

Wallis Lake Tourers Travel Club Inc.

Hosted by Tuncurry Coach Tours



For all Wallis Lake Tourers Travel club Membership enquiries please contact Kayleen McGowan (0416 184 684)

- Trip Bookings and enquiries info@tuncurrycoaches.com.au
- Adam & Lisa's Mobile 0412 647 790
- Julie's Mobile (Tour planner & guide) 0416 248 373

Newsletter No. 273 November 2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Final Payments Due

Hunter Valley Christmas Lights & Hot air balloon – Due now
Tea Gardens Day Trip 18th Nov - Due now
Shopping Trip 26th Nov - Due Now

Mystery Day Trip 2nd Dec – Due now
Amaroo Summer Session 20th Jan – Due 7th Dec

Next meeting is on Tuesday DEC 7th 2021- 10.00am
for a 10:30 start Tuncurry Memorial Hall

Dates for 2021 Travel Club Day Trips

Thur 18th Nov 2021 (Tea Gardens)
Thur 2nd Dec 2021 (Mystery)
Tues 14th Dec 2021 (WLTC Xmas Party)
Thur 20th Jan 2022 (Amaroo Summer Session)
Thur 3rd Feb 2022 (Morpeth)
Thur 10th Feb 2022

Tuncurry Coach Tours Bank Details

Name: Tuncurry Coach Tours
BSB: 062603 **ACC:** 10646027
(Reference your name and trip)

Note:

All overnight trips will require a \$300 non-refundable deposit on booking with final payment being due 2 months out from travel.

*Money can not be transferred to other trips *

All cheques should be made payable to
Tuncurry Coach Tours.

Mail address: PO BOX 364 Tuncurry.

EFTPOS, Bank deposit and payments over the phone are now available. If wanting to make payment by any of these methods please call...

Adam or Lisa on 0412 647 790

What has been happening since we last met?

Paterson Road and Rail 28th October 2021- We had some excited passengers and a very excited guide and driver for our first trip back after a very long 4 months without travel. This morning we made our way to Paterson with a morning tea stop at John Tucker Park. It was a warm day but the shade from the large Cotton wood plants made a beautiful place to stop. We were then welcomed at the Paterson Rail Motor Society where we boarded a *98 year old restored Heritage Diesel Passenger Train!* These trains are among the best conserved heritage rolling stock in NSW. On board we sat back and took in the beauty and history of the local areas through the **Paterson River Valley** before passing through **Wallarobba Tunnel into the Williams River Valley, Monkerai Tunnel** and into the **Karuah River Valley** before arriving at **Stroud Road** and returning through the scenic countryside to **Dungog** where we ended our day with lunch at the Dungog RSL.

Coffs Harbour, Grafton & the Jacarandas - 5th to 7th November

Even though we had to make some quick alterations to this tour, our visit to Coffs Harbour and Grafton was still just as special. Our first day was spent at the Abundance Nursery for morning tea, the Regional Botanical Gardens for a tour and lunch, a tour to the Carobana Factory and some sightseeing at the Forest Sky Pier. The second day, we made our way to Grafton where we were spoilt with a high-tea on the verandah of Annette's Garden (highlight of our tour) a local town tour of the Jacarandas in Grafton and a visit to the regional gallery and of course purple ice cream! After a late start on day 3 we made our way to the Coffs Harbourside markets and finished the trip with lunch at the old Cheese Factory in Frederickton.

Guaranteed Single seat on the coach: For all *new 2022 overnight tours* we will be introducing an optional additional expense to guarantee a single seat on the coach for anyone that wishes to purchase this. *Why is this a new change???* Our coach is licensed to carry 48 paying passengers which means that we can book and fill the coach with 48 passengers. Travelling on a coach will mean that at times, you will have to share a seat with another person that you may not know. Introducing an additional cost to guarantee your own seat will ensure that Tuncurry Coach tours is not losing a paying passenger on the coach if you want to take up the 2 seats for yourself. Please keep in mind that when we put a tour together the only income Tuncurry Coach Tours earns comes from the seats we sell on the coach, not from the tour itself.

