



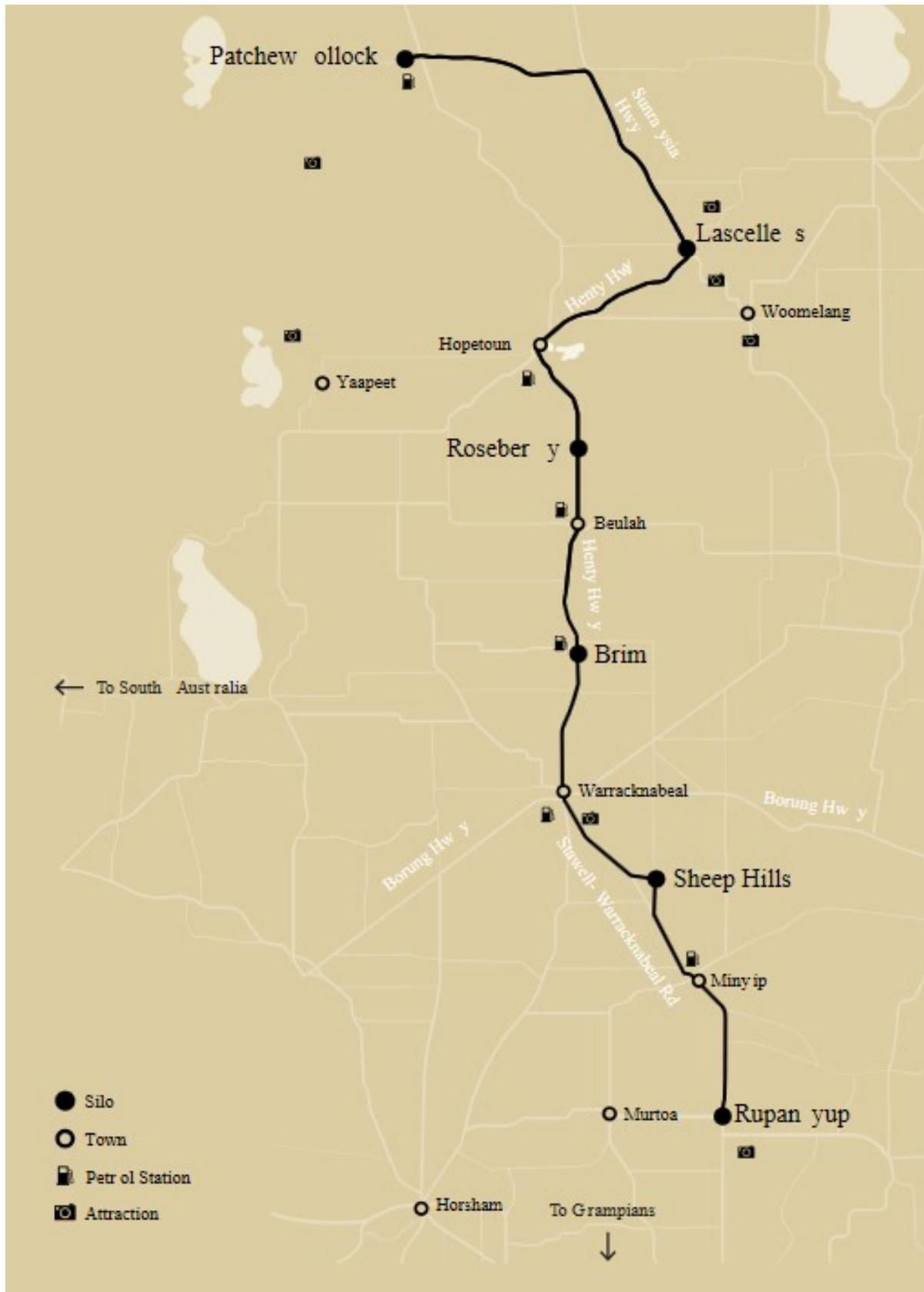
# 5 Day Silo Art Trail

Proposed travel days:- Monday to Friday



# Silo Art Trail

## North West Victoria



## Day 1: Monday

An early start this morning begins our busy **5 Day Silo Art Trail Tour** .

