



Cat's Tales

Newsletter of the

**Jaguar Drivers' Club of Queensland Inc.
Sunshine Coast Register.**

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From the Editor

To those who were waiting for the April Cat's Tales at the end of that month, I apologise. Stu and I were away much of April taking an interesting road trip to the Jaguar Nationals in Adelaide. Afterwards, collecting the articles and pictures together took a little longer than I expected.

As compensation I promise this will be monster edition.

What's Been Happening

Secrets on the Sunshine (?) Coast

The 18th of April was supposed to be bright and sunny however the weather gods had other ideas. John Herbert had organised a day of secrets for us to enjoy, and enjoy it we did, despite the considerable amount of rain on the day.

Morning tea was arranged at the Maroochydore Bushland Botanical Gardens, a wonderful location (I know that because I have been there in more favourable conditions) but today somewhat damp. We arrived to find the shelter John had intended to use full of primary school kids and their teachers sheltering from the rain. After sharing this, by now crowded, shelter until most of our contingent had arrived John set out to find us another spot to share our morning tea and located one about 500 metres away. With the rain eased off we relocated and settled in to the usual fare of cakes, tea, coffee and lots of spirited conversation.



The rain came back again and while we were protected, a group of the school kids, out on the exploration of the gardens, had to seek shelter with us so we had company once again. Despite the conditions a pleasant hour was spent before, again in a break from the rain, we headed back to the cars for the drive to our lunch destination.



John had plotted a very interesting drive of about 30 klms through countryside and forests avoiding any main roads. Even with a little rain it was enjoyable passing through Chevallum, Palmwoods (past Ricks Diner, another fascinating place to visit), up the very steep Razorback Road to Montville then down to Narrows Road to Lake Baroon. Lake Baroon is a major water supply for the Sunshine Coast and very picturesque. On the shore of the lake is Secrets on the Lake, a fascinating café and resort full of character and

beautiful vistas overlooking Lake Baroon.



We were joined by some members who had driven directly to the Café and after settling in to our two long tables our 26 members enjoyed a delightful meal and of course a lot more enthusiastic chatter. Despite sharing the café with another large group, the service was prompt, friendly and efficient, the food excellent and, by this time, the rain irrelevant.





By mid afternoon the rain had eased off again and we gradually said our goodbyes and headed for home having enjoyed a delightful, if a little damp, day. Many thanks to John for his excellent organisation and for Debbie for her delicious cake. A day we all enjoyed.

Tony Herald with photos from Debbie Herbert and Ian McKinney



Tony couldn't compete with the camera

Charlie explaining to Ken and John how he fixed that tricky bit





Sunny faces despite the weather



Was this a pre or post lunch shot?



*Just to prove this was a
Jag Club run*

Jaguar National Rally 2018 hosted by Jaguar Drivers Club of SA

The organizing committee planned to make this a different type of event, while retaining old favourites, and they certainly succeeded. The rally, in two parts at different locations in the the State, was longer than usual, provided lots of choice of activities, focusing on enjoyment rather than competition, and tried to keep costs for participants down.

Mother Nature was not, however, kind at the commencement. The Sunshine Coast contingent had travelled to South Australia by a number of different routes but all had faced long days of driving in high 30s temperatures, culminating in dust storms for the last day. Thursday, Registration Day, appeared to be kinder as we arrived at Weintal Resort in Tanunda for a very efficient regstration process However, even before the Welcome BBQ that night, the rain had begun.

The first full day of activities might have been Friday 13th but, weatherwise, it was the luckiest day of the Tanunda half of the Rally. Scheduled for the day was a visit to the Late Carl Lindner's Collection of Classic Jaguars followed by lunch at Seppeltsfield Winery. Stu and I had chosen to spend the morning exploring Angaston, which we had missed on previous trips, but those who did take in Carl Lindner's reported that it was most impressive. Seppeltsfield was delightful and gave plenty of opportunity for some shopping ,too. The former Clydesdale Stable have been converted into the Jam Factory Artist and Design Studio and various artists-in-residence produce and display glassworks, pottery, paintings, textiles, leather and millinery to name but a few. Another repurposed building housed Vasse Virgin, producers of olive oil based skincare and the Pantry with plenty of interesting locally made foods. I'm sure Holly and I were not the only ones to be tempted at Vasse Virgin and we are both enjoying our purchases very much. That night there was Barefoot Bowls and a dinner which, I'm told were fun.

Saturday was the beginning of the weather gods real anger. Stu and I had not planned to do the Hill Climb scheduled for the day, planning instead to take in the Meadery, a Lavender Farm and Farmers' Markets. We were however planning to join the scheduled Winery tour. After the Meadery, where we waited more than 15 minutes to get back to our car not 20 metres away due to torrential rain, we relaxed in our room and read. The rain was horizontal. Tony Brett did brave the Hill Climb but found the conditions became appalling.



