

TASSIE TREKKERS 2016

Wednesday 24-2-16

Ray and I have already had a really busy few days, we stayed at Geelong for the "All Ford Day" then home to pack ready for a Tassie Trip. Packing is always a challenge for me when we try to reduce the load.

Les arrived and we were to meet Mick and Debbie out along the Craigieburn by-pass road. We followed Mick in convoy down to the Westgate outbound service station where we met up with the others.



Traffic was getting heavy so off we went to board the boat. There was a delay in boarding so we got talking with the Ulysses Club and I got talking to Emma, who is the "Floor Manager" for Andrews O'keefe, she took a photo of "the wild one J.O.K" and sent it to Andrew O'keefe (deal or no deal-family feud-chaser). She would love us to come and sit in the audience of one of their shows. Finally we could board the ship. No one wanted to park near Billy Patton as he had a



huntsman in his car. He was asked beforehand if he any pets to which he replied "NO" we think he should have declared the spider as it was quite happy to have him ride with him.

After we had something to eat and a chat we all left for our respective rooms. Billy and Les were in a shared room and Billy had left for bed early. Later Les tried to get into the room but couldn't

get in so asked for help after trying to get Billy on the phone, no luck there, eventually he got in and they both must have slept quite soundly.

Not too bad a trip and everyone got up bright and early, however we couldn't find Les and Billy, they did show up eventually.

We had a good turnout of members, Ray and Sandra, Mick and Debbie, Rob and Marg, Les Horne, Kevin and Jackie, Kevin and Brenda-Lee, Jan and John, Hank and Marg, Jim and Rebecca, Marg and Bill, David and Shayne and Billy Patton.

Written by Ray and Sandra Kilby.

Thursday 25-2-16

Woke up to the sound of the Squawk Box announcing our imminent arrival in Devonport – time only for quick coffee then "gentlemen (+ladies) start your engines! Rolled off the ferry & into the quarantine queue to have my foxtail



checked. No problem, they could not find the rest of the fox so were happy! Into Devonport and stop for breakfast at Rob's favourite cafe, actually next door, as it wasn't open yet. Back into the car after the pit stop and off to Beaconsfield where we toured the gold mine museum. Interesting and an eye opener into the

dangers involved in a miner's life.

We left Beaconsfield following Rob as he led the way to the east bank of the Tamar River via the bridge. A slight detour gave an interesting look at road work and traffic management in the apple isle. Then it was on to Launceston and the county club where we were made very welcome. All in all a great day driving the Customlines. David Healey.

Friday 26-2-16

Woke up to a sunny day. David left to get petrol then we drove to Deloraine, others left before us so we wandered down on a side scenery road. Most people met at Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm and Café. Berries were a bit tart when tested but we still brought jam. Then we all went across the road to Van Diemen's Land Creamery where we had a yummy ice cream each. Then into Deloraine where everyone met for lunch at the



50's Rock Diner and a look around at the memorabilia inside.

After lunch was free so we went with Rob and Marg and Kevin and Brenda-Lee to a Junkplace. Then to try and find Liffy Walls. Long drive, then more Km's of dirt road. By this stage I wasn't feeling the best on the winding road. So we turned back and drove through Bracknell, Longford, Perch and back to the country club at 6.30 pm for dinner. Lots of miles travelled, looking at interesting places. Shane Healey

Saturday 27-2-16

Started the day with the sun shining but a bit windy. Headed off around 9.30am to Grindelwald, a sweet little Swiss village. The ladies were happy, it had a nice little clothing store, quite a few purple bags were held by the ladies. After a walk around and a coffee we headed off again.

Next stop was Brady's lookout, what a view that was overlooking a river mouth, so beautiful.



Then after a few pictures taken we got back into our Cussies and headed to Launceston Harbour. There we couldn't find parking for everyone so we ended up on a type of embankment with lots of grass and trees. Some were concerned about parking fines. One smart lady from the club solved the problem by asking at the Lawn Bowl Club if there was any other parking available. They kindly opened up their car park for us.

Then we went different ways we had a lovely lunch at Levee Food Co. With full bellies we headed back for a well-deserved rest.

