

Graham Rodger Tag-Along Tour 2018

G'day,

I am very excited about next year's Country Music tagalong, "Miles to the Cape via the Gulf" in May and June. This one will take us into the remote country of the Gulf of Carpentaria, an area which I haven't seen, then on to the Atherton Tableland before finally making our way up to historic Cooktown.

I'd like to whet your appetite with a few of the surprises we have in store for you.

- Two fantastic days on a working cattle station in the beautiful Arcadia Valley, with a tagalong tour guided by the owners Rowan and Madeleine Pert, as well as a home cooked camp oven dinner and show. We will also have a movie under the stars.
- Once again our friends Ray and Glenda at Anakie are rolling out the red carpet for us, by allowing the Tag-alongers to fish in their private lake for Barra, fossick on their own claim, and finally saying farewell over a sausage sizzle, compliments of the Park. You will love the shack out at the lake!
- The city of Charters Towers will be of great interest to anyone with a fascination in the history of the "Roaring Days" and gold mining in Queensland. There is so much to see here that you could easily spend a week uncovering the many historic treasures of this city, which was once the second largest in Queensland.
- The vast black soil plains of the north unfold before us as we head out through Julia Creek then North towards the Gulf and the town of Normanton, where we will ride the famous "Gulflander" train to the deserted mining field of "Critters Camp", so named because of the hordes of insects that abounded there. The wine and cheese I'm sure will go down well.
- We turn our wheels to the East towards Croydon, Mt. Surprise and the beautiful Atherton Tableland. Bring your jumpers as the Tableland is usually about ten degrees cooler than Cairns. Lots to see and do up here.
- The grand finale is definitely Cooktown. So named as it was here that Captain Cook on his voyage spent a couple of months repairing his ship the Endeavour. Highlights are a special re-enactment of Cooks visit, put on as a special event just for our Taggers. A visit to the iconic Lions Den Hotel, just south of Cooktown is well worth the drive. Fishing for Barra, Mangrove Jack,

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Trevally and many other species in the river. You can even go swimming with the crocs, if you're game. Maybe taking time out to discover the Bloomfield Track, beautiful Elim Beach and Hopevale Mission. The list goes on and on. Being so far north, this is a great opportunity for you to make the trek to the top, and stand at the very northern tip of Australia.

These highlights are just the tip of the iceberg so to speak. I haven't mentioned the many Happy Hours, great concerts, countless photographic opportunities, Ukulele lessons, dinners, making new friends amongst the Taggers, as well as learning a lot from the locals. As the Tag is filling fast, I suggest that if you are interested, you get yourself booked in right now by filling in the Registration Form and transferring the funds. This will ensure your seat on the "Gulflander" as there are only 100 seats available.

Deirdre and I look forward to meeting you on our 2018 Tag-Along, and can assure you that you will not regret the decision to hook up the old van and join us at Miles.

Take care until then.

Graham.

It seems like yesterday we were on tag-along no.4, but here we are uploading the itinerary and registration form for tag-along no.5. for those of you who have travelled with us in the past, some of the information below will be 'old hat', but for those of you who will be joining our tag-along for the first time, this information is very important.

Please appreciate the format of this tag-along is quite different to most. For a minimal \$300 per head you will receive: -

- A season ticket to all tag-along concerts. A short bio on the three main artists who will provide the majority of your entertainment is on my website.
- A camp oven dinner and movie night.
- A dinner at one of our concerts.
- A trip on the Heritage Gulflander train. This train trip is a bonus and will be limited to the first 100 people to confirm their registration with form and payment due to the limited space on-board.

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- A special meet and greet at the Miles Showgrounds and a farewell function at Cooktown.
- Numerous smokos and happy hours.
- Sausage sizzle.
- Pancake brekkie.
- A regular issue of our newssheet "Living the Dream" will be issued during the tour. It will provide you with explicit details of times and venues for shows, relevant activities etc.
- The opportunity to explore the most incredible country on this planet.

Should your circumstances change after making your booking and you need to cancel, your registration fee will be refunded in full.

