

## The Weekend in a nutshell

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>: 2pm onwards check in

6pm buffet dinner in the Riverside Restaurant

### 7pm Official opening of Bicentennial Festival by Mayor Pinson

followed by the launching of Rob Tickle's intensely researched book

#### *John Oxley, a new perspective*

John Oxley, George Evans, Charles Fraser, John Harris, James Blake, Barnaby Butler, Patrick Byrne, John Dwyer, Thomas Ellis, Francis Lloyd, Henry Shippey, George Simpson, William Warner, Richard Watts, James Williams and John Williams.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>:

7am buffet breakfast

9.00am group1: 4WD tour to Jasper Range & Echo Point

11.30am Richard Grimmond: *I went with John Oxley*

12.30pm Lunch – fish & chips in Riverside Restaurant

1.30 group 2: 4WD tour to Jasper Range & Echo Point

4.00pm Dr Ian Telford: *The botany of the Oxley expedition*

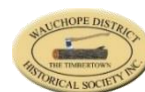
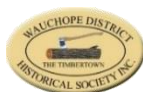
5pm Daphne Salt (WDHS): *Oxley's way today*

6pm Three-course buffet dinner in Riverside Restaurant

7.30pm Campfire on the bank of the Hastings River.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>: 7am Buffet Breakfast

10am Check out



21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018



### Your weekend has been 200 years in the making!

Your days here correspond with those of the Oxley team.

In 1818 Oxley wrote:

**September 21:** *From the hill over one of the streams near which we halted the coast line of hills was plainly seen; and we appeared to have but a rugged journey before us. [camped on western side of Mt Seaview.]*

**September 22:** *We had no choice in the route we pursued this day ... it was a continued ascending and descending of the most frightful precipices ... it rained incessantly ... About two hours before sunset, after a descent of upwards of five thousand feet ... there was no possibility of remaining on the spot, since there was neither grass nor room even to lie down ... by unremitting exertion we were enabled to gain a small spot of ground ... It was, however, near eight o'clock before this was accomplished ... The rain ceasing, was succeeded about nine o'clock by one of the severest storms of wind I ever remember to have witnessed; and for the first time perhaps during the journey, we were alarmed for our personal safety. The howling of the wind down the sides of the mountain, the violent agitation of the trees, and the crash of falling branches, made us every instant fear that we should be buried under the ruins of some of the stupendous trees which surrounded us.*

**September 23:** *Mr. Evans and myself ... proceeded to ascend the mountain, to the summit ... Bilboa's ecstasy at the first sight of the South Sea could not have been greater than ours when on gaining the summit of this mountain we beheld Old Ocean at our feet: it inspired as with new life: every difficulty vanished, and in imagination we were already at home ... The mountain from whence we first saw the ocean was named Sea View Mount.*

[In 1513 Spanish conquistador Balboa was the first European to stand on the west coast of the Americas and gaze on the Pacific Ocean]

Mount Seaview Nature Reserve is listed as a World Heritage Area. Jasper Nature Reserve and Mount Seaview Nature Reserve are National heritage areas.

Due to the relatively low levels of disturbance, the vegetation in the reserves is considered to be in a condition similar to that when the Hastings Valley was first discovered by Europeans.

#### **4WD tour** – Ralph Clissold tour guide

On the two hour excursion we drive to Jasper Range from Mount Seaview Resort with Australian Wilderness Tours in air-conditioned 4WD vehicles.

Travelling through the Homestead property to view the Mt Seaview Weather Station you will learn about its importance to the national climate network. The Weather Station overlooks the Hastings River where platypus are often seen. Heading towards Jasper Range we cross the ancient Serpentine fault line to arrive at the spectacular lower rainforest. [*Serpentine is a metamorphic, igneous rock – cast up by volcanos from within the earth's crust*]

We take a short walk to see some giant strangler figs and learn about the unique location of this rainforest. Ascending the mountain to a small valley high in the hills we can drink natural spring water and view a 2000+ year old Xanthorrhoea (Grass Tree/Blackboy).

Further up the mountain range to Paddy's Camp we have splendid views towards the Forbes Valley and the Hastings Valley and enjoy a relaxed refreshment stop.

From there we have the opportunity to take you to Jasper Range Summit and explore the upper rainforest before heading down to a spectacular viewing location at Echo Point, where looking westwards we view the summit of Mt Seaview encountered by John Oxley in 1818, before we make our way back to Mt Seaview Resort.

#### **ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

**Rob Tickle BA**, consulting archaeologist, paleoanthropologist, historian and author.

*John Oxley a new perspective* is his latest publication. Rob has investigated myths associated with the main characters and given an intimate insight into the lives of the sixteen men who participated in John Oxley's 1818 expedition. *John Oxley a new perspective* includes a detailed analysis of what transpired from May to November 1818 and will enrich your understanding of one of the greatest feats in Australian exploration. The part played by Governors Macquarie, Darling and Bourke in the lives of those involved is not overlooked, nor is the tension between free and convict, patronage and parentage.

**Dr Ian Telford**, Grad Dip, MSc and PhD at UNE, botanist and curator of the herbarium at UNE, will speak on Charles Fraser and the botany of John Oxley's 1818 Expedition. Ian scrutinises the extremely difficulty faced by Charles Fraser during an incredibly wet season in a harsh unforgiving environment as he collected, dried and preserved a remarkable number of unique plant specimens and new species.

**Richard Grimmond**, retired high school principal and bushwalker since the age of 17. Richard, his wife Gwen and one young recruit are the only surviving foundation members of the Hastings River Historical Society. Richard will talk about his passion for the John Oxley story and the two versions of his book '*I went with John Oxley*', [one for children and one for adults] told from a convict support team viewpoint and his writing of a comic book about the 1818 Oxley exploration. Richard will also recount his monumental trek when he followed Oxley's journal in 2003 and re-discovered the waterfall Oxley had named 'Beckett's Cataract', and of his making a video of the journey.