



“Where the roads lead...”: A Literary & Artistic Journey from the Darling Downs to Fraser Island – Sep/Oct 2021

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Tour Leaders **Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN, David Henderson**

Physical Ratings 

Journey through the Darling Downs, Lamington National Park, Brisbane and Fraser Island, to explore how the Australian landscape has exerted a powerful influence on Australian literature and painting.

Overview

"Where do the roads lead? It is not where we expected.", (Country Town), Judith Wright 1963.

Join literary expert [Susannah Fullerton](#), President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, and award-winning artist [David Henderson](#) on a journey through the Darling Downs, Lamington National Park, Brisbane and Fraser Island, to explore how the Australian landscape has exerted a powerful influence on Australian literature and painting.

- At Brisbane's Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) view the exhibition [European Masterpieces from The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), an extraordinary opportunity to see one of the finest collections of European painting in the world.
- Tour historic homesteads on the Darling Downs including the grand country house of Jimbour described by poet George Essex Evans, and Coochin Coochin, home to the Bell family whose past guests include the Queen Mother, Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh and Agatha Christie.
- In Toowoomba visit the [Lionel Lindsay Gallery and Library Collection](#). The gallery includes works by the Lindsay family as well as by Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin, Arthur Streeton and Rupert Bunny. The library collection, considered of national importance, includes letters by Henry Lawson and Lionel Lindsay's own papers.
- Visit sites associated with author, P.L. Travers, best known for her *Mary Poppins*. By private appointment we visit her former home in Allora, and in Maryborough we visit the museum housed in the former bank where her father worked, and where she was born.
- With zoologist, Dr Ronda Green, explore [Lamington National Park's World Heritage Gondwana Rainforests](#), the inspiration for William Robinson's celebrated *Creation and Mountain* series. Our visit is timed when we will most likely see a bower constructed by the satin bowerbird as filmed by David Attenborough in his series *Life on Earth*.
- Explore the development of Australian landscape painting at the [Queensland Art Gallery](#) which includes iconic works by artists such as Gordon Bennett, Arthur Boyd, Ian Fairweather and Sidney Nolan. We also view the permanent exhibition which tells the story of [Albert Namatjira](#) whose iconic landscape paintings are synonymous with the Australian outback.
- Explore the life and work of novelist Rosa Praed. We visit Bromelton House where she was born and view her papers at the Fryer Library.
- Learn about David Malouf's Brisbane and tour his former home in Arran Avenue which he described in *Johnno*.
- In Murwillumbah we visit the [Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre](#) to view the recreated areas of Olley's famous home studio and two exhibitions entitled [Ken Done: Up to 80](#) and [A Life in art – Margaret Olley](#).
- On the Gold Coast visit the new [HOTA Gallery](#) (opened on the [8th May 2021](#)), and view the special exhibition [Lyrical Landscapes: The Art of William Robinson](#). Both the architecture and future gallery of this new Home of the Arts were inspired by William Robinson's stunning painting *The Rainforest*, a key work in HOTA's 'City Collection'.
- At the Queensland Performing Arts Centre we view the mural by Lawrence Daws before travelling to the Glasshouse Mountains where many of his best-known works were created.
- Explore the [William Robinson Gallery](#) which honours one of Australia's foremost living artists.
- Visit the private studio of celebrated artist [Leonard Brown](#), best known for his minimalist abstract painting and his Russian icon paintings.
- While based at the [Kingfisher Bay Resort](#) explore [World Heritage Listed Fraser Island](#), the source of inspiration for numerous artists and writers including Sidney Nolan, Patrick White, Judith Wright, and Wilf Reeves and Olga Miller's creation stories described in *Legends of Moonie Jarl*. Our visit is timed for the season when the [humpback whales](#) may be easily viewed during our excursion to Hervey

Bay.

- Conclude with a journey by Tilt Train from Maryborough to Brisbane which affords picturesque views of the Glasshouse Mountains and the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

Overnight Brisbane (2 nights) • Toowoomba (3 nights) • Lamington National Park (2 nights) • Brisbane (2 nights) • Noosa Heads (1 night) • Fraser Island (3 nights)

Leaders



Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN

President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, Susannah has published several books on Jane Austen and has lectured extensively on famous authors, their lives and works both in Australia and overseas.

Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN, majored in English Literature at the University of Auckland. She then completed a postgraduate degree in Victorian fiction and prose at the University of Edinburgh. For over 20 years Susannah has been President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia. She has lectured extensively on Jane Austen in Australia and overseas and has published many articles about Jane Austen's works. She is the co-author of *Jane Austen – Antipodean Views* and published *Jane Austen and Crime* in 2004, and *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia* (Picador) in 2009. Susannah's latest books are *A Dance with Jane Austen*, *Happily Ever After: Celebrating Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* and a new memoir *Jane & I: A Tale of Austen Addiction*. Susannah is very well known on the Australian speakers' circuit as a literary lecturer. She gives talks on famous authors, their lives and works, and on history, at the Art Gallery of NSW, State Library of NSW, ADFAS, WEA, schools and for a great variety of clubs and societies. Susannah uses her training in drama to delight her audiences with dramatic readings from novels and poems. Her interest in literature is wide ranging. She is a member of the Dylan Thomas Society of Australia, the Australian Brontë Association, the NSW Dickens Society and she is Patron of the Kipling Society of Australia. She has worked on literary prize committees, organised literary conferences and is a most experienced lecturer and group leader. To discover more about Susannah's activities, visit www.susannahfullerton.com.au



David Henderson

Award-winning artist & Royal Academy graduate who paints half the year in Italy, David brings an artist's eye & profound knowledge of Australian art and the history of landscape painting to this tour.

After initial studies in architecture in Brisbane, David graduated in painting from London's Royal Academy Schools in 1985. The Royal Academy awarded him a prize for painting, and he was twice selected for their annual summer exhibition. David has held many solo exhibitions of his work in Brisbane, Melbourne and London and has been the recipient of several awards and commendations. David has taught art part-time at various institutions; for many years, he lectured and ran courses in the history of art and design at QUT. David now paints full-time and divides his year between Australia and Italy. Since joining ASA in 1995, David has led over 50 tours to a variety of destinations including Italy, France and the UK. He brings a trained artist's eye to an analysis of painting, sculpture and architecture and takes great pleasure in sharing his knowledge. For further details see his website: www.visualartist.info/davidhenderson



Itinerary

The following itinerary describes a range of sites which we plan to visit. At the time of publication (July 2021) most visits had been confirmed. While several are accessible to the public, others require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure.

The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary, together with their tour documents, prior to departure. The tour includes meals indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner.