Once you have registered for the tag-along you will need to organise: -

- Your accommodation – we have supplied the information on all caravan parks so you can decide where you wish to stay and make your own bookings. The Caravan Park Graham is staying at is listed in **bold print**. It is not necessary to stay at the same park as Graham, you may wish to free camp or choose another park. The main thing to remember is to make your bookings early. Many of the places we are visiting are small and facilities are limited. As you would realise, our tag-along will not be the only people wishing to stay in most of these parks. However, there should be ample unpowered sites available. **Please ensure you book well in advance and inform the park if you require a powered site for medical reasons.**
- On some days activities will be organised for us to do as a group, whether you join us or not is up to you, other days it will be a matter of free time. On these occasions you can organise activities that are on your personal bucket list.

We recommend that in the week before leaving home, you print (or download) the final edition of this document and take it on the tour with you to be used in conjunction with our periodic newssheet "Living the Dream".

Day	Date	Location	Information
Fri	18-May	MILES	Miles Showgrounds (No bookings required). See caretakers on arrival. Caretakers David - 0419 028 905 and Christine 0418776 756 Meet and Greet Happy Hour at 4pm in the shed. Dogs permitted.
Sat	19-May	MILES	Evening concert at 7 pm.
Sun	20-May	ARCADIA VALLEY ESCAPE 310 Km	There are 40 km of good dirt road to the property. Arcadia Valley Rd turnoff on the right of highway. Dogs permitted but must be restrained due to livestock. No bookings required. Graham will be collecting the camp fees on Saturday morning at Miles. Limited powered sites (contact Graham) but these are about 10 minutes from main camping area for medical purposes. Bush camping - self contained or long drop toilet. Graham is putting on a complimentary Camp Oven dinner and a movie under the western stars.
Mon	21-May	ARCADIA VALLEY ESCAPE	Escorted convoy tour of the property. In the afternoon enjoy a camp fire concert on the homestead lawn overlooking the dam at 4 pm.
Tue	22-May	ANAKIE 300 Km	Anakie Caravan Park - Richardson St. Ray and Glenda. 07 4985 4142. 10% discount for tag-along. Dogs permitted on leash. "Dirt Bags" available from reception throughout our stay. Last time a tagger found a stone worth \$1,000 - no kidding!
Wed	23-May	ANAKIE	Concert under the stars, guest appearance by the school choir. A two course dinner which is a fundraiser for the school available at \$20 per person. Please support this small outback school. A meal ticket will be required we will have these available at Miles.

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Thu	24-May	ANAKIE	<p>Fossicking and angling for Barramundi on a private property. BYO lunch and drinks. In the evening a happy hour with a complimentary Sausage Sizzle back at camp.</p> <p><i>You might like to move on early and make your way to Clermont Theresa Dam Campsite for a couple of extra days fishing. 07 4983 2327 office hours. Cost \$15/night. You will find coin operated BBQs, fireplaces, toilets, water (not suitable for drinking), hot showers, rubbish bins and dump point. Dogs ok. suitable for all sizes of van.</i></p> <p><i>Directions:- Head south from Peak Downs Hwy / Gregory Hwy roundabout along Clermont Connection Rd. Travel 3kms through Clermont and turn right where signposted to Rubyvale. Travel 7 kms, turn right into Peak Vale Rd and follow the signs to the dam which is about 10 kms away.</i></p>
Fri	25-May	CLERMONT 115 Km	<p>Travel via Capella-Rubyvale Rd and Gregory Hwy. Clermont Caravan Park - Haig St. 07 4983 1927 Evening concert.</p>
Sat	26-May	CHARTERS TOWERS 375 Km	<p>Dalrymple Tourist Van Park. 24 Dalrymple Rd. Discount rate of \$30 powered site for tag-along. 07 4787 1121. Pets permitted. 50 sites reserved until the end of March Alternate:- Charters Towers Park. Mt Leyshan Rd. 07 4787 7944. Discount rate of \$28 per powered site for tag-along.</p>
Sun	27-May	CHARTERS TOWERS	<p>Afternoon Concert 1.30 pm. Bistro meals available before the show. Lunch bookings on 07 4787 1229</p>
Mon	28-May	CHARTERS TOWERS	<p>Free day for local sightseeing, shopping or domestic duties.</p>

