



# Cat's Tales

Newsletter of the

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

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## **What's Been Happening**

### **The Last Word on the Nationals**

#### ***Crossing the Hay Plain***

*They come from right across the nation,  
With South Australia their destination,  
All participants in this year's national rally,  
One hundred and sixty cars the final tally.*

*Jaguars of all colours, shapes and sizes,  
Some having won several prizes  
In concourses held across the land,  
Though this year no judging had been planned.*

*If you ask those from Qld and New South Wales,  
They're sure to tell a frightful tale  
Of a searing heat wave which hit the land  
And for which our travellers had not planned!*

*So across the Hay Plains, dusty dry,  
With not a cloud in the hazy sky,  
Those with air-con, turned full blast,  
Hoped that this segment would quickly pass.*

*But those poor folk with no air-conditioning  
Felt that they were slowly withering.  
Their only reprieve, the cool night air,  
Before another day of heat and despair.*

*Through a landscape comprised of barren hills,  
Straight highways dotted with recent road-kill,  
Flat, dry pastures with no vegetation,  
This really was a bleak destination!*

*At last – into Tanunda the Jaguars rolled,  
And this place was a sight to behold,  
For after the heat of the dusty plains,  
Tanunda was replete with cold and rain.*

*So to those who like the countryside,  
And travel to rallies far and wide,  
Make sure your air-con is working well,  
Or you may face a similar hell!*

Genavive St Clair

## The First Breakfast Run (Well, in recent memory) (Stu and Wendy Gross)

Some months ago, in order to increase the number of Jaguar Club events, your Committee decided to trial Breakfast Runs and May 31<sup>st</sup> saw the first of them.

The meeting point was advertised to be Pioneer Park in Landsborough. Some members, familiar with the car park nearest the toilets had no problems. However, the Council has added another car park which some people found and others ended up in a third park in town. A few phone calls and checking out saw all 21 attendees in place and ready to roll on a rather crisp morning. While there was a good number of Jaguar Club members,



we were pleased to welcome two Morgan Club members, Lyn and Geoff, two Austin Healey Club members, Marie and Murray and three other guests.





After a short briefing from Trip Leader, Stu, we set off.



Yes, the shortest route to the Sandbar Restaurant would have been by Caloundra Rd but that would have been a very short run indeed. Instead we turned left from the car park, away from Caloundra, joined Steve Irwin Way southbound to Roy's Rd, left onto the Bruce and finally to the Caloundra Rd exit. It was a lovely morning for a drive!

The Breakfast Special, which had 3 different options, was very popular and everyone seemed very happy with their food. Given that the wind felt like it was straight from the Antarctic, hot drinks to start were most appreciated. As always it was the chance to socialize that was the biggest hit.



This definitely won't be the last Breakfast Run so keep watching Upcoming Events.

## Weekend Away to Kingaroy and the Bunya Mountains 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

### Trip Leaders Extraordinaire: Phil Sperry and Ruth Bodey ( Brisbane Register)

You know the saying, 'if at first you don't succeed, try again'? Well, I am pleased Phil and Ruth did just that, after having to cancel this trip last year because of bad weather. Not only did the weather gods mostly smile on us, our group of 23 had a varied and most interesting experience in great company and at a relaxed pace.

Our expedition began with a delightful morning tea at Willie Wagtail's Restaurant in Kilcoy.

Some people will remember it as Chantilly Blue. Since our destination was Kingaroy it was a good meeting place for both Brisbane and Sunshine Coast register members.



The scones were great and one of the several choices of homemade jam was my favourite, fig! We began as we were going to continue, with eating too much.

We then travelled up the D'Aguilar Highway to our first pit stop at Blackbutt. We were later to learn that the settlers in Kingaroy used to make the trip by stage coach, with all passengers required to get out at the bottom of the mountain and walk up, carrying their luggage because the horses couldn't pull a laden stagecoach up that hill. All our cars, even the more vintage Jags had no trouble making it to Blackbutt, thankfully. Apart from enjoying the 'amenities' many of the ladies also did what they do best, shopping.

Our next stop was to Mulanah Gardens for lunch. Set on a hill with vistas to Kingaroy and the South Burnett region, this lovely property boasts a function area and two delightful self-contained cottages set in lovely gardens.



Did I mention the lunch was great!



We went from there to our home for the next two nights, the Burke and Wills Motel. Of course it wasn't long before the men were under bonnets and the ladies explored the town.



