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December 2009 Joy

Christmas Brunch Sunday, 6th December

We've been invited to join the Triumph Club, Rover Car Club, Daimler Enthusiasts Club, Armstrong Siddeley Club, Wolseley Car Club and various others for a Christmas Barbecue at Orton Bradley Park. They're making it easy for us by joining us at our usual haunt of the carpark opposite Princess Margaret Hospital (riverside) at the west end at 10.30am for the leisurely run to the park. If you prefer, feel free to drive directly there. As we mentioned in the October newsletter, if you have an easily transportable BBQ it could be handy.

Also, as this is Christmas, bring wrapped parcels from the \$2 shop equal to the number of people in your party for Father Christmas to distribute. Admission to the park is \$3 per adult \$1 per child or \$8 per carload.

See you there.

General Information on the Monthly Runs

Following on from the efforts of the "Sunday Run" group we are staying with the same plan – 1st Sunday of EVERY month – 10.30am at the riverside car park by Princess Margaret Hospital. Hopefully this will make it easy to remember. So if you haven't had the "classic" out lately and you want to socialise with a really neat bunch of classic enthusiasts, come along – you will be most welcome.

Early Bird Run Jan 3rd 2010

This is the earliest we've ever held an event. As usual 10.30am at PMH Car Park. We have a nice sunny day on order and plans for a laid back run and picnic lunch. All will be revealed then.

Short Month Run Feb 6th

We are always looking for something different to do but still connected to our Classic Motoring. I have enjoyed the Skope Classic Racing at Ruapuna for many years and I know that many of our members also attend. We could maybe congregate at the McCrae Stand or erect a Gazebo out on the grass

bank – or – how about your ideas or wishes. Please contact Mel (03) 337 4144 or email: petersmg@ihug.co.nz with your thoughts. If this does not suit we will arrange a "run" for the day.

Gill & Mel Peters

Classic Marathon March 6-11

You will notice that there is an entry form for the Classic Marathon enclosed with this newsletter. Those of you that have supplied email addresses would have received this a couple of weeks ago and it has also been available on our website since then.

We've already had a couple of entries for this event taking full advantage of the Early Bird Discount. This discount is only available until December 11th, 2009 so you'll need to get your skates on if wish to take advantage of it.

Please send the accommodation portion of the entry form directly to Fay O'Dell at Travel To You (her details are on the form), remembering to keep a copy for your own records. The CMSNZ office won't have a copy of this.

We're all looking forward to another fabulous North Island tour. For some of us, this tends to be the only time we get to the northern island so we intend to fit in a bit of touristy stuff. You'll notice that the days around Rotorua have allowed for this.

So pull out those classic cars and get fettling. Its only 4 months away!

Events Diary 2009

Sunday, Dec 6 Christmas Brunch

Bring your barbecue for a picnic Christmas brunch

Sunday, Jan 3, 2010 January Run

Starting the year of classic car jaunts off early!

Sunday, Feb 6 Shortest Month Run

Would you like to go to the Skope Classic this year?

6-11 March Classic Marathon

Its on again and its in the North Island. Woo hoo!

Tasmanian Tour

Report by Tony & Jeanette Childs

Macedon Ranges Motor Club Tour of Tasmania joined by New Zealand Classic Motoring Society saw nineteen cars meet in Devonport, Tasmania.

Macedon Ranges members bought their cars over on the ferry from Melbourne, eleven hours on Bass Strait, the wildest sea in the world, while the kiwis had eight hour wait while plane hopping and negotiating our way through customs.

We travelled in convoy north to Dismal Swamp which is in a National Park. You could walk down to the crater sink hole at the bottom, or slide down at 40kmh and take 30 seconds on a slide that started at the cat walk at the top of the trees. Mosquitos enjoyed their lunch with all the people that went down to the bottom.

Stanley township is a lot like Lyttelton, Christchurch, with a volcanic plug that sticks up out of the coastline. Wynyard saw us by the sea having a BBQ tea for the group to get to know each other.

Next morning we went to the Sunday market on the foreshore then on to an early Ford Museum before convoying through a National Park (which was a lot like Lewis Pass) to an old Tin mining town called Waratah, which reminded us of Denniston. Then a night at Cradle Mountain with its high plateau with lots of walking tracks. Their short easy walk was said to be two hours but took our fit walkers three hours of slog.

Heading west to the zinc mining towns of Rosebery and Leehan where a great museum of mining was set out in 1880's buildings, then onto the West Coast to Strahan for the night. Raining west coast style Geoff Ridley in a PT Cruiser convertible had to finally put the rag top up! Some of the brave ones ventured through the spray tunnel in their cars - this is a 2.2m wide earth tunnel that took trams carting ore in 1889-1906 but was a rough 4 x 4 track now. We had to put the mirrors in it was so narrow - Karan's Fairlane 500 even got through, just! Luckily they only had one mirror as they could not put theirs in.

