

HMAS CERBERUS NAVAL BASE OPEN DAY - 2011

It was perfect weather for our trip to the HMAS Cerberus Naval Base at Hastings on Sunday 23rd October. The Base covers an area of over 1500 hectares at Hann's Inlet, Hastings and there are approximately 1500 trainees in residence there at any one time. The area comprises numerous training and recreation facilities, two chapels, residential quarters and a small marina surrounded by immaculately kept gardens, parade grounds, a landing field and sports ovals. There is also a well-stocked Naval Museum where the display features a selection of historic uniforms and weaponry plus many other interesting artifacts



The Base is also used as a training establishment for some departments of the Army and RAAF.

Our trip down, in the 1964 MKI Sceptre, took a somewhat devious route to avoid an overturned oil tanker which had unfortunately spilled onto the road outside Tyabb. On the long drive in from the entrance to the main Base we passed the Bureau of Meteorology Satellite Earth Station and were waved through the check points by the Naval Staff on duty.



Eventually arriving at the vehicle display area we found an impressive, double row line up of various Classic Clubs and models plus the military vehicles and a military ambulance.

A line-up of 5 Purvis Eureka vehicles particularly caught our attention, as well as attracting the attention of most visitors wandering the display ground.



We parked next to a Rolls Royce and were greeted and photographed by a friendly lady Naval Officer and HCCV member Patrick Beresford who is Lt. Commander at Cerberus Base. Patrick's immaculate black Series IV Super Snipe headed the car line-up. Also amongst the display was Ivan Oates Ser.1 I Vogue, a collection of sporty Sunbeam Alpines and a number of shining Monaros. During the day the Base Commander selected several "CO'S Favourite" Awards with one of these trophies being won by Bob Stewart's Sunbeam Alpine.

Cerberus Open Day was planned as a family oriented event with everything from jumping castles and twirling tea cups for the littlies, helicopters on the move, shoreline activities, free cookery school samples to a spectacular fly over of the RAAF Wirraways. We quickly found the coffee shop and snack bars to re-energize for the rest of the day and thoroughly enjoyed checking out all the Base Open areas.



This is Patrick's last Open Day at Cerberus as he retires in May next year. Our thanks for all his efforts in organizing many popular HMAS Cerberus Open Day events and best wishes to he and Yati for a restful and relaxing retirement.
Submitted by Margaret & Keith Willimott.