Once everyone is onboard the coach, we start our journey to Horsham. Stopping in **Beaufort** for **Morning Tea** and toilet stop, before continuing on to Ararat and the **Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre**.

On arrival, you will be taken on a **Guided Tour** of the Centre. Your guide will describe the story of the 19th century struggle of the immigrant Chinese miners and their difficulties on the Victorian Goldfields and tell the story of Ararat's birth, the only city in Australia founded by the Chinese.

We leave Ararat behind and once again make our way to Horsham. We will enjoy a 2-course lunch at **Mack's @ Magdala Restaurant** in Stawell. Afterwards, we visit our first silo art for the day in **Rupanyup**.

Rupanyup's silo art is the work of Russian mural artist, Julia Volchkova, who turned her attention to the town's youth and their great love of team sport. The work vividly captures the spirit of community and provides an accurate insight into rural youth culture.

The featured faces are those of Rupanyup residents and local sporting team members, Ebony Baker and Jordan Weidemann. Fresh-faced and dressed in their sports attire (netball and Australian Rules football, respectively), Baker and Weidemann embody a youthful spirit of strength, hope and camaraderie.

Rendered onto a squat pair of conjoined Australian Grain Export steel grain silos, the delicately nuanced monochromatic work is typical of Volchkova's realist portraiture style.

Accomplished over several weeks and unveiled in early 2017, the mural quietly honours the integral role that sport and community play in rural Australian populations.

Leaving Rupanyup, we pass by the old Shire Council buildings, where a mural honouring volunteer firefighters has been painted.

Artist, Georgia Goodies has said the mural was also about turning something old into something new and embracing change.



The building had been the Municipal offices for local council, until it was closed in 2015, where it was handed over to the township of Rupanyup for commercial or community use.

Throughout his career, Melbourne-based artist, Adnate has used his work to tell the stories of Indigenous people and their native lands, particularly the stories of Aboriginal Australians. In 2016, Adnate developed a friendship with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council in north-west Victoria and found his inspiration for this mural.

GrainCorp's **Sheep Hills** silos were built in 1938. Adnate's depiction of Wergaia Elder, Uncle Ron Marks, and Wotjobaluk Elder, Aunty Regina Hood, alongside two young children, Savannah Marks and Curtly McDonald, celebrates the richness of the area's Indigenous culture.

The night sky represents elements of local dreaming and the overall image signifies the important exchange of wisdom, knowledge and customs from Elders to the next generation.

## Day 1:- continued

Adnate spent four weeks with the community in late 2016 to conceive and complete the mural. He says that he sought to shine a spotlight on the area's young Indigenous people and highlight the strong ancestral connection that they share with their Elders.

We find our final silo for the day, in the tiny town of **Brim**. Artist, Guido van Helten's iconic Brim mural was the first silo artwork to appear in Victoria, and soon infused the town's community with newfound energy and optimism. After gaining widespread local and international attention, Brim's silo art success shone a spotlight on the Wimmera Mallee region and inspired the establishment of the Silo Art Trail.



Completed in early 2016, with limited financial resources, van Helten's mural depicts an anonymous, multi-generational quartet of female and male farmers. Rendered across these four 1939-built GrainCorp silos, van Helten's subjects bear expressions that exemplify the strength and resilience of the local farming community.

By rendering the figures as both central and peripheral, present and absent, the work explores shifting notions of community identity at a time when rural populations face both immense economic pressure and the tangible consequences of climate change.

On reaching our accommodation for the night, we have time to freshen up in our rooms, before enjoying a 2-course meal in Hotel dining room.

**Overnight:                    Horsham International Hotel**

## Day 2: Tuesday

With a big day of silo art in front of us, we enjoy our breakfast before loading our luggage and boarding the coach for our first silo visit of the day, in **Rosebery**.

Before commencing work in Rosebery, Melbourne artist, Kaff-eine spent time in the Mallee assisting fellow artist Rone on his Lascelles silo project. During this time, Kaff-eine travelled to neighbouring towns, discovering the natural environment and acquainting herself with local business owners, families, farmers and children – all with the view to developing a concept for these Grain-Corp silos which date back to 1939.



