

TULIP TIME IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS: June Keith

The morning of September 24th was one of a clear blue sky and sunshine, a good omen for the day ahead. All 51 passengers present on board our Hopkinson's coach for **'The Tulip Time in The Southern Highlands'**, we departed Parramatta at the appointed time for part one of our journey.

A leisurely drive, complete with stories and comments, from our 'Coach Captain' saw us arriving at the Glass Café, Mittagong for a delicious Morning Tea of 'very' freshly baked scones, complete with butter, jam and cream, accompanied by a hot drink of your choice.

For anyone travelling independently in the area, a brief stop at this agreeable venue is recommended.

Happily, comforted by our break in Mittagong, we journeyed on to Bowral. The display of Tulips in Corbett Gardens that greeted us on this the first day of the Festival was absolutely beautiful, showing great evidence of time, effort and expertise of all involved: see slideshow of photos supporting this statement.

Ours was one of many groups enjoying the exhibits and market stalls surrounding the gardens. We were also treated to a musical performance by local school pupils, adding further beauty to the day. Onto our luncheon venue for the day, the Moss Vale RSL Club, complete with 'indulgent' desserts after which we reluctantly headed for home.

Before hitting the Free Way and heading back to Parramatta, we were treated to a 'coach tour' of the Historic village of Berrima; a main street dotted with inviting outlets, historical buildings and memories of times past. Again, another place to visit in ones own time to soak up our early 'Aussie' history.

It was generally agreed that we had enjoyed our day. Verbal and email comments were gratefully received, see extracts below:

- 1. I had a terrific time, beautiful trip, well organised, lovely company, great food; thank you.**
- 2. Partner and I would like to thank you again for organizing the above-mentioned event so flawlessly. We enjoyed the trip very much and also the company that we shared.**
- 3. Many thanks for organizing the event today to Bowral, I am sure it is the best bus outing I have been on. Thank you for organising the trip. Great from start to finish.**

Our U3A membership now ranges in the ages from 55 to infinity.... So, the term Senior covers thirty plus years and when covering this period, it takes in many styles; types and preferences of music and song for these generations. Made aware – nicely - of this definition of ‘Senior’ our coach Captain will now be able to extend his repertoire of entertainment.

I look forward to meeting you all again in early April 2020!