



ABCCC's

The Wonders of Tassie Tour



November 15 to 29, 2018

Participants

Allen, Bill

Anglin, Greg and Geraldine

Beaumont, Trevor and Jill

Benoy, Clive and Helen

Constantine, Christopher and Geraldine

Cousin, Leon and Judy

Craven, Jack and Shirley

Hall, Rex and Deanna

Hetrel, George and Pat

Hodge, Ian and Mary

Joiner, Robert and Robin

Jones, Peter and Darrell

Mason, John and Jenny

Parker, Ray and Joan

Pettigrew, Tony and Maxine

Prewett, Gary and Glenda

Simmonds, Russell and Eve Glenn

Thompson, Wally and Sue



Tony Pettigrew getting into the Christmas spirit at Glenorchy.

Photographic contributors

Robyn Joiner, Deanna Hall, Helen Benoy, Glenda Prewett, Greg Anglin and Sue Thompson

Thursday November 15:

Melbourne turned on great weather as the intrepid travellers from the ABCCC gathered at Princes Pier in old and new cars ready for the trip south.

While the workers were busy rushing semi trailers into the Spirit of Tasmania we stood in groups and chatted before heading off to the local shop for some fish and chips. The food was great and the chatter never ceased. There was so much to catch up on.

Promptly at 6pm we all queued up in our cars and waited for the loading team to put us within centimetres of the car in front and to the side of us.

Armed with our cabin numbers we headed into the ship and into our rooms – all seemingly in the one corridor. The rooms were snug but comfortable. After a couple of drinks and more chatter it was time to watch the Spirit go out the heads and southward to Tassie.

Friday, November 16:

Some slept well others rocked and rolled with the ship which thankfully had a smooth crossing. Our wake-up call was early 5.45am, which gave us 45 minutes before we disembarked at a sleepy Devonport.

Everyone soon arrived at The Edgewater Hotel for breakfast. The previous day 2 people had breakfast in the dining room. Suddenly there were 35 more and the service couldn't be faulted.

After more chatter, 18 cars set off in different directions. Maxine and Tony gave a few suggested places of interest in our travel packs. The most popular was the chocolate factory on the way to Launceston but there were plenty of small towns off the freeway which people explored.



This stunning quilt at Yarn & Spin in Deloraine was made by 300 community members over three years. (DH)

Some of the quilts stats: 200 sq m of silk plus tulle, wool, cotton, velvet, lace and enough thread to circle the world several times. 10,000 hours to complete.

Sue and Wally Thompson had a mission of a different kind and opened up a slice of history for the touring party. They had arranged to meet the manager of the magnificent Albert Hall where Dame Nellie Melba sang in 1909. They were so impressed with the building and its special English organ, several members popped in the next day on their way to the nearby National Automobile Museum of Tasmania.

Everyone meandered their way east to Launceston where it was time to sit back and enjoy a happy hour.



Happy Hour ABCCC style at Prospect, Launceston. (DH)

Saturday, November 17:

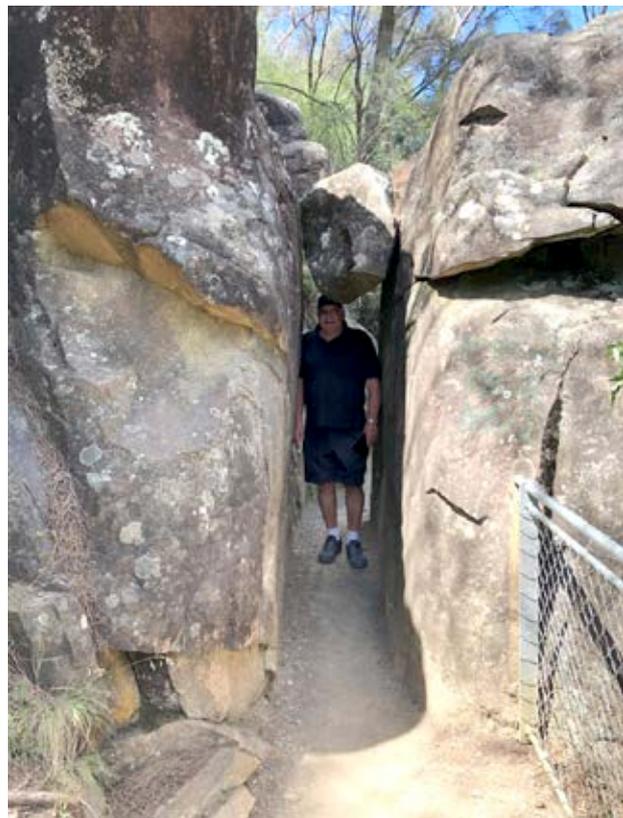
Next day everyone set out to do different things but the major focus was on the Tamar River. Some walked the Cataract Gorge while other looked at it from the water level. Everyone had great photos of it be it from the top or bottom. A stunning place.

