

Scenic & Historic Drives

ROUTE

5

GOULBURN/PEJAR/CROOKWELL

APPROXIMATELY 35 MINUTES DRIVING TIME—45km

From Goulburn Visitor Information Centre - turn right out of the car park, travel approx. 500m and turn left into Goldsmith Street. Continue through two roundabouts and turn right at the third roundabout (signedpost to Crookwell)

You will travel over the Marsden Bridge which crosses the Wollondilly River, this river then flows into the Warragamba Catchment Dam. Continue on for another 10km while enjoying the beautiful scenery and rich farming land. Keep a look out on the left at the 10km mark for the

(1) **ALISON HONE RESERVE:** In November 1978, the late Alison Hone made the 1st NSW reported sighting of the rare ground orchid (*Calochilus limeris*) that she found growing in this area, the Coulburn Field Naturalist Society, the local CAE and the local Lands Office made applications through their local member for the area to be declared the Alison Hone Reserve for the study and preservation of the native flora and fauna. The area is approximately 30 hectares and the fencing was all done by volunteer labour. Continue for another 4 km and on your left you will see the entry gates to

(2) **KANGAROOBIE:** (Please respect the owner's privacy) Patrick Durack, born March 1834, Scarriff, County Clare, Ireland was the eldest of eight children born to Michael Durack & Bridget Dillon. He arrived in Australia in 1853, settling in the Coulburn area. Patrick went to the Oven River Diggings in Victoria and on his return purchased land at Dixon's Creek now known as "Kangarooobie". On 31 July 1862 he married Mary, the daughter of Michael Costello and Mary Tully of Tea-tree Station Wheeo. In 1863, with brother Michael & brother-in-law John Costello, set out to establish a property in the South West of Queensland. Unfortunately, all animals died, but the party survived. Returning to Queensland in 1868 he established Thylungra & Kyabra stations and then Roma, Thargomindah, Adavale and Windorah. In 1881, with Solomon Emanuel, financed an expedition to the Kimberleys and from Thylungra drove 7250 head of cattle & 200 horses on a 3000 mile trek, reaching the Ord River two years & four months later with a loss of half the cattle and some men, the expedition costing 72,000 pounds. In 1886 Argyle Station was set up on the Behn River. In 1885 he returned to Brisbane but in 1889 financial disaster struck and he and his wife went to live at Argyle. Mary died of malaria on 24th January 1893 and Patrick at Fremantle on 20th January 1898 and he was reinterred on 4th November 1901, beside his wife, in the pioneer cemetery at Coulburn. Just 1 km further along the road on your right you come to

(3) **MT WAYO LAVENDER FARM:** The lavender farm is open every day except Monday from 9am to 5pm. Closed during winter. Plants and lavender products are available for sale. Travel another 5 km's and on your right you will see (St. Stephen's Rd) which will lead you to a very quaint and interesting church.

(4) **ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH:** at Pejar built in 1883. During the floods of 1950, a squatter moved into the church and denuded it of all its furnishings; then vandals stripped the iron from the roof. Soon after a meeting was

called by the rector and it was decided to restore the church. Owing to the efforts of two local families, the Prells and the Turners, the church was returned to its original beauty. Return to Crookwell Rd and turn right to continue your journey. You will soon notice

(5) **PEJAR DAM:** Pejar Dam was constructed in 1979 by the NSW Department of Public Works at a cost of \$8 million. It is a rock and earth filled dam located on the junction of the Wollondilly River and Pejar Creek. When required, water from Pejar Dam is released from the tower and flows 54 km's down the Wollondilly River, where it is impounded at Rossiville Weir. Toilets and picnic facilities available, fishing is allowed and no swimming. Continue further along and you will soon see the property signs to

(6) **GUNDOWRINGA & MINNIMURRA:** (Please respect the owner's privacy) They are both owned by the Prell family. Both properties were purchased by the current owners grandfather Charles E. Prell in 1904. Charles Prell was one of the most progressive farmers of his day and a notable pioneer of pasture improvement. The rolling hills on both sides of the road are a credit to his memory; just a few km's further west you will come to

(7) **CROOKWELL WINDFARM:** this was the first in Australia to supply electricity into the National Grid. Stop at the viewing area where the information boards will tell you more about this remarkable example of renewable energy. You will soon cross the

(8) **GREAT DIVIDING RANGE** (height 946m): At the top of the range the water flows in two directions, westward, mainly into the Crookwell River, and to the east, via a series of flats and gullies, into the Wollondilly River. Travel another few km's and on your left you will see a lovely stone two storey home.

(9) **NORMANTON:** Please respect the owner's privacy) This residence was built in 1891 by Mr John Howard. Mr Howard also built St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Crookwell Hotel/Motel. Normanton was named after Mr Howard's wife's maiden name "Norman". 500m further you pass the remains of the stone-built

(10) **WHEAT SHEAF INN:** (Please respect the owner's privacy) This inn was built by George Beatchall and was named the Wheat Sheaf Inn to give recognition to the district's most important product at that time. This inn was used as a stopping place for the teamsters that travelled from Coulburn to Crookwell. Continue into Crookwell Township, you will find the Visitor Information Centre on the left of the roundabout.

Funding assistance by:



New South Wales
Department of State and
Regional Development