Brisbane – 2 nights

Day 1: Wednesday 29 September, Brisbane

- Short Welcome meeting at 9.00am
- Fryer Library, Queensland University (to be confirmed)
- The Cathedral of St Stephen
- Literary Walking tour of Central Brisbane including Albert Street Literary Trail
- Old Government House: William Robinson Gallery
- Welcome Drinks

Please meet in the foyer of the [Treasury Brisbane](#) at 9am where our tour will officially commence with a short welcome meeting.

We begin this morning with a visit to the Fryer Library at Queensland University which contains a large selection of manuscripts, correspondence, diaries and photographs from award-winning Australian novelists, poets and playwrights, including Peter Carey, Thea Astley, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, David Malouf, Eunice Hanger, and Max and Thelma Afford. There is also an extensive collection of Helen Haenke's writings and papers. Of particular interest is the 'Thea Astley Collection'. Born in Brisbane in 1925, Thea

Astley AO studied arts at the University of Queensland. She was a school teacher until 1967, then taught at Macquarie University, before retiring to write full time. She published seventeen novels and many short stories, and she won the Miles Franklin Award four times: in 1962 for *The Well Dressed Explorer*, in 1965 for *The Slow Natives*, in 1972 for *The Acolyte* and in 2000 for *Drylands*. Much of her writing, which draws heavily from her early childhood, is set in Queensland.

We then transfer to the city centre where we begin with a visit to St Stephen's Cathedral which features paintings by celebrated artist, Lawrence Daws and outstanding examples of 19th-century stained glass. We continue with a literary walking tour which also highlights some of Brisbane's most important heritage buildings including Parliament House (Anthony Trollope visited the Legislative Assembly Chamber in 1871), the Treasury Building and the old Queensland State Library. Authors featured on the tour include David Malouf, poet James Brunton Stephens, Rosa Praed, Jack Lindsay and Thomas Shapcott. The Albert Street Literary Trail features 32 brass plaques with quotes by authors who have called Brisbane home.

After lunch we take a guided tour of the William Robinson Gallery nestled in the beautiful setting of Old Government House. Born in Brisbane in 1936, William Robinson, a figurative expressionist painter, is considered one of Australia's foremost living artists and is recognised for his unique interpretation of the Australian landscape as well as his whimsical portraits and narrative scenes. His characterful self-portraits were awarded the Archibald Prize in 1987 and 1995. The 2009 documentary by filmmaker Catherine Hunter, "William Robinson: A Painter's Journey", traces the places that have inspired him.

We return to the hotel where we enjoy a welcome drink. (Overnight Brisbane)

Day 2: Thursday 30 September, Brisbane – Murwillumbah – Gold Coast – Brisbane

- Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre (MOAC), Murwillumbah
- [Ken Done: Up to 80](#)
- [A Life in art – Margaret Olley Exhibition, MOAC](#)
- Lunch at the Gallery by Bacaro
- The City Collection, HOTA and special exhibition [Lyrical Landscapes: The Art of William Robinson](#)

This morning we travel to the country town of Murwillumbah which lies in a green caldera, the vast crater of the eroded Tweed Volcano, surrounded by rainforest and farmland. Overlooking the town is the striking Wollumbin Peak (Mt Warning). The Tweed has some of Australia's most diverse flora, fauna and landscapes. Its unique natural history and cultural resonance prompted Parks Australia and Tourism Australia to declare it one of only sixteen 'Australian National Landscapes'.

On arrival we visit the Tweed Regional Gallery and the adjoining Margaret Olley Art Centre (MOAC). Born in Lismore in 1923, Margaret Olley is Australia's most celebrated painter of still lifes and interiors. When she died in 2011, she left a treasure trove of paintings and *objets d'art* at her home, a converted hat factory and adjoining terrace, at 48 Duxford Street, Paddington Sydney. In 2014 parts of her house and its contents, which had provided the subject of so many of her famous works, were disassembled and transported to a purpose-built centre at the Tweed Regional Gallery in Murwillumbah. At MOAC, we view the recreated areas of Olley's famous home studio, principally the Hat Factory and the Yellow Room. During our visit we also view two excellent exhibitions:

[Ken Done: Up to 80](#)

"Since his first solo exhibition in 1980, Ken Done has become one of Australia's most renowned artists. His work has been described as 'the most original style to come out of Australia', and his paintings are in collections throughout the world. Done has held over 100 solo shows, including major exhibitions in

Australia, Europe, Japan and the USA. His works have been shown in the Archibald, Sulman, Wynne, Blake and Dobell Prizes. In 1992, Done received the Order of Australia (AM) for services to Art, Design and Tourism. In many parts of the world, Ken Done has come to symbolise Australia and Australians – creative, optimistic and bold. The Ken Done Gallery and Tweed Regional Gallery present a new and vivid exhibition of mostly unseen works. It represents many of the artist’s favourite and best-loved subjects – the beach, the reef and portraiture, as well as his own personal environment – his garden and cabin studio in Sydney. A selection of works from the new publication *Ken Done: Art Design Life* will also be shown.”

[A Life in art – Margaret Olley Exhibition, MOAC](#)

“Drawn entirely from the Tweed Regional Gallery collection, this exhibition brings together artwork from each decade of Margaret Olley’s extraordinary career. On display in the Margaret Olley Art Centre for the first time, *A life in art* will include a series of monotypes Olley made in Europe during her first overseas trip in the early 1950s. They showcase her keen eye for detailed observation and her strong foundation in drawing. From her early, lesser-known landscapes to her later, much-celebrated still lifes, this exhibition reveals the journey of her enduring career and dedication to a life in art.”

Following lunch at the Tweed Heads gallery’s café we return to Brisbane via the Gold Coast to visit the revolutionary new HOTA Gallery (opened 8 May 2021). Both the colourful architecture and collection of this new six-storey ‘Home of the Arts’ were inspired by William Robinson’s stunning painting *The Rainforest*, a key work in HOTA’s holdings called ‘The City Collection’. This painting won the Wynne Prize for Landscape in 1990, and was purchased by the gallery shortly afterwards. The City Collection, which features more than 5,000 art works, includes an important corpus of paintings from the 1970s by artists including David Aspden, Michael Johnson, Col Jordan, Alun Leach-Jones, and Ron Robertson-Swann. There is also a fine collection of award-winning ceramics, and one of the largest collections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island art in regional Australia. We are fortunate that our visit coincides with the Gallery’s second major exhibition [Lyrical Landscapes: The Art of William Robinson](#). (Overnight Brisbane) BL

[Toowoomba – 3 nights](#)

Day 3: Friday 1 October, Brisbane – Ipswich – Toowoomba

- 19 Arran Avenue, Hamilton: former home of David Malouf
- David Henderson’s studio, Albion
- Rockton: former home of artist, poet and playwright, Helen Haenke
- [Private studio of artist Leonard Brown, Ipswich](#)
- Evening talk on George Essex Evans and Steele Rudd by the Toowoomba Literary Society

Widely recognised as one of Australia’s finest contemporary authors, David Malouf was born in Brisbane in 1934. Amongst the most loved of his works are those set in his hometown including his first novel, *Johnno* (1975), the semi-autographical tale of a young man growing up in wartime Brisbane, and his later memoir *12 Edmondstone Street* (2012) which begins at his childhood home in South Brisbane. In 1947 the family moved from Edmondstone Street to 19 Arran Avenue, Hamilton. By special appointment, we visit this house which was designed by his father, George Malouf.

