

Post Rort Tour.

MONDAY

With another great Rort in the bag, it was time for those Monday morning farewells at the Hervey Bay Boat Club Breakfast. The Post Rorters were now ready to continue with their eagerly anticipated adventure. Introductions to the Tour Captain Paddy O'Brien and the Tour Guide, Jock McLeod followed. Jock advised us of some instructions delivered by Team Leader Brian Fulmer to prevent anyone falling asleep on the Tour.

Brian had prepared a booklet of Maryborough photographs to enjoy, Day One's Trivia Quiz and all we needed to know about the Bundaberg Coast that we were on our way to visit.

Early on we struck trouble. There seemed to be some difficulty in locating the elusive Isis Winery. This was overcome by some fancy manoeuvring, negotiating some interesting turns and narrow road detours. Plenty of assurances from our guides that they were professionals and they knew what they were doing were forthcoming. The destination was safely achieved.

Some time was spent paying respects at the Childers Backpackers Memorial in the building where 15 young people lost their lives when an arsonist put paid to their dreams. We had some time for lunch and were able to explore the rest of the town on foot.

From there it was back to the coast and the first afternoon stop was to visit the 'Denizens of the Deep Exhibit' at Bargara. The exhibit consists of a set of Arthur H Clark's magnificent wood carvings that bring the ocean to life. The rest of the afternoon was spent soaking up the atmosphere at the popular Bargara seaside village.

The Bundaberg Tropical Gardens Motor Inn was our digs for the night. Some Post Rorters needed medical assistance during the evening and the staff at the motel drove them to see the doctor.

TUESDAY

After the biggest continental breakfast ever the tour made its way to the Hinkler Aviation Museum and Home where Rorters could experience the art of flying Bert Hinkler's plane and also enter his home which has been beautifully restored... Morning Tea was on the veranda at Fairymead House which also holds museum pieces.

After a beautiful hot lunch at the East End Hotel we were all ready for the Bundaberg Rum Distillery tour and tasting. The bus was loaded up with plenty of purchases from the Rum Distillery with the rum liquor being the most popular – Huzzar!.

Returning to Maryborough via Goodwood was a very welcome stop at Mammino's Ice Cream. We were treated to an ice cream and an informative talk by the owner on his macadamia nut farm and Mammino's Ice Cream.

For the next 3 nights we stayed in Maryborough at the spacious McNeiven's Motel. After an extended Happy Hour with enjoying some Rock 'N' Roll it was off to the Motel Restaurant for dinner.

WEDNESDAY

The coach took us through Woollooga, Widgee / Boonaroo Dam to Gympie for damper and morning tea in the park. Imbil, a picturesque village on Yabba Creek, is the terminus for the Murray Valley Rattler Steam Train. Some keen enough made it to the top of the Imbil Lookout while others preferred the shops or some 10 oz weight lifting at the Railway Hotel for a buffet luncheon on the veranda of the 2 storey building which was opposite the railway line. The Valley Rattler, steam train was waiting there for us. The Rattlers' spectacular journey through the picturesque Mary Valley had an intermission with a stop at Dagon Station for wine, moonshine and cheese. While we were there one of the Brisbane TV Stations were filming a segment for the Coast to Coast TV show. We have not heard if we made the cut or not.

Paddy was patiently waiting for us at the Gympie Railway Station to return us to Maryborough. A short detour found us at the 130year old Hideaway Hotel at Tiaro for another wee drink. This pub had a lot of different memorabilia particularly the Harley Motor Bike hanging from the ceiling. There was a good roll up for Happy Hour with Italian Rock 'N' Roll music and dancing.

THURSDAY

Early morning showers and plenty of clouds didn't dampen the shopping spirit for the Maryborough Heritage Markets. Some Rorters bought umbrellas others managed to move from one shelter to another and purchasing hot coffees and hot chocolate to keep warm. The southerners were in their element cracking jokes about the Queensland weather. There was plenty of entertainment for all. I am sure the street stall with the power balance bracelets did a roaring trade with the Rorters help. One particular Rorter preferred to purchase 3 kgs of honey instead of a bracelet. Silly him?

We moved onto Rainbow Beach Surf Club for lunch and a walk along the wild and windy beach. One of the ladies was having difficulty with her power bracelet and fell off her chair during lunch. Some just could not stay away from the shops trying to locate another bargain. On the way back it appeared that we were lost again but assurances were given that this was the scenic route and don't worry about the 3 point turns.

Happy Hour had a change of mood with some entertaining Belly Dance music and a demonstration by Carol. Brian and Pam joined us for dinner for another great meal and another hearty fines session.

FRIDAY

Today we headed off to Hervey Bay for a Great Sandy Straits Luncheon Cruise. We had a fantastic cruise and were entertained by the band 'Two of a Kind' Fred & Frederick (don't get em mixed up). Great scenery, music, dancing, food and wines topped off another fabulous Post Rort Tour. Everyone appreciated the great effort Jock McLeod put

in as our tour guide. He was up late most nights marking our trivia sheets and reporting into Brian. It seems that Brian had given him strict instructions not to accept bribes. The Bus Driver, Paddy O'Brien saw to our every need and was competing with Jock in the joke department by the end.

Brian and Pam followed the tour around whenever they found that any of the tourists needed assistance. Those that Brian and Pam helped out were very appreciative.

The tour finished with us being much more knowledgeable and knowing plenty more jokes. The Kiwis knew more about Australia than the Aussies and the Aussies knew more about New Zealand than the Kiwis. Our friends from New Zealand seemed to know all about an under arm bowling incident that none of the Australians could recollect. The Fines session was most entertaining. The staff wanted to know who the comedians were and if we were real comedians.

The Hervey Bay Sub Committee put on a superb Bar B Que farewell social and treated us to some rousing renditions of their anthems including "Whale Meet Again" and their very popular opera piece "Stand on Your Head" with apologies to Ross Parker, Hughie Charles and Georges Bizet.

Thanks to all from Fraser Coast for a very enjoyable and memorable event – Huzzar!