Sadly Sunday dawned not a lot better and very cold. Display Day is always Stu's favourite event at any Nationals but this year he couldn't make it there. Sunshine Coast Chapter was well represented with Holly and Peter, Colin and Lynn, Merv and Tony Brett all braving the

elements.



Merv, with Tony, leaving for Display Day.

Lyn stayed behind but was still loyal to the marque.



Not even Col could keep his car without rainspots

Did we mention that it was wet, windy and cold at Display Day?



Celebrating 70 years of the XK120 at Display Day

That evening, at the Presentation Dinner they were rewarded for their bravery; Peter and Holly took out Best Presented Car and Merv and Lyn were joint winners of the People's Choice Award.



Peter and Holly's car on display



Merv's Disco Queen!

There is a very interesting story about why Merv and Lyn still do not have their trophy or even a picture of them with it, (although JDCSA are taking care of it) but in the interests of not being sued, I'll leave Merv or Lyn to tell you all about it.



The 'official photos'

Unofficial but delightful



Monday morning we farewelled the Barossa and made our way to the Fleurieu Peninsula. There was an option to travel via Tailum Bend and for registered delegates to do a couple of laps at The Bend Motorsport Park before proceeding to McCracken's Resort in Victor Harbour. Wonderful news- the sun was shining and the weather was lovely. It remained like that for the remainder of the Rally. The organisers deserved this break because throughout they had put so much thought and effort into providing a great program.

A visit to Barry Hill's Bi-Planes on Hindmarsh Island made for an exciting morning and was almost a Display Day as well. While delegates were welcome to go their own way there, a convoy drive took a very scenic route with views over Victor Harbour, Port Elliot and Goolwa. Apart from seeing some great planes and some exciting flying there were most interesting talks about restoring and flying Tiger Moths from Barry and another of the pilots.



We took the opportunity afterwards to visit the Murray Mouth Reserve which was nearby.



After lunch at the Fleurieu Function Centre, Tony Brett took part in the Jagkhana at Goolwa Airport. Tony and Gen also attended the Dinner and Square Dance that night.

We decided to lunch at the historic Corio Hotel in Goolwa. Stu was made very happy when another diner came out to admire his car. "It is the nicest one I've ever seen", he said. Although this gentleman now has a Merc he has previously owned many Jags.



After lunch we returned to Victor Harbour and took the historic horsedrawn tram to Granite Island.

Wednesday was a quiet but most pleasant day with a convoy drive through the Hindmarsh Valley to Myponga Reserve and then to Normanville for lunch.



The return journey was just as scenic

The final day was certainly the piece de resistance for many people. Cars were parked on display at Warland Reserve, with JDCSA members remaining there for the remainder of the day as security.



Delegates took the short walk to the railway station to catch the Cockle Train. This train, too, was originally horsedrawn (the reason for it being wide gauge was to allow pairs of horses). Goods landed at Victor Harbour were transported by this railway to Goolwa, the Murray River port, and produce and wool from the Darling and Murray systems were moved from Goolwa to Victor Harbour by this line. The railway track from Goolwa to Port Elliot was the first public railway in Australia and was laid in 1854. After 10 years the steel tracks were extended to Victor Harbor. In 1884 steam trains replaced horses.

The line rarely is out of sight of the sea so the trip is very scenic and there is the excitement, too, of a steam train ride. There was time to explore Goolwa and lunch before the return journey.



Happy Sunshine Coasters enjoying the ride



The Farewell Dinner that night was held at the Hotel Crown, one of the pubs built to service the railway.

Those who still hadn't had their fill of classic cars or just weren't in a hurry to get home remained for the McLaren Vale Vintage and Classic Event the following weekend.

This certainly was a National Rally for everyone with such a variety of events arranged by a friendly and well organized team. It will be hard act to follow next year in Albury/Wodonga!

Wendy Gross

Photographs provided by the author, JDCSA, Holly & Peter Morgan

What's Coming Up

31st May. Breakfast Run to the Sandbar Café (Stu and Wendy Gross)



8:15am... Meet at Pioneer Park, Caloundra Rd, Landsborough for 8:30am departure.
Please RSVP no later than Monday, the 28th of May.
stu12dozen@gmail.com 0498 203 257

8-10th June- Bunya Mountains Historical + weekend. This is a Brisbane Chapter event, organized by Phil Sperryn and Ruth Bodey but it is starting in Kilcoy. A few Sunshine Coast Chapter members are already booked to go on what looks like a great weekend away. Check the JDCQ website, refer to Secretary Marg's email or email phil.ruthb@gmail.com

17 Jun - Stu & Wendy's Mystery Run. We leave from Southbound Moby Vics (outside Beefy's) at a time to be notified.

14th July- Bastille Day Run. Advanced Notice **that this is a Saturday Run in July**- you really do have to celebrate Bastille Day on the right day! No prizes for guessing that the theme is "Things French" but there will be prizes for getting with the theme so this gives plenty of time for planning.