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AUGUST 2017



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EVENTS DIARY

SUNDAY AUGUST 6TH:

Meet at Princess Margaret Hospital Car Park 3 at 10.00am or 10.30am at the Peg Belfast.

Mel likes to take us to see the snow in August so get the Classic out and come for a drive. We will try for a picnic lunch but will go to a cafe if needed.

THURSDAY AUGUST 17TH:

Gold Card Cruisers

Meeting Place for August 17th Bangor Road at Darfield at 10.30am (Travel west through Darfield then turn Left just after the Church) for a Scenic drive to Geraldine and a Café Lunch.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD:

Usual Sunday Run

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH:

Meeting Place Thursday September 14th Rolleston Hotel Carpark 10.30am - some of us will have a Cruise and then head off to Fairlie to begin the Alpine!

Alpine: September 15th – 18th

MARATHON EARLY 2018

Julian's Jottings:

I trust everyone has survived the onslaught of wild weather. I got caught in Dunedin with the snow closing the road for half a day. I did get to use the 4WD only because I could!

I even managed to get the lawns mowed before the heavens opened up last Friday, ironically I washed the work vehicle on Sunday (because my Boss was coming down on Monday). But that's enough about the weather, daylight saving is only 8 weeks away! Unfortunately the vehicle fleet has been a bit neglected due to other commitments and those little projects and improvements are starting to mount up. The Stag WOF has just expired and there's a couple of minor things I need to do for it to pass, plus I need to rebuild the alternator and improve the lighting. With the Alpine just around the corner I'm gonna have to get onto it.

Founding Member Receives Honours

Geoff Ridley, one of the 12 founding members of the Classic Motoring Society was recently at Parliament House to receive from the Governor General the honour of being invested as a Knight of St John. Geoff has been a long term administrator for St John in the Southern Region. He has chaired the Southern Regional Committee and is well deserving of this rare honour. Our congratulations go to Geoff for his valuable continuing contribution to the order of St. John and the community.



A proud Geoff after his investiture by the Governor General

REPORT ON JUNE SUNDAY EVENT:

It was a cold and damp Queen's Birthday Sunday with 20 cars coming to the Peg for our start and a day to support the Cafe's in Cheviot.

The Two Rivers cafe had set aside their Mezzanine floor for our group. All enjoyed a delicious lunch and we reluctantly left at about 1.30pm to continue our drive.

We headed North and had to take the deviation through Parnassus and soon after that we took the left turn onto the Leader Road to Waiau. The Leader Road is always popular and to-day there was not much other traffic so we had a great drive through there. Waiau is sad looking after the Earthquakes and we hope that the "powers that be" get busy and restore them to some sought of normal living in warm dry houses.



Ray & Lynda's Grandson & friend making the most of a rainy Sunday

We turned left at the Red Post Junction to join the traffic on the way from Picton to Christchurch and beyond. After crossing the Waipara River we took Georges Road and wandered through Balcairn and Sefton on our way to Rangiora where we had an enjoyable coffee & cake stop at The Railway Cafe.

Thanks for coming it was a lovely day out.
Gill Peters



The beautiful Waiau River as seen from the Leader Road before entering Waiau.

REPORT ON GOLD CARD CRUISERS JUNE 15TH:

A straight forward run today which was easy for motorists travelling alone. Nineteen cars left the Peg car park to drive north along the Motorway through Woodend and Amberly and on to Greta Valley. We turned toward Scargill to follow the very scenic Scargill Valley road leading down to Waikari Valley. Really nice farms in this area set in rolling hills and a good flat windy road for drivers to enjoy. Arriving at Waikari Village we turned left towards the Main highway again and back to Amberly to the Nor Wester Café for an excellent lunch. Our large group made it a busy time for them but the service was very good. The day was pleasant and some of us sat outside in the courtyard. Later we moved on down to Pegasus Flat White Café for a most enjoyable Coffee and Cake and another friendly get together. Gill Milne.