Rebecca Camilleri.

Monday 29-2-16

Cool rainy day upon waking up, hope the weather picks up. Head off around 9.00am for our next adventure, a 4 hour cruise by boat along the Tamar River, leaving at 10.00am.

Even though overcast, rain held off for the day. I interviewed the captain and tour guide of our



cruise asking what we can expect. He showed us the bird life, fish and history of the Tamar Valley river. Explaining that there is more to see by sea than roads, we were shown over 2/3rds of the Tamar Valley. We were shown Walnut trees where truffles grow under (truffles that sell for \$2,000 per kg), Beautiful vineyard, Rosevears Tavern, one of Australia's oldest hotels (1831).

Windermere Church, oldest established church (1842) in Tamar Valley. Homes built in the 1800's. Brady lookout named after bushranger Mathew Brady nicknamed "Gentleman Brady" who was tried and hung at age 21, so named as he "never held up a lady!" but robbed everyone else. We learnt there we no Crocs or mangroves in Tamar Valley.

To kick off our cruise Brenda-Lee got down on one knee and proposed "yet again" to Kevin even asking the Captain to marry them, the silence from Big K was deafening!! Better luck next time Brenda. We had morning tea cakes and beverages plus a cold lunch selection of rolls savouries and fresh fruit. There was also a wine-tasting of local wines and Boags beer, it was a very relaxing and picturesque trip and I think enjoyed by all.

We then made our way to the car museum and spent some time there to unwind (although some of the girls needed retail therapy to do this!!)

Just to wrap up: Bec is still to solve which Cussie driver offered the girl at BWS a drive!!)

Maureen Horne.

Tuesday 1-3-16

We started our journey around 8.30am. Weather was a bit iffy and as we drove on it got worse. First stop was Sideling Lookout where we saw some beautiful views and after a few happy shots



off we went again. We went up and over the mountains which was quite frightening for some of the women, but the men were in their element and it certainly tested their driving skills.

We arrived in Scottsdale where we had a lovely morning tea and some of the girls had a trip to

the salvos. We headed off again over some more scary mountains to arrive safely in St Helens, to a very cloudy day. After coffee and a very short trip around the shops because there weren't too many.

We went into St Marys so Mick could get petrol. We pulled up at the side of the road and a lovely café owner named Linda was singing out "Come in, Come in" so we all went in and got out of the rain. Was a very homely café in a nice building with a quaint interior, it was called The Bank Tea House. Linda and Jason were more than accommodating to us all. Our tea was served in beautiful china cups and the food was delicious, it was the highlight of our trip. All the cars performed faultlessly except Robs, it had a minor hiccup with the wipers, well done Rob driving hazardous conditions without wipers. Billy Patton and Dave and Shayne came back scenic route. Kev and Brenda-Lee

Thursday 3-3-16

Around 8am Rob and I, Brenda-Lee and Kev, Dave and Shayne sadly departed Launceston. But were full of excitement about our trip to Hobart. We said goodbye to everyone and said we would meet in Risdon Vale. The day was beautiful the sun was shining and luckily not a rain cloud in site (Robs wipers still not working). Our first stop was Campbelltown where we got



some beautiful shots of wonderful wood carvings on the reserve on the edge of town.

We continued on the road to Freycinet and what a beautiful drive though lovely country side and forests. We arrived in Coles Bay to the stunning site of the gorgeous bay with the Hazards Mountains as the back drop. The Hazards were

named after the Sea Captain Hazards. It was so peaceful we had morning tea soaking up the view. Then it was off to Freycinet and Wine Glass Bay at long last, I was about to fulfil my 40 year old wish.

We arrived in Freycinet and went through the visitor centre which we found very interesting, however was immediately ruled out as none of us could last one hour let alone 5 hours. But all was not lost the boys took us back to the air strip where us 3 girls had an absolute amazing flight. Words could not describe it, we were blown away completely. Wine Glass Bay WOW! WOW! WOW! Today I put out a very big tick on my bucket list, thanks boys.



