

THE OLD QUINDANNING PUB

Les Woodruff of House of Buicks fame decided it was a nice time of the year for the Buicks to get out into pastoral country. On Sunday 8 October, he organised for some Buicks, a couple of Studebakers and a few others from the GM stable to head south to Williams (160 km from Perth) and then onto Kevin Martin's property there. Kevin has an enormous amount of tractors, some restored and displayed in sheds and an equal number in neat rows in paddocks, all rusting quietly away.

Kevin gave an interesting talk on farming in the early days when all clearing was done by hand. Mrs Williams put on morning tea for the visitors and seats were soon put out in the sun to counteract the cold easterly breeze blowing.



Tractors galore



Girls relaxing whilst the boys were perusing the tractor farm

After Kevin's place, we moved on to his brother Jesse Martin's property. This property has featured on television on "Getaway". Jesse has recreated an old Aussie stone pub and a general store as well as other buildings. He even has a mob of kangaroos in a fenced paddock. The general store is a step back in time as old brands of groceries stir the memory banks and you remember your mum and grandmother having such brands.

Jesse has built a place to have lunch in made of old timbers and bush poles. A bit like something out of the Saltbush Bill style of architecture. Lunch was had there in very comfortable surroundings and then the group dispersed through the property to look at the old garages, machine sheds etc.



A slice of history at Jesse Martin's

Some of the group headed on back to Perth, the next day being a Monday, but a sizeable Buick contingent headed across farming country to Quindanning for the overnight stay. Despite drought conditions in other parts of the country, the area around Quindanning was lush and green.

The original old pub was built about 1896 but major additions took place in the 1920s. Its a single story pub built on the western end of a bridge over the Williams River. The town of Quindanning consists of a stone church and about four houses and of course, the pub.

The pub is much bigger than it looks, with the accommodation section stretching out the back. The rooms were old fashioned but clean and comfortable with the usual shared bathroom setup which was part of the old country pub. Double doors from the bedrooms led out onto a verandah, overlooking the old garden.



Beer o'clock at the old Quindanning Pub

With our group were Brian Flynn and wife Dianne from the Buick Club of Victoria (Brian being an ex president). Brian and Dianne were staying with Stuart and Delys Symes for a few days. Interesting to hear about Brian's latest import - a '64 Wildcat convertible.

Brian will be remembered fondly by WA members driving to Tassie who were ushered through Melbourne by Brian and Ric Chincarini, and after the Tassie Nationals, were met on the Melbourne wharf and again ushered through the traffic to airports and truck terminals.

The local farmers were by now pulling up outside the pub for Sunday evening drinks. Their utes and trucks had the usual motley collection of dogs on board.

There was intermingling of people and inspections of the Buicks plus Harold and Gail Hitchcock's Oldsmobile.

Dinner was served in the wood pannelled dining room with a fire burning in the fireplace. It was nice to catch up with Bunbury members John and Sue Bell and also Barry and Dorothy Ryle in their very nice indeed silver blue '65. The local wines were tried and pronounced a success.



Barry and Dorothy Ryle's magnificent '65 Riviera

Down the passage towards the rooms there was another formal lounge which wouldn't have looked out of place in an English pub. Another fire was burning here and the group settled in for the evening on the leather chesterfields. Apparently about 2 a.m. saw the last diehard leave the lounge.

A cooked breakfast awaited us in the morning, some of the earlier ones leaving by about 6.30 a.m.

There was the usual stand around and talkfest in the parking area but eventually all the Buicks were off by about 9.30 a.m.

All in all a very relaxing and harmonious couple of days. Buicks could be seen heading through Boddington for fuel and then strung out along Albany Highway heading towards Perth. I'm sure they all benefited from stretching their legs on the long straight runs as well.

L. Haime (WA Buicks)