Completed in late 2017, Kaff-eine's artwork depicts themes that she says embody the region's past, present and future.

The silo on the left captures the grit, tenacity and character of the region's young female farmers, who regularly face drought, fires and other hardships living and working in the Mallee. In her work shirt, jeans and turned-down cowboy boots, the strong young female sheep farmer symbolises the future

The silo on the right portrays a quiet moment between dear friends. The contemporary horseman appears in an Akubra hat, Bogs boots and oilskin vest – common attire for Mallee farmers. Both man and horse are relaxed and facing downward, indicating their mutual trust, love and genuine connection

We leave Rosebery and make our way to **Patchewollock**, where we will make a short stop for a cuppa and rustic toilet break, before visiting our next silo art for the day.



To prepare for his Patchewollock mural, Brisbane artist, Fintan Magee booked a room at the local pub to immerse himself in the community and get to know its people. When he met local sheep and grain farmer, Nick "Noodle" Hlland, Magee knew he had found his muse.

Why Hlland? According to Magee, the rugged, lanky local exemplified the no-nonsense, hardworking spirit of the region.

Perhaps more importantly though, Noodle had just the right height and leanness to neatly fit onto the narrow, 35-metre-high canvas of the twin 1939-built GrainCorp silos.

Completed in late 2016, the artist's depiction of the famously reserved Hlland portrays an image of the archetypal Aussie farmer – faded blue "flanny" (flannelette shirt) and all.

Hlland's solemn expression, sun-bleached hair and squinting gaze speak to the harshness of the environment and the challenges of life in the Wimmera Mallee.

## Day 2:- continued

En-route to **Lascelles**, we stop for lunch at the **Hopetoun Community Hotel**.

It's in Lascelles that we find our next silo art. In order to capture the true essence of Lascelles, Melbourne-based artist, Rone knew that he had to learn about the town from those who were deeply connected to it. Here, he depicts local farming couple Geoff and Merrilyn Horman, part of a family that has lived and farmed in the area for four generations.

Rone says that he wanted the mural to portray his subjects as wise and knowing, nurturing the town's future with their vast farming experience and longstanding connection to the area.

In mid 2017 Rone worked for two weeks to transform the two 1939-built GrainCorp silos. He went to great lengths to paint in the silo's existing raw concrete tones to produce a work that would integrate sensitively into its environment. Utilising this muted monochrome palette, he added water to his paint as a blending tool to produce a ghostly, transparent effect – a signature of his distinctive painting style.

Going off route slightly, we drive to the small country town of **Woomelang**, where on the side of their General Store, artist Andrew Bourke (also known as Sirum) has painted a carpet python. When originally suggested to the local towns people, their was a reluctance to have a snake on their General Store. The influx of tourists to their little town has changed their opinions and there are now another 8 animal art works around the town.



The GrainCorp Silos at Sea Lake were painted by Joel Fergie, aka The Zookeeper and Travis Vinson, aka Drapl in October 2019.

The artwork depicts a young girl swinging from a mallee eucalyptus tree gazing out over the endless vista that is Lake Tyrrell. A powerful Wedge Tail Eagle soars above the girl and emus run off into the night. For millennia this lake has existed,

unchanged and untouched. It is a place of wonder and story. In this ever increasing busy day and age, people universally long for space and solitude.

Time permitting, we make a brief visit to **Lake Tyrrell**. During particularly wet and warm times of the year, the water at Lake Tyrrell turns pink. This is because of the red pigment that's secreted by pink micro-algae called red marine phytoplankton. The name Tyrrell comes from the Aboriginal word 'tyrille', which means sky or space.



On arrival in **Swan Hill**, we check into our accommodation for the night before enjoying a 2-course dinner at the **RSL Club**.

**Overnight: Jane Eliza Motor Inn, Swan Hill**

## Day 3: Wednesday

Breakfast this morning will be the Jane Eliza Motor Inn before loading the coach and departing Swan Hill for **Boort**.

After completing the first part of our silo trail, today we will be seeing something other than silo art.

