

## *Day trip to Coochin Coochin.*

Our June 2006 outing, arranged by Valerie May, was a return visit to the old homestead at Coochin Coochin Homestead at Boonah. The original 1843 building was constructed of red cedar. The 1ha of spacious garden boasts 27 trees planted by distinguished guests, including Edward the Prince of Wales, the Queen Mother and Agatha Christie. It proved a very popular destination last year and Val had received many requests to return and allow more time to look around and take in the ambience of the property. Valerie managed to do this by arranging for a picnic lunch to be provided by the bus company which could be enjoyed at our leisure.

I have related the story of Coochin in a previous report so suffice to say we were again made very welcome by Jane and Tim Bell and enjoyed Jane's homemade morning tea, her talk about the property's history and the freedom to roam the house and garden as we pleased.

On leaving Coochin our bus took us to Moogerah Dam which showed evidence of the current drought by the low water line. However, it is still a very pleasant spot for a picnic and the salad lunch was enjoyed by all.

On the way home we made a short stop at Harrisville, a small country town noted for its many heritage Queensland-style houses. Another enjoyable and successful trip, thank you, Valerie.

*Jane James*