

# Cobra Car Club of Western Australia

## Great Ocean Road Run – November 2018

*Words by Keith & Al, Photos by Keith & Anna*



The planning for this trip probably commenced six months prior to the run with a few informal gatherings of those interested in the cruise commencing early in the planning process. The basic plan was to transport the cars from Perth to Adelaide by truck with the club members flying over a few days later. From there we would make our way along the south coast of South Australia and into Victoria stopping at several small towns along the way enjoying one of the greatest touring roads in Australia and seeing the many sights. The cruise comprised great company, nine days, fair weather with minor rain, two shed runs and meeting up with both the Cobra Car Club of South Australian (<http://www.cobracarclub.com.au>) and the Cobra Car Club of Victoria (<http://www.cobracarclubvic.org.au>). We thank John of the South Australian club and Jeremy of the Victoria club for their assistance and enthusiasm helping us complete and enjoy the run.

On a Monday afternoon we dropped our Cobras off in Canning Vale trusting our pride and joy with "Bundy" the depot loadmaster for NGH Express Freight ([www.nghexpressfreight.com.au](http://www.nghexpressfreight.com.au)).



*Cobras driven onto and tied to a platform*



*Forklift moving AL's cobra on a platform to mount into the truck*



*Cobras almost ready to leave for Adelaide*

Vehicles were driven onto a platform, secured in place with tie-down straps, then the platform lifted with a forklift into the truck trailer. The keys remained with their Cobra owners.

Gavin's cobra had been experiencing engine troubles in the days leading up to loading and despite his best efforts he was unable to get it running to his satisfaction in time. He had decided that they would fly over with us anyway and hire a car in Adelaide to follow us

on the trip. He went to the freight depot in Canningvale in his Commodore to spread his toolkit amongst the cobras when the loadmaster said that he could take the Commodore on a second truck that was going to the same depot. A quick call to Loraine followed and the Commodore was on the back of the truck and tied down in a flash.



*With assistance of the Cobra Car Club of SA we collected the cobras to commence our run.*

Day 1 - Wednesday - 39 Km The flight to Adelaide commenced without a hitch, with the exception of a couple who missed the original flight check in close-off time by 3 minutes. Fortunately they managed to secure seats on the following flight (surely a Sheriff's fine!). The South Australian Cobra club representatives (John, John and Glen) assisted the team to transit us all from the Adelaide airport to fetch the Cobras at the depot in Port Adelaide which were ready to collect early that afternoon.



While cruising towards Hahndorf we managed a shed run to Nandos, an Adelaide club member's house where we received very kind hospitality, refreshments, and viewed an amazingly detailed Classic Revival Cobra and a well organised immaculate garage that was the envy of all. His attention to detail and presentation of this car is outstanding. This guy had his cobra sitting on a 2 post hoist in his lounge room!





*Hahndorf Mill Hotel*

the Cobra Car Club of S.A. and we took the opportunity to thank him for his invaluable assistance in the planning of this event by presenting the S.A. club with a photo on the CCCWA on the South Perth foreshore.

Day 2 – Thursday - 472 Km – Hahndorf to Mt Gambier We cruised south-east towards Mt Gambier with a visit to The Bend Motorsport Park at Tailem Bend ([www.thebend.com.au](http://www.thebend.com.au)), a fantastic place for the motoring enthusiast with classic and modern racing vehicles displayed, coffee readily available and lunch. John had mentioned that through some contacts that he had there could be a possibility of getting the cobras on the track for a few laps but the track was under repair so no cobra track time was possible. [Follow the first part of the days drive here.](#) We had lunch in a very good restaurant overlooking the track then as we were leaving we were swallowed up by a dust-storm which came in from the north-west. While the rest of the team continued on their way towards Mount Gambier (<http://www.mountgambierinternational.com.au>) Keith returned to Hahndorf and the Adelaide airport to meet his better half who couldn't join us on the earlier group flight. The team stopped off for a photo opportunity in front of the giant lobster in Kingston SE and then continued on to the picturesque coastal town of Robe and then onto Mt Gambier. While the team took the

