

WA SPRING RUN 2012

Our Spring Run this year was a little earlier but the weather was fabulous which made us all feel a bit guilty as Western Australia always needs a bit more rain.

On Friday morning 7 September, the majority of the cars met at the usual spot at the "Old Narrogin Inne" at Armadale and then headed down South-West Highway to Pinjarra. It was nice to see new members Steve and Jenny McLennan in one of the former Woodruff Buicks.

The old Edenvale Homestead is a favourite morning tea stop for the Buicks and we were soon tucking into coffee, scones etc in the lovely old courtyard.



These runs seem to be based around eating and drinking and the next stop was at the Harvey Cheese Company. Cheese and icecreams were purchased here and most members wandered over to chat to the camels in the adjoining paddock. John and Sue Bell had driven up from Eaton to meet us there.

A few kilometres south we turned off to the left on the Mornington Mills Road and drove through forest country to Collie. The weather here was a bit Pearl Harbour (there was a nasty nip in the air) and we all sat around in a circle in the sun to have our lunch.

Stuart Syme had planned the route and Jim Donis had provided us with excellent maps. The countryside looked magnificent and the small dams and ponds were all brimming. This area has a reliable rainfall and always looks lush and green.



We drove through to Boyup Brook and then down to Bridgetown to check in at Nelson's Motel.

The usual sundowner was had outside the motel rooms and all too soon it was dinnertime. The motel management has provided us with our own dining room (probably a good idea to protect the rest of the motel guests). The tables had been arranged in a large square which gave everyone a good opportunity to interact with everyone else. The local wines in this area are excellent and were partaken of!

The next morning after a restorative breakfast, we spotted another Buick in the parking area. Nathan McLennan and partner Sonya had arrived late on the Friday evening in another ex-Woodruff car so our complement of cars was now complete at 13, however the Nicoli Buick was heading back to Perth on the Saturday.

We called at the Teapot House and of course there was an amazing collection of teapots on display. Entry was via gold coin donation and a lovely morning tea was provided (how soon was this after breakfast?)

We drove through Boyup Brook again and were soon on gravel roads heading to the Tulip Farm. Most Buick drivers glaze over at the thought of gravel roads but these were well graded and there was a gentle crosswind blowing. The cars spaced themselves out and when we pulled into the tulip farm, most cars didn't look too dusty at all. I must admit I like to drive along a good gravel road, you feel you are really out in the country.

The tulips were magnificent and you could buy a huge range of bulbs including daffodils, irises, dahlias and all the other bulb flowers. Included in the entry fee was a devonshire tea with magnificent scones and an assortment of jams and cream. Everyone hopped in as it must have been at least an hour since we had eaten



About 1.30 pm the cars were marshalled and we drove north to the Arthur River Road which leads to Albany Highway. The countryside was very colourful with canola fields in full blossom and some early wildflowers starting to come out on the verges. The crops all looked healthy.

We crossed the Albany Highway at Arthur River and drove east to Wagin and then north to Narrogin, quite a long drive.



At Narrogin we booked into the Albert Facey Motel, another familiar Buick stopping spot and soon the familiar circle of chairs had formed in the back parking area for the ritual sundowner. It was commented that this spot was the nicest parking area we had encountered as it is situated high on a bluff overlooking the twinkling lights of Narrogin.



Dinner was at 6.30 in the restaurant. Ian Baxter had snuck away into town earlier on and had brought streamers, a "Happy Birthday" banner, mud cakes and champagne for wife Margaret's birthday. This was a lovely surprise for all of us, including Margaret whose birthday was the next day.



Fortunately we were the only people eating in the restaurant as streamers flew around and things got a bit raucous but good fun.

It had been a long day and a long drive culminating in a good dinner and drinks which all lead to a fairly early night.

Sunday morning after breakfast the cars headed off in various directions - some heading west to the Albany Highway and some heading north to Brookton and then north-west up Brookton Highway to Perth.

It had been a very well attended and relaxing Spring Run and all the Buicks had performed beautifully, although Pete and Bev Nicholson's 76 had two flat tyres! A set of new tyres should put this right though. Two other cars suffered from fuel and oil deficiency but all made it home. Spring is definitely the time to travel around the WA countryside, with everything green and lovely from winter rains. Once again thank to Stuart for the route planning, Jim for the maps and Harold for organising the accommodation.

L M Haime (WA Buicks)