

Even the two days I had rested up weren't enough so I stayed in Armidale a little longer.

This came to me when I looked back through my notes and saw that I had lost all sense of directions. I hadn't travelled West from Harare, but East and Brisbane and the other towers I'd rung in so far in Australia were on the East Coast.

During my sojourn I received an email from a good friend with a quiz question. It took me nearly 10 minutes to get the answer. Let me try it on you. It sounds as if it might be a ringing question, but isn't. It went: If Glasgow is 8 and Cambridge is 11, what is Oxford?

The connection is motorways. The M8 connects Scotland's two largest cities, Glasgow and Edinburgh and is just 60 miles long.

The M11 was originally built to link Stanstead Airport to London, but was later extended to Cambridge. It is 51 miles long.

The motorway serving Oxford is the M40. If you are really nerdy you will know the M40 was originally built to link London to Oxford, but was later extended to relieve traffic congestion on the M1/M6 London Birmingham link. The whole is 89 miles long.

So the answer is 40 (NB NOT M40)

I was well rested and knew which way was up by the following Wednesday and had made up my mind I liked Armidale but wanted the full on Australian bell ringing experience. Thus it was that on Wednesday morning I was at Armidale airport with a one way ticket to Sydney.

I arrived in Sydney on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and decided I would start tower grabbing the next day. There are so many towers in the Greater Sydney area that I decided to limit myself, but how. It needed to be both random and logical and so I hit on the idea of attending the practice for every tower within a 10km radius of the middle of Sydney Harbour Bridge starting on the 30<sup>th</sup>. I didn't miss a practice and in the end rang at 11 towers. I left the day after I rang at the last tower to be grabbed. Because of clashes I rang at two towers three times. Which were they, and what day did I leave?

My itinerary was:

Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> – Burwood

Fri 31<sup>st</sup> – Sydney St Philip

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> – No practices.

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lindfield

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sydney Cathedral

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> – Randwick

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> – Darling Point

Thur 6<sup>th</sup> – Naremburn

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> – Sydney, Broadway

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> – No practices

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – Lindfield

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – **Sydney Cathedral**

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> – Sydney St James

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> – **Darling Point**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> - Sydney RC Cathedral

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> – **Sydney St Philip**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> – No practices

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> – **Lindfield**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – **Sydney Cathedral**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Sydney, Christchurch St Lawrence

And so I rang at Linfield and Sydney Cathedral thrice and left on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

There were other itineraries I could have adopted but they all result in me ringing for 3 practices in only two towers (unless of course I had spent much longer doing it). **Unless of course you know different!!?**

I decided that I had to finish my trip around Australia with the Swan Bells and had to plan for how I would get there. There are so many towers I decided to go South from Sydney ringing at all the towers with more than 8 bells.

It took me a bit under 2 weeks but where did I ring and where did I end up?

Also, which was the heaviest ring?

My itinerary was:

1. Goulburn Cathedral (12 - 21-3-3) Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February
2. Melbourne Cathedral (12 - 29-1-2) Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February
3. Hobart Cathedral (10 - 21-2-8) Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

And the heaviest is the 12 at Melbourne Cathedral.