

ACROSS THE WIDE BROWN LAND TASMANIA 2007

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INTRODUCTION

One of the problems with the working life, when your employment comes with predetermined vacation periods, is the probability that when you're going on holidays so is everyone else.

So, as we reach the ends of our working lives, we look forward to getting away for a little break when everyone else (or nearly everyone else) is at work.

Of course, while you're actually in the workforce whatever special deals are on offer never coincide with the times when you (and everyone else) would be able to take advantage of them.

Having got our few commitments out of the way in early November, *Madam* and I had decided that sometime before school breaks up for 2007 we'd be heading off somewhere for a little holiday.

The only question was where to go.

Perth? Adelaide? Somewhere else?

A reluctance to allow travel arrangements coincide with electoral events meant we would be waiting till early December before we headed off.

While there was an awareness of the impending launch of **Tiger Airways** we hadn't made any definite plans when *'Er Indoors* went for a little web surf in mid-November.

And there it was. **Mackay to Melbourne**. Direct. No stopovers or transfers. \$9.95.

That sounded good.

The next issue was where to go from **Melbourne**, assuming there were further flights in the same (or a similar) price bracket.

Perth? One cheap fare left, and regular pricing for the return leg? Try another destination.

So how about Launceston?

There and back for another \$9.95 each?



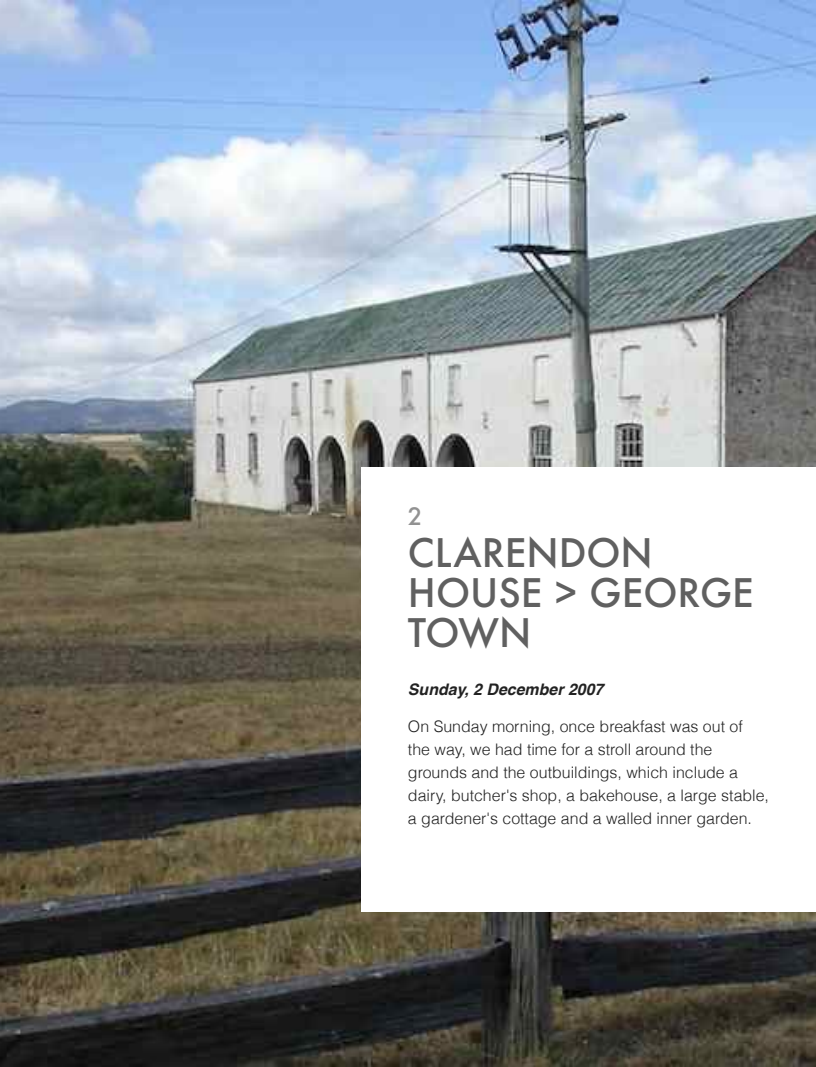
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GETTING THERE

Friday, 30 November 2007

Arriving at the airport, we found, unsurprisingly, those involved with the check-in procedure were still learning the ropes.

Once boarding commenced, I was somewhat bemused to notice the luggage was being loaded the old conveyor belt way rather than being slotted into place stowed in one of those handy



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CLARENDON HOUSE > GEORGE TOWN

Sunday, 2 December 2007

On Sunday morning, once breakfast was out of the way, we had time for a stroll around the grounds and the outbuildings, which include a dairy, butcher's shop, a bakehouse, a large stable, a gardener's cottage and a walled inner garden.



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GEORGE TOWN > TAMAR VALLEY > LAUNCESTON

Monday, 3 December 2007

Since our last two nights' accommodation was on the west bank of the Tamar, we headed back to Launceston tracking clockwise around the Tamar Valley Wine Route.



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LAUNCESTON

Tuesday, 4 December 2007

The weather outlook was always going to have a significant influence on our plans for Tuesday and Wednesday since we were under strict instructions from Warbo to make sure we visited Cataract Gorge.

Fortunately, after overnight rain, Tuesday dawned fine and clear, and we headed off after breakfast in search of somewhere to park the car for the day



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LAUNCESTON > MELBOURNE

Wednesday, 5 December 2007

Since we're talking departure day and a flight due to depart in the late afternoon, we had no specific plans for the day when breakfast arrived.

A discussion about our intentions resulted in a recommendation we head north and turn off the West Tamar Highway at Rosevears, then follow the road along the edge of the river.