After our flight Brenda-Lee, Shayne and Dave really wanted some oysters so we went to Freycinet marine farm where Rob, Kev and I watched them drool over then devour their oysters. Then it was off to Swanson where the Hungary 3 had a nice late lunch then headed off on a nice pleasant drive to Hobart a fabulous day. Marg Breheny

Saturday 5-3-16

Off to market we go, Salamanca that is! The boys left at 7.30am, leaving us girls at 9.am to follow in a maxi cab. There were stalls galore, handmade crafts, jewellery, handmade cakes, jams and all sorts of treats. Clothing and hats which some of the ladies took advantage of. Beck found one to cover her abundance of hair which I would love to have. Three of us girls found new friends to take home (bears).

We went separate ways before lunch, Deb and I found a nice bar/restaurant on the water front and whiled away an hour or so, very enjoyable. Some of the guys stayed to watch the Cussies.

Which was just as well they did as a couple of tourist decided to help them self's into Les and Maureen's Froo (Goldie) for a photo shoot. Kevin M very quickly told them that was a big "NO, NO"! and moved them on their way.



Rob, our president, sent Deb and I on a goose chase, telling us that the home fest across the road had lots of lovely things for us. It was not our cup of tea!! We soon had words for him when we returned at the lovely shaded area at the government house where Mick had arranged for us to all park. We spent time under the beautiful tree chatting, joking and laughing with Kevin M once again reminding us all he has feelings.

At 3pm the stalls started packing up their good and wears so we decided to move on as well. Les was very pleased as Sue brought a new hat so there could cruise in there beautiful Sunliner with the roof down. After leaving some came back to the discovery park at Risdon Vale and some went to discover Mt Wellington.

Kevin and Jackie Mulroney

Sunday 6-3-16

Waking up to another beautiful day in Tassie.

Les .C., Mick, Robert, Billy, Dave, Jim, Kevin M, Les H, Kevin S all headed down to Sandy



Bay to a car gathering, where the guys had coffee and breakfast, and once again all our cars were above the other cars that were present.

Then around 10.00am they all headed back to the caravan park to pick us girls up and then off to Richmond, most of us headed.

Once we arrived at Richmond most of the girls did a lovely walk around the town and did a spot of shopping. Few of the guys stayed at the pub to watch the cars. When the girls got back, we all had a lovely lunch and I'm sure Jackie, Debbie and Marg thought it was worth the 1 hour wait. 3.00 arrived, on the dot we all headed to Brighton to meet up with the rest of our crew who didn't go to Richmond with us. We arrived at Peter's home where all the guys were in awe of all his beautiful collection of cars. One of his cars was a Hummer that the queen was driven around in when she visited Tassie back in 1956. They also had star models and many more.



Peter was very hospitable, he opened his house to all us after a chat and cuppa we all headed back to the park and a big thank you to Rob for the scenic tour back. All in all another great day was had. Les and Sue Cross

Monday 7-3-16

We're having a bit of a sleep in today, then we're going on a cruise South of Hobart. We have eight cars coming today, with Deb and I, and Billy in the back. Followed by the Horne's, Mennen's, Mulroney's, Cross's, Kilby's and the Stock's and last but not least the Young's.

Getting out of Hobart was easy, just take your time, wait to see the roof of Goldie and we all stay together. Having Les n Maureen as the last car is great, because when I am in the front of the line - which is quite often!! - I just look back to see the gold roof, and I know we are all together.

There were a couple of times we had to make a

last minute lane change, Marg Stocks was behind me, and to her credit she never missed a move (Good Job Marg!!).



We made a detour in to the Bruny Island ferry, there were a lot of cars loading and no where to park, so back on the road we went. Morning tea was at a place called Peppermint Bay Cafe, the place seemed very nice and it was up to our girls, it looked to have a very high standard, but that's where it finished. The scone gobblers - yes, that is us now!! - all filled their bellies with scones jam n cream, then a voice said - what about me, I ordered before them?? - it was Marg n Bill. The waitress said they had sold out-there were no scones left!! Well that was not good enough!! On complaining, Marg was offered free muffins but Marg said you can stick your muffins where the sun don't shine!! Me being the gentleman that I am, I went and got some muffins for Marg n Bill, and then I was the only one in the place that was not an A--hole!!