Strict regulations were on display, among them:

*“ No unseemly boisterousness;
No bad language;
No discharging firearms
or using catapults; and
No playing games.”*

Fairy Dell, adjacent to the Rotunda, was originally filled with swings, maypoles and see-saws. Use of play equipment was forbidden on Sundays and swings were chained to stop their use.

Regulations at the band Rotunda at Fairy Dell Launceston. (RJ)



Rex Hall on the Cataract Gorge walking trail at Launceston. (DH)



Cataract Gorge from river level. (ST)



Plants clinging to the walls of Cataract Gorge. (ST)



Pirate ship, cannon firing at Penny Royal in front of a magnificent 30m waterfall. (DH)

Clive and Helen Benoy were inspired by the reports on Albert Hall. They found out that the nearby, equally beautiful Princess Theatre was staging the final night of *The Sound of Music* by the local amateur Theatre Group Encore Theatre Group which was celebrating its 10th anniversary production. It was also its final show.

Sunday, November 18:

It was pack up and move on south. But most headed to the Evandale Market and wandered around for an hour or so. Such an historic, English style town full of lots of character. Gary and Glenda Prewett made a great purchase of two beautiful golliwogs which will be seeing lots of Tassie in the next week or so. They started looking at the convict prison.



Mr Golli and Mrs Wog at the Ross Female Convict Station. (GP)



Above: Some of the magnificent rose gardens at Woolmer's at Longford. (DH)

Left: Dinner menu at the Glenorchy Hotel. (RJ)

Through Campbell Town and Ross, people were spotted in bakeries, coffee shops or just wandering the towns. Everyone was enjoying being a tourists.

In the evening the Balmoral Hotel/Motel at Glenorchy turned it on for us. There was big welcome to the All British Classic car Club sign in the dining room and we even had our own special menu.

As usual, the chatter didn't stop with everyone catching up on who had done what during the day.

Rex and Deanna took a bit of a detour and went to the Rose Festival at Woolmer's at Longford and spent four hours wandering the gardens, looking at the vintage cars in the garages and checking out the many stalls. The property has belonged to the Thomas Archer family for six generations.



No 9: At Mona Art Galley Fat Porsche by Erwin Wurm. Porsche Carrera chassis, body and interior with polystyrene and fibreglass. (RJ)

At Mona museum we booked in to see the Egyptian mummy in a changer. We walked along stone square pavers surrounded by black water. Only 2 people were admitted each time. The mummy was in sold form as well as an x-ray image of its skeleton. Fascinating to say the least. (DH)



Monday, November 19:

After a leisurely breakfast, it was into the cars and off to explore. Some went to the famous Mona Gallery while others headed west to The Wall which consists of 100 hand sculptured timber panels created and funded by the artist Greg Duncan.

Others headed into Hobart and beyond Clive and Helen discovered royal tennis while others took off for the ferry ride to Bruny Island. Darryl and Peter opted to stay on terra firma, have a leisurely lunch watching the ferries, cars and passengers going backwards and forwards.



