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Rockhampton's Leading Tour and Charter Specialists

January 2019

Happy New Year!

Here I am with your long-awaited newsletter. 2018 passed us by so quickly. It was an extremely busy year for all of us at Rothery's Coaches.... Commonwealth Games, American Army, Beef Week, Singapore Army, Queensland Rail and of course our everyday School Services and Corporate Charters. In between all that we have enjoyed some wonderful day and extended tours.

On a sad note, it was necessary for us to farewell some of our tour passengers who had become real friends. To those passengers who were called to a special place amongst the stars, we salute you, we thank you and we will miss you. We hope your families are doing fine and are at peace in the knowledge that we care.

It was a year where we experienced some new challenges, but with true grit and determination we weathered those storms. Our sincere thanks go to our dedicated staff who showed complete loyalty, understanding and un-biased support during this period. Thank you does not seem quite adequate. During a storm though, a rainbow often appears, and that rainbow certainly came to us in the shape of our brand new "WATERLOO"- our new double decker coach complete with rest room and wheel chair facilities. Kirt & Nicky named her "WATERLOO" in honour of where Rothery's Coaches was established – Waterloo Street, Frenchville. It was indeed a great honour and surprise to Barry and I.

A huge thank you must also go to all our tour passengers who have again supported our endeavours to provide interesting and fulfilling tours in such an enthusiastic way. We hope the programme planned for you this year is also to your liking. We try and include something for everyone, knowing only too well what may suit one person, may not be so inviting for another. The jewel in the crown for us during 2018 was our Gulf Tour. I had hoped to bring you a Cooktown tour for 2019, however I have been unable to procure suitable accommodation at this stage in Cooktown. I have also been advised that the James Cook Museum in Cooktown is undergoing extensive renovations (no guarantee can be given as to when these renovations will be completed during 2019) and no tour to Cooktown would be complete without a visit to the Museum. But don't despair as I have something else just as special lined up for you.

As usual there are some housekeeping rules that do not change:

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS: *It is extremely important that you notify us at the time of booking a tour if you have a specific dietary restriction / requirement. We do endeavour to be able to cater for everyone, however at times this can be a little difficult when we are negotiating with outside meal providers. In saying this, please be aware that fad diets are not always able to be catered for, nor is it possible to be able to provide everyone on tour with a meal cooked to their own personal preference or perfection.*

CHANGES TO ITINERARIES: *There could be a myriad of reasons why a certain itinerary may need to be cancelled or altered. Road closures, poor road conditions, adverse weather conditions, flooded creeks, changes by suppliers or other reasons beyond our control could all attribute to action needing to be implemented. Where possible we will always endeavour to notify you, however it may be necessary at times to alter an itinerary without consultation with you our valued passenger.*

TRAVEL INSURANCE: *We can't stress highly enough how important it is for you to consider investing in travel insurance. This will give peace of mind in the event of any unexpected happening that may occur, requiring you to cancel your trip. In the case of ill health happening during a holiday, it can be very expensive relocating back to your home. It is equally important to peruse any policy you may be considering before purchase to ensure it is adequate to your needs and circumstances. Travel insurance should be taken out so as to take effect from the date you pay your deposit. From personal experience, make sure you advise the insurance provider with any medical conditions / pre-existing illnesses you may have. If you don't and you need to make a claim, you may find you will not have the cover you thought you had.*

Tour Bookings for Day Tours, Short tours and Extended Tours: N.B. YOUR SEAT ON ANY TOUR IS NOT CONFIRMED UNTIL FULL PAYMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED. This is your responsibility, and your seat may be given to someone else if payment has not been received by the date specified.

Our bank account details for direct payment are as follows:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia

BSB #: 064709

Account: 00309994

If making an Electronic Transfer Payment, would you please be sure to note the tour you are paying for, plus your name/s of those travelling.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DETAILS: *Those who have travelled with us before know we request a Personal Information form to be completed before embarking on an extended tour. We can assure you that this information is kept strictly confidential. The envelopes are sealed with a copy left in our office and our coach captain shall also have a sealed copy. This information may be required in the case of any unforeseen circumstance, which may result in our office needing to contact next of kin or in some cases our coach captain may need to supply relevant information to a medical professional in the case of a passenger requiring medical attention. It is important that if you have filled one of these forms out before, you do need to ensure all details are up to date.*

MAILING LIST: *If you should know someone who would like to be included in our mailing list, ask them to contact our office with their details. We will be only too happy to include them in our mail outs.*

PRIVACY POLICY: *Rothery's Coaches adheres to a strict Code of Conduct when dealing with passenger records. Please be informed that we are unable to divulge any phone numbers or addresses contained in our passenger records without authorisation from the person you are trying to contact.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!

