

GRIFFITH NATIONAL VETERAN VEHICLE TOUR

2–8 OCTOBER, 2023

NEWSLETTER #4 (AUGUST 2023)

Tour Director Update

Welcome to the 4th newsletter for the 2023 Griffith National Veteran Vehicle Tour. The co-operation and support we have received from the Griffith City Council and the Leeton Shire Council has been exceptional.



The welcome function at the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum is being sponsored by the Mayor and Griffith City Council. The Pioneer Park Museum will be open to us from 8.30am on Monday 2 October for vehicles to enter the Museum where they will be parked on grassed areas. All vehicles must be on display by 10.00am as the gate will close so that the public can enter the Museum from 10:00am. Vehicles arriving after 10.00am will park in the carpark at the front of the Museum.

Registration for the Tour will open at 10.00am in the grounds of the Museum where entrants will be able to collect their Tour packs, purchase raffle tickets and clarify any issues they have regarding the Tour routes and places we visit.

In addition to our vehicle display, the museum will be holding a Machinery and Market Day, including artisan market stalls and food/coffee vendors also on site where you can buy lunch and drinks. It will be a great day to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Museum. A reduced entry fee will apply to locals for the event.

The Pioneer Park Museum consists of:

- Bagtown Pioneer Village – walk through the recreated original Griffith settlement.
- Griffith Italian Museum – recounting the history of Italian migrants
- Irrigation and Wine Museum – celebrating the regions renowned winemakers
- In Their Tracks: Train Tours of Bagtown and Beyond – take a guided train tour of the Museum.
- Fire Fighting Museum
- Tractor and Machinery Museum – some of the Tractors and machinery will be operating.
- Steam Powered power generator Museum.

At 3.00pm the Pioneer Park Museum closes to the public. The Tour Director will give a brief outline of the week's proceedings and invite the Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran to officially open the Griffith National Veteran Vehicle Tour followed by afternoon tea sponsored by the Council.

We are excited to announce that NRMA have agreed to sponsor a Roadside Service Provider and vehicle to support Tour entrants. They will follow the Tour routes each day and provide roadside assistance to members that fail to proceed. It should be noted that they can only provide roadside assistance and if the vehicle cannot be made mobile within 15 minutes they will be able to contact the local NRMA tilt tray service for entrants who belong to a State based Roadside Service Club or Farronato Brothers Towing who have agreed to provide tilt tray service to entrants at a discounted price. Full details will be provided in the Tour Book.

For anyone that is interested in attending the pre Tour event at Barellan with the Clydesdale Horses there are some details below, for full details visit the website <https://barellanclydesdales.com.au/>

The Good Old Days Festival is one of the nation's most unique events authentically recreating and celebrating our nation's pioneer heritage.

The Festival is also the largest gathering of harnessed draught animals – horses, bullocks, camels, donkeys, mules and goats – in Australia.

Held on the long weekend in October each year, the not-for-profit event is run by volunteers and contributes funds back into the regional community.

Early farming practices showcased include horse and bullock drawn ploughs, binders, wool wagons and a Mallee roller.

The Good Old Days Festival also celebrates the iconic water cart with a Furphy Festival featuring re-barrelling demonstrations, Furphy collectables and Furphy trains.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Griffith.

Rob Woolley – Tour Director

Entries Update

Entries continue to come through, with the entry form available online at <https://vccaact.org.au/griffith-national-veteran-vehicle-tour-2023/entry-form/>.

If you plan on attending, we ask if you could please complete your entry form as soon as possible as this will help with our final planning. Payment is not required immediately and can be made before the entry closing date.

Entries close Sunday 10th September, 2023

Raffle

As part of the tour, we will be holding a raffle with many great prizes being donated. Tickets are available as part of your entry form which will be included in your tour pack. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the registration/display day on the Monday at the start of the tour, as well as at the final lunch on the Sunday at the end of the tour.