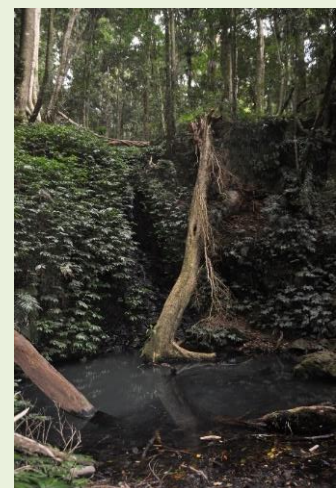
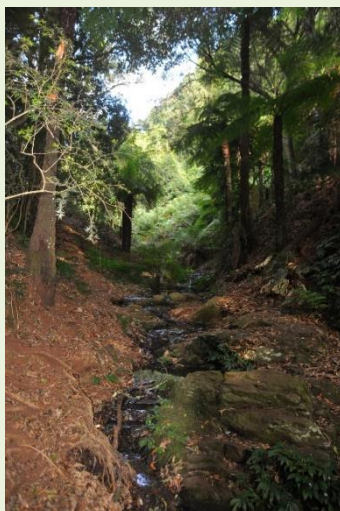
After an early dinner at the motel we were off to the Observatory. It certainly was dark out there at night which is why the observatory works, well, except for us that night because the clouds had rolled in. The show began after there seemed a break in the sky and stars could be seen but it was not to be. ( Ruth and Phil are already organising an overnight trip July/August to take them up on the offer of another star gazing experience as compensation).

Hey, not everything on a 3 day trip can go to plan!

After breakfast and stern warnings about police patrols on the road, we set off for the Bunyas.



Most opted for a great walk through this beautiful forest with its wildlife, amazing trees, strange plants



and surprise lookouts.



Those for whom the 5km bushwalk was a bit daunting appreciated the cart tour of the area.





We all joined up again for lunch at nearby Elz restaurant. This is a good time to mention how well organised the refreshments were throughout the trip. Apart from dinner on Saturday night meals and morning teas were preordered and paid for so we were all served promptly with very good food.

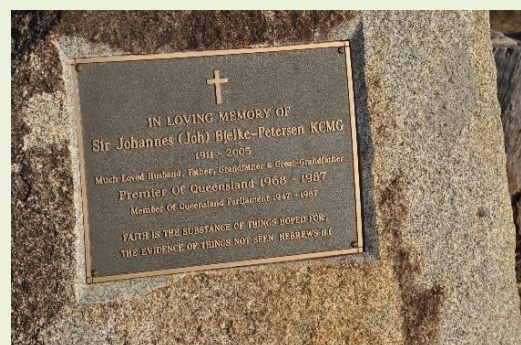
Leaving Dandabah we returned to Kingaroy and visited Bethany, the property of the Bjelke-Petersen family. John Bjelke-Petersen met us at the homestead and led us up the hill where we learned about the family's history, the settlement of the area, the present concerns about mining in the area and about his parents Joh and Flo while taking in the wonderful views over Kingaroy to the Bunya Mountains.



As the sun became lower in the sky, it was time to return to the homestead for afternoon tea which included Flo's famous pumpkin scones.



John had mentioned that both his parents were buried nearby and pointed out the bunya pine planted in memory of Joh.



Lindsay was delighted to find the Jaguar, formerly Joh's car when Premier of Queensland, which he had bought at auction and later gave back to the family.



Before we had started on our journey, Phil had handed out question sheets and these were marked at dinner on Saturday night at the historic Carollee Hotel.



Phil then added a second test on all that we had seen and done in the last two days. Barry and Margaret won the first prize and Wendy and Stu the second prize. Mark 2's rule!



Sunday morning saw us historic Taabinga Homestead, one of the oldest in the district and still in the original family.



While we made the trip from Kingaroy, now a town well supplied with shops, in less than 30 minutes, the early settlers had had to be largely self-sufficient given that supplies only came by dray a few times a year. We toured through the blacksmith's shop, the dairy, the slaughter house and the storehouse before morning tea in the beautiful homestead.



No trip to Kingaroy should miss Pottique, a lavender farm and gift boutique. The shopping is always interesting but there are also beautiful gardens to enjoy. Our stay there was not lengthy but was a pleasant sojourn before heading off to Nanango.

Here we stopped at historic Ringsfield House, previously a maternity home.



This lovely building is now a local museum with an eclectic collection of artefacts. Something which grabbed my attention was the imposing dining room setting. This came from the well-known Tritton store. More fascinating was that the daughter of this wealthy family, Lydia (known as Nell) shunned the socialite path, became a journalist and moved to England. On the long sea trip there she immersed herself in all things Russian. She married one Russian émigré, divorced and, after rescuing him from the Nazis, married Alexander Kerensky who had been Prime Minister of Russia after the 1917 Revolution before being forced to flee by the Leninists. Sadly Lydia had a stroke and died of kidney failure in 1946, aged just 47, while visiting her parents in Brisbane.

Our journey was nearing its end now and after another good lunch in Blackbutt the travellers wended their ways home.

The next time you see a Phil and Ruth trip organised you would be wise to immediately sign up. Thank you to Phil and Ruth for a great weekend.