When not leading tours for ASA, David Henderson is a full-time artist; his painting studio is a short walk from Newstead House. David’s response to the Queensland landscape has been informed by a multiplicity of contexts. An outback childhood, studies in architecture and training at London’s Royal Academy have all left their mark on his painting. And while Queensland-born, in the tradition of artists such as Jeffrey Smart and Justin O’Brien, he has spent much of his life in Italy. Whether painting local views, monumental urban spaces or the human figure, David’s approach can broadly be described as classical: a synthesis of light and

geometry. A number of his most recent works can be viewed in his studio where he will present a brief overview of his development and working methods.

We depart then Brisbane for Ipswich which has hosted numerous literary figures including Banjo Paterson and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It is also the birthplace of Thomas Shapcott AO (born 1935), author of fifteen collections of poetry and six novels. By the late 1800s the township of Ipswich boasted its own enclave of wealthy merchants, graziers and industrialists, and today the city is renowned for its wealth of heritage architecture.

On arrival we meet with artist Leonard Brown at his home studio to discuss his work, and that of his friend, Sam Fullbrook. Leonard Brown is best known for his minimal abstract paintings and his Russian icon paintings created using traditional techniques. In 2011 QUT Art Museum presented *Union with Reality: The Art of Leonard Brown*, a 30 year survey of his work which is represented in numerous public collections including the NGA and the NGV. Leonard had a close association with Sam Fullbrook (1922-2004) who was described as the "last of the bushman painters". Fullbrook won the Archibald Prize for portraiture and the Wynne Prize for landscape. His work will be viewed during our visit to the QAG which includes the portrait of his friend, Brisbane-born novelist Ernestine Hill (1899-1972), who shared a history of life on the land and a deep appreciation of the Australian bush.

Next, we visit 'Rockton', a historic National Trust-listed property, and the former home of artist and writer, Helen Haenke (1916-78). Haenke is associated with the emerging vibrant cultural scene of south-east Queensland during the late 1960s and 70s. Born in NSW, she trained as a commercial artist in Sydney, and later studied painting under Max Meldrum in Melbourne. Following her marriage to Willis Lynn Haenke, she moved to 'Rockton' where she became an influential figure in Ipswich from the 1940s; her poetry, short stories and paintings reflect her life there. 'Rockton' became a regular venue for recitals, concerts and play readings, with guests including Rodney Hall, Thomas Shapcott, Bruce Dawe and Oodgeroo Noonuccal. During our visit to 'Rockton' we will meet with Helen Haenke's daughter, Angela, to learn more about this prolific writer and poet.

Following lunch at a local restaurant we travel to Toowoomba, capital of the Darling Downs on the crest of the Great Dividing Range. Poet Bruce Dawe (1930-2020) lived in Toowoomba in the 1970s and immortalised this dramatic location in his poem *Provincial City*:

*Climbing the range
your ears pop like champagne...'
You can smell the peace up here.
The proportion, the narrowness...'
'It moves, but oh so slowly
you would have to sleep years,
waking suddenly once in a decade
to surprise it in the act of change.*

Toowoomba is also the birthplace of Australian watercolourist J.J. Hilder (1881-1916) whose best collection of works can be viewed at the Art Gallery NSW.

This evening we will meet with representatives of the Toowoomba Literary Society who will introduce us to the life and work of two literary figures associated with the region – George Essex Evans and Steele Rudd. (Overnight Toowoomba) BLD

Day 4: Saturday 2 October, Toowoomba – Greenmount – Toowoomba

- Steele Rudd Memorial Park, East Greenmount
- Cobb & Co Museum
- Lionel Lindsay Gallery and Library, Toowoomba Art Gallery
- [Private studio of artist Leisl Baker, Toowoomba](#)

Arthur Howey Davis (1868-1935) otherwise known as Steele Rudd, was born in a slab hut on Darling Street, Drayton. When he was four, his family moved to Emu Creek (now called East Greenmount) where he attended school. Son of a blacksmith, Davis worked as a horse-breaker, stockman, and drover before moving to Brisbane where he became a clerk. There he joined a rowing club and began writing poems and sketches under the pseudonym "Steele Rudder", later shortened to Steele Rudd. In 1899 *The Bulletin* published his sketches, with illustrations, as *On Our Selection*. Largely autobiographical, the sketches provide a humorous account of life on a plot of land 'selected' in the 1880s, featuring characters Dad and Dave Rudd. In 1903 *Our New Selection* was published, and he founded *Steele Rudd's Magazine*, a popular periodical that appeared irregularly over the next 25 years. In 1908, Steele Rudd returned with his wife to the Darling Downs, later buying 'The Firs', a farm near Nobby. His stories have been dramatised and filmed several times. The 'Dad and Dave from Snake Gully' radio program which started in 1937, and featured the antics of some of Steele Rudd's characters, aired for 16 years. This morning we visit Steele Rudd Memorial Park, situated on the original selection taken up by Thomas and Mary Davis in the 1870s. The park was established in the 1970s by Arthur's youngest son Eric, and includes a replica shingled slab hut based on many details in the book.

Cobb & Co. was established by American Freeman Cobb and his partners who arrived at the Victorian goldfields in 1853. The first service in Queensland operated between Brisbane and Toowoomba in 1866. The journey began in Brisbane with a coach to Ipswich, then train to Bigge's camp (Grandchester), and finally another coach up the range to Toowoomba. We will visit the Cobb & Co. Museum, home of the National Carriage Collection. Also on display are the two 1955 Royal Mail Cobb & Co. stamps which were inspired by Sir Lionel Lindsay's etching (1925) that depicts the Thargomindah coach with its team of five skewbalds.

