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The Great Escape 2011

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2ND TO 13TH MARCH 2011 THE GREAT ESCAPE "TASSIE TREKKERS"

WEDNESDAY: 2nd March.

Those members from the northern suburbs, who were travelling by sea, were to meet at the BP Servo Epping at around 3:30pm. They were Mick & Debbie Breheny, Jackie & Kevin Mulroney, Billy Patton, Ray Kilby & Graedon Munro. Jackie and Kevin were a little late due to a loose wheel on their car, so Mick gave Kevin a lesson on how to tighten wheel nuts.

The next stop was at the Shell servo at Todd Road to meet up with Jim Pierce & Helen Tuo, Bernie & Judy Lawson, John Newman & Patsy Kelly, Robert & Margaret Breheny and Les Horne.

We all headed off to the boat and while other people were all lined up to board the boat, Robert, (who has some clout and knows certain people), drove straight onto the boat followed by the rest of our crew.

We all settled in well and there were no incidents to report, other than a reasonable good trip was had by all. After a 5am call we had brekky and got into the cars ready to disembark.

RAY KILBY.



WEDNESDAY: 2nd MARCH.

Wednesday 2nd of March 2011, saw Jim and I heading off to Port Melbourne in anticipation to meet up with our travelling companions at the Westgate bridge, where we travelled in convoy to the Ferry terminal. We were all pretty much all hyped up for the trip over, and waiting in the queue was frustrating and a chance to do the usual car talk. The cars were all in line so we would be able to be parked together on the same deck, unfortunately we were split up with Rob and Margaret Breheny and Graedon Munro being sent to



the dungeon and the rest of us going to the top garage deck. Not the end of the world. It just took longer for them to wait at the other end.

Once we had all found our

cabins and our bearings we of course all headed to the BAR, which over the evening offered some very good entertainment. Once the ferry started to move out of its moorings and out onto the bay, Jackie had us all in fits of laughter at her comment on the fact that we had not moved as the pole with the basket was still in the same spot, it was actually attached to the boat. By the time the boat started to rock and roll we decided that being inebriated was the best way to be so that we could walk straight, (sounds great in theory). Not so good in reality as a few certain people found out with much hilarity when wending their way back to the cabins around midnight. A certain member spent most of the night up due to something called sea sickness and being unable to find his cabin. Arrival in Devonport had us having breakfast at Macca's before heading off on the next part of our adventure. **Regards Helen and Jim.**



THURSDAY: 3rd MARCH.

Sandra Munro had stayed the night with me so we could set off early to drive to Les Cross's (factory) where I would leave my car as he was kind enough to drive us out to the Airport. Les and Sue Cross were to come on the trip to Tassie but due to business commitments they were unable to come. When Sandra and I got to the Airport we had time for a Coffee, then Lorraine Carroll joined us and soon after that Maureen Horne arrived.



Our flight was all on time and we arrived in Launceston at 9:30am to be greeted by Graedon Munro, Les Horne & Ray Kilby.

We then drove to meet up with the others at a place called Ross, but we did stop off for a quick bite to eat on the way. After meeting the others at Ross we had a chat and then it was back into the cars and off to Hobart.

We arrived there about 3:00pm at the Discovery Holiday Park. After settling into our cabins some drove to the local supermarket for some supplies as we would be staying here for a few days. At 6pm we all walked down to the "Willows Tavern" for a very nice meal, some laughs and a few drinks. Some of us retired early due to our previous sleepless night and early start the next day.

So far so good. **SANDRA KILBY.**

SUNDAY: 6th MARCH.

At 6:30am Les Horne and I went down and washed our Utes in preparation for the Shannon's Hobart Car Show.

Then at 8:15am we all met outside the reception of the Discovery Holiday Park, there was Paul Cox, Les Horne, Jim Pierce, Graedon Munro, Mick Breheny, Robert Breheny, Kevin Mulroney, John Newman, Billy Patton and myself. We all left in convoy for Rosney Park about 10 km down the road, picking up Rodney Williams in his immaculate 54, one owner, Cussy on the way.