Non-Refundable Deposits: Over the past 2 years, we have noticed that there has been an increase in people requesting refunds and assuming that if they withdraw from a trip, that Tuncurry Coach Tours will refund the cost paid out, back to them. Please note that your *non-refundable deposit* secures your place on the trip, pays for a deposit on your accommodation, goes towards the catering and tour costs that Tuncurry Coach Tours have to pay when booking the trip in for you. If you are booking on any trip, please be sure that you are certain and that you take out Travel insurance for all trips booked. **We cannot stress this enough!**

Tuncurry Coach Tours are not your travel insurance and we cannot wear your costs if you withdraw from a trip, so if you withdraw from a trip, your loss of payments will be subject to the terms and conditions stated on every brochure when booking. This is no different to booking with any other travel agent as you are always subject to their cancellation charges and policies *plus* administration fees on top of your loss for every change that is made.

Why do we have waiting lists on trips and what does this mean for you? In order to run our trips, Tuncurry Coach Tours requires a minimum number of passengers to be booked and paid for in order for us to run the trip and break-even. Our waiting list is Tuncurry Coach Tours insurance that we can still run the trips for our passengers without having to cancel the trip. When unexpected cancellations occur, this reduces the number of people on the trip. Our waiting list ensures that this does not happen and we can keep our numbers at a minimum to continue to run the trip. If we fill a spot this does not mean that you will be entitled to a refund as we do not get that deposit back from the suppliers either. Adam and I have been very flexible, understanding and generous especially in relation to cancellations due to covid and it has been very hard for us to be strong and to say no, so we are asking that you don't request this of us as we are trying really hard to get back on our feet too after a very hard 2 years. Each and every refund given back is a double loss for our business.

How Covid has affected the travel industry? Covid has brought many changes to the way hotels, restaurants and tour groups operate their businesses because they are scared to lose any more money. What we are now finding is that hotel chains and suppliers are charging deposits for us to make bookings, even if we haven't advertised the trip yet! They aren't issuing refunds anymore and only offering credits... if we are lucky! Yes, this is different to how things were done in the past but things are very different in our world now. There is nothing more disappointing than when we are advised of a cancellation, because we know that a person or several people are missing out on a chance to have a holiday or a day out that they have been looking forward to. To be made aware that they do not have travel insurance and will lose their money makes it even harder. It is so, so important to cover yourself if unexpected things like this pop up.

All day trip booking require a 50% non-refundable deposit at the time of booking.

Thursday 18th Nov 2021- Meandering the Myall Lakes with Tastes of Tea Gardens (Wait List)

If you missed out the first time, now is your chance to secure your spot for our second tour....

A day trip not too far from home but packed full of fun. We are off to the quiet and laid back twin towns of Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest, which is nestled within the Myall River. Our day will include morning tea on arrival, a guided scenic tour of the twin seaside villages of Tea Gardens & Hawks Nest, where we traverse the Singing Bridge & visit the beautiful beaches & bays of the Myall Coast. We will stopover at the Lions Park Lookout, Bennett's Beach and the Kombucha Factory. We will tour to the Koala Reserve, Jimmys Beach, Iluka shipwreck & Winda Woppa. Our lunch today will be a Chinese banquet at the Hawks Nest Golf Club before spending some relaxed free time wandering along Marina Drive where the local history is displayed in beautiful Artworks, Poems and Sculptures. You may also like to pop into the Gallery in the Gardens or purchase an ice cream at Australia's best ice cream shop!

Departure Times

Cost \$70 per person

Club Forster 8:10am	Polynesian Village 8:15am	Golden Ponds 8:20am
Forster Keys 8:25am	Evermore 8:30am	Tuncurry Coach Stop 8:40am Nabiac 9:00am

Black Friday Shopping trip

Fri 26th November 2021 (Waiting list)

Get Your last minute Christmas Shopping done on our Newcastle Black Friday Sale trip. A full day of shopping at both **Charlestown Square** and the newly opened **COSTCO Store** with dinner on the way home included.