On arrival at **Simply Tomatoes**, you will be taken on a **Tour** of their farm and facilities. You will hear the story of Simply Tomatoes early beginnings and why their products are produced with green tomatoes, instead of red and are sold globally, directly from their farm in Boort.

You will hear about the journey the tomatoes take, from the time they are picked from the vines, to the final product. You will have time to have a look around, maybe make a few purchases before returning to the coach.

A must visit in this area, is to **Piccoli's Spanner Sculptures**. Displayed in John and Sonia Piccoli's country garden are over 25 unique life size and larger than life sculptures, including an iconic shearer, a family of deer, a pair of fighting stallions, a mallee bull, intricate garden seats and many more. John makes the sculptures by welding together antique through to modern day spanners. The tallest sculpture, "The Marlin", is over 7m tall, weighs 1200 kgs and is made from 3500 spanners.



Three hours out of Melbourne, in the small farming community of Boort, is one of the world's most unusual artists.

It all started for John, when he leased out his stock farm, after three decades of running it from his wheelchair.

so much time on his hands, John turned his hand to the unique art of spanner sculpting, earning him the nickname of the **Spanner Man**.

John & Sonia's garden is now littered with dozens of larger-than-life sculptures of mermaids, marlin, and even a full horse and wagon.

Located in Logan (approximately 55 minutes from Boort), is our luncheon venue for today, the **Pub in the Scrub**. Sit down and enjoy your 2 Course lunch, in the rustic environment of this true country pub.

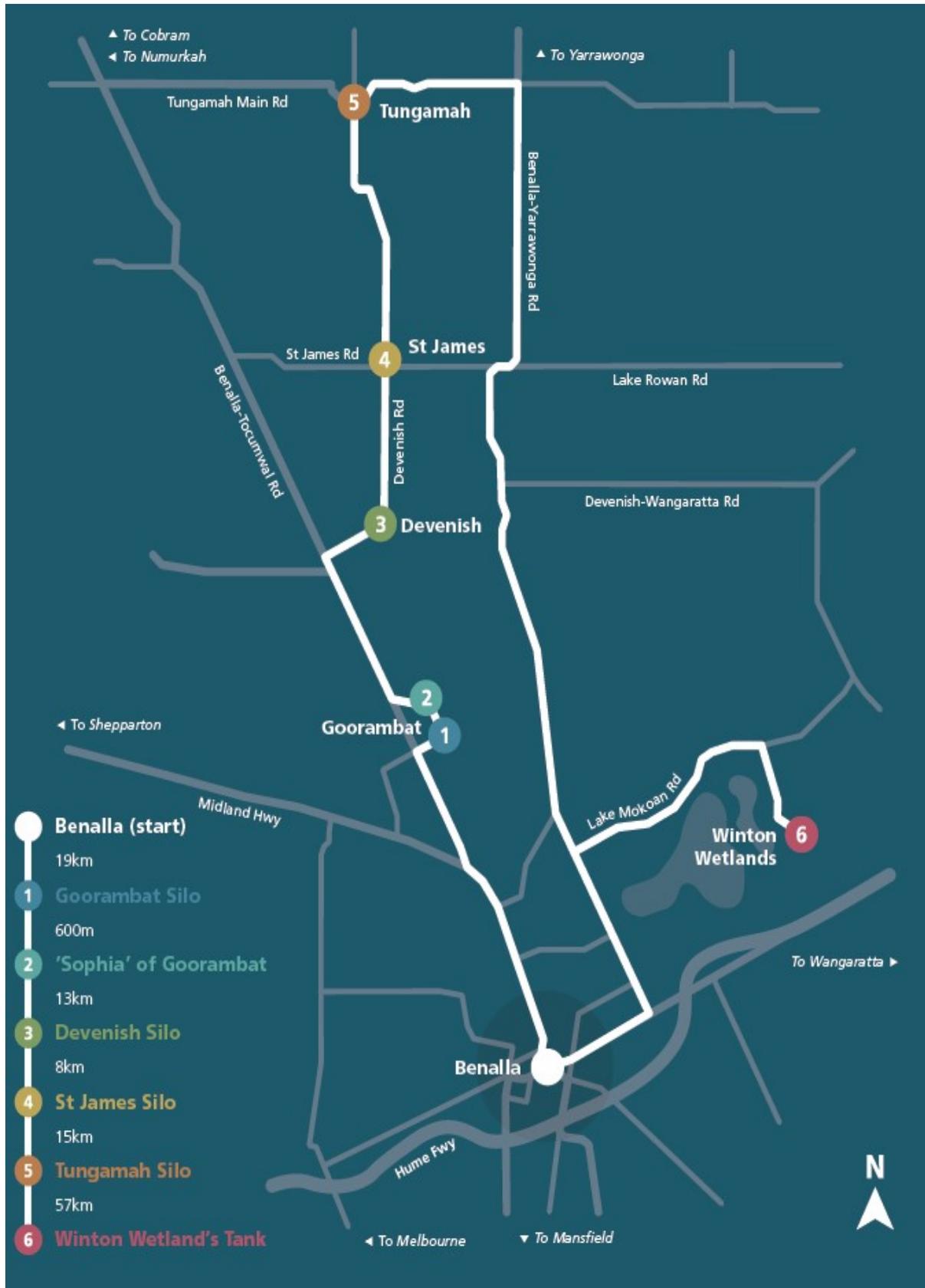
Your Coach Captain will take you on a short coach tour of **Bendigo** and time permitting, you may have an opportunity for free time before we check into our accommodation for the night, **Quality Hotel Lakeside**