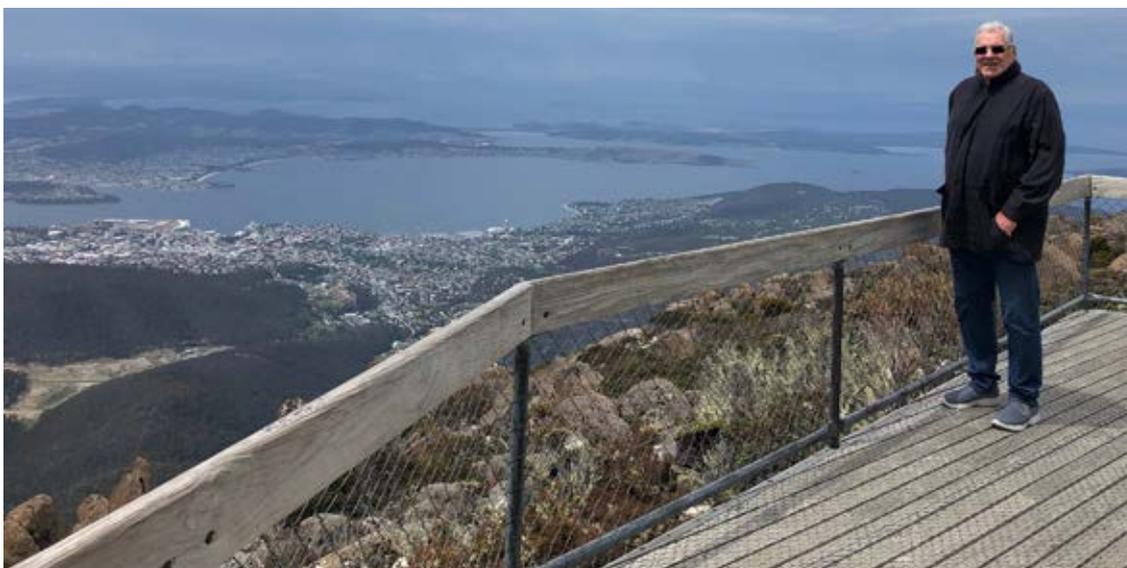
Tennis anyone? (HB)



Above: Trevor, Jill and Gary getting ready to try out some "Fuel for Love" Bruny Island Oysters. (GP)

Left: Ian and Mary Hodge outside Mures restaurant on the waterfront of Hobart. (GP)

Below: Rex Hall looking at Hobart from afar at the top of Mt Wellington. (DH)





Mr Golli and Mrs Wog in Wally and Sue Thompson's car. (GP)

also lots of other history of the hotel and town hanging on the pub's wall.

Mrs Wog started to complain about their travel arrangements - it was no fun squashed into the MG parcel rack. As the Thompsons were already carrying some wine for the Prewetts, Mr Golli and Mrs Wog asked if they could have a lift with them. Wally carefully strapped them into the seat belt side by side for the rest of the trip. Each day they were told if they have any problems to speak up. Each day Sue and Wally heard nothing so all was well

Tuesday November 20:

A few went west to New Norfolk, a fascinating town on the banks of the Derwent. Some spent hours wandering through a huge antiques centre located in part of the old convict hospital/asylum. The grounds were a haven for the guys as scattered around were old vehicles of various shapes and stages of deterioration.

Christopher and Geraldine dined at the Bush Inn, a pub which has operated continuously for 193 years. It was also where Dame Nellie Melba stayed in 1924 and delighted guest with a song or two. Her portrait takes pride of place in the hotel's dining room. There is



The framed portrait of Dame Nellie Melba hanging in the Bush Inn at New Norfolk. Melba stayed there in 1924. (ST)



Even today Dame Nellie Melba is still drawing in the crowds throughout Australia. None more so than at the Bush Inn. (ST)

Wednesday, November 21:

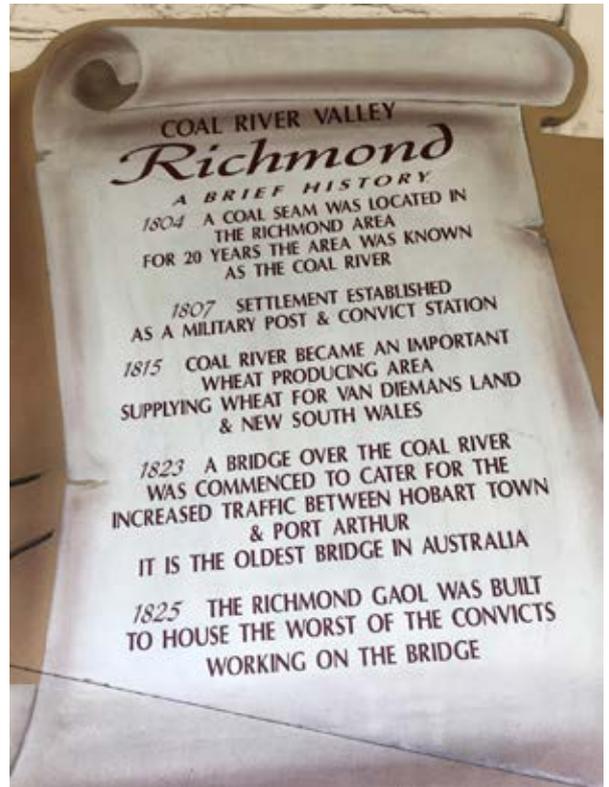
Time to move north and leave Hobart behind. Luckily it rained last night and not today when we were taking the short trip to Orford via historic Richmond.

Antique shops were besieged as we all tried to pick up treasures or special Christmas gifts. The shop that specializes in hand made wooden items showed just what can be build with a piece of timber.

Others visited the model of Hobart Town in the 1820s which was amazing. Built on the scale of 1:16 the buildings, people and setting was amazing, more so if you have already walked around Hobart and seen the buildings.

Quite a few of us also visited the lolly shop and spent a dollar or two on some of the 100s of jar filled sweets.

After lunch everyone headed to Orford. Our units complete with balcony look out over the river and bay and soon some were off for an explore and a walk along the beach.



Brief history of Richmond. (RJ)



A part of the one in 16 Old Hobart Town Model Village at Richmond. (ST)

Thursday, November 22:

With rain threatening we headed north up the east coast. Destination Scamander.

On the way however, we called in to have breakfast with Fiona and Peter Smolenaars of the Rover Car Club. They had purchased historic Muirelands 10 years ago and always welcomed visitors. We all trooped into the dining room only to be greeted by what was almost a continental style banquet. It was delicious and much was made by Fiona who loves cooking. Time flew quickly as they told us the story of their



Hmm! Is she Crazy Daisy or Shot Gun Sue? No she's our own Geraldine Anglin not looking too happy. (GA)



The laden breakfast table but there was more to come. (GP).



Fiona and her rescue dog Belle relaxing after breakfast. (GP)

Breakfast at Muirelands with Fiona and Peter Smolenaars.



Left: Fiona and Peter after Tony Pettigrew had presented them with an ABCCC plaque. (GP)

Above: Helen Benoy's sketch of the happy couple.(HB)

home on Tassie's history and we were free to wander around their former guest house which dated from the early 1900s.

Time to move on and as the timing was perfect some called into Bicheno to sample their renown seafood, specially oysters and scallops. The rain set in but all could still see different seascapes around each corner.

Thankfully, dinner has been organized at the hotel so no one had to venture out in the howling wind and rain. It was a spit roast cooked indoors and with roast veg and three cuts of meat no one was complaining.

Friday November 23:

The wind was still howling and the rain incessant but people went in all directions checking out op shops, antiques and places just to relax and enjoy a leisurely chat over a coffee or two. Others stayed at the hotel and enjoyed drinks in front to the open fire.

Saturday, November 24:

We were heading north-east to Low End on the Tamar River near Georgetown. While there may have been only one route to travel, the spots to stop and explore were boundless.

Some diverted to Pyengana to walk to St Columba's 90m waterfall, visit the Hotel in the Paddock and sample and buy some famous Pyengana cheese. A highlight for those who want to know about paddock to plate, you just stepped outside and watched the cows wander up to the dairy when they wanted to be milked. It is all computer controlled and controlled by the cows themselves.