Cost \$70 per person

Club Forster 6:45am	Polynesian Village 6:50am	Golden Ponds 6:55am
Forster Keys 7:00am	Evermore 7:05am	Tuncurry Coach Stop 7:15am Nabiac 7:30am

Thursday 2nd Dec 2021 - Mystery Day Trip!!! (Waiting List)

Where will we go? what will we do? All we can tell you is, it will be a great day out!

There is not a lot of walking but comfortable flat walking shoes are recommended due to uneven surfaces.

Departure times

Cost \$100 per person

Club Forster 8:30am	Polynesian Village 8:35am	Golden Ponds 8:40am
Forster Keys 8:45am	Evermore 8:50am	Tuncurry Coach Stop 9:00am

Wallis Lake Tourers Travel Club Christmas Party

Tuesday 14th December 2021

IT IS BACK....SO BE SURE NOT TO MISS OUT!!!

We missed out in 2020 due to COVID, but this year we are excited to announce that the much anticipated Wallis Lake Travel Club Christmas shin-dig is back and we can't wait to celebrate with all our travel friends. Entertainment will be provided by Stevie B, and of course there will be plenty of raffle prizes to be won.

Where: Club Forster Auditorium

Time: Doors open from 11:30am

Cost: \$30 Per Person

*** Tickets for the Christmas Party can only be purchased through Karen Nicholas on 0452 471 276 or at the Nov meeting. Please note: Payment method cash only.**

Amaroo Summer Session 'Catch-Up'

Thursday 20th Jan 2022

Cruising the beautiful Wallis Lake on a Summer afternoon is something pretty special. Join us as we sail through our beautiful waterways, relaxing and catching up with friends on the **Amaroo for a 2 ½ hr trip**. A **Gourmet Cheese platters** will be included per person as well as tea and coffee. **Feel free to bring your own beer and wine on board.**

Departure Time: 2:30pm for a 3:00pm departure

Cost: \$60pp

(Get in quick) Only 40 spots available

Thursday 3rd Feb 2022 - Capture the Charm of Maitland and Morpeth (Waitlist)

This day trip is all about relaxing and unwinding in the Historic Hunter Region of Maitland and Morpeth. Our trip begins when we enter a garden that will transport you to another world of charm, sophistication and elegance. **The Bath House Garden** in Maitland is truly a sight to behold. Plenty of time will be allowed for moseying through the gardens and enjoying a picnic lunch. Our next stop will be at, what was once a bustling port in colonial times. **Morpeth** is a historic town on the banks of the Hunter River. You will have free time here to sample local wines and browse boutique shops in stunning heritage listed 19th century buildings, visit the bakehouse where the Arnott's family biscuit dynasty began or discover sites such as the Campbells Antique Store.

Departure Times

Cost \$80 per person

Club Forster 7:00am	Polynesian Village 7:05am	Golden Ponds 7:10am
Forster Keys 7:15am	Evermore 7:20am	Tuncurry Coach Stop 7:30am Nabiac 7:45am

Thursday 10th Feb 2022 -

February Day Trip

Opening Soon

Departure times

Cost \$TBC per person

Club Forster
Forster Keys

Polynesian Village
Evermore

Golden Ponds
Tuncurry Coach Stop

Live Shows- The Ticket Cost for shows is required as a non- refundable deposit at the time of booking to secure your tickets.

Hamilton

23rd-24th November 2021

2 days & 1 Night

(Waiting List)

By popular demand, we are off to Hamilton the musical. This is an unforgettable cinematic stage performance and American Musical which is sung-and-rapped-through musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda. It tells the story of forgotten American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton and his ascent out of poverty and to power against the backdrop of the American War of Independence. Our lunch stop will be at the **Gardenia Café in Ourimbah** before we arrive at our **5 star accommodation in Sydney at 'The Darling' Star City Casino** which is perfectly located above the Lyric Theatre and close proximity to venture around Sydney for some free time and to purchase dinner before the show in one of the **7 restaurants** within the Casino. The next morning, we will make our way to **Birkenhead Point Shopping outlet** for some retail therapy and time to purchase lunch before making our way home.

