CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT QUINDANNING INN

A few Mid-North members braved a chilly early morning start to a lovely sunny winter's day to join the Club 55 bus trip to Quindanning Inn for Christmas in July. The bus was very comfortable, driven by Chris. We travelled down the Kwinana Freeway, branching off before Mandurah to travel through lush farmland with cows and sheep grazing, then a slow climb up the Darling Range escarpment and through Jarrah forest.

Morning tea was at North Dandalup Dam with views over the dam to the coast. Granite rocks for the wall of the dam were quarried on site at a considerable construction cost saving. A delightful picnic site has been made below the wall of the dam, with lawn, barbecues and walks across the stream to the bushland.

Continuing through the regrowth Jarrah forest we heard about the WWII internment camps for people of Italian descent, around the area.

Dwellingup, the old timber town, has been rebuilt after the devastating 1961 fires. It is amazing how tall the trees have grown in fifty years. Skirting Boddington, the green paddocks are disfigured by brown earth where a bauxite mining company has removed the topsoil ready for mining. They are obliged to revegetate the area eventually.

The Quindanning Inn, our lunch stop, is out in the middle of nowhere - well, green farmland really. It was built of mud brick around 1900, when there were several small settlements in the area.

We were greeted with mulled wine and a brightly burning, real wood fire! Lunch was a delightful hot roast and vegetables and was followed by Christmas pudding and custard.

Time to have a look around and a short walk to the delightful Anglican Church nearby (St Boniface). A very simple church, still in use, built in the early 1900s, and consecrated in 1956.

Our return journey was via Boddington and Armadale. Boddington, a gold mining town, has a super pit larger than Kalgoorlie.

We were a little late home due to a huge traffic snarl on the freeway but enjoyed a delightful day out in the country with fresh air, sunshine and good company.

Recommended to all U3A groups.

Marg Lloyd Mid-North U3A