

Scenic & Historic Drives

ROUTE

6

KIALLA via GRABBen GULLEN AND RETURN

APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES DRIVING TIME—35km

From Crookwell Visitors' Centre - Travel west towards Binda

Approximately 1km from the Visitors Centre turn left towards Grabben Cullen. Just to your right is Wade's Hill which was named after Thomas Wade who owned the land in the 1860's. He was a stepbrother to the famous bushranger Ben Hall. Keep travelling towards Grabben Cullen for another 13 km's.

1 GRABBen GULLEN: On the left you will see the Albion Hotel; they serve great counter meals here from 12.00 noon until 2.00pm. On your right there used to be a general store and post office. Continue along for a very small distance and you will see a stone monument on the left which was placed there on the 15/8/70 to acknowledge the Wiradjuri tribe that lived in this area and named Grabben Cullen - meaning (Small Waters). Continue a short distance and turn left into Range Rd. You will be on bitumen for another 4 km's until you meet the dirt road. It was in 1820 that Surveyor James Meehan began a trip from Bong Bong to Bathurst. After travelling through Paddy's River, Arthursleigh and the Cookbundoon River, Meehan journeyed through Woodhouselee and on to this area, keeping 12km south of the present Crookwell.

He noted of the Grabben Cullen area: "Good red loamy soil and pasture mixed with small stones and small green wattles...the sides of the hills have all springs". From here he proceeded to somewhere near the junction of the Grabben Cullen Creek and the Upper Lachlan River. Finding the appearance of the western country unappealing, he turned north-westerly towards the junction of the Abercrombie and Lachlan Rivers and from there on past Mount McDonald to Orange.

Continue on for another 3km's and turn left into Kialla Rd. Travel a further 3km's and you will come to

2 ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH: built in 1903 from locally quarried blue stone. This church has a rather amusing story: In the mid 1980's a parishioner on driving past, noticed much to his surprise that the roof was being painted. On mak-

ing enquiries it transpired that the painters should have been working on the Uniting Church down the road. This story was then retold by Mike Hayes better recognised as the Prickle Farmer who used to write a column for the Sydney Sunday Sun. In the telling of this story to protect the identity of some local painters he christened them 'The Turpentine Brothers'.

Another 1km further on your left will see the

3 OLD KIALLA SCHOOL HOUSE: (Please respect the owner's privacy) built in 1873 and completed in 1876 for 250 pounds, built from local rubble stone with stringy bark timber work. 36 feet x 16 feet x 9 feet high contained one large school room and a small class room, that later became the cloak room. It was meant to accommodate 60 pupils. A teacher's residence was not built because the local people could not afford the cost. The school house was last used for pupils in 1969.

Most of this area was settled in the 1860's under a government land grant scheme, this is very rich fertile area and the land is very sought after. Travel another 4km's and you will see the Crookwell Airstrip on your left, another 4km's further on you will pass the Crookwell Hospital on your left continue for another 1 km and you will be back on Goulburn St. Turn left and the Visitors Centre is located on the roundabout on your left.

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