William Robert Fossey 'Bill' Bolton MBE, was a transport businessman and philanthropist based in Toowoomba. He founded Redmans Transport in 1935 which was later renamed Cobb & Co. Redmans Transport in 1948. Throughout his life he collected twenty-eight horse and carriage vehicles which today form the nucleus of the Cobb & Co Museum. His interest in Australian pioneer heritage also led him to form a friendship with bush balladist Will H. Ogilvie and to build an important library of journals, prints, letters and maps. This collection includes records of voyages in the Pacific, the exploration and early history of Australia, Australian art, Australian literature (including letters by Henry Lawson), and Lionel Lindsay's own papers. The release of the Cobb & Co. stamps in 1955 inspired Bolton to make contact with Sir Lionel Lindsay. Over a period of five years, and under the direction of NGV director, Sir Daryl Lindsay, Bolton collected over 400 artworks, the majority of which were by Lionel Lindsay. The collection also included works by other members of the Lindsay family, and by McCubbin, Streeton, Roberts and Bunny. We will tour the Lionel Lindsay Gallery and Library, Toowoomba Art Gallery which houses these great collections.

We end the day with a visit to the private studio of landscape painter, Leisl Baker, whose work was featured in Amber Creswell-Bell's book *A Painted Landscape* (Thames & Hudson 2018). Leisl's expressive, contemporary landscape works are recognisable for their painterly, bold brushwork, rural scenes and rapid sgraffito. Working both *en plein air* and in her Toowoomba studio, Leisl aims to capture the essence of a time and place in her paintings. Her work has been shortlisted in numerous national awards for landscape including the Paddington Art Prize and the Hadley's Prize for Landscape. (Overnight Toowoomba) BL

Day 5: Sunday 3 October, Toowoomba – Jimbour – Drayton – Toowoomba

- Jimbour: Heritage Homestead & Gardens, Long Table Lunch
- Royal Bull's Head Inn, Drayton

Born in 1863 to Welsh parents, George Essex Evans migrated to Australia in 1881 and settled on a farm near Allora in the Darling Downs. He became Agricultural Editor of *The Queenslander* and subsequently registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages at Gympie and later Toowoomba. At the same time he was writing under the pseudonym "Christophus" and became editor of the Sydney journal, *The Antipodean*. In 1899 he married and built a home, 'Glenbar,' on the eastern slope of the Toowoomba Range. Evans is credited with having published over 200 poems (many of which appeared in Australian papers), short stories, essays, humorous works and a novella. Now little known outside of Queensland, he was recognised in his time as the equal of his contemporaries – Paterson, Lawson, Henry Kendall and Adam Lindsay Gordon. His poems *The Women of the West*, about the women pioneers of western Queensland, and a patriotic poem titled *An Australian Symphony* were his most famous works. Evans also excelled as a playwright, producing works for the Brisbane Theatre including the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* and *Musical Whist*. In 1903 Evans founded the Austral Society in Toowoomba to promote music, art, literature, science and industry.

This morning we travel approximately 111 km north-west of Toowoomba to 'Jimbour', a heritage-listed homestead on one of the earliest stations established on the Darling Downs. Here we will tour the homestead and heritage gardens, and enjoy a long table lunch.

'Jimbour', designed for Joshua Peter Bell, politician, businessman and grazier, is the only genuinely grand country house in the English manner to be built in the state. The magnificence of this home, set on a hill overlooking the plains, has captivated many. It was a location for filming in the popular series *Return to Eden*. George Essex Evans wrote of it with admiration in his work *The Garden of Queensland* in 1898. Gertrude Bell, mistress of 'Coochin Coochin' station, also visited 'Jimbour', recording in her diary her astonishment at finding such an imposing mansion in the Queensland bush. She was given plant cuttings to take home to her own garden at 'Coochin'.

This afternoon we return to Toowoomba via Drayton, the first town established beyond the Great Dividing Range in 1842. In 1847 The Royal Bull's Head Inn was built and became a popular haunt for squatters and workers. We gain an insight into the early days of settlement on the Darling Downs with a guided tour of this inn whose original kitchen, rooms, and interior have been lovingly restored and preserved by the National Trust. Conrad Martens (a friend of Charles Darwin) was the only major colonial artist to work in Queensland. He arrived in Moreton Bay by ship in 1851 and set out across the range to the Darling Downs where he sketched homesteads and properties, including 'Coochin Coochin', in the hope of attracting commissions for paintings. By March 1852 Martens had completed over ninety drawings which today provide an invaluable visual account of the region's history. Several of his works are in the Queensland Art Gallery. On 23 December 1852 he sketched views from Drayton Range and probably stayed at the Royal Bull's Head Inn. (Overnight Toowoomba) BL

Lamington National Park – 2 nights

Day 6: Monday 4 October, Toowoomba – Allora – Coochin – Lamington National Park

- The Mary Poppins House, Allora
- Coochin Coochin Station

This morning we journey to the Southern Downs town of Allora. Pamela Lydon Travers OBE (1899-1996) is

best known for her *Mary Poppins* series for children. Born in Maryborough, she grew up in the bush before going to boarding school in Sydney. At the age of 25 she emigrated to England and adopted the pen name 'P.L. Travers' while writing the first of eight *Mary Poppins* books. *Saving Mr Banks*, the 2013 movie starring Emma Thompson as Travers and Tom Hanks as Walt Disney, includes flashbacks to Travers' difficult childhood in Allora which became the inspiration for much of *Mary Poppins*. We will visit the house where Travers spent 2 years of her childhood, and in which her father, Travers Goff, died. The heritage-listed house built in 1879, now owned by Les and Loraine Struthers, was both a home and the Australian Joint Stock Bank, where Travers' father worked.

The Scenic Rim's history is linked to various inspiring and charismatic pioneers, including poet Judith Wright, filmmaker Charles Chauvel and the Bell Family of 'Coochin Coochin'. This afternoon we meet with Tim and Jane Bell to discover the fascinating history of their homestead, which is one of the Scenic Rim's oldest homes. 'Coochin Coochin', ('Coochin' means red in the Jagera language, for the red bill of the black swans that frequented the area), dates back to 1842 when the 120,000-acre property was first established by David Hunter. In 1870 the property was purchased by Thomas Alford who moved the homestead to its existing site on a hill. In 1882 James Bell bought 22,000 acres of freehold land, and with his wife, Gertrude, and their two sons, came to live here. Gertrude Bell (née Norton), Tim's great grandmother, had come from an affluent home at Darling Point in Sydney and at 'Coochin Coochin' she resumed her former social life, inviting many guests to stay. Her detailed diaries record the visits of distinguished visitors, including the Queen Mother, the Prince of Wales, Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh and Agatha Christie. Agatha Christie loved her visit, was involved in a local concert and grew fond of Guilford Marsh Bell (Gertrude's grandson) who later worked on renovations to her beloved Devonshire home 'Greenway'. Agatha greatly admired the Australian women she met in the area and you will learn about their influence on her future life and career.