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Tue	29-May	HUGHENDEN 250 Km	<p>Allen Terry Caravan Park. 2 Resolution St. 07 4741 1190. Powered site \$28. All 45 sites reserved for us until March 2018.</p> <p>Alt: Flintstone Servo Van Park 07 4741 1540. (5 powered sites).</p> <p>Alt: Rest Easi Motel and CP 11 Richmond Hill Drive (4 power \$30/5 unpowered) 07 4741 1633.</p> <p>Alt: Free rest are. toilet only. 56 Flinders Hwy.</p> <p>Take a short trip enjoy the sunset from the summit of Mount Walker followed by a concert back at the caravan park.</p>
Wed	30-May	JULIA CREEK 265 Km	<p>McIntyre Park Racecourse. 2 Km on Julia Creek to Kynuna Rd, turn right and gate on left. The racecourse will accommodate us all at the one venue and they have offered us a discounted group rate of \$12 per van. No booking required. Please pay Graham \$12 per van at Miles.</p> <p>There will be an evening concert.</p>
Thu	31-May	BURKE AND WILLS ROADHOUSE 240 Km	<p>Burke Developmental Rd. Limited powered sites - (11 only for medical reasons) ph. 07 4742 5909.</p> <p>Happy hour concert.</p>
Fri	1-Jun	NORMANTON 200 Km	<p>Normanton Caravan Park. 14 Brown St. 07 4745 1121. Powered sites \$32 per night.</p> <p>Alt: Gulflander Motel and Caravan Park. 11 Lansborough Hwy. 07 4745 1290. \$26 powered site. Basic amenities, restaurant and bar.</p> <p>Afternoon complimentary cheese and wine train trip on the Heritage Gulflander* to Critters Camp - (Limited to the first 100 people to register).</p> <p>Evening concert.</p>
Sat	2-Jun	NORMANTON	<p>Day trip to Kurumba with a concert from 3-5.30 pm to enjoy the sunset over The Gulf. A BBQ dinner will be available after the concert.</p>

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Sun	3-Jun	CROYDON 155 Km	Croydon Caravan Park. 07 4745 6238. Powered sites \$25. All sites reserved until March 2018. Overflow - unpowered. must obtain a permit at a small donation, True Blue Info Ctre or Caravan Park, next to Rodeo Grounds, toilets and shower available through steel gates. "Free Camp" 2 Alldridge St. Permit and information at the caravan park - Donation reqd. A late afternoon concert, dinner supplied by Graham. Bar service available.
Mon	4-Jun	CROYDON	Free day for sightseeing or R&R.
Tue	5-Jun	MT SURPRISE 240 Km	Bedrock Village Caravan Park. Lot 1 Garnet St. 07 4062 3193. Powered sites discounted to \$27.20 for taggers. Alt:- Mt Surprise Tourist Park. 23 Garland St. 07 4062 3153
Wed	6-Jun	MT SURPRISE	Sightseeing. Campfire Concert in the evening.
Thu	7-Jun	ATHERTON 220 Km	Atherton Woodlands Tourist Park. (Big 4) 07 4091 1407. 141 Herberton Rd. BOOK EARLY. Powered sites \$37.40. Dogs ok on selected sites. 55 sites reserved. Alt: Atherton Holiday Park. 64-72 Mountain View Drive. 0409 915 883. Alt: Atherton Hallorans Leisure Park. Robert St. 07 4091 4144.
Fri	8-Jun	ATHERTON	Sightseeing. Concert in the evening.
Sat	9-Jun	COOKTOWN 300 Km	Cooktown Turf Club. Hope St. 3rd exit onto Charlotte St, Mclvor Rd. No bookings required. Just turn up with your van and you will be accommodated. There are sixteen 15 amp power outlets which we can 'double up' on and twenty 10 amp outlets. You will need an adaptor for your power lead on these outlets (you can use a double adaptor with the earth contact made larger to use the 10 amp ones). We will have to be considerate and not run a/c or heaters or we may overload the circuits. Alt: Big 4 Cooktown Holiday Park 07 4069 5417. Alt: Cooktown Caravan Park 07 4069 5536. Alt: Peninsular Caravan Park 07 4069 5107.

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Sun	10-Jun	COOKTOWN	Details for this day will be published in "Living the Dream".
Mon	11-Jun	COOKTOWN	Details for this day will be published in "Living the Dream".