Wendy Gross

## What a mystery!

### (Mystery Run 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018)

Directors Wendy and Stu Gross

A comfortably late start at Moby Vic's, a short drive of sixty clicks and a finish at a pub with instructions and destination withheld..... why? Let's step back a moment and think about the club run process. The directors normally find a good end venue. Maybe it's a pub, restaurant or even a self-catered finish in a park somewhere. Hopefully the latter option will eventually fade into obscurity from lack of interest. After the end has been sorted, the directors go back to the beginning of the process, grabbing a good start venue with plenty of amenities for tank and tummy . Next a route is crafted to include roads, from sixty to one hundred kilometres in length, designed to titillate the driver and keep the rest of the crew filled with awe.

After reading the paragraph twice, you think "Yup, that all works, pretty much standard procedure for a run". Apparently though, some souls elect to take a short cut to the end, ignoring the route. Other members get so excited by the whole idea of driving anywhere, that a dash to their cars is executed, while the words of the drivers briefing are still in progress. Occupants are seated in record time. Engines fire up and the miscreants are out the gate and gone. No use for the planned advantages of a leader or tail ender with this crew. They are doing it their way and may choose to follow the directions or make up their own.

So now you know. Wendy and Stu decided to short-circuit the above shenanigans by not disclosing the end until absolutely necessary. Yes, I know that the excited ones may still have tried to slip away, once the run sheet was sighted. A large dose of bravery would be needed however, as Stu was making it crystal clear that there was to be nobody in front of the cream Mk11 with shining wire wheels.

Moby Vic's Servo, or Beefy's if you rather, saw 14 cars eager with intent to enjoy the day. For those who love the facts, we had one day car, seven Jaguars, one Mustang, one Mercedes, one Morgan, two Daimlers and a sole M.G.



The McKinney's had clearly waxed lyrical about the event as three of the classic cars owned by neighbours assisted in swelling the ranks .





*Off we go!*

In sixty kilometres exactly (how did they manage to be so precise?), we were looking for a park at the Woombye Pub, and good luck with that! All cars travelled as a group, going via Landsborough, Chevallum, Palmwoods, Nambour and of course Woombye. God I hate Nambour, with its fascination for challenging layout and seemingly unquenched zeal for traffic lights. The directors choose a route which avoided highways where practical, thus maximizing the allure of less travelled tracks. Interestingly, familiar passages were used in the opposite direction, to that normally experienced on events in the area. The result was well worth the effort. There are some roads that work better going up, such as Obi Obi, some going down, i.e. Lower Mt Mellum and some that do it well both ways with Hunchy Road coming to mind. Its either “brakes a smoking” or clutch doing the same depending on whether gravity is on your side. Whilst on the subject of friction, we spent the run behind Marg and Joe Day in their Morgan Plus 8. It would seem that only the subtlest of movements, maybe a twitch of the big toe sends a chirping message to where the Michelin meets the macadam. We observed this

scenario on several occasions and wondered if medical intervention may be required. Our conclusion however, was that most our cars are with that sort of power/weight ratio! Lindsay and Susan in the big Daimler probably don't. Tony Herald in the XJ6 wishes he did. Richard and Lyn Hausmann's XJ12 may have. Arthur and Linda in the 300 series Sovereign could have, Allan and Jeanette with the XJ8 may risk it, they have plenty of cars to fall back on. Ian and Vicki McKinney in the Daimler coupe would give it a go and Bernard and Rita Smith in the X350 probably could if they wanted to.

The Woombye Pub was reached spot on twelve bells. Mr Gross is such a stickler for being on time. They are a well-organized crew in this hostelry. The menu has considerable diversity which is efficiently handled by the kitchen, with meals cooked as ordered and delivered deftly by depressingly young female wait staff. Normal rules of club behaviour applied being (1) visit the loo, (2) get drinks, (3) agree on meals with spouse, (4) purchase same and (5) engage in conversation with table members at a volume one notch above ambient noise.



Repeat steps 1,2 and 5 as needed. Sandy and I had completed several loops of the above until the spectre of the M1 and the journey home became impossible to put off any longer. We glanced backward and smiled after exiting the glass doors, in response to Ian McKinney's booming farewells, pausing to reflect on a good run with club-manship thrown in for free.

Cheers Charlie Provis 26/0/2018



**Editor's footnote.**

That day was also our First Lady's sister's birthday. Looks like Susan had a lovely celebration with Marj.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July- Bastille Day Run.

Advanced Notice **that this is a Saturday Run**- 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. This is a social event so the only driving is to the venue.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - RACQ Motorfest

Friday to Sunday 20-22<sup>nd</sup> - Jumpers and Jazz (booked out)

### AUGUST

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> - Antarctica Experience

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> - AGM

### SEPTEMBER

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> - Run with Nic and Joanne Case

### OCTOBER

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> - Vintage Aviation Museum followed by lunch

### NOVEMBER

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> - TBA

### DECEMBER

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Christmas Party