

Bus Tour—Hidden Treasures Tour



The most recent trip organised by Valerie May saw a small group travel north to the **Abbey Church and Museum of Art and Archeology** at Caboolture, a public museum almost unique in Australia. Its collections are derived from The Abbey Folk Park, one of Britain's first social history museums. Following World War I, its founder, Rev John Ward, formed a small monastic community based on the ideals of a medieval Christian abbey and established the park to display many antiquities collected during his life. After World War II, which forced the closure of the museum, the group (and the collection) moved first to Cypress and then to Australia following Ward's death in 1949. Construction of the present museum was begun in 1978 and finally opened to the public in 1986. The collection of artifacts is diverse, drawn from many cultures and civilizations. In the church building beside the museum there is a significant collection of stained glass, much of it salvaged from churches in England which had been bombed or damaged during the war. Our guide revealed that the church is very popular for non-denominational weddings. The complex is surrounded by pleasant gardens, and we enjoyed a lovely morning tea in the adjacent hall.

After our time at the museum we travelled over the water to Bribie Island where our lunch was served at the Blue Pacific Hotel. Next stop after lunch was at the Community Arts and Crafts Centre, where the wonderful display of painting, pottery and other crafts kept us browsing until it was time to depart for home. Thanks to Valerie for organising another successful outing.