

# GRIFFITH NATIONAL VETERAN VEHICLE TOUR

## 2-8 OCTOBER, 2023

### NEWSLETTER #2 (DECEMBER 2022)

Welcome to Newsletter #2 for the 2023 National Veteran Vehicle Tour in Griffith. We recently passed the 1 year to go mark, which means the tour committee has been busy working on planning possible tour routes and locations to visit and looking at a number of nearby interesting towns, villages, and facilities in Griffith and its surrounding areas. As our club is based in Canberra, it is necessary from time to time for committee members to travel to Griffith. In this regard we have arranged several meetings with the Griffith mayor, Griffith City Council members, the Griffith Tourist Bureau, and a number of other people and businesses in the area.



### Tour Highlights Under Consideration

1. The tour will commence on Monday 2nd October, 2023 with registration / check-in followed by a welcome and mayoral reception from 3pm to officially start the tour
2. The tour will finish on Sunday 8th October, 2023, with a celebration lunch at the Yoogali Club
3. Gas Light Parade is in discussion with the Griffith City Council
4. Visit to the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum
5. Day trip to Leeton (see our Location Spotlight for Leeton further in the newsletter)

### Vehicle Numbers / Expressions of Interest

We have limited the number of vehicles to 200 due to restraints on venues. Currently we have received a total of 121 expressions of interest! Even if you think you might attend, submit your expression of interest so we can keep you up to date! Submit your expression of interest at <https://vvccaact.org.au/griffith-national-veteran-vehicle-tour-2023/expression-of-interest/>

State	Count	Percentage
QLD	39	32.2%
VIC	30	24.8%
NSW	22	18.2%
SA	9	7.4%
ACT	8	6.6%
TAS	6	5%
WA	6	5%
NT	1	0.8%
International	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100%</b>



## **Accommodation**

In Newsletter #1, we provided details for various caravan parks and motels in Griffith. We understand some accommodation options are now booked out, however we have spoken to various providers who do still have vacancies available.

While all cabins at the caravan parks are booked out, there are many more motels available. Booking online is often more expensive than calling the motel's directly and making a direct booking. Some motels also don't have online bookings that far in advance. Our enquiries have found some of the larger motels have regular clients and are often fully booked by bus tours.

Below are the caravan parks and motels recently contacted with information on availability at that time, however this may have changed.

### **Caravan Parks**

**Griffith Caravan Village**, 1 Gardiner Road, Yoogali. Phone 02 6962 3785 approximately 700m from Tour starting point each day. All cabins fully booked. Powered sites available reserved under name of Rob Woolley.

**Griffith Tourist Park**, 919 Willandra Avenue Griffith. Phone 02 6964 2144. Approximately 3km from Tour starting point each day. All cabins fully booked. Powered sites and powered ensuite sites available. Sites reserved under name of Rob Woolley

### **Motels**

**Econolodge Griffith Motor Inn**, 96 Banna Avenue Griffith have very limited parking Phone 02 6962 1800. Approximately 3.3km from Tour starting point each day. Have rooms available

**Bagtown Motel and Conference Centre**, 2-4 Blumer Avenue, Griffith. Phone 02 6962 7166. Approximately 1.9km from Tour starting point each day. No rooms available

**Kidman Wayside Inn**, 58-72 Jondaryan Avenue Griffith, Phone 02 6964 5666. 3.8km from Tour starting point each day. 10 rooms available reserved under Griffith Veteran Vehicle Tour

**Acacia Motel**, 44 Jondaryan Avenue, Griffith, Phone 02 6962 4422 have 30 rooms available

**Citrus Motel**, 71 Jondaryan Avenue, Griffith. Phone 02 6962 6233 have 28 rooms available

## **Entry Forms**

Entry forms will be sent to everyone who has submitted an expression of interest in April 2023, as well as being made available on our website.

## **Trailer Parking**

We are currently looking into what options may be available to provide trailer parking during the tour for those that may require it.

