



PENSHURST RSL TRAVEL CLUB
**PIONEER VILLAGE MUSEUM,
KANGAROO VALLEY
THURSDAY 17 JUNE, 2021**

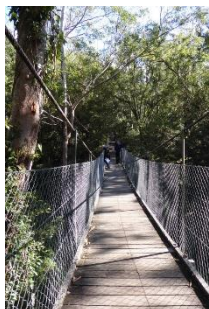


Sydney's peak hour traffic was at its finest at 8.00 this morning, taking our coach driver, Mal, 25 mins for the five-minute drive (via Peshurst St and Stoney Creek Rd) to King Georges Road at Beverley Hills. There seemed no reason for the huge build up on Stoney Creek Rd but, once we were on the M5, then the Hume Motorway, it was an easy trip. 35 of us on the coach today, with a couple of unwell members absent. At Mittagong, we turned left on to B73 (Sheepwash Road which becomes Nowra Road) for the pretty drive to Kangaroo Valley. A lot of cattle in the area which included the striking and rarely seen Belted Galloway. The road became more interesting the closer we came to our destination, with a tortuous stretch (for a coach) over and down the mountain, the road eventually straightening out after passing through Barrengarry Nature Reserve. There were quick snatches of stunning views through the dense vegetation, but, by now, some of us were feeling just a little queasy.



Considering our slow start, we had made great progress and arrived at the Pioneer Village Museum, located right next to the famous Hampden Bridge and the Kangaroo River, just before 10 am. One of our two guides, Rosemary, directed us to their sheltered barbecue area for Elizabeth's very welcome morning tea, before Wayne, the caretaker who lives on site, gave a brief talk. Taken from their website: *An Historical Society was formed in 1953, and the members campaigned long and hard for a piece of land and a museum to house the treasures they had been collecting and preserving. Finally in 1973, the NSW Government agreed to establish a Trust and to hand over nearly 10 hectares of land as a Reserve. With great effort the Historical Society established the present Museum by transporting several buildings to the present site and re-erecting them.*

We were then free to wander through these buildings – perhaps a dozen of them - located on about one hectare of the reserve. Of particular interest were Rendell Cottage, the Archie Chittick Memorial Hall, the Bush School, the Settlers Hut and the Machinery Sheds, all containing memorabilia. Some had interactive audio and video presentations, so it was very easy to pass the two hours here. A few of us took a walk over their George Walker Suspension Bridge where the rest of the reserve - several hectares of natural bushland - lay on the other side. Despite designated walking tracks, this land adjoins national park and Rosemary recounted some funny experiences with 'lost' visitors.



All too soon, it was time to leave and, despite being a fine day, the wind was picking up and it was quite cold. Mal took us on the short drive into town where we were free to purchase lunch or we were welcome to bring our own. Most of us sought refuge in the one and only pub – The Friendly Inn Hotel in the main street – which was doing a roaring trade in a great selection of lunches, and they had plenty of room for our group. Afterwards, we popped into a few of the shops – popular Kangaroo Valley Woodcrafts had some lovely timber products available. We left Kangaroo Valley at 2.30 and returned to Peshurst much the same way, but taking the diversions around Berrima and Mittagong to avoid the school traffic. There were no stops on the two-hour trip home and the Lucky Seat prizes were won by Lois and Phyllis. It had been a very pleasant day.

