

Ballarat Autumn Getaway Report - 13/14/15 May 2016

It was a great, well organised and interesting event ably planned by Les and Bev Lindorff. Our thanks to you both - I know we all had a great time. Those in attendance included John Washbourne and Judy Lewis from Park Orchards, Neil and Kathleen HiHo from Hedley in Gippsland, Maree and Merv Sherlock from Ballarat, Anne and Colin Anderson from Mulgrave, Les and Bev Lindorff from Sebastopol, Ray and Lotte Linden from Castlemaine, Mike Glare and David and Lorraine Aplin from Eltham .

Lorraine and I started off at 8am in our trusty Humber Super Snipe Series 5A, fully confident the car was in tip top condition. We headed off to Ballarat along the Western Ring Road and all was well almost to the turnoff to the Western Highway when the car lost power, backfired and finally died. Two hours later, after the car had been dropped off by the tow truck to our mechanic followed by a taxi ride back to our home to pick up our other car, we again set off for our trip to Ballarat (in our modern car), this time quite uneventful.

We arrived at the Mill Markets just in time to meet everyone who were just leaving. We all decided to adjourn to a roadside diner only a couple of hundred metres away. There we had an excellent cafe style lunch whilst chatting and enjoying each other's company.

After a most relaxing lunch time Les & Bev led the way to the home of Rick and Heather Thege. Rick cordially welcomed us and escorted us to one of his sheds within which was a fantastic range of vehicles from the early 1900s to the 1960s. He entertained us with interesting facts and anecdotes of his experiences with each of his cars. The first car Rick showed us was a MG Midget which was Heather's car and he complained that he couldn't fit in it! Next to it was a fully restored 1923 Buick. This looked magnificent and apparently goes extremely well however stopping is an entirely different matter. Rick has had a few very close shaves due to the poor brake system that the model has. Next was a black 1962 push button automatic Valiant then a 1913 F/N that had been used as a daily driver by a local stonemason. For its age it was in incredible original condition. The chassis and the wheels almost had a wagon like quality to them.

Around the corner on the hoist was a 1914 Sunbeam. It was unrestored and in an amazing original condition and apparently had been used

in the 1920s as a taxi so it must have a huge number of miles under its belt. Rick is currently restoring a universal joint on the drive train that had let go and he was doing everything in his power to make it as original as possible. Next came a French built Chenard-Walcker (1920s, I am not sure of the model) which had a dicky-seat (it had undergone restoration).

We walked outside and there, under a canopy on a trailer, was a 1910 two cylinder Fiat. It was hard to get a look at it but it seemed to be in immaculate condition. In Rick's carport was a beautiful 1929 twenty horsepower Rolls Royce. It was amazing and in my opinion it was the pick of the bunch. Mick also had a 1984 German 4WD which had been imported by the Australian Army for evaluation purposes. It was unique as it had been fully reconditioned and was only one of three in Australia.

It was an interesting and very pleasant afternoon. Lots of comments and questions and entertaining anecdotes by host Rick.

Back to the motel for a short break then off to dinner at the Miners Rest Hotel. What a busy little place it is on a Saturday night! Les and Bev's boys Mark, Paul and Anthony and his fiancé Britt along with Rick and Heather Thege joined us for the evening. Lots of chatter and lots of laughs made for a good night.

Next morning some of us met at the Botanical Gardens opposite Lake Wendoree then drove in convoy (with others of our group joining us along the way) to Talbot where a huge monthly market was in full swing. There was a lot to see and we certainly left some of our cash behind as there was such a great range of tempting goodies to buy. We stayed for lunch but some others left a little earlier.

John and Judy were continuing on to Sydney and as we had visitors we headed off home soon after lunch.

We had a really enjoyable weekend with a fantastic bunch of fellow Club members and I would encourage all our members to join in with the other planned events for 2016.

David and Lorraine Aplin