One of the Odyssey Highlights – a River Cruise and "Bush" Dinner and Entertainment by Owen Blundell.



Another One Bites The Dust

I want to thank our fellow travellers for making the 2017 Queensland Odyssey a great success. We covered over 4400 km over our 15 days of touring with the shortest day being 122km and the longest 523km.

The way that everyone on the tour joined in all the activities was great to see and makes the effort of organising the Odyssey well worth it.

I want to thank **Gwen Hindmarsh** of Bizprint for all her help, under trying circumstances, in sorting out my route using Google Maps. My reservations about using Google Maps for the route are well and truly dispelled.



The team at the start in Coolangatta

Special thanks to **Diane Brandish** for all her help and **Max Clarke** for organising the rental vehicles for us.

REPORT ON THE TOUR BY PHIL SCHULTZ & MARGARET POVEY

Day 1

Twenty gathered in Coolangatta to begin the Odyssey. After a quick chat and meet up with others we hadn't seen in quite a while, we set off crossing the border into New South Wales. Beautiful fine day as we passed through the sugar cane of Tweed Valley, through Kyogle, over the border back into Queensland, to Warwick, a service centre for the agricultural industry.

Day 2

After going through Toowoomba stopped in at the Woolshed in Jondaryan, built in 1859-60. Took some narrow one lane sealed roads, and some gravel roads to Bunya Mountain getting spectacular views out over the plains. A windy steep decline to Kumbia and on to Kingaroy, home to Australia's largest

peanut processing plant.



An example of Queensland's Termite Mounds - P Schultz

Day 3

Drove up through many more sugar cane plantations, wagons loaded waiting to be railed to Bundaberg where several visited the Rum Distillery.

Day 4

Drove through the Boolboonda tunnel which was part of the Bundaberg to Mt Perry railway line from 1883-1960 servicing the Mt Perry copper mines. At 192m in length it is the longest unsupported man-made tunnel in Queensland and took two years to build.

Stopped off to view the Mt Morgan Gold Mine and walk across the swing bridge, then headed on to Rockhampton.

Day 5

Turned off the Capricorn Highway at Dingo and headed up to Middlesbrough. A number of coal mines around this area. Quite a sizeable workers camp, a small town and homes but very quiet on a Sunday. Continued on to Emerald via Capella. Cotton fields further than the eye can see.

Day 6

Had a look at Lake Maraboon and the Fairbairn Dam one of the major water supplies of the region and Queensland's second largest dam.

The Tree of Knowledge in Barcaldine is a ghost gum under which the workers of the 1891 Shearers Strike met. In 1990 it was discovered to be infested with termites and treated back to health over three years. In 2006 it was vandalised and died, was taken away and preserved and placed back on the site as a monument.

Infracombe has a line along the main street of numerous old tractors, dozers, graders and other machinery, like an oasis after the long straights and barren land.

A late afternoon cruise on the Thomson River at Longreach, seeing the turtles coming around to feed, eating nibbles, drinking wine, and watching the setting sun. Ashore for a two course camp dinner beside the coolibah trees and well entertained with songs and stories by aussie Owen Blundell.

Day 7

A day in Longreach visiting the Qantas museum, the Stockman's Hall of Fame and walking the streets.

Day 8

A coffee stop in Winton the home of Waltzing Matilda. Attempted a lunch stop at the Kynuna Roadhouse but a whole convoy of the Australian army were fuelling their trucks and the wait for the toasted sandwich was going to be too long, so back to the Blue Heelers Hotel. Nice quaint 1960s dining room. The barmaid produced the toasties, boiled the jug and you made your own tea.

An essential stop at the watering hole Walkabout Creek Hotel in McKinlay, which featured in the first Crocodile Dundee movie. The old truck out the front was also used in the filming.



Only in the Outback – A Camel A Cyclist & a Power Pylon – P Schultz

On to Cloncurry, a town built in 1867 to service copper mining, and then uranium in the 1950s.

