



ALL BRITISH CLASSICS CAR CLUB

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An incorporated club

A friendly family social motoring club

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September 99**

Your A.B.C. News

Opal Safari cars at Andamooka Cattle Station

During our recent Opal Safari we visited our nearby neighbor at the 1,000.000 plus acre cattle station. Just a 180 km return run for an unforgettable B B Q.



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Frank Douglas
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Tom Cannon 9791 2949
Ray Higginson 9336.7306
Early morning runs
Neil Wakeman 0411 456 047
.....
Membership
John Gardner
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Our Opal Cut



1999 Andamooka Opal Safari

Departing Melbourne on Sunday the 1st August we headed up north firstly to Mildura and from there to Broken Hill where we were very well looked after by the Broken Hill Car Club who joined us for dinner. Unfortunately Frank Douglas's Jaguar suffered a bearing problem in the back axle and whilst the rest of the group proceeded on their way to the Flinders Ranges the following day Frank spent a day being looked after by some very nice Car Club members in Broken Hill and caught up with the group by lunch time the next day in the Flinders Ranges. After that we proceeded to the Opal fields in Andamooka and having settled in at our accommodation we met up with the other members of the Safari who had come from as far as afield as the Black Forest in Germany, from the UK and in due course four people from U.S.A. All in all we had a very interesting experience whilst we proceeded to do two open cuts using bull-dozers and bobcats. Whilst one open cut produced nothing of consequence the other open cut produced a bucket and a half of Opalized bones which were a great interest to the group. As well as our day time mining activities we also visited the nearby giant copper, uranium and gold mine of Olympic Dam and the newly constructed oasis town in the desert - Roxby Downs which we found to be very interesting.

Andamooka Roo Bus (Honorary Member)



The Andamooka Roo Bus is a quaint one off hand/custom made out back vehicle. It would appear to have started out life as a Toyota four wheel drive but from that point in time had been completely re-built. It comes equipped with no speedo, no key, no front windscreen and of late no hand brake apart from the ever available road side rock. When we arrived at Andamooka we had already been offered the use of this unusual out back contraption which doubles excellently as a bus and travels across country like you would not believe. The problem is that it has not brakes so a "well known" mechanic called Colin Hallam got to work on it and found that by bleeding the brakes and filling up the reservoir "hey presto" we had brakes.

Next problem was there was not enough charge in the battery so from that point on we always parked it on a downhill incline with two of the local handbrakes nicely tucked under the wheels.

One main attributes of this vehicle was that it road beautifully going across country, it didn't need to use roads and it was very handy for carting parties of car club members out to the mine site.

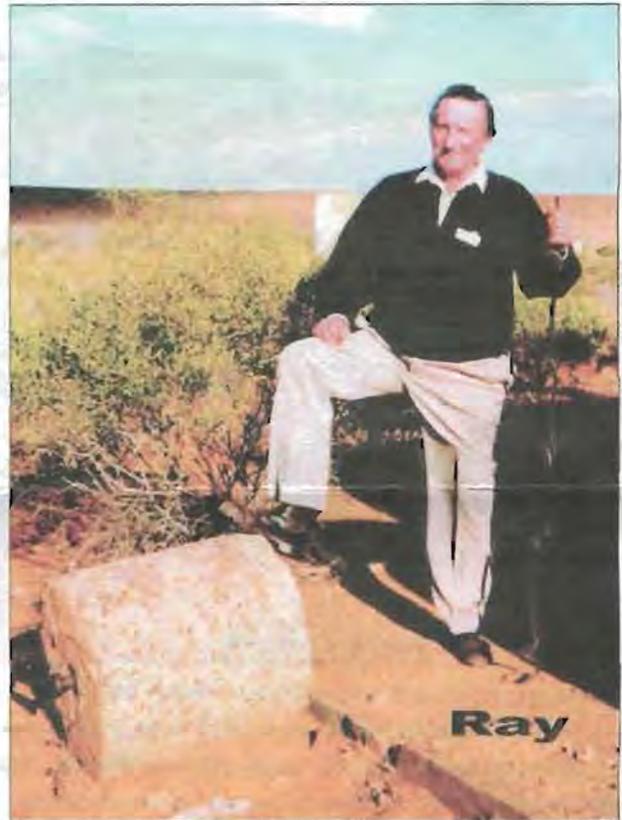
Our one mishap came when traveling down an unmade road we had a fast moving truck go past on the opposite direction which proceeded to throw a quite large rock into the air, which past through the non existent front windscreen of the Roo Bus, parted Frank Douglas's hair on the left hand side very neatly and smashed through the rear window hitting one of the German visitors who was in the back of the bus. Thankfully by some miracle no-body was hurt but this could of easily been a catastrophe that we did not want to have.