Tickets are \$5 each, or 5 for \$20. Prizes will have corresponding boxes in which your tickets can be placed for a chance at winning the corresponding prize.

Prizes include:

KEITH WILSON WOODEN SPOKED WHEELS

- \$500 gift voucher for Antique Tyres
- \$500 gift voucher for Vintage Rims Australia
- \$500 gift voucher for Keith Wilson Wooden Spoked Wheels
- A French black granite mantel clock from around 1900—fully restored. [Approx \$600]
- A hand made quilt or one of several sized crocheted blankets (including some specially designed for the tour) [Total prize pool approx \$800]
- One of several pieces of jewellery [Total prize pool RRP \$596]



Trailer Parking

Trailer parking has been organised at a property approximately 3km out of Griffith belonging to a member of CHEVS (Chevrolet Historical Enthusiasts Vehicle Society). The address is:

5 Winery Road, Beelbangera

Directions: Head out on Rankin Springs Rd to Beelbangera and turn Right onto Bilbul Road. Cross over the railway line and take the first right onto Winery Road. It is the third house on the left and a sign will be placed on the front fence. Upon entering you should drive down towards the back, turn around, and park trailers on the right along the fence (following any further signage). Please ensure you leave enough room for others to get their trailers in and out.

If you need any assistance in dropping off your trailer please call David Robinson on:

0414 369 214



Tour Director – Rob Woolley

Email: robwoolley275@gmail.com

Phone: 0409 549 485

Tour Secretary/ Treasurer – Narelle Spackman

Email: griffith2023@vccaact.org.au

Phone: 0428 429 539

Location Spotlight – Whitton, NSW

Each edition we will aim to showcase a surrounding area or location that we are planning to visit during the tour. In Newsletter #1 we covered Griffith itself, in Newsletter #2 we highlighted Leeton, and in Newsletter #3 we had a closer look at Barrellan, Weethalle, and Rankins Springs. In this edition we will take a closer look at Whitton which we will visit on the Tuesday of the Tour.

Whitton was founded in 1850 and is named after John Whitton (1820–1898), Engineer-in-Charge of the New South Wales Government Railways. The railway reached Whitton in 1881. At the 2021 Census Whitton had a population of 523.

Whitton was originally named "Hulong" and is the oldest town in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. It developed on a main teamster route transporting goods to the South-West of New South Wales. Hulong was renamed to Whitton in 1883.

During 1880s-1900s Whitton Railway Station received wool and wheat from Pastoral Stations north towards the Lachlan River mainly around Cargelligo and Euabalong. Copper ingots were also carried to Whitton

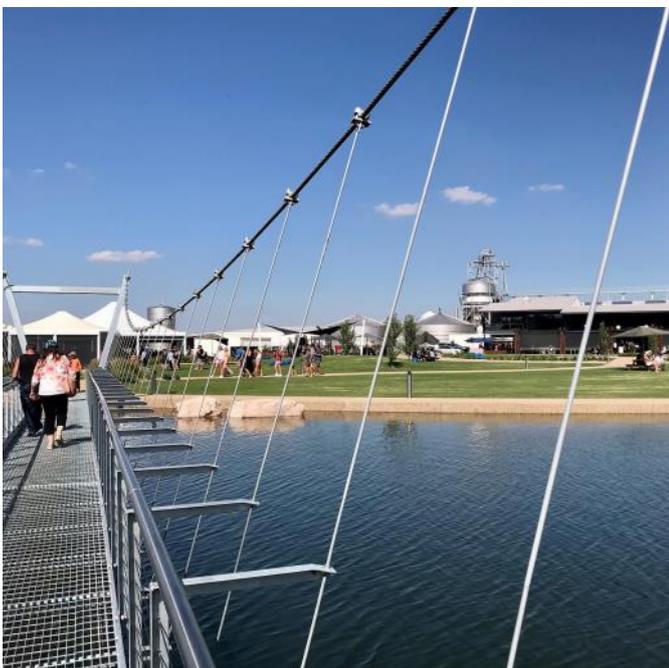
Station by horse or bullock teams from Mt. Hope until 1910. Whitton was the main town for selectors on Nth Kooba, Ballandry, Merool Creek, Nth Benerembah and Nth Bringagee Pastoral Stations from 1881 until c1918. 'Whitton District' extended from Mt. Ida (Tabbita), Jondaryon (Griffith), Rankin's Springs and Binya until railways reached those areas.

