

ACCV Tour of Tasmania

The Pre-Rally Rally organised by Noeline and Alan McKinnon



On Monday evening 13 April eight cars boarded the Spirit of Tasmania on the way to Devonport. After an excellent dinner, a prelude to all the eating that lay ahead, and a smooth crossing, our first call the following morning was for breakfast with a difference at Anvers Chocolate Factory.



At Anvers Chocolate Factory

We then drove to Deloraine to the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre. We were all amazed by an exhibit *Yarns Artwork in Silk*, four large panels depicting the seasons in the district, followed by looking round the small folk museum.

Then on to Carrick, first to visit Hawthorn Villa owned by Innes and Nicole Pearce who had offered us a tour of their stunning garden and then to Chester and Sally's for lunch where we all admired Chester's new motor home. Next stop Launceston and the Grand Chancellor Hotel.

Unfortunately next morning we had decided to get petrol in Launceston and lost our way in the one-way system out of town but, with help from Bernie and Pauline Nolan



Chester's Motor Home

in the MGB, we met up with the rest of the group in Scottsdale. Then on to see the wonderful memorial wood carvings in Legerwood. We visited Priscilla the beer drinking pig at the Pub in the Paddock. Here Alan came to Ian's rescue when the drive belt to the water pump broke. Fortunately a spare was found in the car which Alan fitted. On to Bicheno by the Bay for a two-night stop.



Alan at work on Speed 20 Special

On Thursday we had an early drive to Coles Bay for the Wineglass Bay Cruise. Another amazing lunch, individual picnics served beautifully in a box, and sightings of dolphins, pelicans, cormorants and seals.

We drove to Hobart on Friday and, while most of the party enjoyed breakfast at Kate's Berry Farm, one of the cars 'failed to proceed' and the stranded party and helpers all enjoyed Noeline's Mary Berry fruit cake. With help from Mike and Jan Baker and Norman and Claire Blundell, the luggage and driver were taken care of. Then, via Spiky Bridge and Richmond admiring the oldest bridge built by convicts in AD 1823, to The Old Woolstore Hotel for the next three nights.



Line up at Spiky Bridge

Dale was now having problems with his starter motor, having previously sorted out an electrical problem on Norman's car. However, all was sorted together with a new electrical problem on Norman's Silver Eagle. Thank goodness we had Dale and Alan with us.

Saturday was the day for the Salamanca Market where we were all able to shop for presents and souvenirs, before catching the Mona Roma ferry to the MONA Gallery.

Tonight dinner was at Mike and Liz Williams' home and the group were driven there in style in two Hudson Super Sixes and a Cadillac V8.

Next day we drove to Port Arthur for a tour of the historic site. An excellent guide showed us around this former penal colony. On the short harbour cruise we viewed Hell's Gates, the convicts' first view of the settlement. We enjoyed the guide's story of the convict who complained that his sentence was too long for stealing a piece of rope. When researched it transpired that a race horse had been attached to the other end of the rope! Back in Hobart the Poms were introduced to potato cakes on the way to Fish Frenzy for supper. Delicious.

We left Hobart on Monday via Salmon Ponds, another excellent morning tea stop with a viewing of a platypus in the ponds. Just a kangaroo needed now. Then to Strahan via The Wall of Wilderness.

By this time we were getting used to the early starts, this time for the Gordon River Cruise, when champagne for breakfast was enjoyed by all.

Next morning we were due in Queenstown for a ride on the ABT Railway, this time champagne at 8.45am. It could easily become a habit.



Billy Tea and finishing Mary Berry's fruit cake

Our last night was Stanley. The following morning Tudor walked up The Nut but most took the chair lift.



On top of The Nut: Todds, Blundells and Jan Baker

Sadly our last day had come but not without a stop at Hellyers Road Distillery for lunch, then on to Devonport for the return voyage

We had such a wonderful tour around Tasmania with good weather and so much to see and do, enjoying the brilliant quiet roads and wonderful autumn colours. All thanks to Noeline and Alan for organising this pre-rally rally.

Jo Todd