So back in the Cussy's and off again, we stopped at a place called Middleton, for Ray n Bill to get

a pie, so every one was happy. We cruised along the coast for a while - I never get tired of driving this Cussy - and it was time for lunch. There is a pattern developing here, all we do is drive and eat - what a life, we are very lucky!! Cygnet pub was the lunch stop, a very nice old pub. The food was good, I wasn't very hungry so I just had a bowl of wedges. It cost me \$14 for those wedges, shit!! I thought they grew spuds in Tassie?!! - they must have come from Ireland!!! Time is marching on and we still have to call in to new Club Members, Geoff n Jayne's place, for - U



got it - afternoon tea!! More food!! Finding Geoff's road was easy, driving up the 1.5 km of dirt road was a different story. I was ok, I was in front as usual - I new there would be perks for me eventually out the front!! I forgot to mention the road was very steep, and someone said they could smell clutch, but we all got there in the end. What a lovely spot, overlooking the Huon Valley and river. Our hosts were very kind and welcoming, they wanted us to stay for a BBQ, but it had been a big day and we all needed to head for the units for a nap. It was like turning the horses head for home, we were off with the speed of a startled gazelle!! Eight Cussy's, 17 people, great driving roads, what a day!!

Thank U all!! Mick n Deb.

Wednesday 9-3-16

8.30am arrives Mick & Debbie, Kevin & Jackie, Marg & Hank, Jan & John, Jim & Rebecca, Bill & Marg, Rob & Marg, Kevin & Brenda-Lee, David & Shayne, Ray & Sandra, Les & Maureen, Jim & Helen are all lined up ready for our adventure.

What a beautiful sight with all the colourful cars. The weather was not perfect, drizzly rain, but not to stop us. We headed out into the beautiful countryside to New Norfolk which is a farming community, very pretty landscape, it reminds me

of England. As we travelled though the countryside we noticed a sign Kimbolton Coal Mine. It is operated occasionally as an open pit mine. Some of the coal finds its way to agriculture and metal industries.

We stopped for morning tea and fuel stop at Ouse Roadhouse, off we go again. Meandering up hill and down dale, the road was good.

Then we arrived at Tarraleah Hydro Electricity Station. We found this fascinating; it was built for construction and operation of the power scheme, it was commissioned in 1938 and was the origin of Tasmania's 110km transmission system. We travelled on through Derwent Valley area then came across The Wall Sculptures. This was



amazing, Greg Duncan is a gifted wood sculpture and historian. The wall spans 100 metre's is made up of panels of Huon Pine and he carves these amazing sculptures of early Australia, the typical Bushy of Men and Women all life size, draught horses pulling drays all done in Huon Pine. He also carves gloves, hats, cloaks, amazing things.

We moved onto Queenstown through Victory Pass, there were beautiful tree ferns. We then travelled to new Queenstown and spotted at a beautiful waterfall. We had lunch at Queenstown then wondered around the streets.

We made our way to Strahan, the road was a bit hilly, alas we arrived, had a bit of trouble finding accommodation but finally we arrived and settled into our cabins.

Our beautiful 50's Fords had an uneventful journey. Marg and Henk

Thursday 10-3-16

Woke up early, myself (Bill), Mick, Kevin and Rob went to "Coffee Club". Mick and Kevin

ate the biggest big breakfast, at the park shop. Then everyone drove down to the train station for our trip. All went smoothly till Kevin Mulroney spat the dummy, he was in the wrong seat. We all had a good day except Mick he was robbed of sandwiches "HA HA". Seriously it was a good train ride.



We went to dinner at the pub not a bad meal, pity about the service. But the good company of all members made it a lot better!

Bill Patton.

Friday 11-3-16

Early start, weather looks great for a day on the water. All headed to the wharf at 8am. By 8.30am we are all boarded Lady Jane Franklin. Gordon River Cruise for a trip across Macquarie



Harbour out through Hells Gate into the ocean. Turned around then back across Macquarie Harbour and up the Gordon River. On the way we took in all the sights of the fish farming. Three companies operate the farms producing 10,000 tons of fish annually at 4-5kg weight. Motoring up the Gordon River which is World Heritage listed. First stop was Heritage Landing, we did a nature walk through the forest which was lovely. It rains for 300 days a year, we were lucky to have a lovely sunny day.