In the late afternoon we continue south to O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. Established in 1926, the retreat is located in Lamington National Park which lies on the Lamington Plateau of the McPherson Range. In 1937, Bernard O'Reilly became a hero when he rescued the survivors of the Stinson plane *City of Brisbane*, which had crashed in the remote Lamington wilderness. Bushman and author, O'Reilly wrote three books on the theme of Australia's Great Dividing Range including *Green Mountains* (1940) which includes his own account of finding the plane. O'Reilly was played by Jack Thompson in the TV movie *The Riddle of the Stinson* in 1987. Judith Wright's poem, *The Lost Man*, was written about James Guthrie Westray, a survivor of the crash, who died after falling over a waterfall when hacking through the rainforest to seek help. (Overnight Lamington National Park) BLD

Day 7: Tuesday 5 October, Lamington National Park

- Lamington National Park with zoologist, Dr Ronda J Green
- The Rainforest Works of William Robinson: talk by David Henderson

Public attention was drawn to the beauty and invigorating climate of the McPherson Ranges in the 1890s by Queensland pastoralist Robert Martin Collins. In parliament he campaigned heavily for the protection of the area. Lamington was proclaimed a National Park in 1915, two years after his death, and in 1994 the park was incorporated into the 'Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area'. The ancient biodiversity of these rainforests was studied by David Attenborough in his 1979 TV series *Life on Earth* – its beech trees and bower birds were featured.

Many writers have been inspired by this region. Conservationist and author Arthur Groom (1904-1953) pleaded for the protection of the Scenic Rim in his 1951 book *One Mountain After Another*. In 2001, Germaine Greer's concern over Australia's environmental vandalism, led her to purchase 60 hectares of dairy farm at the base of Springbrook Plateau, east of Lamington National Park. The area, part of the

Gondwana Rainforest, had been logged during the 19th century with only a few white beeches remaining. In her book *White Beech: The Rainforest Years* (2013) Greer describes the “irresistible” decade-long battle to rehabilitate the damaged forest. Judith Wright, who spent nearly 30 years at Mount Tamborine, developed a deep connection with this Australian landscape. Her growing concern about its devastation led her to co-found, and become the first President of, the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.

We spend the day exploring Lamington National Park with Dr Ronda J. Green, Chair of Wildlife Tourism Australia and Chair of the Scenic Rim branch of the WPSQ. Ronda, who is a zoologist, studied the birds that dispersed seeds of rainforest plants for her post-doctoral research. She also attended the WPSQ Spring School during the time when it was run by Judith Wright.

The area has inspired many artists including Arthur Boyd and William Robinson. In 1984 Robinson moved from Brisbane to live on an 80-hectare property in Beechmont, a relocation that marked a critical turning point in his career. In 1994 he also acquired a rainforest studio at Springbrook. His affinity with the spectacular hinterland of verdant rainforest and dramatic mountains gave rise to a major new body of his work. Between 1984 and 2005 Robinson painted some of his most original and compelling compositions including his celebrated *Creation and Mountain* series. This evening David will give a pre-dinner talk on ‘The Rainforest Works of William Robinson’. (Overnight Lamington National Park) BLD

Brisbane – 2 nights

Day 8: Wednesday 6 October, Lamington NP – Bromelton – Tamborine Mountain – Brisbane

- Bromelton House & Gardens
- Artists and Writers of Tamborine Mountain hosted by the Calanthe Collective

Rosa Caroline Praed was a novelist who produced over forty-five books between 1880 and 1931, about half of which are Australian in setting. She was born in 1851 at Bromelton, by the Logan River in Queensland. Her father was the Hon. Thomas Lodge Murray-Prior, pastoralist and politician. She was educated by governesses and her mother until the latter died when Rosa was seventeen. Rosa then ran the house in the bush and sometimes accompanied her father to Brisbane for his political business. Following her marriage in 1872 to Arthur Campbell Praed, who’d come to Australia to make his fortune as a squatter, she spent two lonely, miserable years on Monte Christo, a cattle run located on Curtis Island, near Gladstone. These experiences figure in her autobiographical *My Australian Girlhood* (1902) and in the novels *The Romance of a Station* (1889) and *Sister Sorrow* (1916). In 1876 the couple moved to England where she resumed writing, drawing upon her Australian experiences. In London she achieved considerable celebrity and is considered to be the first Australian novelist to gain an international reputation. Her *Politics and Passion* of 1881, is thought to be the first novel to make lengthy reference to Brisbane. This afternoon we visit Bromelton which is today a working pecan and beef property. We’ll tour the historic homestead which sits within two hectares of landscaped gardens, and see the large lagoon, believed by the Aboriginal people to be bottomless and the home of the bunyip. These beliefs appear in some of Praed’s writing.

Many writers and artists have been attracted by the beauty of Mt Tamborine, including William Robinson who created *Storm Cloud Tamborine* and *Landscape with Fire* on Mt Tamborine. Novelist and poet, Mabel Forrest (1872-1935) moved from the Darling Downs to Mt Tamborine in 1929. She named her home ‘White Witches’, after the tall white gums of the area, which was also the title of one her novels published in 1927. Forrest’s most successful work *The Wild Moth* (1924) was released as a film by Charles Chauvel as *The Moth of Moonbi*. Chauvel, whose family farmed at Harrisville in the Fassifern Valley, went on to make several films set locally in the Scenic Rim including *Greenhide* and *Sons of Matthew*, the story of the O’Reilly family’s settlement on the Lamington Plateau. Other writers who have been inspired by the area include bestselling

author Kate Morton (b. 1976) whose family moved to the area when she was a child, and novelist and short story writer, Janette Turner Hospital (b. 1942), who described a Tamborine childhood in her novel *Charades* (1988).

Born at Thalgarrah, New England, Judith Wright moved to Brisbane as a young woman and there fell in love with philosopher and writer, Jack McKinney. In 1945 they moved to Mt Tamborine where they purchased their home 'Calanthe' (named after a white orchid which grows in the area), and shared 20 years together until Jack's death in 1966. Judith wrote the majority of her poetry while living on the mountain. Her poem *The Cycads* was inspired by ancient trees on Mt Tamborine. Raymond Curtis (1932-2019) was also a key cultural figure on the mountain, along with his wife Eve. He wrote extensively about life in the region and is remembered as Mt Tamborine's "own Poet Laureate". In *Rainforest Journal* (2003) he recounts a year spent working in the mountain's national parks. His poetry is celebrated in the anthology *The View Westward: Tamborine Mountain poems*.

