

THE NED KELLY STORY

10th HUNTERS HILL ROTARY CLUB CAR SAFARI

SUNDAY 28 APRIL TO FRIDAY 3 May 2024

At the end of April, 2024, we are going to explore **NED KELLY** country – from where Ned grew up, to where he was finally captured. The five days of the tour will not be in order of his life, because, this plan allows us to spend three nights in Wangaratta, a geographical centre, or close enough to it, to explore the Ned Kelly legend. Some of the towns we visit will be familiar as we have driven through (or even stayed at, ie. Beechworth) on previous Rotary Car Safaris.

Let's again get out of Sydney, ensure the cars are filled with petrol, stock up with some wine, and hit the road. We will visit Beechworth, and then, not in any order, Benalla, Greta, Euroa, Wangaratta, Glenrowan, Mansfield and Jerilderie.

It will be an Autumn tour, and don't forget that daylight saving will have just finished – the best season of all to experience this region. And, it will be sunny every day – Charles has assured us. But a cardigan and jumper may be needed!

We will have suggested route and questions on each day, and this information for Day 1 (ie the trip to Beechworth) will be emailed to you 48 hours prior to departing Sydney. *“There are some great prizes to be won as you know from previous Safaris!!”* Please note as the Safari is a Rotary event there is an entry fee of \$100 per car. Dinners (along with lunch on Monday 29 April) are prebooked and this cost must be fully paid to Charles Amos at our first night's accommodation. The amount per person will be advised prior to the Safari, and please note that you must pay this amount in cash, as Charles does not carry an EPTOS machine with him.

We are also organising – or trying to – a lunch at a winery on way to Wangaratta.

All participants will be given each days touring instructions and questions at dinner the night before. As usual, we suggest below accommodation in each town. However, apart from Wangaratta where we do ask you to book at our chosen motel/hotel, go for it and select wherever you wish. One point to remember - there is only one decent motel in Jerilderie so you don't have much choice. Any queries at this stage, please contact either Charles Amos (charlesamos1357@gmail.com) or myself (john@jhconsult.com.au)

Regards. John Verhelst. 0437 212121

THE DAY BY DAY DRIVES

Sunday 28 April: From Sydney to Goulburn to Beechworth.

Goulburn: The region was traditionally a meeting place for many Aboriginal groups, then in 1818 Hume and Meehan first crossed the area where Goulburn was settled. On 14 March 1863, Goulburn was declared Australia's first inland City by a royal letters patent, issued by Queen Victoria.

Beechworth: Best preserved gold town in Australia. (yes, we are aware that you have been here before however Ned Kelly was not around then! so please don't question me – else you may find yourself inside the local Gaol – read on).

All four members of the Kelly gang spent time in Beechworth Gaol, Ned for a total of two years. Ned appeared in the Beechworth Courthouse on 6 August 1880 on a charge of murder. He was committed to stand trial here before returning to Melbourne for his Supreme Court trial and subsequently hanged. The Courthouse is just one of a number of remarkable 19th century buildings, making up the Beechworth Historic and Cultural Precinct, which provides a fascinating insight into life during the gold rush and Ned Kelly era.

Accommodation: Beechworth on Bridge Motel, 38 Bridge Road, Beechworth, VIC 3747. Phone: 03 5728 2244 Email: beechworth@beechworthonbridge.com.au

Dinner: Empire Hotel, 10 Camp Street, Beechworth.

Monday 29 April 2024: From Beechworth to El Dorado to Wahgunyah to Wangaratta.

El Dorado: This morning we have arranged for the kind folk at the El Dorado Museum to open for us. The Museum holds an interesting and diverse collection reflecting the life and times of the region from the 1850's to the 1950's. The Woolshed Valley had spawned a chain of gold rush towns during the 1850's. Joe Byrne, of the Kelly Gang, lived in this area and attended the Woolshed school along with his Kelly gang mate, Aaron Sherrett.

