

BUICKS AT THE CUNDERDIN EASTER AIR SHOW

An overcast but sticky Easter Saturday saw the following Buicks, one Oldsmobile and a Modern gather at Brookton Highway, Karragullen. The surprise inclusion was the wonderful red '68 Skylark convertible driven by Murray and Teresa Lizatovich. This was recently purchased by Murray and was on its maiden run for the Club. With the top down it was inviting rain but there were only a few spots.

Phil & Kerry Taylor	1940
Harold & Gail Hitchcock	1940 Oldsmobile
Jim, Beryl, David & Reece Donis	1967 Riviera Coupe
Murray & Teresa Lizatovich	1968 Skylark Convertible
Tony & Marny Howe	1971 Riviera Coupe
Alan & Lois Haime	1972 Riviera Coupe.
Scott, Sherren Barker, Sara & Luke Barker	Modern.



Murray and Teresa Lizatovich's latest acquisition

Stuart and Delys Syme were to meet us at York later in the day, however this drama will be unfolded for the benefits of readers at a later date.

A nice run through to Brookton where morning tea was taken at Moyer Park, next to Stumpy's Roadhouse. Just a few spits of rain but enough to prompt Murray to raise the top on his convertible.

A short run through to Beverley and first stop was Ferguson's Machinery Museum. From there we headed to the banks of the Avon River for lunch. Just a few spots of rain again.

After lunch the group walked uptown to view the Aircraft Museum, an excellent art exhibition at the Town Hall, old wares, arts and craft shops etc. People straggled back with plastic bags full of various goodies and finds.

York was the next stop at about 4 p.m. and soon everyone was parked and checked into their accommodation at the Castle Hotel. As it was beer o'clock by now most of us settled into the courtyard and dampened down the dust of the journey. A few browsed the streets of York and its antique shops.

At 6.30 pm we were informed that our table was ready for dinner so there was a scurry of activity as people quickly changed and headed to the upstairs dining room. This was a lovely room with memorabilia from the early days, York being settled in about 1830 or so. Luckily the room was reserved for the Buick Club only and we had a long table for 18 which was beautifully set with a dark green cloth with silver sprinkles on it. As the night wore on, most of these sprinkles seemed to get on people in various spots!

Sunday morning and the group set off in twos and threes to head across very dry farming country to Cunderdin. The Haime and Howe Boattails were first at the airstrip and were ushered through to a spot on some tarmac. The other cars soon arrived and we were lined up.



On parade at Cunderdin

Cunderdin's link with aviation stems back to World War II when at least 2,000 young pilots received their elementary flying training there in DH84 Tiger Moths, until the end of 1944. Cunderdin became an operational squadron base, flying Liberators against Japanese-held Indonesia.

Photographers appeared out of the crowd and we were informed by an American bloke that his photos "would be in New Orleans that night" with a friend who has a Boattail. The cars certainly attracted a lot of attention during the day and people coming through the nearby turnstiles quickly descended on the Buicks like seagulls on a chip. Naturally the Lizatovich convertible attracted a large amount of attention as convertibles do.

Buick club members visiting were Ken and Jill Churchman who had driven up from Perth Sunday morning and unfortunately like the Barker family, had to pay the entrance fee as they were not in a Buick!

A motorbike and sidecar had cruised past the Buick lineup and a closer inspection revealed a German World War II bike complete with soldiers in Wermacht uniforms and an SS officer! This bike cruised around during the day and provided a bit of fun. Their car was a drab grey '41 Dodge with "SS" numberplates. What has Prince Harry started?



Colonel Klink??

Entertainment was continuous during the day starting with flour bombing by the Royal Aero Club, paragliding, skydiving, vintage formation display, helicopters dancing to music and a Texan bomb run. Planes participating were Tiger Moths, Chinese Nanchangs doing a straffing run, Mustang, L39 Albatross, Chipmunks and a Bristol Balderdash. As the day warmed up we could have done with some water bombing over the crowd instead of over the main strip. Most of the day was overcast with some breeze however but when the sun broke through it was hot.



A real Mustang!

By far the most spectacular event was the stunt pilot Jurgis Kairys in his Russian Sukhoi 31. Jurgis is world famous and certainly does some heart stopping stunts. He can roll his plane 25 turns in eight seconds and is able to fly upside down with the fin of his aircraft about 10 cm from the earth. Just watching the crowd while he was performing you could see icecreams stopped in mid air, crowds of children gazing open mouthed at his plane and a hush settle over the crowd.

The airshow was very well organised with lots of entertainment for kids as well - including a lolly drop from a kite which had every kid in the vicinity stampeding. There was a good range of food and drinks and wonderful local arts and crafts plus a tent with a history display set up.

By late afternoon the Buicks broke formation and headed off back to Perth. All agreed it had been a great weekend and the cars had stretched their legs, which is what having a Buick is all about!!

L Haime (WA Buicks)