

WEST COAST SUMMER RUNS

An old favourite on the WA Buick calendar is the breakfast at Burswood Park (or Buick Park) on Valentine's Day. This was initially a champagne breakfast but because of the February heat, it tended to wipe people out for the rest of the day. I speak from experience.

A pavilion alongside the river was secured about 6 am for the benefit of Buick members. Most arrived just after 7 am with a few later stragglers. New members Brian and Wendy Wright came along, Brian is restoring a 64 Wildcat.

The park blokes appeared about 6.30 am and began scrubbing and cleaning the BBQs. This was nice to see as the park was the venue on the previous day for Big Al's Poker Run and had attracted in excess of 700 cars. It's somewhat off putting to be confronted with congealed sausage fat on the BBQ.

The usual passing parade was seen from the pavilion with ski boats on the river and their accompanying skiers and skateboarders, bike riders, dogs and their walkers and pram pushers on the pathways.

After much eating and chatting, Events Co-Ordinator Harold Hitchcock proposed a run around the river ending up at East Fremantle. About half of the members were up for this and we crossed the causeway and drove around Riverside Drive, back of the university and around the big money suburbs of Dalkeith and Peppermint Grove. We only lost one car on the run which had ignition problems and had to be trucked home.

We parked alongside the river at a nice little cafe which obviously services the Rottneest Ferries at their jetty close by.

Cold drinks were the order of the day, especially the iced coffees with icecream and whipped cream.

The group split from East Freo and made their respective ways home.

Another beat-the-heat run was organised by the Summersun Festival on Wednesday 17 February. This was a long run leading Joondalup in the north about 5.30 pm and picking up participating cars along the freeway to Mandurah.

People had lined the sides of the freeway and cameras were clicking. Apart from the odd modern car in the mix, one would think you were back in the 50s or 60s.

Buick members participating were Alan and Lois Haime in their 72 GSX, Scott and Luke Barker in their 57 Special, Jen Oversby and Tony Cornwall in their 56 and Harold and Gail Hitchcock came along in their hot rod.

We reached Mandurah about 7 pm and the foreshore area looked like part of the movie of "American Graffiti" with American cars of all makes and colours

pulled up outside the various hamburger joints and cafes. One thing about these runs is the number of great cars that turn up, not usually seen otherwise around the streets.

The Buick group gathered for fish and chips and natter at Cicerello's, overlooking the estuary.

A pat on the back for the organisers who had done a great job getting all these cars together and arranging police control at some intersections for the cars to come through.

The twilight runs are definitely easier on the older cars (and their drivers) during the hot months.

L M Haime (WA Buicks)