Pfeiffer Wines at Wahgunyah: The winery began its life in the 1870's when Frenchman Camille Reau purchased 268 acres from the crown. The original brick cellars were built in 1895. In 1984, Chris and Robyn Pfeiffer had a vision of reopening the historic old cellars, not as a distillery, but as a winery. With 25 acres of Seppelts experimental vineyard also sold with the distillery, they opened the old buildings and gave them a new lease of life. (www.pfeifferwinesrutherglen.com.au). We will enjoy lunch (included in your food cost) at Sunday Creek Bridge, constructed in 1912, a forty-two metre four span pile bridge with stressed-laminated timber decking which sits on riveted steel girder beams.

Wangaratta: We stay in this historic town for three nights so can use it as a base for touring. With a population of some 30,000, it was first surveyed and named in 1848 by Robert Hoddle

and named Wangaratta. The town grew after gold was discovered in the Ovens Vallet in 1852. The railway from Melbourne came along in 1873 and the rest is history for its continued development. (www.entegra.com.au)

Accommodation: for three nights: Quality Hotel Gateway Wangaratta, 29 Ryley Street, Wangaratta, VIC 3677. Phone: 03 5721 8399. Email: info@wangerattagateway.com.au. This motel has a covered entertainment area which we can use for pre-dinner drinks, etc.

Dinner: TBA

Tuesday 30 April 2024: Day trip – To Glenrowan, Greta and Mansfield

Glenrowan: On 28 June the Kelly Gang bailed up the townsfolk of Glenrowan in the Ann Jones Inn as part of their grand plan to create a Republic of North East Victoria. Ned's brother, Dan and the other two gang members, Steve Hart and Joe Byrne died during their epic shoot out with the police. Although wearing his unique hand-made armour, Ned was finally brought down and captured after sustaining 28 gunshot wounds in his final dramatic battle with the police.

Greta: from the age of 12, when the Ned Kelly lived in Greta on Fifteen Mile Creek when the family moved here after his father died. Ther home of the Kelly family still exists today however is privately owned by Kelly descendants and not open to the public. Greta cemetery is the final resting place of Ned Kelly.

Mansfield: The three policemen killed at Stringybark Creek are buried in the Mansfield Cemetery. There is also an impressive marble monument to them in the main street – funded by public donations.

The proclamation resulting in the gang members being declared outlaws was made from the steps of the Mansfield Courthouse on 15 November 1878. The Courthouse is still in use today.

Dinner: TBA

Wednesday 1 May 2024: Day trip – To Benalla and Euroa

Benalla: As the major town closest to Ned's home, Benalla was the epicentre of Kelly's bushranging days and was police headquarters for the Kelly Gang manhunt. The gang are depicted on Sydney Nolan's tapestry depicting the siege, "Glenrowan" is on display at the Benalla Art Gallery along with other Kelly-related works. Allow a few hours in the town.

Euroa: The infamous robbery of the Euroa National Bank by the Kelly Gang in December 1878 was the result of a carefully staged plan designed to draw the attention of both politicians and the public alike to the perceived injustices surrounding the Stringybark Creek incident. The robbery succeeded in its goals netting the Kelly Gang 2,260 pounds and raising an awareness of their cause.

The full story of the bank robbery, together with an extensive collection of memorabilia from the period, are on display at the Farmers Arms Hotel Museum in Euroa. If time permits, take the town walking tour.

Dinner: Gateway Restaurant and Bar, (motel where we are staying)

Thursday 2 May 2024: Wangaratta to Jerilderie

Yarrawonga: Visit the Yarrawonga – Mulwala Pioneer Museum in this Murray River “two” towns. The Museum features vintage cars, a blacksmith’s shop, an early aviation collection and much more.

Jerilderie: Ned and his gang visited (sounds like a tourist!) Jerilderie on 8 February 1879. Whilst there he relieved the town’s only bank of some 2000 pounds. We will walk in the footsteps of the Kelly Gang, exploring the six buildings visited by Ned or his gang that are still in existence, including the Post and Telegraph Office which was disabled by the gang to prevent news of their robbery spreading. Charles Amos may even “shout the bar” at the Royal Mail Hotel, as Ned did all those years ago.

