



THE ALL BRITISH CLASSICS CAR CLUB VIC INC.

Special Report Edition April, 2020

No Frills Tour Report 13 –15th March 2020

Author: Glenda Prewett, acknowledging photographic contributor Peter Hibbert.

At the ABCCC planning meeting Maxine announced she was interested in planning a “No Frills Tour” (NFT) weekend in March 2020, destination Rutherglen. (of course, Maxine would need to rely on Tony’s advice, guidance & leadership to make this a success).

Now, a No Frills Weekend, one would imagine that this would mean that such a weekend would have to be a very simple fare arrangement. So, how did it fare!.....

Attendees: Bill Allen, Greg & Geraldine Anglin, Ed Bartosh & Betty Taylor, Tom & Heather Cannon, Christopher & Geraldine Constantine, Terry & Leonie Conway, Leon & Judy Cousins, Pat Douglas, Grattan & Lucille Fitzgerald, Peter & Michelle Flavelle, Peter & Sandy Hibbert, Ian & Mary Hodge, Robin & Anne Jervis-Read, Ray & Joan Parker, Brian & Marj Pepper, Tony & Maxine Pettigrew, Garry & Glenda Prewett, John Provis & Dawn Shoppe, Bryan & Anne Tootell, Ron & Patsy Wall.

Friday 13th March 2020. With the attendees coming from all directions, the meeting point was the Seven Creeks Hotel in Euroa, This was a great location to stop when heading up the Hume Hwy, it was also a leisurely drive from Kyneton to Euroa (115 kms)

The Seven Creeks venue is an old hotel built in 1901 in the heart of the township of Euroa. As you enter the Hotel the first thing you notice is that inside of this beautiful old hotel has been well kept and is full of frills, such lovely art work and grand piano. We gathered in the beautiful garden setting with our greetings a little bit different than normal!



Everyone was aware that the day before the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the coronavirus (Covid19) as a pandemic.



It was great to see that everyone was focused on new ways to greet each other without touching, so hugs and kisses were replaced with footshakes, elbows bumps and some were even seen to being doing the “bumps a daisy”. There were lots of stories to tell about

toilet paper and supermarket frenzy buying, travel plans being cancelled, it created a lot of

chatter as its nothing we have experienced before, what do we do and expect? Then the announcement came through that the Grand Prix Motor event in Melbourne was cancelled and more considerations on the round 1 of the AFL footy to be held without fans. There is no denying this is very serious and will impact gatherings over the next few weeks and months. At this time, it's important to enjoy this No Frills weekend and keep healthy. In the days and weeks ahead, pandemic is not a word that we should be using lightly or carelessly.

Our lunch menu at Seven Creeks Hotel was well above the average for a local pub. Of course, the company of our ABCCC friends made it welcoming as everyone enjoyed the lunch and affair, before we all headed off to our destination Rutherglen.....



We loved this great signage board in the heart of Rutherglen.

For our accommodation Maxine & Tony organised two Motels, Rutherglen Motor Inn & directly across the road Walkabout Motel. On arrival at the Rutherglen Motor

Inn we were greeted by Brian and later we were to meet up with Maria. Brian was a great host, he was eager to show us around, wow this is a great place, the layout of the rooms was excellent with an internal door from a hallway and an external door to your parking area. Breakfast was to

be served in the dining room which was to be well set out for a continental breakfast and there was an offering of a hot meal for a little extra cost. Great value (well done to Maxine).



As in the true ABCCC spirit once we had all unpacked we all congregated around the garden for a gathering, Maxine prepared some fruit, cheese and biscuit platters to

share, which was well received and appreciated by all and enjoyed with our BYO drinks. Ian Hodge enjoyed a swim, we all relaxed and continued to catch up.

Dinner Friday night was at the local Pub – Poachers Hotel. Whilst it had been a beautiful day, the weather in the late afternoon was looking a bit stormy, we decided to walk with Ian & Mary Hodge to the hotel. As you might have guessed, just after we left the motel driveway, the wind picked up, then down came the rain. Luckily, we were prepared with our umbrellas. The rain only lasted ½ hour, so the walk back to the motel was a lot drier.

Another lovely country pub, inside it was set up for two big groups, ABCCC got the main bistro and the other group had the function room. With the normal pub trade this made the Hotel liven up and become very busy. There was some confusion on the whereabouts of the toilets!! Two of our group members were seen roaming up and down, even entering the kitchen and out to the beer garden trying to find the amenities. A cheer and clap when the room was found.



Saturday 14th March was our exploring day. It's fairly reasonable to assume that throughout our journey we would at least find one or two wineries along the way!

Garry & I left with Trevor & Jill, our plan was to head over the border to Howlong, Corowa and then back to Rutherglen. As we turned into the quaint main street of Howlong opposite the bakery was a little market, of course we had to stop and wander. Then we enjoyed a coffee, chat,

and enjoyed the ambience that this little town offered before we headed off to Corowa, the next stop was at the Chocolate and Whiskey Distillery where we were able to catch up with a group of Army vehicles. Before heading back to the motel, we stopped at Valhalla and Jones wineries, both were small boutique cellar doors that showcased some lovely wines from this region.



Other members explored more of the local surrounds and town of Rutherglen, some travelled to Chiltern, Beechworth, Ron & Patsy Wall ventured with their Rolls Royce to find the Arnolds Fruit Market at Wodonga.

Brian & Marj Pepper



Peter Hibbert & Leon Cousins





Members vehicles parked at the motel



Christopher Constantine found a quiet spot near the pool to play his guitar. Where others gathered again in the garden for pre-dinner drinks and nibbles.

Everyone had come back with their daily update, where they had been, what good buys that had, lots of details on their exploring of the area before we had our BBQ dinner.



“No Frills BBQ dinner”. Both Motel Hosts: Maria, Brian & Tanya, Paul, worked all afternoon to put on a fantastic BBQ feast for us. There was plenty of food, everyone enjoyed the spread and we finished off with a refreshing fresh fruit salad and ice cream. You can see in one of photos where Tony was trying to get to the front of the queue. Later he realised he missed out on the roast potatoes.



The common dress theme was a red polo shirt, these were from the 2018 Fly the Flag Friendship tour. A great way to reminisce those great FTF tours..... Sunday morning it was time to pack up and head for home.

The “No Frills” was certainly a success, it was “fare” to say it scored ‘ten out ten’ (10/10)

Thanks again Maxine & Tony for organising this No Frills tour, a great time was had by us all.