In 1928 the first-ever flight of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia took place from Cloncurry.

Day 9

Just 121kms today. Mt Isa came into existence in the 1920s because of the lead, silver, copper and zinc found in the area. During WWII after the bombing of Darwin and the fear Mt Isa may be next, miners built an underground hospital with surgical, medical and maternity facilities, outpatients and operating theatres. It was never used for that purpose but nurses on night shift found it a cool and quiet place to sleep in the daytime, and it was used as a store-house for the above-ground hospital.

Mt Isa has an urban population of 22,000, has eleven primary schools and four high schools.

The artificial Lake Moondarra 19kms from town, provides both drinking water and recreation.

Nelson & Allan were taken aback when they arrived at the motel to find they had a unit with one double bed, but it was soon rectified by the management and they were allocated another unit.



The Road in Northern Queensland – 1 lane of seal! – M Povey

Day 10

Longer drive today. 295kms to the first sign of civilization, the Burke & Wills Roadhouse where every traveller stops to revive with the usual outback cuisine of pies and toasted sandwiches.

Back onto the roads with one-lane of seal down the middle. If you meet a car, you both move over, if you meet a B-Train you let him have all the road. Termite mounds plentiful and dark red in colour.

Normanton has a population of 1500 and has three pubs. The town has the longest intact and operating Burns Philp store which opened in 1884.

There is a statue of the largest saltwater crocodile ever taken 8.64m and a 6m long Barramundi.

Visited Karumba on the Gulf of Carpentaria. A popular holiday spot, only boating, as the water is popular with crocs too. Driving back to Normanton after four and the kangaroo were coming out on to the road.

A popular place for frogs too, in the toilet and jumping around the motel unit.

Day 11

Watched the Gulflander depart the railway station on a day trip out of town.

Croydon has the oldest general store in Australia est 1894 when the gold rush was on and population reached 7000. Now is around 300.

The Savannah Way to Georgetown, mainly a single-lane sealed road. Grids placed across roadway to contain the roaming Brahman cattle to specific areas. Georgetown with 250 people has a hospital, courthouse doubling as the Dept of Natural Resources and Mines, police station and three petrol stations. Some decided to go to the local pub to watch the rugby and three gents crammed into the back of David's car only to find that there were no other passengers.

Day 12

Visited the Undara Lava Tubes formed 190,000 years ago from a volcanic eruption which spewed molten lava over the surrounding landscape, flowing rapidly down a dry riverbed. Guided tour into the tubes where we also saw micro bats, rock-wallaby and brush-turkeys.

Quite a distance before we came to Mt Garnet to buy

another couple of pies, then on to Malanda and the first rain we had on the trip.



Ladies waiting to visit Lava Tubes – note Marilyn hiding behind her iPad! Photo by M Mitchell

Day 13

The rain had eased and we were able to view the Malanda Falls, then on to Atherton, and Mareeba.

A cafe lunch in Mossman was a nice change from pies and toasties. The Daintree ferry was very popular that afternoon and we had a 55 minute wait, after which we had a five minute crossing on a ferry operated by cable. The next 35kms the weather became rainy, the road windy and steep in places. We arrived at our lodge at Cape Tribulation which was a real bush retreat. They have their own power generator, sewerage system, water supply, games room, two swimming pools, restaurant, satellite for their phone communication, no wi-fi, and no TV. The 89 units were all spread out in the bush, linked by cobbled pathways. The 'village' had a cafe, a bar and a grocery store. 18kms to the nearest fuel station.

Day 14

A fine day at Cape Tribulation except for one heavy shower. Activities included a croc cruise, electric bike tour, fruit tasting, bush walks and beach walks.

Day 15

Woke in the morning to much chattering in the trees overhead, and looked to find it was numerous bats. Fine day leaving the Cape, the road much more pleasant in the dry. A two minute wait for the ferry, and a five minute trip across the Daintree River. A quick look around the Wildlife Zoo to see a cassowary which we hadn't managed to see in the wild. Tea, banana and sugar cane plantations for miles. Lunch in the bustling Port Douglas, through Cairns and Innisfail and on to Mission Beach.

