



RAILWAY ADVENTURES IN 2022



CENTRAL WEST CHRISTMAS EXPLORER

ROUND TRIP OF CENTRAL NSW BY PRIVATE TRAIN



With Scott McGregor and Friends
10 - 15 December 2022



-
- SYDNEY • BATHURST • DUBBO • MUDGEE •
 - RYLSTONE • KANDOS • TARANA • MILLTHORPE • GULGONG • MUSWELLBROOK • PATERSON •
-

INTRODUCTION

New South Wales is blessed with a number of interesting 'cross country' railways, linking the main lines radiating out from Sydney and allowing trains to follow a circular path in different regions of the state. One of these is the 'Sandy Hollow line', started in 1937 and completed in part, in 1985. This normally freight-only line is open to special trains from time to time and on this occasion our privately chartered nifty little Rail Motor has specific accreditation to traverse this scenic run. The interesting route of this cross-country link has allowed us to create a special Railway Adventure, looping around the captivating highlights of the Central West of NSW.

Here is a region rich with history - appealing characters, great scenery, fine food, wine and places to stay. There are museums of fossils, folk history, legendary images and colonial incarceration. And, not to be missed, Australia's newest railway museum in Bathurst. There's quaint Gold Rush era villages and bustling regional hubs, snaking rivers, cavernous coal mines, pristine bushland, canyons, ranges and some of the finest farms, vineyards, grazing country, studs and native bush that you're likely to see anywhere in the country.

Sometimes along comes the right train, at the right time, in the right place - and here it is. A tour hosted by a central west local, on your own hop on hop off private train on a loop around the heart of NSW, enjoying the best of the regions food, wine, entertainment and accommodation. Join me, Scott McGregor, on this very special short escape to one of Australia's most appealing and intriguing regions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Exclusive use of the Central West Explorer, your privately chartered vintage 1960's Rail-Motor with plenty of extra seats for comfort and space
- Train travel over the Blue Mountains and scenic Mudgee line to Kandos
- Train travel on the Great Western and Great Northern Railways
- Train travel on cross country railways to Gulgong and down the Sandy Hollow Line
- Experience spectacular scenery around the Capertee, Cudgegong and Bylong Valleys
- Explore the colonial era village of Rylstone and the 1920's cement town of Kandos
- Alight at the Tarana pub for a sunset swill, feed and song
- Be enchanted by Abercrombie House, a veritable baronial castle in the Aussie bush
- Soak up fascinating museums of fossils, car-racing, railways, old gaols, gold rush photographs, rural heritage and wine making
- Choose to visit the Dubbo Western Plains Zoo OR the Narromine Aviation Museum
- Stroll the national trust listed towns of Millthorpe, Stuart Town and Gulgong
- Exclusive sunset cocktail reception at the outlandish Ruwenzori Retreat
- Guided tours of Bathurst, Mudgee and Gulgong
- Services of your tour leaders, wine presenters and train managers throughout

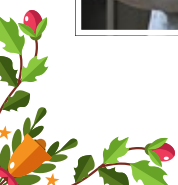


MEET YOUR TOUR LEADERS



SCOTT MCGREGOR, BERNADETTE EICHNER AND THE TEAM FROM RAILWAY ADVENTURES

Scott has been an actor, TV presenter, producer, and writer in a career spanning 40 years. He established Railway Adventures 10 years ago and hasn't looked back. He lives next door to Ruwenzori Retreat in Mudgee with Bernadette who will be on hand to host our sunset cocktail reception. Bernadette has a background in recruiting, HR, and business consulting and is a Psychology Hons graduate who advises the corporate sector and collaborates with Scott on their numerous enterprises.



TOUR MAP



YOUR TRAIN



The 600/700 Class Rail Motors of the New South Wales Government Railways are a class of Diesel Multiple Unit first constructed in 1949. These useful compact additions to the post-war rolling stock reconstruction efforts made good use of lessons learnt with aircraft construction in the railway workshops during the War, featuring state-of-the-art aluminium bodies on a steel underframe to produce a lightweight high-performance vehicle. The value of this form of construction was amply demonstrated by the fact that 92 vehicles were built to this basic design from 1949 through to 1968. They were designed to operate on branch lines with low traffic volumes but from the 1970's as services were reduced and branch lines were closed, they were transferred to Newcastle and Wollongong to operate suburban services until withdrawn in 1994. A number of these valuable workhorses have been restored in Museums and heritage groups. The Rail Motor Society at Paterson in the Hunter Valley has an on-going maintenance and restoration program to keep a number of them running well into the future.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US

The joy of travel is not confined to the destination. How you travel is a large and rich part of the experience. *Railway Adventures* offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world's most spectacular holiday destinations, with the confidence that the journey will be just as magical and memorable as what you find at the end of the line.