Rothery's Coaches office hours for tour bookings and enquiries are 9:30a.m. – 4:30p.m. Monday to Friday. Our office does not open on Public Holidays or Weekends. *During School Holidays it is always advisable to phone before visiting our office, as we may only have minimal staff on duty. We also ask that you appreciate the fact that we will be extremely busy with back to school bus enrolments after our office reopens, and request you keep this in mind when phoning or visiting our office. Your visits are always welcome; however, we may not have the time for unnecessary chit chat. We sincerely thank you in anticipation of your assistance re this matter. **If you have an email address, could you please notify either Debbie or Nicky next time you are visiting us, so it may be recorded in your details file.***

PARKING AT POWER STREET: *Due to restricted parking for our coaches and company vehicles at Power Street, it is important that you park your vehicle in front of our office in Power Street when visiting our office. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, however we require full access to our fuel bowsers, work shop and grounds at all times.*

Please now sit back, relax and peruse our 2019 tour programme.

2019 DAY TOURS

Thursday 28th March 2019: **MARLBOROUGH, CLAIRVIEW, ST LAWRENCE, OGMORE**

With the recent rains these areas have experienced, you should see green paddocks today as our coach heads North. Morning tea and a visit to the Marlborough Museum will be our first stop, before continuing to the sleepy little seaside village of Clairview. You will be able to overlook the Pacific Ocean as you enjoy lunch at the little café attached to the beachside caravan park. Depending on the tide, you may be able to indulge in a walk along the beach so bring some suitable footwear. Our return trip to Rockhampton will see us detour into both St Lawrence and Ogmore.

Depart Northside Plaza 7.30a.m.; Puma George Street 7.45a.m.; Gracemere 8.00a.m.

Cost: \$110.00 per person.

Includes: Morning Tea and Lunch

Don't forget to bring along your fold up chair for your morning tea break

Wednesday 8th May 2019: **MYELLA FARM STAY**

Always endeavouring to include something new for you, we have decided to visit the Myella Farm Stay, a 2600-acre beef cattle farm situated on the Baralaba to Rannes Road. Having been in the same family for over 100 years, we shall today have the opportunity to peek a little into what life on a cattle farm is like. As we travel towards Myella, we shall find a nice spot to stop for our customary morning tea and comfort break, before heading onto Myella. Our hosts have planned an interesting day for us. A Buffet Style Roast Beef and vegetables

with dessert and tea/coffee lunch awaits us before we depart on a farm tour on a custom-built trailer. Please wear closed in footwear and don't forget to bring your hat.

Depart Northside Plaza 7.30a.m.; Puma George Street 7.45a.m.; Gracemere 8.00a.m.

Cost: \$115.00 per person.

Includes: Morning Tea, Lunch and Farm Tour

Don't forget to bring along your fold up chair for your morning tea break AND a hat!

Wednesday 10th July 2019:

FERNS HIDEAWAY – CHRISTMAS IN

JULY

It is that time of year again when we venture back into the forest and visit our charming hosts Marto & Genevieve and their staff at Ferns Hideaway. A Christmas themed morning tea will be enjoyed again at one of the Capricorn Coast beaches before we make our way through the forest to Ferns. If only it snowed in the Byfield Forest, we could have a White Christmas Celebration!! However with good company, a traditional Christmas lunch and wonderful entertainment, we can sit back and imagine it really is Christmas. Make sure as we make our way to and from Ferns that you have a look at how the forest and greenery has begun to regenerate after the devastating effects of Cyclone Marcia in 2015.

Depart Northside Plaza 8.00a.m.; Puma George Street 8.15a.m.; Gracemere 8.30a.m.

Cost: \$93.50 per person

Includes: Morning Tea and Lunch

Don't forget to bring along your fold up chair for your morning tea break

Tuesday 6th August 2019:

MOURA &

THEODORE

No doubt you would have heard about the painted silos appearing around our fascinating country. Did you also know that Moura now boasts a painted water tower? Stunning is a word that came to mind when visiting Moura just before Christmas. Today will be an opportunity for you to not only view this work of art but also visit and reflect at the Miners Memorial in Moura. Only recently opened, the Memorial honours the miners who lost their lives in the nearby mines of Kianga, Moura No 2 and Moura No 4.. All too soon it will be time to reboard our coach for the short drive through some lovely pastoral land and into Theodore where Trish and her staff at the Theodore Hotel will again provide us a hearty lunch.

Depart Northside Plaza 7.30a.m.; Puma George Street 7.45a.m.; Gracemere 8.00a.m.

Cost: \$110.00 per person

Includes: Morning Tea and Lunch

Don't forget to bring along your fold up chair for your morning tea break

Tuesday 10th September 2019:

AWOONGA DAM & MANY

PEAKS

Our journeys into the Boyne Valley are always so popular, so we have decided to again visit the nostalgic Many Peaks hotel for lunch. Overlooking the tranquil waters of Lake Awoonga will be the setting for our morning tea this morning. You will have ample time to take a short stroll around this well-maintained recreation area. Once we have reboarded our coach we continue our journey to just south of Miriam Vale where we leave the Bruce Highway and travel into the Boyne Valley. Many Peaks is a former copper mining centre. The area in its heyday attracted many workers all hoping to make their wealth from mining. After lunch we begin our homeward journey which takes us into the heart of the valley passing the historical settlements of Builyan, Ubobo & Nagoorin. We shall take a short detour into the very popular camping and fishing area of Boynedale, before continuing onto Calliope and home

to Rockhampton.