We then boarded the boat again where a lovely lunch was waiting for us. While having lunch we

cruised back toward Sarah Island, where a guide was waiting to tell us about how the convicts were treated. After an hour pf looking around the Island, we all headed back to the boat and cruised back to Strahan. Lovely day was had by all.

Now back to pack and get ready for tomorrow.

Jan and John

Saturday 12-3-16

Today is our last day in Tassie, I could stay here and drive around the whole island again and again - in the Cussy that is, but it's home to kids and grandkids.

Bill and myself went to the coffee shop for our last coffee club in Tassie. Finally, we're off, but alas, Deb n I were at the roundabout alone, waiting, waiting, waiting.

I rang Kevin M and he told us that the cars were starting to leave, when I asked him which way were they going, and he told me, I said you need to stop them - they're going the wrong way, they're heading back to Queenstown!! But it was too late, they were gone. I finally got a call through (phone coverage wasn't the best), and so 15kms towards Queenstown, they turned around and came back, then - finally - we were off to Zeehan!! It was a nice drive in the Cussy and we were going to fuel there, but the servo's had no staff, you had to fuel and pay by using their credit card facility - I am not sticking my card in that thing!!! So we decided we can all make it to Sheffield and fuel the cars there. The museum at Zeehan was great, Jim Pierce said to me, you'd need all day to look at it properly, he was right as usual - I thought I was wrong once but I was mistaken!!! - (write it down Henk!!).

It was time for morning tea, so off to the only shop open in Zeehan, the coffee was good and the pie was too!! Deb n I meet a couple from the Ulysses bike Club, and on the back of their Harley they had their names printed - Mick n Deb - which was funny enough, and then Deb told me to look at Micks name badge to see their surname, it was a bit spooky now, their surname was BREEN!!

It's very possible our names are linked from Irish decent, as there are many variations of the spelling of the original family name which was Brehon. Amazing!!

So it's time to head for Sheffield - what a great drive in a Cussy!! – fantastic landscape and lots of photos. There was a steam festival on at Sheffield so the parking was a bit scarce, but the girl in the Caltex servo said park the cars here, its like a car show, so that was good. The girls did the shops, we boys did the pub, and we all had a nice lunch there when the girls came back. After lunch it was time to head for the boat at Devonport.

We parked at the boat car park, but it was so hot that a few of us decided to go to the pub around the corner, which was air conditioned and the beer was cold!! We were there for about an hour, Rob rang me and said we are loading, so around we went to sit in the car park for one and a half hours, in the hot sun with no shade. I will never wait in the car park at Devonport again, we will slide in at 6.15pm and drive straight on. We took over the library on the boat, and made a lot of noise having a good time. The trip across the straight was very smooth, and unloading went to plan. A few of us met at the Mc Donald's on the ring road for breakfast, and the Great Escape 16' was all over. Deb and I would like to thank everyone who came on the trip, making it such an

Off to an early start for the Edanvale Market with Mick & Deb as Billy preferred a little sleep in. Quite chilly when we arrived, most heading to nearest coffee stand.

The market had lots of lovely fresh fruit & vegies and quite a variety of stalls. I think everyone went home with something. We headed back to the motel, picked up Billy, then headed out to Cataract Gorge where we had a light lunch.

Absolutely beautiful here with plenty to do for everyone including scenic walks, huge swimming pool, suspension bridge and the chair lift which has the longest span in the world. Bill and Mick decided to hop into the lift that takes you up a level but on their return the lift wouldn't move and they had to spend around 10 minutes locked in....great bonding time for them both haha!

Lovely day was had by all.

Marg & Billy Stocks

P.S. Mick can't remember which day we did this.



enjoyable time. Our trip around Tassie, where we met, and travelled with some fantastic people, was 18 days, 1700 km's long, one set of wipers not working, only 2 flat tyres, in 55+ year old cars that are a credit to you all. Thankyou to everyone involved.

Mick n Deb Breheny.