Your 2-course dinner tonight will be in the hotel dining room.

**Overnight: Quality Hotel Lakeside, Bendigo**

# Silo Art Trail

## North East Victoria



## Day 4: Thursday

After breakfast this morning, we start back on our silo art trail, with our first stop in **Rochester**.

Where possible, Artist Jimmy DVate chooses to use a plant, bird or native animal that is either endangered or threatened. For the Rochester silo's he chose a magnificent Azure Kingfisher, sitting on a branch alongside the Campaspe River with their red rail bridge and beautiful vegetation as the backdrop for the first silo.



By the time the second silo had commenced, word of the completion of the first silo had gotten around and Jimmy had an audience watching him. The endangered Squirrel Glider was the muse for the second silo. The squirrel can be seen clinging to a Red River Gum branch.

Rochester has a Mural Festival each year. Eight selected artists work over one week, completing paintings that measure 2.1 x 4.8 metres. Your Coach Captain will take you for a drive past some of the art before leaving Rochester for the next silo on the trail, **Tungamah**.

The Tungamah Silos were the first silos to be painted in North East Victoria and set a precedence for three more to follow in the next 18 months. They were painted by Western Australia street artist Sobrane Simcock with stage one completed in February 2018.

The initial mural depicted dancing Brolgas on the tall concrete silos and the much loved Australian Kookaburra on the short silo. She used 60 litres of paint, 142 spray cans with the entire project took eight days to complete.



Then in September 2019, Sobrane returned to paint around the Kookaburra to include the lovable Pink and Grey Galah, a Hummingbird, a cheeky owl hiding in the leaves, a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, two small wrens and a white Ibis, sitting in the thick foliage of a gum tree.

During this time Sobrane also spent time in Tungamah painting a few walls here and there too. Sobrane Simcock was the first Australian female silo artist to paint a silo and only five of the current 35 are painted by women.

GrainCorp has yet again provided another blank canvas, this time for the silo art in **St James**. The site was once filled with the sounds of trucks and played a major role in the community's economy. After laying dormant for a few years, the silo art is breathing life back into the community. The St James Silos are officially the 27th set of silos to be included in the Australian Silo Art Trail Collection.

Painted by artist Tim Bowtell, the St James silos depict a mural of Sir George Coles, the founder of Coles supermarkets, who was a local to the St James township. The silo bunkers at St James were built in 1943, with bushels of wheat originally delivered to the site via horse and cart; a motif that will be displayed in the artwork.

## Day 4:- continued

The GrainCorp **Devenish** silos artwork was unveiled on Anzac Day Eve 2018 and coincides with the 100 year centenary of the end of the First World War.

