

Breakfast Point Probus Club visit to Bundanon – September 9-11, 2022

Maria: The staff were always happy because they loved where they worked and it showed. Nothing was too hard for them and they always had big smiles on their faces.

Helen: Country NSW is weaving its magic once again. Topiary gardens at Meribee near Nowra were a surprise. The Bridge accommodation which is part of the Arthur Boyd Bundanon Estate is a real treat. The bus became bogged at Bundanon, a trusty tractor was sent to the rescue but further on up the gravel mountain road we feared that once again the bus was not going to gain traction. We arrived back to a good red to calm the frayed nerves.

Gail: A few thoughts on one of my many "take aways" from our weekend - "Relaxing with a cup of tea in the early morning as the sun crept onto the far end verandah of the Bridge. The tranquility helped heal the soul from a busy life in the suburbs of Sydney. The mottled trees of various colours and shapes would be an inspiration to any artist to paint at this time of day".

Peter and Heather: A trip to live long in my memory. "A great experience to have shared with friends in a most unique and picturesque setting". A truly unique holiday

Helen: I have nothing but praise for our stay at Bundanon. As a group of a certain age, there is that possibility that the staff might not put in a great effort to please. All of the staff were exceptionally friendly and helpful and it looked like they were enjoying it, too. The building is an architectural wonder at one with the environment. Loved the food. From this time forth, it will be 'my happy place'.

Thank you once again for organising last week end. We had a wonderful time. Visiting Meribee Gardens, of which we were previously unaware, was a treat. The lunch was excellent and in such a delightful garden. Our visit to the homestead was an adventure. Boyd's studio was amazing and in such an idyllic setting. It is no wonder this was his "happy place". Walking along beside the river at the homestead and realising that the only evidence of previous visitors were the footprints of wombats and kangaroos. The iconic Aussie sound of the rain on the tin roof of the bridge, the sound of birds down by the jetty, the kangaroos grazing peacefully on the grass nearby and the odd wandering wombat, all added to our enjoyment.

Lorraine and Barry: Escaping to the Sounds of Silence; Delighting in the brilliance of the night sky; Enjoying fabulous food; Wandering Wombats; The memory of slowly moving bus wheels; Walking the paths of where Arthur Boyd created masterpieces – memories of a great getaway.

Random comments included: Sal is a great driver but even so I was one of the ones who said a little prayer when we stopped on that hill! From the guide at the Homestead: Thank you as you've shown where we should never park a bus in the future!

Andrew and Julie: The food was outstanding - generous portions and well presented. The wine was plentiful and of good quality. The staff were most obliging and very friendly. The bed was very comfortable. We appreciate that the gallery was opened on Sunday morning to allow additional viewing time for some of the guests.

Our only criticism/suggestion: Lighting in the ensuite needs a little improvement, since applying make up and removing whiskers is less precise with the current lighting

Sue and Chris: We both enjoy short stays away where we learn about our history, nature, art or culture. We love visiting interesting gardens and particularly gardens like Meribee where the Rose history was so interesting - not just a garden that is full of

colour but one where so much research regarding the planting and direction has been involved.

The size of the group worked well - the mix of the members that attended the 3 days away seemed to be just perfect and the way the seating was organised for each meal meant that it was possible to mix and chat to many different couples.

It was much appreciated to have such an excellent well thought out menu for each meal - I know the generous supply of alcohol was much appreciated even though I am unable to enjoy a drink any longer. The meal times very appropriate- breakfast was not too early.

The accomodation was so very modern and "green" but very comfortable. The lighting I think needed to be a little brighter for reading and application of makeup, but the room and bathroom with beautiful white fluffy towels and an excellent rain- head shower were in keeping with the "up-market " level of accomodation at Bundanon.

The staff were wonderfully friendly, helpful and most professional - they certainly had got the mix correct.

The landscape was so special, the native animals, the wildflowers and the beautiful weather made the time of year you had chosen to go on this weekend perfect.

The art gallery and museum and the most informative guides and videos were also an excellent mix of the correct amount of information that you can "take in", remember and enjoy listening to and looking at.

The architecture and the history of the old buildings was a feature - the contrast of the old and purpose-built new was so interesting.

The opportunity for a small shopping experience is always a winner and there were enough coffee opportunities to satisfy everyone.

The coach and driver were what we expect - a fun, competent driver and a comfortable, safe coach.

The concert you mentioned to be held at Bundanon in the future I know will be most popular, so something to look forward to. A similar trip next year would be a winner - thank you for all your efforts and hard work and the time you dedicate to make a few days away work so perfectly.