Whitton today supports several Agribusiness manufacturing business such as Southern Cotton's Cotton gin and Voyager Malt's craft Malt production facility, as well as a regional tourist attraction, the Whitton Malt House that was opened in late 2020.



Above: Railway station building at the Whitton Museum

Below: Photos of Whitton Malt House



Safety Inspection Checklist

Wheels

- Timber spokes into felloes and hub bolts are firm and tight.
- Front wheel bearings are free of any play and are lubricated.
- All wheels are tight on respective axles, and split pins fitted to axle nuts.
- Check rims for any visual cracking.
- Check tyres for excessive wear or radial splits and valve stems for delamination.
- Check wire spokes are correctly tensioned.

Brakes

- Brake pedal travel stops before reaching the floorboards.
- Both rear wheels lock up under hard breaking.
- Handbrake (when pulled on hard) does not reach the end of stroke.
- When engine is running, handbrake holds the car – even on a moderate slope (check both rear wheels have equal tension on them from the brake rods – adjustment may be required).
- Check that the handbrake pawl is in good working order (locks firmly)

Steering

- Check all steering components for minimal or no play and split pinned.
- Steering wheel has minimal play.
- Lubrication to all steering joints/pins, with either oil or grease.

General Areas

- Check the oil levels in both the engine and differential.
- Ensure split pins are fitted to all bolts with castellated nuts – or a spring washer is used in modern nuts or bolts are fitted.
- Both front and rear spring hangers are in good order and lubricated.
- Brake light is operational, if fitted.
- Headlights and tail light functions, if fitted.
- Check for oil leaks.
- Check for fuel leaks.
- Fire extinguisher is within its expiry date and/or within range on gauge.
- First aid kit is in the car and accessible.

Tour Risk and Safety Policy

Summary

The safety and wellbeing of all persons engaged in any capacity during the 2023 Griffith National Veteran Vehicle Tour is paramount. It is expected that all participants will play an active part in maintaining the safety policy.

Participants are responsible for the safe and roadworthy operation of their vehicles at all times.

Participant Responsibilities

All tour participants must act in a safe and responsible manner at all tour events. Any person driving or towing any vehicle is responsible for its safe operation at all times including:

- Ensuring vehicles being used at any tour event must be registered and be covered by compulsory third party insurance, in such a way as to comply with the state laws appropriate to the event.
- Ensuring vehicles are in a safe and roadworthy condition.
- Operating all vehicles in accordance with applicable traffic rules

We Recommend

While we hope you will never need them, we recommend ensuring you have a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit in your car when driving.

You may also wish to bring a selection of spare parts on drives. Even if you can't repair any issues yourself, the NRMA Roadside Service Provider may be able to get you moving again.

Griffith has some good spare parts stores such as Supercheap Auto, Repco, Collier and Miller and a General Engineering Store that carries a range of spare parts related to Agriculture industry.

Sponsors



KEITH WILSON WOODEN SPOKED WHEELS

Wooden spoked wheels made for you. Experience and safety for your travelling pleasure.

Suggested Spare Parts and Tools Checklist

Tyre Pressure Gauge	Jack	Tyre Levers	Spare Tubes
Volt Meter or Test Light	Engine Oil	Water	Spark Plugs
Contact Points	Radiator Hoses	Fan Belt	Other Tools
Anything else that may help keep you off a trailer			