

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SPRING RUN 2007

Friday 14 September and the Spring Run was under way. Some cars met at the Margaret River Chocolate Factory in the Swan Valley. Most of the WA Buick runs seem to have a hedonistic approach, definitely centred around good food.

Coffee, some chocolate tasting and buying were the order of the morning. The final meeting place was at the Shell Garage to pick up the remainder of the group. On the Friday eleven cars were lined up with another four to join us on the Saturday. Those taking part were:

Paul and Josie Dickson	1929 44 Master Roadster
Dennis and Gail McGavigan	1929 4X Roadster
Ken and Jill Churchman	1929 X25 Tourer
John and Lorraine Padgett	1934 41 Sedan
John and Sue Bell	1939 Special
Phil and Kerry Taylor	1947 8/40 Sedan
Stuart Syme and Kevin Cullenane	1950 Jetback Coupe
Alan and Ros Hunt	1955 Century
Scott, Sherren, Sara and Luke Barker	1957 Special
Peter and Bev Nicholson	1967 Riviera Coupe
Jim, Beryl and Reece Donis	1967 Riviera Coupe
Murray and Teresa Lizatovich	1968 Skylark Convertible
Tony and Marny Howe	1971 Boattail
Alan and Lois Haime	1972 Boattail
Greg and Rhonda Trew	Corvette.

The first stop was lunch at Bindoon where there is a fabulous bakery. Their profits were boosted when the Buick bunch came through the doors. The first of the rain started to fall in the early afternoon and we had to huddle under shelters.



Lunch stop near Bindoon Bakery

Ken Churchman had done an excellent job of planning the route with easy to read instructions given to all drivers. There were quiz sheets given out on both days, some general knowledge and some Buick-based questions.

It was very relaxing driving through country roads with virtually no other traffic. The canola fields were bright yellow, providing a nice contrast with the Paterson's curse (a purple flowering weed) growing alongside. Wheat crops were looking healthy in this area because of the earlier good rains.

We reached Mogumber about 2.30 p.m. There is only a single story pub there and some wheat silos. By this time we were sloshing through puddles to get inside the pub for a drink.

The final stop on the Friday was at New Norcia, site of a Benedictine settlement by Spanish monks in the 1850s. The town buildings including its famous art gallery, monastery, convent and schools and supplementary buildings are in good repair and a very popular tourist attraction.



The Buicks complemented the graceful lines of the New Norcia Hotel

The pub was built in the style of the town in 1927. As we approached the old hotel the water was coming down in sheets. We gratefully scarpered inside with our luggage, it was definitely not a day to be driving around. Our rooms opened out onto the verandah outside and the owner put on the gas heater for us. We clustered around this for nibbles and pre-dinner drinks. When the call came to go downstairs, a fire was burning in the dining room and a very pleasant convivial evening was passed (marred only by the news that the Eagles had gone down to the dreaded Collingwood).



Pre dinner drinks around the welcome gas heater

An early morning walk around the settlement was very peaceful with the chapel bells ringing every quarter hour. New Norcia is well known for its bread and the baker was obviously at work with the smell of fresh baking bread on the air. The monks also make olive oil and a nut bread which is sold in Perth.



A little piece of Spain in the West Aussie wheatbelt

At about 9.30 the tourist buses were starting to pour into the town and it was time to leave. At 10 a.m. it was chocks away and we headed across country through Calingiri to Bolgart for morning tea. The Buicks just love these long stretches of road with no traffic lights, and also no traffic. Lunch saw us in Toodyay with cars scattered throughout the town, their owners either eating, shopping or browsing.

Across country again towards old Irishtown, through Northam and then off to York, our Saturday night destination. The brief was to dress in the decade of your car for the evening dinner. As members filed into the dining room, you could see other diners staring and saying "What the hell.....".

Ken and Jill Churchman were resplendent in their twenties outfits, Ken carrying the mandatory violin case complete with gat inside and Jill completing her outfit with what looked like roadkill around her shoulders. Kerry Taylor looked stunning in her forties outfit with little pillbox hat and veil. Alan and Ros Hunt looked very "Grease-like" in their fifties gear, the Barker family made an impressive entrance, all in fifties gear also. Stuart and Neville opted for their version of the 50s with slicked back hair, white T-shirts and leather jackets. Tony Howe looked very seventies in his cream suit and batik tie, Alan and Lois Haime were also in seventies gear plus wig. There was much hilarity about the costumes and thanks were given to Alan and Ros Hunt who had made the suggestion to dress up.



The Grand Parade!

The next morning was fine and clear and after wiping the cars down, everyone packed up and headed towards Perth. Another great run! Special thanks to Ken Churchman for his time and effort in organising the run, Tony Howe for handling the New Norcia side of the accommodation, and myself for organising the York accommodation.

L M Haime (WA Buicks)