Our last happy hour, and dinner. Most joined for a buffet breakfast next morning.

An odyssey of 4733kms. An awesome trip, with awesome people. Looking forward to WA.

Home to NZ and the cold.



A large crocodile in the Daintree – photo by Ellen Owen

REPORT ON SUNDAY JULY 2ND



Photo by Kieran McGoverin

The weather forecast was looking rather dismal so I was pleasantly surprised to see so many turn out for our monthly run. It was good to see some new and potential members also make the start.

After the usual meet and greet we headed down Hoon Hay road and onto the motorway, down Shands rd to make our way to Doyleston where the O'Malleys were waiting to join the convoy as we meandered our way to Dunsandel and SH1 to Rakaia. From Rakaia we drove to Barhill before detouring via Backtrack and Chertsey Methven Rd. The mountains looked picturesque as the cloud broke open to reveal the freshly covered snowy peaks.

I had tentatively booked lunch for 30 at the Brown Pub in Methven, they could cater for 45 and we ended up with 43 people. I think all would agree they did a great job catering for such a crowd. The menu had a good selection and the meals were generously portioned.

After lunch we were to meet with John McKay to view the Family collection, unfortunately John was unexpectedly called away on business, so as not to disappoint He generously left us a note and the key to the shed, true Kiwi hospitality! The collection consisted of several vehicles predominately Hudsons of varying vintage plus a Hillman Imp an AMC and a Honda 600. There was also a variety of farm machinery and unusual tools plus numerous photos and memorabilia of the area dating back to the turn of the 20th century. Well worth the trip down memory lane. Departing Methven with the sun shining we headed back to Rakaia via the Line Rd and then to the Dunsandel Hotel for coffee and cake, thanks to Noeline for organising this. I can recommend the custard square as a great way to finish off a rather pleasant Sunday sojourn. Julian Barrett

REPORT ON GOLD CARD CRUISERS

JULY 13TH

On a very cold and showery morning four cars at the Meeting place and we set off on our revised trip through Preston Downs subdivision at West Melton on to Halkett Road then along the West Road with snow covered paddocks. We turned off through Kirwee and on to Bealey Road through Hororata, Te Pirita, to the Main Highway at Rakaia. The roads were all clear despite the snowy roadsides and as we turned towards Leeston the rain had melted it away and the sky seemed a little brighter. We had lunch at Hillyers Leeston then motored on toward Rolleston turning into the Faringdon subdivision for a look almost a little township of its own. We arrived at Coffee Culture in Rolleston and three more of our motoring friends joined us there for a long afternoon tea of Coffee and Cake. Gill Milne.



GOOD AS GOLD ALPINE CLASSIC 15TH TO 18TH SEPTEMBER

Now that the Odyssey is over it is time to put the finishing touches on the 2017 Alpine Classic. There are a few places left for those that want to enter at this stage. If you do want to join us on what promises to be an excellent tour then contact either Gill Peters or Graeme Sharp (G2) for an entry form. The plotters have made sure that those that want to avoid gravel roads can do so without any bother. The gravel roads used in the plotting were all in great condition at the time of plotting but you can use the tarmac route which will also be detailed in the route book. G2 advises that the tour packs will be sent out two weeks prior to event starting. Packs for those cars with more than two people will receive a Route Book for each passenger.

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU



Selwyn Motor Fest Sunday 26th November 2017.

They're hoping to attract 1,000 vehicles for display as a fund-raising family fun day event for Selwyn St John Ambulance.

Registration is only \$10 per vehicle & it's a very worthy cause.

WHEEL TORQUE

A copy of the latest edition of the Newsletter of the Federation of Motoring Clubs is attached to the email.



Classic Cars in Methven - Photo by Kevin McGoverin