7:00pm Show, Lyric Theatre

Cost \$515 per person / Single Room extra \$135

All overnight Tours incur a non-refundable, non-transferable deposit at time of booking.

Please read full terms and conditions prior to booking.

Hunter Valley Wine Country Gourmet Food and Lights 16th- 17th Dec 2021 2 days & 1 Night (3 ROOMS LEFT)

The Hunter Valley Area is more than just the producers of award winning wines, it is also home to soft creamy cheeses, juicy olives, beautiful chutneys and condiments, and let's not forget fine chocolate! Somewhere along those lines the perfect wines also come into play. This overnight trip will have you getting your hands dirty as you partake in your very **own cheese making master class**. We then of course enjoy the fruits of our labour with a **banquet meal and wine matching**. There will be time for shopping also, before we make our way to the **Lights Spectacular** which showcases over 2 million displays. Day two will deliver indulgent, photographic dessert platters at **Sabor Dessert Rooms** and we finish off the day at the **Hunter Olive Centre**. If you would like to tick off another bucket list adventure, we will also be offering an optional Hot Air Balloon flight over the Hunter as we watch the sunrise from a birds eye view before a Champagne breakfast at Petersons House.

Cost \$450pp twin/ \$90 Single

OPTIONAL EXTRA Hot Air Balloon Flight & Champagne Breakfast package \$260pp

NSW North Coast Sojourn 22nd to 28th February 2022 7 Days & 6 Nights (4 Rooms Left)

Tuncurry Coach Tours are soaking up the last week of summer by celebrating the NSW North Coast region on an amazing 7 day tour. Come with us as we follow the coastline from Tuncurry through to Tweed Heads. Along the way we will explore the little coastal towns while touring hidden gems such as **Yamba, Maclean, Ballina, Byron Bay, Kingscliff**, and of course the **Tweed Valley** just to name a few. Some highlights to this trip will be visiting, **Tweed Valley Cheeses, Tropical Fruit World, Summerland Macadamia and Avocado Farm, Zentvelds Coffee Plantation and Tweed Valley Eco Cruises** which takes us on a full day cruise on the Tweed River with a seafood lunch, before stopping at the **Husk Gin Distillery**. This tour showcases the North Coast's local produce and supports the little coastal towns and businesses that rely heavily on their tourists. The perfect way to farewell summer.

Cost \$2050pp twin/ Single Room Extra \$530

Orange, Australia's Colour City- Mon 28th Mar- 1st April 2022 5 Days & 4 nights

Orange has some of the richest and most beautiful agricultural land in the country. On arrival to Orange we will take in the beautiful colours of the region at **Mount Canobolas**. A visit to the **Agrestic Grocer** which is housed in a semi-industrial straw-bale/brick building is also a must to relish in Orange's fresh local produce, local wines, brewery, dining and unique shopping. We will enjoy afternoon tea at a **local Fig farm** and spend time in Manildra which is home to the **Manildra Flour Mill**, one of the largest in the southern hemisphere and is now the home to Australia's oldest operational picture theatre, **Amusu Theatre**. A film will be shown with time to also visit the Poster Museum with hundreds of original movie posters. We take in the old world charm of Molong, where we will stop in at the **Molong Yarn Market** and view the famous tapestry created by the people of Molong. We end the day with a visit to **Banjo Patterson park** with nine sculptures to enjoy and a walk along the banks of the Buckinbah Creek. We will also head to **Huntley Berry Farm** to sample or purchase the local spreads, jams and oil that are all locally produced as well as the small town of **Millthorpe** and the **Golden Memories Museum**.