We had prime position to park the Cussy's and set up the new Club Gazebo (it takes a lot longer to set up than my old one) and I should know.

Once settled in we had a squiz at the local cars which were pretty good over all with a good variety from 1910 – 2011 and with a good array of Marques with Pommy, Yankie and Wog cars, all there on the day. It was like a mini Hanging Rock and they weren't lousy with trophies either, with one Original and one Modified for each decade. I think we actually made a Club record at this show by having Les Horne pick up a Trophy for his decade with his Maloo Ute and being in the Customline Car Club of Victoria (I think this is the first time a Holden has ever done this), good on you Les.



Jim Pierce & Helen Tuo really excelled over there with Jims 56 Vicky picked in the top 5, a wonderful effort Jim. I think the judges got it right this time, congratulations Jim. Thanks Shannon's for a great show.

I haven't mentioned that the girls went shopping at Eastland, the Biggest Shopping Centre in Hobart. They got around the whole place in less than an hour, Sandra Kilby said. **RAY KILBY.**



MONDAY: 7th MARCH

Monday morning, the Bus picked us up at the caravan park, for our trip to Port Arthur. Then after picking up more passengers in central Hobart we headed for Port Arthur, The noisy children as usual were in the back row. Our Host on board was lively and a bit of a comedian which of course was very good for putting the nervous at ease. After the donning of those glamorous overalls and the safety presentation came some ginger tablets, of course he said not to chew them and of course some silly souls did, (YUK), then we were on our way.



In one word AWE-INSPIRING. I grew up on boats of various sizes and have been on some fantastic trips but I have to say this three hour trip was up there with the best of them. The scenery was absolutely spectacular, the running commentary was excellent and the jokes pretty good. Nobody was physically sick so that was very good for all of us. Watching a fisherman land a good sized Tuna was great, and we all gave him a round of applause and a cheer. We all got wet to varying degrees and our bones had a good shaking. I think we all thought it was cool going into the small caves and the Captain had a good reading of the waves. Finally we arrived at Port Arthur, a short cruise around the bay then it was good bye to them and a short walk for some, bus

ride for others and we were dropped off at the Gaol.

Lunch was very filling, I certainly had no complaints. Then it was a guided tour, we were split up for this, and our group had a very (should I say) loud and out there guide, who just happened to be a fellow Kiwi, much to my embarrassment, but I played along with her, as did everyone else she picked on. I think we were all too scared not to. She was however very knowledgeable on her history of the Gaol.



Then after exploring on our own, we all staggered back to the visitors centre for refreshments and to wait for the bus. By the time we got dropped off at the caravan park we were all pretty much exhausted. All in all a terrific day out. **HELEN and JIM.**

MONDAY: 7th MARCH

An early start today for the troops at 7:15am, then all aboard the luxury coach to head for a three hour cruise around the Southern Tasmanian coast. An adventure is anticipated.... Our first stop was Taylor's restaurant for an early morning tea and to our amazement this year we are the "SCONE GOBBLERS".



Next we drop off the not so adventurous, Judy, Bernie, Rob and Margaret, to get a head start on discovering Port Arthur. The Kilby's and the Horne's had decided to stay with the water theme and booked a cruise for Peppermint Bay.

Back on the bus for ten minutes and then aboard a speedy 12.5 metre Naiad (powered by three 300hp supercharged outboards) for an unforgettable ride. We started the fun by donning the

provided red waterproof gear in which we nearly lost Sandra Breheny. The seats up the front were for the thrill seekers, so Helen was game. The rest of us stuck to the middle rows. Deb started the WAHOOing as we hit the waves and as the spray hit us back.

The commentary and rapport with the Captain, Col and his first mate Olli, was excellent, only bettered by the dramatic beautiful and awe inspiring Tassie coastline. When in Tasmania make sure you do a Tasman/Bruny Island cruise in the bright yellow boats.



We lunched and then some of us joined a guided tour while others explored and relaxed on their own. A guided tour is recommended so as to put the history and the stories told into perspective.