At Strahan we went on the Gordon river cruise and wilderness steam train to Queenstown and then back on bus to Strahan. Iron ore from the 1800's mining has left the river flowing orange and killing



all the wild life in the water and the trees on the riverbank.

Day five we travelled in convoy coast to coast though another mining town called Queenstown, and seven hours driving through gum trees to Hobart. This drive was interesting as a Harley Davison motor bike convention was on so we had to dodge 4000 bikes as well as the road kill wallabies (no roos in Tassie).

Port Arthur is a sad tale of torture and misery for the thousands of prisoners. We walked the extensive grounds and torture cells plus many large stone buildings by day and did a ghost tour by lantern at night.

Harbour Cruise gave us more enlightenment of the hell people went through in the 1830s to 1877 period - all dumped in Australia from England.

Day seven was a convoy drive through Hobart. Thankfully we still all had our CB radios to get directions which lane to take, where to turn etc. The navigators who can't read maps and the GPS navigators sure liked these radios - they were a godsend. We drove the Huon Valley to an airwalk cantilever tower in gum forest canopy.

The group meal to farewell those leaving to catch the ferry to go back home was a sad affair as friends were made and we did not like to see them go.

Salamaca Market was on the agenda next morning, then we did the historic walk around Battery Point. Houses dated from 1830 - 1852 and were in excellent lived in condition. They were made from sandstone blocks 500 x 500 and all cut by hand and carved by the convict children with lovely wrought iron balconies.

Tasman Bridge crossing the harbour with a high arch in the middle had, in the 1970's, a ship crash into it with two cars falling in and a Holden Manaro was left with its front hanging over the hole. Just as well it did not go down as they are worth a few bob these days. We had the luck of being able to ride in one of these for a day on our tour - the 327 motor sure can move that classic along.

Mount Wellington is 1270m above Hobart city and is all rock boulders with a few gum trees with a road up to the top look out. Great view of south east Tassie.

to be continued next month



Swansea on the east coast had beautiful white sandy beaches with water dams in every gully. At St Marys we stumbled onto a private collection of model aeroplanes. We then travelled along the sandy beach to St Helens, then north up the fire coast. It was named this in 1773 because the aboriginals had lots of lit fires all along the coast line.

Beautiful white sandy beaches and calm harbours, then inland to Colombia Falls in yet another National Park. From here the Aussies went out on tar seal to a pub in a paddock while the kiwis rallied through the dust on a dirt road through the hilly forest to Legerwood, which has memorials of locals killed in the wars carved into old trees on their main street.

Derby is a derelict tin town with a railway and shops closed down. West through very good dairy farms to Scottsdale, Lilydale and into the city of Launceston to our accommodation for the next three days. It is a very old english building with stable doors to rooms and shutters on windows and shingles on roof, a dutch windmill out the back and a large wooden water wheel. The port is inland from the sea on the Tamar River with a wetland fed from Cataract Gorge. This is a steep, large jumbled rock area that has walkways for 15km to a power dam with the longest single span chair lift in the world, all very spectacular.

Tasman National auto museum was a lot like Fazzas in Christchurch, the day saw us at an old umbrella shop, waverley old woollen mills, antiques and collectables and tas wines, then for tea which was Fish @ Chips or (Fush @ Chups)!!!! as the Aussies say 6 for sex!!.

Day thirteen saw us at the sea horse world and platapus house then over the harbour through George Town Low Head to the light houses to watch whales just playing on the sea surface.

Beaconsfield mine where the 2008 disaster was, was our next stop over. Reconstruction of where the two trapped miners were for 14 days, also there was a great museum set from 1880 to todays mining operation. Central north area had hops, poppies, grapes, apples and very fertile soil. Longford (where they have street racing) this area has a very english feel. Deloraine had great tractor and steam museum, then past aluminium cliffs to Sheffield, just like our like our Sheffield near our Darfield with sheep,veges, grain cropping in very fertile soil. Leven Canon was another lovely bush walk to look out, then on to Gunns Plain cave, this is 1k underground with stalagmites and stalagmitics plus amazing limestone curtains, this was a real

highlight.

Sixteen days, 2600km very well organised classic tour of Tassie.

Thank you Graeme Lemin and Lindsay Elliott and team members from Macedon Motor Club.

Jeanette & Tony Childs

Events Diary on the Website

Don't forget that there is also an Events Diary on our website (on the right hand side of the home page) which is updated as information comes to hand, which is usually more often than the newsletter gets published! Go to www.cmsnz.org.nz