The last night will see us dining at Abercrombie House which was built in the 1870's. Our dinner will be themed to reflect the magnificent Georgian era with lots of reference to the life and character of grand country houses of the era. Lively entertainment will round off a wonderful and memorable evening. Please bring your tiara or top hat and bow tie as we will be able to dress up and join in.

Cost \$1650pp twin/ Single Room Extra \$580

Soak-up the Magnificent Mudgee Region Wed 27th April – 1st May 2022 5 Days & 4 nights (Waiting List)

The Mudgee region offers something for every kind of country traveller. Set on the banks of the pretty Cudgegong River, the town still possesses all the character of its 19th century past. For the next 4 nights, we will be staying in Mudgee at the beautiful **Parklands Resort** and touring around the region, soaking up what Mudgee and the surrounding towns have to offer. As we know, Mudgee is one of the country's great wine towns, where wineries set on rolling hills serve award-winning drops, but it also **showcases fantastic produce and the Gooree Park Horse Stud**. We will also visit the **Olive Nest, Honey Haven and the High Valley Cheese Co**. A visit to **Gulgong** is a must where we will have time to Perouse the **Henry Lawson Museum**, visit Gulgong's very own **Opera House** and be delighted by the **Tales of a swag performance**. We step back in time as we also visit the **gold mine town of Hill End** where we will learn about the town history and take a walk in an old underground gold mine. Country NSW really has so much offer.

Cost \$1480 twin / Single Room extra \$350

Uluru & the Red Centre Wed 25th - 31st May 2022 7 days & 6 Nights (Waiting List)

We are excited to announce that we will be ticking another 'once in a lifetime trip' off as we venture to Australia's Red Centre! With flights included, we will arrive in Uluru ready to take in the beautiful landscape and rich Aboriginal culture. Within the 7 days, we will travel to the base of Uluru, hear Aboriginal Tjukurpa stories, visit the Mutitjulu Waterhole. We will enjoy nibbles and sparkling wine with the famous Uluru sunset, enjoy a BBQ set amongst the red sand dunes and witness a night sky tour. We will learn the connection between art and culture with a hands on painting session and travel to Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) for a spectacular sunrise viewing. If you're feeling fit you can also walk the rim of the Kings Canyon down to the Garden of Eden. There are just too many highlights to mention!

(Includes return flights dep Sydney)

Cost \$3690 / Single Room extra \$1050

Vivid Spectacular Sydney 8th- 9th June 2022 2 days & 1 Nights

If there's one place in the world where creativity, innovation and technology shine bright, it's Vivid Sydney, a festival of Light, Music and Ideas. Heading into its twelfth year in 2022, Vivid Sydney is the largest festival of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and the largest event in Australia. Come and join Tuncurry Coach Tours for this special event. We will enjoy a beautiful **Harbour Cruise with 3 course dinner** while we take in the wonderful display of lights. On the second day we visit the newly **renovated Hyde Park Barracks for a self-guided tour** which has just been re-opened to the public. We will have a picnic lunch at Hyde Park, before we make our way back home.

Cost 2022- TBC

Lightning Ridge, Moree & Glen Innes Sun 14th Aug to 20th Aug 2022 7 Days & 6 Nights

Back by popular demand, we are heading out west, where we will experience Opal mining at its finest. We will join an underground walk in a mine. We will witness an opal cutting demo and have a chance to **fossick for opals**. We will also stop in at **the Pub in the scrub, Bevans Cactus Nursery, the Glengarry Hilton, The Sheeppark Hotel and the Artesian hot baths**. Lightning Ridge is also famous for the **Chamber of the Black Hand** which showcases the most amazing underground sculptures carved out of the earth. While in Moree we will participate in a town tour of the local area and finish off with a swim in the **Artesian Baths and wellness centre**. Here we will have the opportunity to experience the famous healing qualities of the Artesian springs. In Glen Innes we tour the **Standing Stones** and then end the evening with a very **special surprise!**

Cost \$1930 / Single Room extra \$340