This afternoon we tour Mt Tamborine with members of the Calanthe Collective, a local group of literary enthusiasts who study and promote the work of the mountain's literary luminaries. We learn how writers such as Judith Wright have played an important role in conserving this precious forested landscape. (Overnight Brisbane) BL

Day 9: Thursday 7 October, Brisbane

- Queensland Performing Arts Centre: Lawrence Daws Mural
- John Oxley Library & The Lindsay Collection of Pat Corrigan, Queensland State Library (to be confirmed)
- Queensland Art Gallery: Australian Art Collection & the Indigenous Australian Art Collection
- Queensland Gallery of Modern Art: [European Masterpieces from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York](#)

We begin the day with a brief visit to the Queensland Performing Arts Centre to view the mural by Lawrence Daws in preparation for our journey to the Glasshouse Mountains where many of his best-known works were created. The mural affords us with an opportunity to reflect on the significance that the local landscape has had for this remarkable painter.

Next we visit the John Oxley Library which contains collections unique to Queensland. Gertrude Bell's three daughters, Una, Enid and Aileen, who lived and worked at 'Coochin Coochin', travelled the world recording their impressions in richly descriptive letters. Much of this correspondence is held in the library, together with many photographs of the Bell family and their friends. The 'Rosa Praed Collection' includes Praed's personal papers, books and photos taken at Bromelton. The 'Nora Murray-Prior Collection' consists of 421 letters written to Rosa Praed. Nora was Rosa's stepmother and Banjo Paterson's aunt. The 'Lindsay Collection of Pat Corrigan' includes published and manuscript material written and illustrated by members of the Lindsay family as well as memorabilia, photos and more than 3000 letters between members of the Lindsay family and their associates.

Following some time at leisure for lunch we visit the Queensland Art Gallery where we tour the Australian Collection which includes works by Gordon Bennett, Arthur Boyd, Rupert Bunny, William Dobell, Ian Fairweather, Ethel Carrick Fox, R. Godfrey Rivers, Sam Fullbrook, Vida Lahey and Sidney Nolan. There are also landscape paintings done by Conrad Martens at 'Coochin Coochin' and the nearby McPherson Range. We also view the Indigenous Collection which tells the story of Namatjira and features his early works, along with works by those he influenced.

We end the day with a visit to the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art (QAGMA) to view the exhibition 'European Masterpieces from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York'. Spanning 500 years, the exhibition includes works by Fra Angelico, Titian, Raphael, Rembrandt, Turner, Van Gogh and Monet. "Highlights of the exhibition include Fra Angelico's finely painted altarpiece *The Crucifixion* of ca. 1420–23; Titian's poetic *Venus and Adonis* of the 1550s; the immediacy and drama of Caravaggio's *The Musicians* 1597; Rembrandt's painterly *Flora* of c.1654; Vermeer's beautifully observed *Allegory of the Catholic Faith* c.1670-72, and Van Gogh's idyllic *The Flowering Orchard* 1888." (Overnight Brisbane) B

Noosa Heads – 1 night

Day 10: Friday 8 October, Brisbane – Maleny – Noosa Heads

- Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve & the Glasshouse Mountains National Landscape
- Free time in Maleny
- Lunch at The Tamarind, Spicers Retreat
- Evening talk by author JP Powell

This morning we leave Brisbane and travel north through the Blackall Range to the 'Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve', 55 hectares of subtropical rainforest which is home to a remarkable array of native flora and fauna, including 141 species of birds. Light refreshments are available at the Mountain View Café which offers breathtaking views of the Glasshouse Mountains. You may also wish to visit the Discovery Centre, take a walk along the Elevated Glider Gallery Boardwalk which showcases the rainforest mid-storey, or explore one of the easy rainforest trails.

The cluster of rugged volcanic peaks of the Glasshouse Mountains are registered as a landscape of national importance due to their cultural significance to the area's traditional owners, the Gubbi Gubbi people. This was a special meeting place where they gathered for ceremonies and trading – many of their ceremonial sites are still present. In 1963 Judith Wright published *The Day the Mountains Played*, a short story in which the great mountains, which had once been men in the Dreamtime, help two boys to protect their tribe from the Doolamai warriors. The landscape has also inspired many other writers and artists including Lawrence Daws, Conrad Martens, Peter Kennedy, David Malouf and Fred Williams. On his journey to Brisbane by ship in 1851, Conrad Martens did his watercolour sketch, *Glasshouses, Moreton Bay*. In his 1970 poem *Glasshouse Mountains*, David Malouf described the view of the mountains from the Redcliffe Peninsular. From 1970 until 2010, Lawrence Daws lived at his farm 'Owl Creek' at Beerwah on the edge of the rainforest by the Glasshouse Mountains. Many of his best-known works were created here. Daws hosted many artist friends including Brett Whiteley who, in 1976, made several sketches of the area and wrote "the view from the Daws balcony onto the Glasshouse is one of the absolutely monumental views." Donald Friend produced a series of red ink drawings (shown at Philip Bacon Galleries in 1983), including *The House at Owl Creek*. Charles Blackman and Robert Dickerson also painted the mountains when they resided nearby.

From the reserve we take a 6 km scenic drive to the delightful village of Maleny where there will be free time to explore the town's shops, many of which offer local produce. Of particular interest is the Maleny Food & Co. Café, Store & Fromagerie. We then enjoy lunch at 'The Tamarind', an award-winning restaurant featuring Asian cuisine, before continuing on to Noosa Heads.

This evening author JP Powell will meet us at the hotel and talk about her new novel *The Brisbane Line*, a crime novel set in Brisbane during World War Two, when General Douglas MacArthur used the city as his headquarters, and the influx of American soldiers was a cause of great concern to the local population. (Overnight Noosa Heads) BL

Fraser Island – 3 nights

Day 11: Saturday 9 October, Noosa Heads – Maryborough – Fraser Island

- Statue of Mary Poppins
- Story Bank Mary Poppins Museum, Maryborough
- Light lunch at the Portside Restaurant, Maryborough
- Brennan and Geraghty's Store Museum, Maryborough

We depart Noosa Heads early this morning for Maryborough. Our journey takes us past Mount Cooroy, painted by Sam Fullbrook in the late 1960s from his farmhouse at Eumundi. Just north of Noosa is Boreen Point where Judith Wright holidayed from 1953 until Jack McKinney's death in 1966. Further north are the Gympie goldfields. In 1871 Anthony Trollope travelled by coach on the track through forests between the Gympie goldfields and Brisbane. "I had been very much advised against the coach", Trollope later recalled. "I enjoyed the drive most thoroughly. It lasted three days. I had to acknowledge also the great beauty of the scrubs and found some breaks in the mountains very grand".

Maryborough, a city in the Fraser Coast Region, has a number of heritage-listed buildings, including the former Australian Joint Stock Bank where P.L. Travers' father, Travers Goff, worked as bank manager and where, in August 1899, she was born in a room on the second floor. We will view the bronze statue of her at the front of the building which commemorates her literary achievements. Born Helen Lyndon Goff, she lived in Maryborough until the age of five when the family relocated to Allora. Within the former bank we visit the 'Story Bank Mary Poppins Museum' which describes her life story and her ties with Maryborough.