Others went to Legerwood to the wonderful ANZAC wood carvings before lunching and shopping at Scottsdale and then heading to Low Head via Bridport which boasts a fascinating inter island barges and fishing fleet. Just on dusk a group hopped in their cars and headed out to see the penguins. Everyone was rewarded with a cuddly or two from



Robert and Robin Joiner's car parked at The Gulch at Bicheno. It was wet outside but they were inside sampling the local seafood. (GP)



This is the carving of Private Robert James Jenkins who died of wounds in France in 1917. He was engaged to Trippy Forsyth. The carving depicts him sitting back in the trenches looking towards his beloved Trippy, as well as facets of a life in the trenches. Trippy never married.



A great way to promote Christmas Lilydale Tasmania style. (RJ)



those furry guys. Sadly, they were not the real thing but that didn't seem to matter.

Dinner at Gray's Hotel was voted a huge success.



High spirits at Low Head.

Top left: Judy Cousins enjoys a swing. (GP)

Top: Geraldine Constantine with her furry friend. (GP)

Left: Dissecting the day's events over a nice red or two. (GP)



Sunday, November 25:

Our next destination was Somerset for our final three nights on the island.

Again, it was a case of go and see what you want it. A visit to the Beaconsfield Museum, Seahorse World and the Platypus talk at Beauty Point was a must for those who hadn't seen them. Others took time to catch up with friends on the way to the north-east coast.

Sadly, John and Jenny didn't get to do much sight seeing today as their Packard broke down out of George Town.

Monday, November 25:

From Somerset, some went south and others north. Russell and Eve went to Queenstown and spent the day on the spectacular tourist railway to and from Strahan. Wally and Sue were hot on the trail on Melba whose name is dotted around the mining area and discovered some amazing links to mining and a pub.

Others went to Stanley, Smithton and beyond, exploring and soaking up the wealth of history the towns had to offer as seaside and fishing towns.

Tuesday, November 26:

Another day, more beautiful weather and the chance to explore further. Places such as the Burnie and the Rhododendron Gardens was a great attraction on both days. The only thing organized was a dinner in the Motel that night as it would be our last dinner together.

Wednesday, November 27:

Our last day in Tassie. Our adventure was drawing to a close. After a beautiful Tuesday it rained overnight and drizzle greeted us all at breakfast. Luckily,



Waiting for a mater. Seahorses at Seahorse World. (ST)



Post Office at Zeehan.(ST)



Stanley viewed from The Nut. (ST)



Highfield Park and gardens, Stanley with The Nut in the background. (ST)



It's not every day one gets the chance to dine with the Australian Prime Minister in his own kitchen. But Geraldine Anglin and Robin Joiner chatted with Joseph Lyons at his Devonport home, Home Hill. (RJ)

that soon stopped as we all packed and headed east to Devonport. Again, most people spent the morning exploring the coastal towns between Burnie and Devonport – Penguin, Ulverstone and Turner's beach. After lunch everyone was eager to do the tour of Joseph and Enid Lyons family home in Devonport. Joseph was Premier of Tassie also Prime Minister of Australia. Enid Lyon became the first woman elected to Federal Parliament.

Owned by the National Trust, Maxine and Tony had organized a special price and special tours for us in groups of 8 and 10. It was an amazing property, full of treasures they had collected. It was added to as the children – all 12 arrived - and decorated and shaped by Enid Lyons herself. She inspired many of the ladies to start honing their wood working skills.

An early dinner was negotiated and everyone joined an impromptu happy hour followed by dinner before driving onto the Spirit for the trip north.

Everyone gathered in the lounge area and spent several hours doing what they do best chatting before heading off to bed.

Thursday, November 28:

Bleary eyed, all gathered by 6.30am ready for the call to go to their cars. Rushed good byes were said and all headed for their vehicles for the short drive back into Victoria.

Casualties:

Of the six old cars taken away only one arrived home on a flatbed (John Mason's Packard). Robert Joiner's car suffered a flat tyre.

Ian Hodge was the only person not to leave the Spirit the same way as he boarded it in Tassie. He was taken by Ambulance to the Alfred Hospital. Brave Mary drove their car off the ship. Thankfully, tests revealed Ian was okay but he spent a couple of days in hospital.

Big Thank You

Everyone on the trip appreciated the many hours of research and work Maxine and Tony put into the trip. The accommodation was great and the information they provided was first class. Everyone could judge for themselves what they wanted to see and do and there was plenty of time to everything.