WITH US, YOU CAN CONFIDENTLY EXPECT:

- **Small group sizes** — a small number of passengers per trip guarantees an intimate experience with less time spent queuing, more time with your guide, and better access to sightseeing destinations.
- **Unique itineraries** — each itinerary has been meticulously developed by a team of expert travellers with many years' experience, an intimate knowledge of the destination, and with great cultural awareness. You are guaranteed to experience the best that each destination has to offer.
- **Authentic local experiences** — whether it's a little-known yet impressive steam railway, a small boutique hotel or an authentic restaurant, know that you will experience something special on our tours.
- **Expert local guides and local operators** — we employ local guides to share their passion and knowledge of the place they call home, while our partners on the ground provide the best possible support and backup all the way.
- **Customer satisfaction** — our testimonials speak for themselves. Thousands have travelled with us over the years and many come back year after year, often bringing friends along. Our customer satisfaction ratings show that over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.
- **Fully-escorted** — our tour leaders are experienced and capable, entertaining and considerate, and together with our local guides have your needs well covered. They help with everything along the way, providing peace of mind, and enabling you to relax and enjoy the journey. And you'll find them jolly good company to boot!



Day 1 • Saturday 10 December: SYDNEY CENTRAL - KANDOS - BATHURST

Meet your hosts and train staff at Central Station bright and early for the departure of our adventure, which initially takes us across the Cumberland Plain and up the Blue Mountains while morning tea is served on board. We pause at Wallerawang west of Lithgow to stretch our legs and have a look around before our train continues onto the Mudgee branch line and a journey that skirts the scenic Capertee Valley. We arrive at Kandos for lunch on the platform, and a visit to the excellent museum dedicated to the crucial cement industry. The train will be standing by to take us back down the Capertee Valley to the junction of the main western line at Wallerawang. A short run further on we stop at the village of Tarana where the pub, adjacent to the station, offers an ideal watering hole and venue for our first dinner together. From here it's a short scenic run to Bathurst where we transfer to our hotel to check-in for two nights.

Overnight: Rydges Mount Panorama, Bathurst (L, D)

Day 2 • Sunday 11 December: BATHURST

This morning after breakfast we take a tour of the Mt Panorama Circuit and down into the city where we visit the newly opened Bathurst Railway Museum to learn of the impact of the railway on the culture of the city and marvel at the extraordinary working model of the Great Western line on show. Next, we'll view the beautifully curated collection at the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum, home to the extraordinary lifetime work of Warren Somerville AM. It features some of the finest and rarest specimens of mineral crystals and fossils from around the world. You then have some free time to explore the city and have some lunch on your own before splitting off on one of two options. Choose to either explore more of Bathurst and visit its excellent Motor Museum, or take a tour out to the spectacular Mayfield Gardens, one of the country's most extensive private high-country gardens in the English style. Or you can simply relax at the hotel.

Later in the evening we'll head out to the astounding Abercrombie House for a sunset viewing and a lavish dinner in the grand ballroom.

Overnight: Rydges Mount Panorama, Bathurst (B, D)

Day 3 • Monday 12 December: BATHURST - ORANGE - DUBBO

Depart Bathurst this morning, travelling on the steep run up to Blayney and on to Millthorpe. Here we pause for a while to explore the atmospheric heritage village before continuing through Orange, the villages of Mullion Creek, Euchareena and then Stuart Town where the Ironbark Inn, the local pub near the station, will host a light lunch. We then continue to the fair city of Dubbo on the mighty Macquarie River. Here you have time to relax before heading out for a dinner at an atmospheric venue on the banks of the Macquarie River.

Overnight: Quest, Dubbo (B, L, D)

Day 4 • Tuesday 13 December: DUBBO - MUDGEE

This morning is a little different with a picnic style breakfast hosted in the grounds of the Old Dubbo Gaol. You'll have time to explore this interesting historic site right in the heart of town while enjoying local bakery and breakfast offerings.

You then have the option to travel by train to Narromine to visit the wonderful Aviation Museum there, or to take a tour of the Dubbo Western Plains Zoo. Both tours will have you back on the train in time for the short run out to the Ballimore Pub for lunch. We'll then continue travelling the cross-country line to Gulgong, via the junction of the Mudgee line at Merrygoen and the regional town of Dunedoo with its stunning silo art. Further south across the fertile slopes is the historic gold rush era town of Gulgong and a meeting with our affable coach captain for the transfer to our hotel in Mudgee. You have some time to relax before heading out to one of Mudgee's premier winery restaurants for an evening of fine wine, food and music.

Overnight: Parklands Resort, Mudgee (B, L, D)

Day 5 • Wednesday 14 December: MUDGEE - GULGONG - MUDGEE

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, we gather to begin a series of local explorations. First up are a couple of short tours, one of the history and heritage of the town and another of the surrounding wine growing area. You'll then have some time for a wander around town and a coffee break before heading out for lunch at a popular winery, in the scenic Mudgee Hills. Gulgong is home to a rich collection of museums and gold rush heritage buildings, including the new Gulgong Holtermann Photographic Museum, and the vast Gulgong Pioneer's Museum. You will have a guided tour of this classic gold-rush town and enjoy some special viewings of the numerous collections and venues.