Accommodation: Jerilderie Motor Inn, 4 Jerilderie Street, Jerilderie, NSW 2716. Phone: 03 5886 1360. Email: info@jerilderiemotorinn.com.au

Dinner: Colony Inn Hotel Bistro, Jerilderie

Friday 3 May 2024: end of Safari.

Travel home to Sydney, or extend your holiday!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. **ACCOMMODATION:** We have recommended accommodation in each town. Please note that you need to book Wangaratta for three nights. Our suggestion is that you reserve your accommodation soon as everyone seems to be travelling in Victoria and New South Wales!
2. You need to budget about \$45-\$50 per person per day for dinners, and one lunch (restaurant prices are not cheap and final will be advised when known) – to be collected in full (cash please) by Charles at our first night's venue. Each night the dinners will be booked for 7 PM so you may want to get there at about 6.30 PM /6.45 PM for a drink. Lunch on Monday 29 April will be about 12.30 PM.
3. We are not really travelling Outback, however be warned there will be native animals around, so take care – and especially early morning and dusk. Emus travel in pairs and 'roos are just idiots and like jumping in front of cars. And you may also see the occasional echidna, wombat or a snake ...or even a wonkapus if you look hard enough! Be especially careful from dusk to dawn, although be careful anytime as you could see animals at any time of the day.
4. Be warned – you could also encounter cows and other livestock at any time. Hitting any of these can turn a car over in a matter of seconds especially when travelling at 80 kph+. **Driver and passenger(s) need to be attentive.**
5. Ensure your car insurance covers windscreen damage. Ensure you have good quality tyres also.
6. For those of you who want to know, most travel will be on hard surface (paved roads) – however JV may just find one or two deviations! to keep it interesting.
7. Petrol and Diesel is plentiful so no need to panic. For those participants with a full electric car, you also should not have any problems. However, please google the area around Jerilderie as this is further from the main roads.

THE HISTORY OF NED KELLY

Beginnings

- The third of eight children, Edward 'Ned' Kelly was born in [Beveridge](#), 55 km north of Melbourne, between December 1854 and June 1855 (the exact date is unknown) to John 'Red' Kelly and Ellen Kelly (formerly Quinn). John Kelly was a former convict, transported from Ireland to Van Diemen's land for seven years for the theft of two pigs.
- The family moved to a farm at [Avenel](#), 114 km north of Melbourne, when Ned was about eight years old. Ned Kelly was presented with a green sash for his bravery in saving seven-year-old Richard Shelton from drowning in Hughes Creek at Avenel.
- John Kelly died aged 46 in 1866. Ellen Kelly moved with her children to Greta near Wangaratta to be close to her own extended family.

Ned Kelly and the Law

- In 1869, at 14, Kelly was arrested for allegedly assaulting a Chinese man. He was arrested again the following year suspected of being an accomplice of the bushranger Harry Power. The assault charge was dismissed and the accomplice charges with Power were also dropped after witnesses were unable to identify Kelly.
- In 1871 he served three months for assaulting a travelling salesman, and later that year received a three-year prison sentence at Beechworth Gaol and Pentridge Gaol in Melbourne for receiving a stolen horse.
- In the following years he worked as a timber cutter and farm labourer and also allegedly worked with a network involved in the theft and sale into NSW of livestock and horses.
- In 1877 he was charged and fined for being drunk and disorderly and resisting arrest in Benalla.
- In April 1878 Ned and his younger brother Dan Kelly were involved in an incident at the family's Greta farm where Constable Fitzpatrick, bringing a warrant for Dan Kelly's arrest signed at the Chiltern police station, attempted to arrest him for horse theft. Fitzpatrick reported that he had been shot in the wrist by Ned Kelly and assaulted with a shovel by their mother Ellen who spent the next three years at the Beechworth Gaol for the attempted murder of the police officer. Also caught up in the incident were William Williamson, a neighbour of the Kelly family and Ellen Kelly's son in law, William Skillion who each received six years hard labour.
- Ned and Dan Kelly, now wanted by police for the assault on Fitzpatrick, went into hiding at a site at Bullock Creek in the Wombat Ranges above Benalla where they were later joined by friends, Joe Byrne and Steve Hart.

