

AUSTRALIA DAY FIREWORKS!

In December 2010, President Alan Haime was contacted by a person from the City of Perth regarding the possibility of the Buick Club displaying their cars at the Australia Day festivities on the Swan River foreshore.

Alan discussed this with events supremo Harold Hitchcock and they agreed it would be something different for the Club to do.

Members were contacted and quite a large contingent of Buicks met at Hungry Jacks at Belmont before forming a convoy to head to the Esplanade. About 4 pm on Australia Day the Buicks drove onto the grass and parked in date order alongside the river. Owners and occupants set up camp under shady trees and watched the entertainment laid on by the City of Perth.

This was the first club run for Robert and Susan Niksic's 72 Boattail, now nearing the end of its restoration. Great to see another boatie in the line up. Also there were Chris Blakeley's eyecatching orange 71 GS455 convertible and his 65 Wildcat .

Over the river we could watch biplanes and other stunt aircraft whizzing around doing heartstopping manoeuvres. On the grassed area you could see motorbike riders doing loops and other death defying activities. Kids were getting their faces painted and bands were playing.



The City of Perth was very mindful of security and we had our own security blokes assigned to our area. They were very vigilant and were quick to turf out anybody within the perimeter who was not a Buick member. This continued on from 4 pm until about 9.30 pm at night.

The area for the Buicks was roped off and we had our club banner on display. Just as well because one bloke passing by was saying one of the Buicks was a Vauxhall. He didn't know how close he came to having his mouth washed out!

The police horses were out in full force and looked very smartly turned out. Years ago they were all grey horses but now there is a mixture with even a Clydesdale type horse. You wouldn't want one of their feet to tread on you.



There was quite a large police presence at the skyshow including the police commissioner, Karl O'Callaghan who was seen walking along the lineup of Buicks. His head was seen to disappear under a Buick bonnet accompanied by a couple of constables.

After a very enjoyable picnic tea and a chat with a lovely breeze blowing off the river, the fireworks started. They were really spectacular with their colours reflecting in the glass of the high rise buildings along the esplanade. Usually people have to fight like a wild dog to get such a good vantage position to watch the fireworks but the Buick Club had poll position handed to them.



Because of road closures in the area, we were asked by our security people to bide our time and then take off once traffic cleared. This was no hardship as most Buick members are more than happy to sit and chat.

Fifteen Buicks had turned up altogether complete with families and friends. The cars attracted a lot of attention in the afternoon and top marks were given to the City of Perth for their organisation, giving us a great spot and excellent security blokes who really did look after the cars.

Perhaps we'll get asked back next year!

L M Haime (WA Buicks)