## **Backup Service**

We are currently talking to local tilt tray services to see what services they provide in the event of a break down. We are also working with members of the local car clubs for assistance in being able to transport tour participants back to collect their own cars and trailers if their vehicle fails to proceed.

We also hope to provide information on workshop / machining facilities should they be required.

## **Facebook**

We have created a Facebook page! This will allow us to keep you updated with information between newsletters. You can follow the tour page at <https://www.facebook.com/griffith2023>

## **Badges**

We plan to design and produce a badge for the tour, and will make more details available in the future as more specific information is confirmed.

## **Have We Missed Something?**

Is there something you would like to know that we have not covered? Reach out to either the tour director or tour secretary using the details below or through the Contact Us page on the website at <https://vvccaact.org.au/griffith-national-veteran-vehicle-tour-2023/contact-us/>

**Tour Director – Rob Woolley**

Email: [robwoolley275@gmail.com](mailto:robwoolley275@gmail.com)

Phone: 0409 549 485

**Tour Secretary/ Treasurer – Roger Gottlob**

Email: [griffith2023@vvccaact.org.au](mailto:griffith2023@vvccaact.org.au)

Phone: 0493 266 643

## Location Spotlight – Leeton, 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 have already provided some information on Griffith itself, so in this edition let's have a closer look at the surrounding town of Leeton.

### History and Heritage

Leeton is a charming country town in the beautiful Riverina known for its well-preserved art deco buildings. Go wine tasting at boutique wineries, browse produce markets and enjoy birdwatching at two important global sanctuaries.

Leeton was designed by noted architect Walter Burley Griffin in the early 20th century as part of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme. When exploring the heritage streetscapes you'll see many beautiful art deco buildings, such as the Roxy Theatre, which has been operating as a cinema since 1930.



### Local Produce

As one of Australia's richest agricultural areas, Leeton is a great base for exploring outstanding food and wine experiences. Begin with the Tastes of Leeton, a short daily presentation at the Leeton Visitor Information Centre that offers local produce to sample, including citrus and walnuts.

Wine lovers can visit cellar doors at Lillypilly Estate Winery and Toorak Winery. You'll also find a tasty selection of places to eat in Leeton, and picnics are popular at the Gogeldrie and Yanco irrigation weirs.



### Things To Do

When flowing with water, the Ramsar-listed Fivebough and Turkey Flat wetlands are home to more than 170 bird species. From spoonbills to swampheens to sandpipers, check out the colourful birds from behind a special birdwatching structure near the Turkey Flat picnic area.

The town celebrates its rice harvest at the biennial Leeton Sunrice Festival at Easter, with popular signature events such as the Balloon Glow and Leeton's Longest Lunch. Other attractions include the Leeton Farmers Market and the Leeton Show. The Museum Miniature Railway in Yanco also runs train rides on the last Sunday of the month.

Source : VisitNSW website. <https://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/country-nsw/riverina/leeton>



## **Pre-event / Barellan Clydesdale and Good Old Days Festival**

In Newsletter #1, we provided details on an optional event before the official start of the tour being the 'Good Old Days Festival' to be held 50km from Griffith in Barellan on Saturday 30th September and Sunday 1st October 2023.

With the 2022 Good Old Days Festival event having just been held, it roared back to life after a two-year hiatus and set a new single day attendance record as one of the nation's biggest gatherings of draught animals. More than 10,000 visitors from every Australia state soaked up the sunshine at the local showgrounds to enjoy, learn and experience Australia's authentic pioneer heritage.

A crowd of this many is quite impressive, given the population of Barellan according to the 2021 Census was only 459 people; a decrease over the 2016 Census which was 538.

The most experienced teamsters in the country assembled to showcase horses, camels, bullocks, donkeys and goats all in harness and hauling wagons, ploughs, water carts, buggies, sleds, sulkies and timber jinkers.

A festival highlight was the committee's own original Bennett wagon loaded with hay bales and drawn by a composite team of 23 Clydesdales and Australian Draught horses.

If you plan on attending the tour next year (or even if you are not), consider extending your stay to attend the Good Old Days Festival beforehand.