Police sought the fugitives and requested a Detective from Melbourne to help discover their whereabouts. Two organised searches began, departing from Mansfield and Greta.

Stringybark Creek

- The four were declared outlaws and a warrant and reward of two thousand pounds each was issued for their capture 'dead or alive' after they ambushed a police patrol at Stringybark Creek on 24 October 1878.
- They murdered three police officers that day – Sergeant Michael Kennedy and Constables Michael Scanlan and Thomas Lonigan. Constable Thomas McIntyre escaped the scene to raise the alarm in Mansfield by the following day, sparking a massive police search.
- Aboriginal Trackers were locally recruited to assist, and in March 1879 a contingency of Qld Native Mounted Police arrived in Victoria to track the outlaws.

- At large with the help of ‘sympathisers’ who kept the fugitives informed of police movements and assisted with food and supplies, the Gang evaded capture for nearly two years, carrying out a series of high-profile robberies in the North East and border country.
- The story of the manhunt and various criminal activities carried out by the Gang went viral. There was intensive media coverage of events thanks to the latest illustrative newspaper technologies and the telegraph, the events capturing the public imagination with up-to-date reporting and commentary as the drama unfolded. The cult of celebrity surrounding Ned Kelly was born.

Robberies

- During their time on the run from police, the four carried out a series of major robberies of homesteads and banks, in Euroa (10 December 1878) and Jerilderie (Saturday, 8 February 1879), taking not just cash and gold, but also holding dozens of bystanders hostage at gunpoint.
- Around the time of the Jerilderie bank robbery Ned Kelly dictated an 8000-word letter to Joe Byrne justifying his actions. He instructed bank teller Edward Living to give it to the local newspaper editor for publication but Living instead handed it to police. Only excerpts of the letter were published during Kelly’s lifetime. The Jerilderie Letter was not published in full until 1930.
- On 26 June 1880 Joe Byrne, accompanied by Dan Kelly, shot dead his childhood friend, Aaron Sherritt, in the doorway of his home in Woolshed Creek near Eldorado, suspecting him of being a police informant.

The “Last Stand”

- Two days later, on Sunday 28 June, the Gang headed to Glenrowan near Wangaratta, holding hostages at the local inn, and waiting for a special contingent of police and Qld Native Mounted Police trackers to arrive by train the next day. The Gang planned to derail the train and kill any police who survived the crash. This plan was foiled when local schoolmaster, Thomas Curnow, escaped the Glenrowan Inn and flagged the train down before it reached the damaged tracks.
- Wearing the now iconic armour they had fashioned from heavy iron ploughs, the outlaws confronted the police in a shootout that ultimately claimed Joe Byrne’s life and two of the hostages held inside, Martin Cherry and Johnny Jones who were killed by stray police bullets.
- Steve Hart and Dan Kelly were barricaded inside the inn when police set fire to it in an attempt to flush them out. They were both later found deceased inside.
- During the siege, one police officer was shot in the wrist and a Qld Native Mounted Police officer suffered a facial injury when he was grazed by a bullet.
- Ned Kelly was wounded multiple times but captured alive. Under the armour, he was found to be wearing the sash presented to him as a boy in Avenel.

Trial and Execution

- Ned Kelly was taken to Beechworth Courthouse for a committal hearing on 6 August 1880 where he was ordered to stand trial for the murder of Constable Lonigan at the Melbourne Central Criminal Court.
- Kelly was found guilty of the murder of Constable Lonigan and sentenced to hang by Justice Redmond Barry. He was executed, aged 25, at the Melbourne Gaol on 11 November 1880.