The artwork is of both a First World War nurse and a modern day combat medic. Fifty young men and women from the Devenish community enlisted in military service for the First World War.



In April 2019, artist Cam Scale completed the third silo installation, with recognition to the Lighthorse men.

Time for a break, whilst we enjoy a 2 course lunch at the **Goorambat Railway Hotel**.

Goorambat is known for more than its silo art, 'Sophia' came into being in 2017 when the Uniting church community in Goorambat were approached to host a mural inside the church itself as part of the Wall to Wall festival. The mural had to be relevant to the culture and ethos of the church community and of a quality that would enhance the church precinct. 'Sophia' was painted by well known street artist, 'Adnate'.

After some concept images were discussed with Adnate it was suggested, inspirationally, that the subject might depict "Sophia" the female aspect of the Holy Spirit. This tradition draws on the spirit of God as it manifested in the Old Testament times and the post Pentecostal period.



In 2018, Artist Jimmy DVate completed two silo's in **Goorambat**. One showing a rural landscape and the second, an endangered bird of prey, 'Millibai' the barking owl.

In April 2019, DVate started a third silo, this time of three huge Clydesdales, Clem, Sam & Banjo.

Over the years Clydesdale horses have been an important part of farming in the Goorambat region and the new mural features a working team of these big beasts. Two are actually based on a pair bred in Goorambat by the Lavereen Stud (founded in 1920) – Clement (left) and Banjo (right). The middle horse is Samuel from the Coolibah Ridge Clydesdales Stud (who own Lavereen Clement and Banjo). The mural is based on a photo by Bob Britcher, which was taken at an event in Queensland for the 100th celebration of the Clydesdale Horse in Australia.

For our last visit today, we go to the **Winton Wetlands** to view their landscape art. The art at Winton Wetlands helps visitors understand the site and connect with their stories. Artist interpretations of the site enhance the experience.

Enjoy the colour and a sense of whimsy in the fish painting on Boggy Bridge Road by local artist Tim Bowtell and ponder the three magnificent portraits of local Country Fire Authority (CFA) volunteers on a tank.

After checking into our accommodation for the night, dinner will be served in the Inn dining room.

**Overnight: Quality Inn, Wangaratta**

## Day 5: Friday

We enjoy a cooked breakfast this morning before again loading our luggage for the final time on this tour. Our first visit today is at the **Benalla Ceramic Mural**.

The Benalla Ceramic Mural emerges from the rolling green lawns on the shore of Lake Benalla, opposite the Benalla Art Gallery. The mural integrates the skills of the traditional potters, the vision of Indigenous people and the passion of the guided amateurs, new and old.

Explore the nooks and crannies of the ceramic mural and be rewarded as this curving, complex structure slowly reveals itself to the delight of children and adults alike.

Before departing Benalla, a guide will board the coach to take you for a drive past some of Benalla's street art. Each year, Benalla holds a Street Art Wall to Wall Festival, where local, national and international artists are invited to create new murals.

Leaving Benalla behind, we begin our journey back to Melbourne, stopping in **Euroa** at the **Euroa Hotel** for lunch.

### Cost:

**From \$1205.00 per person  
Twin / Double Share**

**From \$278.00 per person  
Single Supplement**

Tour Code: 679-CTA-A

### Inclusions:-

- \* Luxury Coach Travel
- \* Professional & Courteous Coach Captain
- \* Friendly & Accommodating Tour Escort
- \* 4-Nights Accommodation (3-4 star)
- \* All Meals
  - Breakfast Days 2-5
  - Lunch Days 1-5
  - Dinner Days 1-4
  - Morning Tea Day 1
- \* All Entries/Admissions as per Itinerary

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- You organise Travel Insurance, particularly for accommodated tours.
- You read our Terms & Conditions on our Booking Form carefully before signing and returning to Coach Tours of Australia.



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For more details on our **5 Day Silo Art Trail Tour** or if you would like to make a booking, please contact one of our friendly Team:-

Ph: 1800 224 022 or (03) 9740 8411

Email: [enquiries@ctoa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@ctoa.com.au)