I think that it would be fair to say that by the time we left Andamooka most people had fallen in love with the Roo Bus and it will stay in their memories for a long time to come. Accordingly we have given it "honorary" status as a British vehicle although it was probably made in Japan. FAREWELL ROO BUS.

“ROLLERS” in the outback



Ray Higginson & Station Manager Barry Durham both own ROLLERS.. For the sake of our photograph they have changed “Vehicles”



It all depends on how you look at it

Aer Lingus Flight 101 was flying from Heathrow to Dublin one night, with Paddy the Pilot, and Shamus the co-pilot. As they approached Dublin airport, they looked out the front window.

“B’jeeesus” said Paddy “Will ye look at how short dat runway is”

“You’re not kiddin, Paddy” replied Shamus.

“Dis is gonna be one a’ de trickiest landings you’re ever gonna see” said Paddy

“You’re not kiddin, Paddy” replied Shamus

“Right Shamus. When I give de signal, you put de engines in reverse” said Paddy

“Right, I’ll be doing dat” replied Shamus

“And den ye put de flaps down straight away” said Paddy

“Right, I’ll be doing dat” replied Shamus

“And den ye stamp on dem brakes ashard as ye can” said Paddy

“Right, I’ll be doing dat” replied Shamus

“And den ye pray to de Mother Mary with all a’ your soul” said Paddy

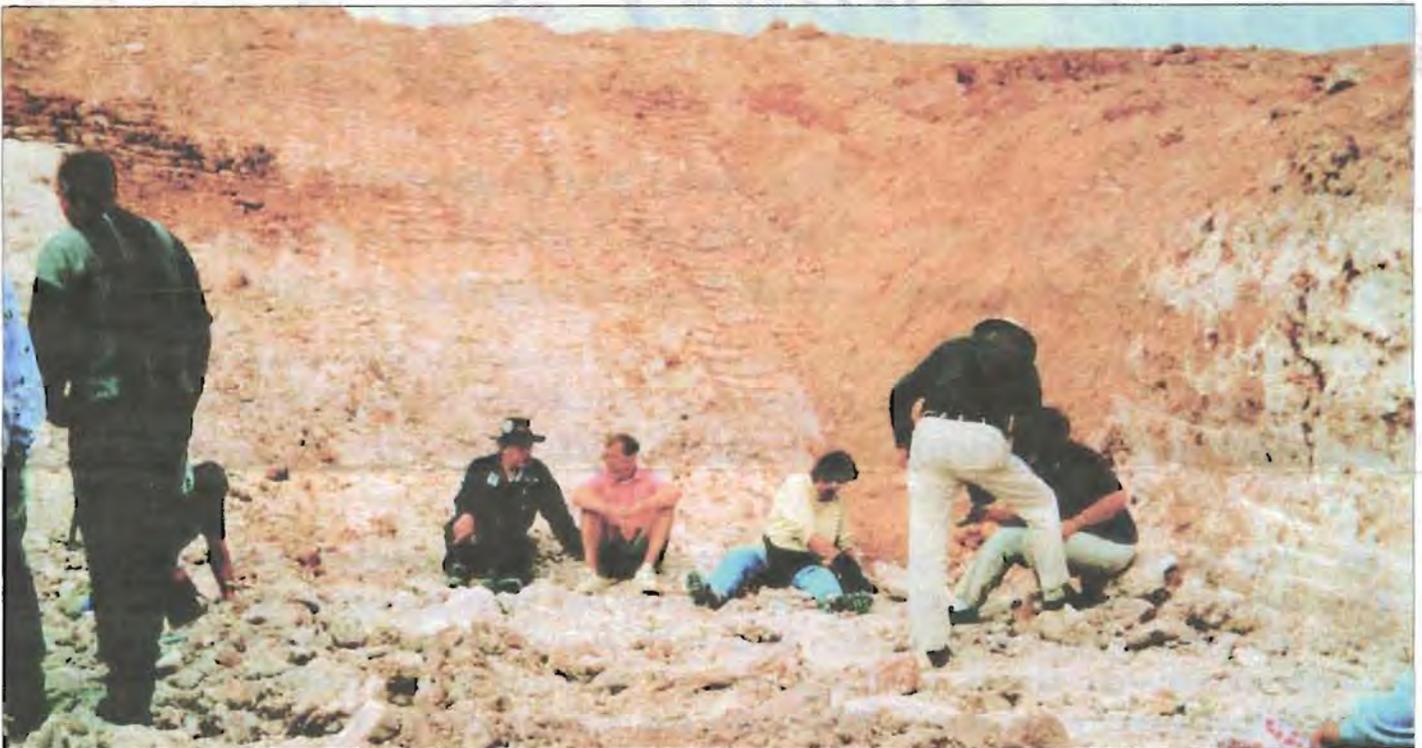
“I be doing dat already” replied Shamus

So they approached the runway with Paddy and Shamus full of nerves and sweaty palms. As soon as the wheels hit the ground, Shamus put the engines into reverse, put the flaps down, stamped on the brakes and prayed to Mother Mary with all of his soul. Amidst roaring engines, squealing of tyres and lots of smoke, the plane screeched to a halt centimetres from the end of the runway much to the relief of Paddy and Shamus and everyone on board

As they sat in the cockpit regaining their composure, Paddy looked out the front window and said to Shamus “Dat has gotta be de shortest runway I have EVER seen in me whole life”

Shamus looked out the side window and replied “Yeah Paddy, but look how wide it is”

Hard at it



Meals were provided from the Armstrong Siddeley Car Club catering trailer and this proved to be highly successful and a very economical way of feeding the 27 people who took part in this rally.

We also attended the local Andamooka Hotel and the Tuckerbox Restaurant where we mixed with the locals and had some evening meals. A visit was also made to Lake Torrens Salt Lake which is some 2,230 sq. Miles of salt - a interesting site to visit.

