

A MYSTERY TOUR – Sunday 5th August, 2012

Put On For Us Exclusively By The World Famous Higginson Charabanc Tour Company

It is on Again! Our 440 horse-power motor coach is warming up for a very special day out.

This tour is going to be one of those special “Where are we going?” and, “Are we nearly there yet?”, type of charabanc trips. Our destination and the route to it are a complete mystery, but once we have ‘been’ there we will all know for sure!

Right: The lucky Charabanc riders who made it Round-The-Bay-In-A-Day. Just look at the smiles on those faces!

Our start time is 8:45 am and there will be ample parking behind locked gates at 6 Tullamarine Park Road, Tullamarine (Melway Map 15, Ref: D4). We suggest that you aim to arrive at 8:30 am, to be sure that our start time is not delayed.

For those who wish for some idea of our tour’s direction and destination – well, we will be heading North, South, East and West – but not necessarily in that order. A certainty is that morning tea/coffee will be provided and lunch will be a modest \$16.00 (approx.) per person.

Things have been a little Topsy-Turvey with us lately, so we will need confirmation of attendance. Apologies if some have been omitted from the list below. Our current list is as follows:

Mike & Sue Allfrey	Bryan & Anne Tootell
Tony & Maxine Pettigrew	Diane & Nello Mafodda
Ross & Pat Wolstenholme	Pat Douglas
Robyn & Robert Joiner	Val Jefferyes & Colin Forrest
Frank Sawyer & Val McRae	Colin & Joy Brown
Peter & Darrell Jones	Ann Petersen
Victor & Nikki Pace	

If you have been left off the list, please call Lyn on (03) 9336 7306 (AH), or on my mobile 0418 995 183. If the telephone is not answered, please leave a clear message of confirmation, with name and telephone number so that your call can be returned. We are open for more bookings, be quick to avoid disappointment.

Lyn and Ray Higginson.

Editor’s Note: Some of you have asked me why I use the term ‘Charabanc Tour’ as a description of these popular events. The term ‘Charabanc’ is used here in an entirely complimentary and affectionate manner. Back in the days of some of our childhoods, a very popular British activity was the summer Saturday coach trip to the seaside and, where we grew up near Bristol, we used to see coach-loads of excited adults and children in those Midland Red coaches, heading for Weston Super Mare and a day of fairy floss on the beach and so on. In the 1940s and 1950s these outings were colloquially called Charabanc Tours. The Midland Red company provided these trips, at very cheap fares, for thousands of families who lived and worked in Britain’s industrial heartland. They probably built some of the cars that we love so much today. Those people who chose a Charabanc Tour as a release, were not yet able to own a motor car of their own – that came later with the advent of the Morris Minor, Austin A30 and the Mini variants.

For me, memories of seeing all of those coaches motoring down the A38, the A370 and the B3130 (to Clevedon) are quite stirring. Midland Red must have had a huge fleet of buses and coaches in those days, because they also ran day tours to such places as Rhyl, Llandudno, Llanfairfechan and Penryhn Bay in north Wales which, then, must have been like an international journey!

Mike Allfrey – Editor.