Following a light lunch at restaurant located in the portside heritage precinct we make a short visit to the National Trust-run 'Brennan and Geraghty's Store Museum'. This charming store, established in 1871, is a rare survivor of our commercial heritage and features goods dating back to the 1890s. From the museum we continue to River Heads where we take the 50-minute ferry trip to our resort overlooking Kingfisher Bay. (Overnight Kingfisher Bay Resort) BLD

Day 12: Sunday 10 October, Fraser Island

- Lake McKenzie
- Central Station and Wanggoolba Creek
- Pile Valley's Satinay and Brush Box forests
- 75 Mile Beach
- The Maheno shipwreck and the coloured sands of The Pinnacles
- Fresh waters of Eli Creek

Known as K'gari (meaning paradise) by the traditional owners, the Butchulla people, World Heritage-listed Fraser Island has inspired many writers and artists. First published in 1964, *Legends of Moonie Jarl* is a selection of creation stories from K'gari, taught to Butchulla children by their Elders, which tell how the animals and plants were created. Written and illustrated by siblings, Wilf Reeves and Olga Miller, *Legends of Moonie Jarl* is a landmark work in Australian literary history, being the very first book of Aboriginal stories authored by Aboriginal people. Both Wilf Reeves and Olga Miller were born in Maryborough and were keen members of the Maryborough Writers Group in the 1960s. Their book, reprinted in 2015 by the Indigenous Literary Foundation, continues to pass on the stories of the Butchulla people.

Sidney Nolan lived in a *ménage à trois* at Heide in Melbourne with Sunday and John Reed until 1947, when he moved to Brisbane. There he stayed with his friend Barrett Reid, a Brisbane poet and the youngest

contributor to the literary and arts journal *Angry Penguins*. With Reid, Nolan made his first visit to the rainforests, swamps, and lagoons of Fraser Island. It was here that Nolan was introduced to the historical figure of Eliza Fraser, a Scottish woman who was shipwrecked near the island in 1836. Fascinated by the story of her survival and rescue by escaped convict John Graham who had lived alongside the island's Aboriginal people, he painted various island sites including Lake Wabby and Indian Head. His *Platypus Bay, Fraser Island* was purchased by the Queensland Art Gallery in 2014. Other works include a lone female or male figure in the landscape such as the famous *Mrs Fraser* (1947) which has long been regarded as emblematic of his animosity towards Sunday Reed, and *Island* (1947) on display at the AGNSW. The QAG website states "Between 1947 and 1948, Sidney Nolan painted at least 15 images of Fraser Island and Eliza Fraser. He then returned to the same theme briefly in 1952, and again during the late 1950s and early 1960s, when he produced numerous works referring, either obliquely or directly, to the Eliza Fraser story and the landscapes he had encountered on the island. Their continuing presence in his paintings, almost 20 years after his initial curiosity, suggests that the episode affected his work greatly, making Queensland instrumental in his development as an artist."

Nolan shared his fascination for the island with his friend Patrick White, who visited Fraser in the 1960s and early 70s. White used the island's primal wilderness as the setting for his novel *The Eye of the Storm* (1973), and in *A Fringe of Leaves*, a fictionalised retelling of Eliza's saga. A film of *The Eye of the Storm* was released in 2011 featuring Charlotte Rampling as Elizabeth Hunter and Geoffrey Rush and Judy Davis as Elizabeth's children Basil and Dorothy. Other films set on the island include *Eliza Fraser*, the first major Australia period movie produced in 1976 by Tim Burstall.

Judith Wright, a friend of Nolan's, argued in the 1975 Fraser Island Enquiry not only for the island's protection on environmental grounds, but also on cultural grounds:

So many of us have as it were an inward expectation of a European landscape and therefore I think, it has been difficult for us to appreciate the subtle beauty of Australia which is very different. Painters have trained our eye much more to appreciate this beauty; our interpretation of the landscape has altered as a result of its revisioning as it were by artists and also by writers.

Australia has practically no cultural inheritance, unlike other countries which appreciate the work of their artists and the places which have been, if I must put it so, hallowed by association with great works of art. Fraser Island should be thought of as a cultural monument, because one of the greatest artists, now working overseas, Sidney Nolan, has done two series of paintings of the island and of its history, as it were, Fraser Island story, and the magnificent and major novel, 'The Eye of the Storm' which Patrick White published just before he got the Nobel Prize, takes for its main setting, the Fraser Island beach. Judith Wright 1975

Thanks to the legacy of environmentalists, most of the island was designated a National Park with World Heritage status. We spend a full day exploring the island's unique landscape, including Wanggoolba Creek, which remains a crystal-clear freshwater creek running through rainforest at Central Station, just as Nolan painted it. (Overnight Fraser Island) BLD

Day 13: Monday 11 October, Fraser Island

- Whale Watching, Hervey Bay
- Afternoon at leisure
- Farewell Dinner

The calm waters of Platypus Bay off the north-western coast of Fraser Island, in the Hervey Bay Marine Park, have become world famous as a prime whale watching area. From August to October humpback whales,

migrating south to the Antarctic, stop to rest, play and nurture their calves in the bay. We rise early this morning for our morning Whale Watching tour in Hervey Bay. Following an afternoon at leisure to relax and enjoy the facilities of our resort, we enjoy a final farewell meal. (Overnight Fraser Island) BLD

Day 14: Tuesday 12 October, Fraser Island – Brisbane

- Early morning Ferry from Kingfisher Bay Resort to River Heads
- Tilt Train from Maryborough West to Brisbane Roma Street (1158-1450)

After an early breakfast, we take the return ferry from our resort to River Heads. On arrival we transfer to the Maryborough West Station where we board the Tilt Train to Brisbane. From our seats we will enjoy the picturesque scenery of Gympie, the Glasshouse Mountains and the Sunshine Coast hinterland. A light lunch will be served on the train. We are scheduled to arrive at Brisbane's Roma Street Station at 2.40pm. There our tour officially ends. BL

Accommodation

All hotels provide rooms with private facilities. A hotel list will be given to all participants prior to departure, in the meantime a summary is given below:

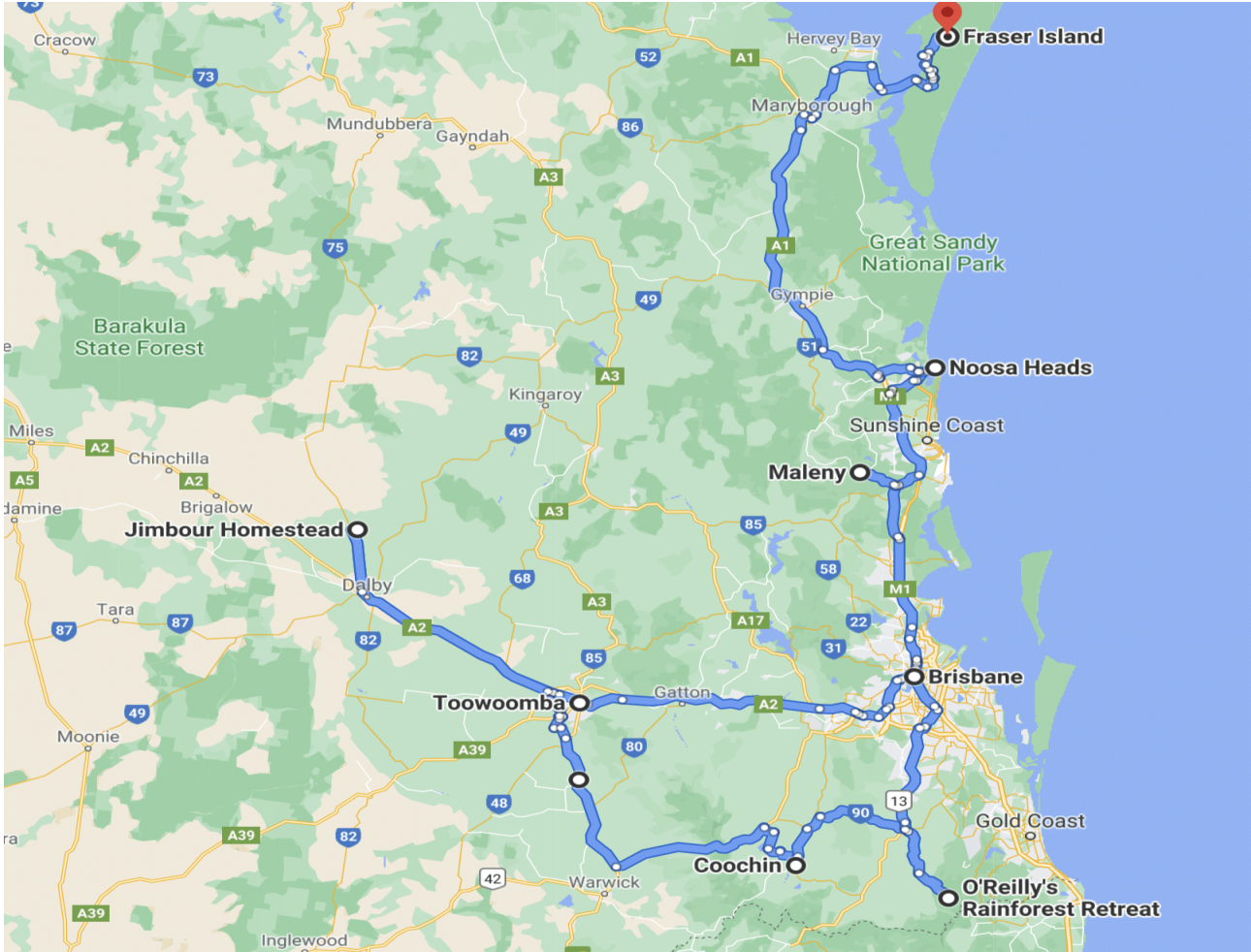
- Brisbane (2 nights): 5-star Treasury Brisbane – offering accommodation with old world charm, located 200m from the Brisbane River and 800m from the Queensland Art Gallery. www.treasurybrisbane.com.au
- Toowoomba (3 nights): 4-star Potter's Boutique Hotel – a modern boutique hotel located in the city centre, 1km from the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery. pottershoteltoowoomba.com.au
- Lamington National Park (2 nights): 4-star O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat – set in the World Heritage-Listed Lamington National Park with accommodation overlooking the mountains. oreillys.com.au
- Brisbane (2 nights): 5-star Treasury Brisbane – offering accommodation with old world charm, located 200m from the Brisbane River and 800m from the Queensland Art Gallery. www.treasurybrisbane.com.au
- Noosa Heads (1 night): 5-star Sofitel Noosa Pacific Resort – a modern resort located in the centre of town on Hastings Street. www.sofitlnoosapacificresort.com.au
- Fraser Island (3 nights): 4-star Kingfisher Bay Resort – a modern eco-friendly resort with accommodation overlooking the low 'wallum' heaths. www.kingfisherbay.com

Note: Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double/twin room for single occupancy throughout the tour. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$8490.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$1690.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3- to 5-star hotels.
- Meals as indicated in the tour itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach, Tilt Train from Maryborough West to Brisbane
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (porterage is NOT available for the Tilt Train to Brisbane)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets for site excursions
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare to Brisbane
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
- Travel insurance



Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 14-day tour of Queensland involves:

- A moderate amount of walking mainly during outdoor site visits, often up and down hills and/or flights of stairs and uneven terrain.
- A moderate amount of coach travel, several on winding mountainous roads.
- The daily schedule generally involves an early-morning departure (between 8.00-8.30am), concluding in the late afternoon (between 5.00-6.30pm).
- 3- to 5-star hotels with 5 accommodation changes.
- You must be able to carry your own hand-luggage. Hotel portage includes 1 piece of luggage per person. Portage is NOT included for the Tilt Train from Maryborough to Brisbane.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to

their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Practical Notes

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on weather, clothing and what to pack.

Booking Conditions

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.



Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____
TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other _____
FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____
MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____
POSTAL ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____
TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____
EMAIL address _____
Date of birth / / _____ GENDER Male Female

Passport Number _____ Expiry date / / _____ Nationality _____
 Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed I'm renewing my passport ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Travel Plans

I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options. Business Class Economy Class
 I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date / / _____
 I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.
Frequent Flyer _____ Name of Airline _____ Airline Seat preference _____
Membership # _____ (please note request only)

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room a room for sole occupancy
I am travelling: on my own with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish poultry red meat dairy products
 eggs pork nuts
 Other _____

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____
Address _____
TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____
EMAIL address _____

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at www.asatours.com.au
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel: 1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- | | YES | NO |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. Do you have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?
- If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen?

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?
- If yes, please specify

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?

Are you insulin dependent?

4. Do you suffer from travel sickness?
- Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
 - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
 - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
 - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
 - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A deposit of \$500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

- More than 75 days before departure: \$500*
- 75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due
- 45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due
- 30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due
- 14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

*This amount may be **credited** to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

- I accept the conditions on this booking form I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- Intention to Travel Tour Deposit
 Balance of Payment Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
 Travel Insurance Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) _____

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ
Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
Swift Code ANZBAU3M
BSB 013-423
Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred _____

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my: Mastercard Visa American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) _____

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Billing Address _____

Postcode _____

State _____ Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cardholders Signature _____