

Bus Tour—"Hinemoa" & Kooroomba Vineyard



We were eagerly anticipating our visit to "Hinemoa," a restored 1903 Queenslander at Sadliers Crossing, Ipswich, and we were not disappointed. Bringing "Hinemoa" back to her former glory has been a labour of love for owners, John and Christine Page, who were awarded Silver by the Bendigo Bank in last year's National Trust Heritage Awards.

The house had suffered the indignity of being turned into two flats with the verandahs being enclosed with fibro and louvres when Christine and John first saw it, but they sensed the charm behind the ugly facade.

The Pages had many lucky finds in the eight years it took to extensively restore both inside and out. Decorative stencils in the hall and sitting room were discovered under layers of paint and were reproduced in matched colours. The removal of the fibro sheeting and louvres on the verandah exposed the well-preserved original balustrading still intact. New brackets were copied from two originals found under the house and a new set of front steps was crafted from the original design. A photograph showed the existing, rotting front fence was the original one and a new hardwood fence was erected, with each post carefully shaped to match the original. The Pages have done a wonderful job to find fixtures, fittings and furniture from this early era.

Christine has also spent many hours developing a beautiful garden to complement the charm of the gracious old home and our visit was topped off by a sumptuous, home made morning tea, served on the verandah on beautiful bone china. We felt very privileged to be invited to enjoy the atmosphere of the Page's home, and admire their dedication and hard work in restoring it. We thank them for welcoming us so warmly into their lovingly created world.

At our next stop, Kooroomba Winery and Lavender Farm near Boonah, our host welcomed us and encouraged us to walk around the rows of lavender in flower, inspect the items on offer in the gift shop, and enjoy a wine tasting, before serving us a delicious hot meal of roast beef, followed by meringues with fruit and cream.

Thanks to our driver, Jim, for a safe trip and to Valerie for once again organising a most enjoyable outing.