Kevin, Jim, Helen and Deb spent time in the solitary punishment cell and discussions were held as to whether maybe Kevin and Jim should have received longer terms. The memorial garden made in remembrance to the victims of the 1996 massacre is very impressive and sobering.

A quick visit to the gift shop and back on the bus where our bus driver Phil was relieved that the "noisy ones" were up the back again, (Deb and her sister in law Sandra). One stop was made to collect twelve dozen oysters for those onboard who partake.

On arrival at Risdon Holiday Park we all went our separate ways to rest our weary bones.... Goodnight. **JACKIE MULRONEY.**

WEDNESDAY: 9th MARCH

Launceston: We were invited by the President, Karl Mansfield, to the Van Diemens Car Club at Prospect (a suburb of Launceston) for a B.B.Q. They put on the B.B.Q before their club Meeting and about 12 Members from our Club attended and about 6 Members from the Challengers Hot Rod Club and about 30 Member from the Van Diemens Club.

The blokes put on a great B.B.Q with Callam and friends cooking up steak, chops and snags. That went down well with the cold beer from the bar. What a great atmosphere with all the Signs, Posters and Memorabilia around the Club rooms. With the Rods and restored cars out in the car park it could have been back in the 60s (if you were there).

The Club rooms are a credit to their Members, and we would like to thank the Van Diemens for putting on the B.B.Q. There was only one thing missing and that was the Dancing Girls, (maybe the girls will be there next time).

We would like to thank Andrew Wabbley who chaired the meeting for a great welcome; their hospitality was just as good as our last trip to Tassie when we attended the All American Day Run with the Van Diemens club. **Ray Kilby.**



THURSDAY: 10th MARCH

On the morning of Thursday 10th March we headed off to the National Automobile Museum of Tasmania in Launceston. The Museum consisted of cars dating from around 1912 up until the 1980's.

The highlight for the writer of this report was the HO Falcon Phrase 3 which was in perfect finish and condition, registering only 30,000 miles on the speedo. We then went onto Deloraine to visit the 50's Diner which featured memorabilia plus hamburgers, rock 'n roll jukeboxes and hot rods, which were fantastic and well worth the visit.

The whisper is that Ray Kilby bought a trophy for himself as he missed out at the Shannon's car show and was very envious of Jim and Les (especially as Les was in a Holden!!).

Things got very petty at the Diner and many cheap shots were fired back and forth by a bunch of happy blokes having a great day out together.

Some went off to the Country Club Casino for tea and the rest went to the Restaurant at the Motel. What a rowdy bunch at the Restaurant, Kevin, Mick and Billy were all in fine form, but Maureen was very reserved. Lorraine especially enjoyed the delicious meal and the girls, in particular 'Hands Helen' entertained the diners. John and Pat (newly engaged) were not to be seen

anywhere due to being struck down by the Tassie bug.

John & Pat's engagement and Ray & Sandra's 43rd wedding anniversary were celebrated by all. Another top day in a wonderful trip, enjoyed by a top group of people. **LES HORNE.**

OVERVIEW:

Here is my overview from the Tassie trip as others have written more detailed day reports. We all had a fantastic time thanks to all the members who attended for making it such a great holiday. As you will see from the photos we had a lot of fun exploring Tassie, most days we travelled as a big group and on other days just a few cars.

I enjoyed the whole experience, from the meals shared with friends, at all the locations we travelled to, boat rides, bus rides, ghost tour & historical towns we visited, also the Salamanca market was a great day.

The cars were always looking at their best and attracting lots of onlookers and people wanting to have their photos taken with the cars. As one of the photographer for the trip I took over 600 photos and will have them in an album for anyone to view at the August meeting. Thanks go to Mick, from all who attended, for a great trip. I am looking forward to the next Great Escape. **Lorraine Carroll.**

THANK YOU: I wish to thank all Members and others who made our trip to Tassie so great. It was so good to have a relaxed and stress free trip. Everybody we met along the way were so hospitable it must be something in the water, NO, that's right I meant the Beer. We travelled around for 10 days with the worst of our troubles being a flat tyre. On behalf of Deb and Myself, I Thank You, and we are looking forward to the next Great Escape. **Mick Breheny.**