In the late afternoon we'll take a short excursion north to Cooks Gap on the Great Dividing Range for a sunset soiree reception at Scott McGregor's private and unique railway themed retreat, Ruwenzori. Perched high on the mountains overlooking the valleys below, Ruwenzori is a collection of vintage railway carriages, restored in the Orient-express style, set amongst themed gardens and memorabilia. Featured in many travel articles and TV shows, it is a place Scott loves to share with special friends. Here, on top of the mountain, you'll enjoy a Mudgee sunset with canapés and local beer and wine before heading back to your hotel, or if you're interested to kick on, go into town and enjoy the atmosphere at one of the many venues in Mudgee's main street.

Overnight: Parklands Resort, Mudgee (B, L, D)

Day 6 • Thursday 15 December: MUDGEE - GULGONG - SYDNEY

Today it's up early to take advantage of one of the truly unique rail experiences in the state, a rare opportunity to ride the Sandy Hollow railway down the Bylong and Hunter Valleys on the normally freight only line. Departing Gulgong early, we head east through fields, bush, and the wooded hills of the Great Divide before we strike the first of the vast coal mines that are the reason for the lines' reconstruction. We pass the towns of Sandy Hollow and Denman before pulling in for an early hearty pub lunch, at the appropriately named Railway Hotel, opposite the Muswellbrook railway station. The last stage of the journey is the run down the main North Line across the mighty Hawkesbury River and into Sydney in the early evening, stopping at Hornsby for anyone who may wish to alight here, before pulling into Central Station and the end of our adventure around the wonderful Golden West of NSW. (B, L)



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' accommodation in quality hotels
- Breakfast daily, five lunches and five dinners
- Comfortable chartered coaches
- Winery and Heritage tours
- Entrances to museums and wineries as mentioned in the itinerary
- Specially chartered Rail Motor for rail travel throughout including on board morning and afternoon teas

WHAT WE DON'T INCLUDE

- Transfers to and from Central Station in Sydney
- Meals and services not mentioned in itinerary
- All other personal expenses such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services, etc.

FITNESS RATING

 One 'Loco' - Reasonable fitness

You will need to be able to walk for a couple of hours at a gentle pace, remain standing in museums and galleries, get on and off coaches, trains and boats unassisted. These tours often include luggage handling services, short-distance transfers, privately chartered trains and longer stays in hotels so you can more easily choose to take time out.



Gulgong Holtermann Museum



Ruwenzori at sunset





HOW TO BOOK

Download a booking form from our website and follow the easy steps to getting on board. If you'd prefer a form be sent to you or make a booking over the phone, please call 1300 800 977. Complete the form and submit it, along with your \$500 pp deposit to secure your place on the tour.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect the final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to; significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates, individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings; weather events forcing a change of itinerary; unexpected trackwork on rail lines, unexpected closure of site attractions and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality that you've paid for.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:

While you don't need to be a 'gym junky', a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours. The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off the train and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions, which accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website or by calling 1300 800 977

SOME PLACES YOU'LL STAY

Hand-picked hotels and resorts based on location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere.



Rydges Mount Panorama, Bathurst



Quest Hotel, Dubbo



Parklands Resort, Mudgee

PRICE GUIDE

Per person twin share.....	\$3,565
Single supplement.....	\$545
Deposit (per person).....	\$500 at time of booking
Final payment due by	26 October 2022

Please Note: Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

Macquarie River, Dubbo

THE RAILWAY ADVENTURES STORY

Railway Adventures was launched in 2012 by well-known Australian TV personality and self-confessed rail fan, Scott McGregor. A lifelong passion for travel has taken Scott to scores of countries and his preference for rail has seen him exploring many of the world's great train journeys, confirming his belief that the most relaxing, romantic and engaging way to see a country is by rail. He even has his own life-sized, fully-restored opulent train accommodation atop the Great Dividing Range near Mudgee, offering guests a rare and special bush retreat experience.

Since 2012 Railway Adventures has thrilled and delighted more than 1400 travellers on over 120 tours from Sweden to Sri Lanka, Tasmania to Transylvania, Britain to Burma, Venice to Vietnam and all manner of shorter adventures in our own wonderful country. Scott's numerous rail-themed TV documentaries, his ongoing involvement in rail heritage and his extensive connections with private train owners around the world, guarantee that every Railway Adventures tour is exclusive, entertaining and authentic. 29 June 2022.



TRAVEL ACCREDITED LIC #A14416



1300 800 977 railwayadventures.com