Depart Northside Plaza 7.30a.m.; Puma George Street 7.45a.m.; Gracemere 8.00a.m.

Cost: \$110.00 per person

Includes: Morning Tea and Lunch

Don't forget to bring along your fold up chair for your morning tea break

Wednesday 11th December 2019:

PRE-CHRISTMAS GET

TOGETHER

Today will be a relaxing day leading up to the Christmas rush where you will be able to catch up with fellow travellers, unwind and reflect on the year of 2019. What a more pleasant place to do just this than the Keppel Bay Sailing Club right on the sea front at Yeppoon. A traditional Christmas morning tea will be enjoyed at one of the pleasant spots along our coastline, before joining the fun and frivolity at the Sailing Club for lunch. Whilst it is too early yet to fully organise our day, we shall take the opportunity to travel along some of the new access roads around this area.

Depart Northside Plaza 8.00a.m.; Puma George Street 8.30a.m.; Gracemere 8.45a.m.

Cost: \$95.00 per person

Includes: Morning Tea and Lunch

Don't forget to bring along your fold up chair for your morning tea break

EXTENDED TOURS 2019

Unfortunately, due to time restraints, detailed itineraries are not yet available for these tours. Please register your interest and we will forward itineraries with full details to you as soon as possible. All itineraries will be available by the middle of February. You will note we have been able to include a "teaser" for the Carnival of Flowers Tour. A full detailed itinerary will be completed to be sent out with the other tours.

We have pleasure in announcing our planned extended tours for 2019. We certainly hope you are able to join with us as we continue to explore new country and at times revisit some of our more popular places along the way. It is also with great excitement we advise you we have again included the popular Carnival of Flowers Tour. 2019 is the 70th anniversary of the highly renowned Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers extravaganza and we have been informed it will be a celebration not to be missed. Please don't leave it too late to book in as accommodation is restricted.

A constant request has been to again include a visit to Agnes Water and 1770, staying overnight and enjoying a relaxing day out on The Larc. This is also in the planning stages....just awaiting accommodation costings to come through from one of the elegant resorts situated at 1770.

Four nights away is always very attainable for some of our passengers who are unable to partake in our longer tours. This year we will make Brisbane our base with hi-lights being a Brisbane River luncheon cruise, a visit to 4 Real Milk's robotic dairy, a camel farm to name just a few. To top this tour off we will enjoy the Outback Spectacular's New Show Heartland. Heartland shares the story of Reg and Marg who are battling a severe five-year drought on their farm in the Australian Bushland.

Here are the dates and details (where possible).

Sunday 26th May to Thursday 30th May

4 nights tour to Brisbane, including a Brisbane River luncheon cruise, 4 Real Milk's robotic

dairy, Camel Farm and the Outback Spectacular's Heartland show.

Tuesday 25th June to Thursday 27th June (Awaiting confirmation of dates and costings)
2-night stay at 1770. Includes a full day Paradise Tour on The Larc to the Bustard Head Lighthouse & environs

Sunday 18th August to Saturday 31st August: **SOUTHERN TOUR**

This is an exciting tour to bring to you. We have researched some of the painted silo sites and have based some of our days around the various towns. Our "teaser itinerary" is as follows:

Rockhampton – Roma; Roma –Moree via Thallon; Moree – Dubbo via Walgett & Coonamble (2 nights Dubbo); Dubbo – West Wyalong (2 nights) Day trip to Lake Cargelligo, Rankin Springs and Weethalie whilst in West Wyalong; West Wyalong - Cowra via Temora, Cootamundra & Young (3 nights in Cowra); Cowra – Katoomba (2 nights Katoomba); Katoomba – Tamworth; Tamworth – Goondiwindi; Goondiwindi – Rockhampton

Thursday 19th September to Monday 23rd September: **CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS**

This tour will also include visits to the Pioneer Village at Highfields and the Gleneden Bullock Team Farm

*Full itinerary available soon Cost: \$ 1,431.00 per person twin share/double
\$ 1,671.00 Single Supplement*

Friday 6th December to Sunday 8th December: **MARKETS TOUR ??**

I am still undecided on this tour, having received varying feedback on this weekend. Could you please notify our office, or if you have email could you notify me direct on:

ros@rotheryscoaches.com re your thoughts. I understand only too well the highs and lows of this particular weekend. A solution to the dinner situation is being investigated. As you are aware, inclement weather can have an effect on this weekend. Everyone seems to enjoy the visits to the Christmas Shops. Do you wish to go ahead with this tour?? Looking for feedback!!

On behalf of all of us at Rothery's Coaches, I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. We all look forward to another prosperous year as Rothery's Coaches celebrate 42 years. Happy and safe travels everyone.

*Regards,
Ros. Rothery*