbouring property, Woolmers Estate were listed jointly as a World Heritage Site being part of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property. The two estates are regarded as the most significant rural estates in Australia having had the second largest number of convict workers and still retaining a living history from early European settlement to the present day.

Brickendon's farm village, where convicts lived and laboured is a unique collection of purpose built barns, stables, blacksmiths, grain stores and many more timber and brick structures. The main Georgian homestead was built approx. 800m from the farm village and has a delightful and extensive garden surrounding it. Early plantings of oaks, yews, pines and cedars provide a wonderful backdrop for the house and underplantings of cottage garden plants, exotics and grasses all add to the enjoyment of the gardens.

## **ITINERARY**

### **SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021**

#### **ESKLEIGH, 16087 MIDLAND HIGHWAY, PERTH**

9.45 am Arrive Eskleigh for garden visit only.

Park on left hand side in last paddock before the house.

Meet at picnic area behind tall pittosporum hedge on southern side of house.

10.40 am Depart Eskleigh. Turn left onto the farm laneway and continue south for 3kms to farm buildings.

#### **SCONE FARM BUILDINGS, ESKLEIGH**

10.45 am Arrive Scone farm buildings C1830's for talk by Dr Bill Gibson, owner and local historian. Interesting stories about the area's beginnings; mitigating changes to the weather and native habitat, also an aerial map and photos about 1929 flood; the radiata pines and Bill's adapting to farming after an earlier life as an academic in Melbourne.

Walks to see old hawthorn hedges, land formations and extensive views.

11.45 am Depart Scone farm buildings

## **SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021 (CONTD)**

### **GLEN IREH ESTATE AND ADAMS DISTILLERY, 5 ESKLEIGH RD, PERTH**

- 12.00 noon Arrive Glen Ireh Estate and Adam's Distillery. Assemble in the distillery.
- 12.15 -1.15 pm Boxed lunch with tea and coffee, other drinks available to purchase. Water station available. Complimentary tasting of one gin or whiskey. Tasting paddles may be purchased at \$20.00 per person.
- 1.15 – 1.45 pm First tour: two groups running concurrently.  
Distillery tour with Adam Pinkcard.  
Garden tour with Professor Bernie Einoder.
- 2.00 – 2.45 pm Second tour: two groups running concurrently, as above.
- 3.00 pm Depart Glen Ireh

### **PERTH**

- 3.10 pm Arrive Perth Baptist Tabernacle, corner Talisker and Clarence St.  
Assemble in Tabernacle for history talk followed by afternoon tea in hall.  
Guided historical town tour in groups.  
Depart Perth at leisure

### **CATARACT ON PATERSON 135 PATERSON S, LAUNCESTON.**

(NB this dinner is optional- see **COST**)

- 6.00 for 6.30pm Arrive Cataract on Paterson for dinner.  
Park at rear of restaurant via Margaret St and enter via Paterson St.

**ACCOMMODATION FOR SATURDAY NIGHT:** Not organized by AGHS, please make your own arrangements.

## **SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

### **RICHMOND HILL, 1097 CRESSY RD, CRESSY**

- 9.45 am Arrive Richmond Hill. Assemble at front of the house. Talk by owners Fiona and Nick Moses.  
Visit the garden, walk down to guard house ruins at the river, farm buildings and The Granary.
- 11.30 am Depart Richmond Hill.

### **BRICKENDON 236 WELLINGTON ST LONGFORD.**

- 11.45 am Arrive Brickendon Farm Village.
- 12.00 noon Christmas lunch with wine, tea and coffee. Christmas quiz.
- 1.15 pm Colonial Farm Village walk in 2 groups with Richard and Louise Archer.
- 2.15 pm Drive across Woolmers Lane to Brickendon house garden for garden visit.
- 3.15 pm Depart homestead.

## **NOTES**

Scone farm buildings have rough, uneven sloping surfaces with narrow entrance doors, floors with gratings as this is an adapted shearing shed with sheep yards.

No toilets are available at Eskleigh and Scone Farm buildings on Saturday morning. Toilets are available at Perth Service Station.

No toilets are available at Richmond Hill on Sunday morning. Toilets are available at Longford Park opposite Christ Church in Longford or Big Fish amenities block in Cressy township.

Due to COVID, do not join this event if you have fever, runny nose, cough, sore or itchy throat or shortness of breath. All guests will be expected to follow applicable Tasmanian Government rules during the pandemic. There may be a requirement to wear a mask so bring one in case.

## **COST**

### **OPTION A, WITH DINNER ON SATURDAY NIGHT**

The cost will be \$220 for members, (\$240 for non-members only if places are available).

This covers:

- Garden visit fees, garden talks, talk and tour in Perth.
- Boxed lunch at Adams Distillery, with one tasting of gin or whisky.
- Afternoon tea in Perth.
- 2 course dinner with welcome drink at Cataract on Paterson. (Note that drinks during dinner will be an additional cost).
- Lunch with wine, cordial, tea and coffee at Brickendon.

### **OPTION B, WITHOUT DINNER ON SATURDAY NIGHT**

The cost will be \$145 for members, (\$165 for non-members only if places are available).

This covers all of the above except dinner on Saturday night.

## **WHAT TO BRING:**

- Sturdy comfortable shoes, for Scone farm buildings, Perth town tour and Richmond Hill.
- The usual clothing suitable for all-season Tasmanian weather.
- Refillable water bottle. Water will be provided at all venues.
- Paper map – phone service is patchy and Google Maps app on phones is not reliable.

## **GUESTS NEED TO ARRANGE THEIR OWN ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT.**

**BOOKING:** As numbers are limited, this event is for member bookings only. In the week prior to 4-5 December, members will be notified by email if there are vacancies and the booking site will open for non-member bookings. This will also apply to any vacancies for dinner only. There will be a waiting list for any cancellations if all places are filled.

## **BOOKING ENQUIRIES**

Jane Long, [jane.long480@gmail.com](mailto:jane.long480@gmail.com)

**CLICK HERE TO BOOK.** <https://www.trybooking.com/BUEDL>