Finally all good things must come to a end and after a farewell final dinner at the Andamooka Hotel, the various members of the Safari departed back to their relevant four corners of the world.

All in all a happy enjoyable and interesting experience.

Participants in the Andamooka Opal Safari - 1999

Frank and Pat Douglas, Ray and Lyn Higginson, Tom and Heather Cannon, Michael Cansdale,(UK) Bill and Pearl Gamble, Colin and Margaret Hallam, Glen Morrison, Martin Steiner, Joe and Mark (from USA) John Gardner, John Dalton, Erwin and Vicki Blohmer (Germany) Miriam and Penn Bradly, Ross and Pat Wolstenholme, Val Jeffereys, Brian Lees, Charlie Coster and daughter Jenni (USA) and our local honourary member Alex Mendelsohn.

Events Events Events

Early morning Runs.. The next early morning run will be Sunday 19 September starting at 7 am at the Nunawading Civic Centre. Enquiries with Neil Wakeman on 0411 456 047

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5 September - meet at the Ford Factory at 9.30am for a run to the Tram Museum at Kilmore Bring picnic or B.B.Q. Enquiries Ray Higginson.

18 - 19 September - Phillip Island. On Saturday we will join the Austin A30 Car Club for a behind the scenes look at the Phillip Island Racetrack. We will be given a tour of the control tower then a few laps of the circuit, behind the pace car I am sorry to say. We will be staying on the Island on Saturday night which will give us the Sunday to explore the Island...Enquiries with Tom Cannon.

10 October.. A visit to a wonderful private car collection.

17 October The Point Cook Air Museum

30 October - 2 November (Melbourne Cup Weekend)

Day 1. Saturday - drive down the Great Ocean Road, staying overnight at Lorne where a terrific evening meal is promised.

Day 2. Sunday - continue along this scenic drive taking in the 12 Apostles, Loch Ard Gorge then Cape Otway Lighthouse.

Stay overnight at Warrnambool. Day 3. Monday - travel inland taking in more sights through the Otway Forest ending up in Ballarat for our 3rd and final night away. Plan for this Econ.. weekend. Ring Heather Cannon or Tony Hodges by 18 Sept... Discounts available if enough members attend.

21 November.. Observation run.

5 Dec.. Christmas party at Frank & Pats place.. 12/14 Grandvalley Dve. Chirnside Park.

31 Dec. Year 2000 party at same address.

Join in & ENJOY life

You will only have ONE LIFE.. This is it, use it or lose it

FOR. EVER