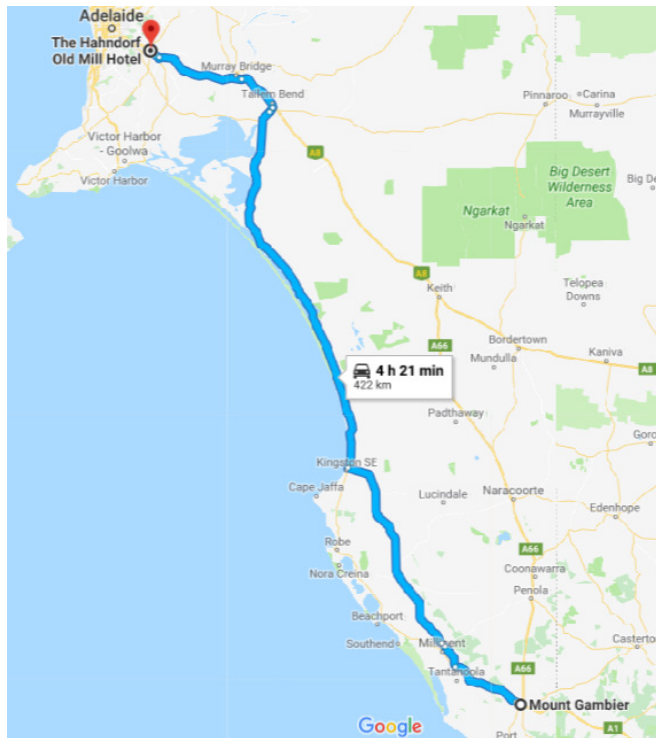
He says that he drives the car but only very late at night in warm weather. It has less than 1000 km on it.

Eventually we had to leave and cruise on to Hahndorf spending the night at the Old Hahndorf Mill Hotel (<http://www.hahndorfmill.com>), a pleasant hotel with off street parking and easy walking distance to restaurants.

We were hosted during dinner at a local pub by John, the president of



opportunity to celebrate Hilde's birthday at the Barn, one of Mt Gambier's finest restaurants



(<http://www.barn.com.au/steakhouse.html>)

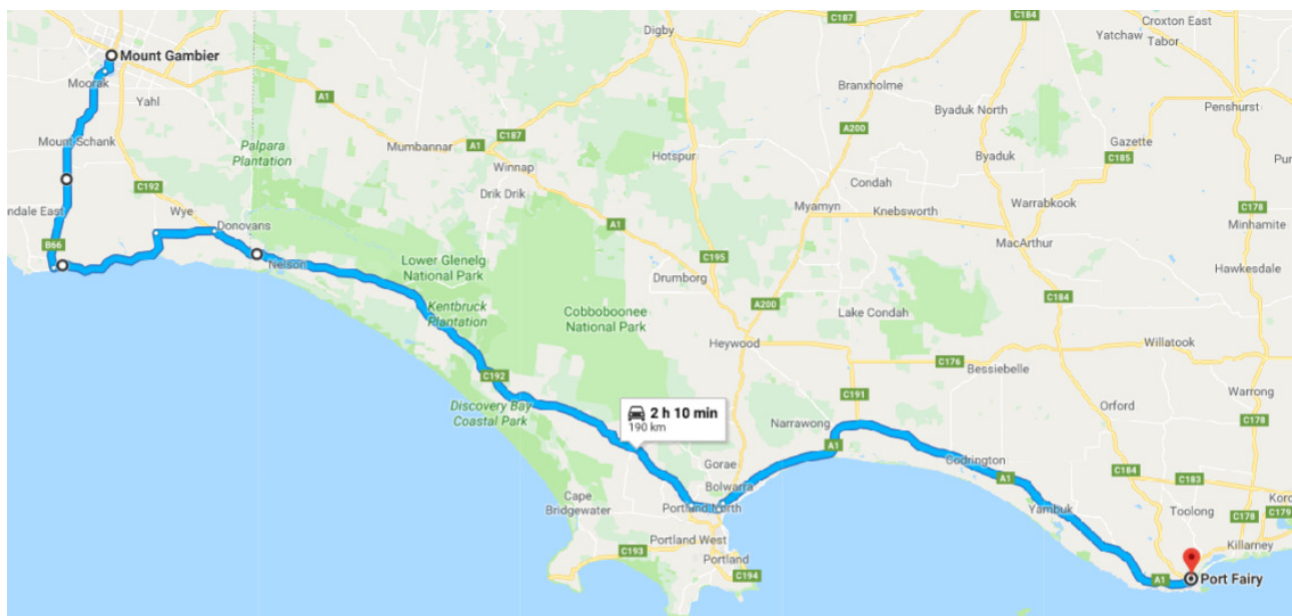
for dinner. Janet and Keith spent a second night in Hahndorf before catching up with the team at the Blue Lake in Mount Gambier the following day. Keith was surprised how pleasant the 600 km cruise in the Cobra was, though a little exhausted by the days end. Follow the second part of the days drive [here](https://www.relive.cc/view/rt10002206237).

<https://www.relive.cc/view/rt10002206237>

Day 3 – Friday – 190 Km – Mt Gambier to Port Fairy While Keith & Janet were cruising to catch up, the rest of the team were treated to a Mercedes AMG drive and go-kart races thanks to Peter at the Mercedes-Benz dealership in Mount Gambier, by all accounts a very memorable time had by all participants.

We departed Mt Gambier at about midday and after a late lunch and a refuel at a very windy Port MacDonnell John and Chris swapped cars and then both promptly got lost. The rest of us waited in the howling cold wind at an unmanned petrol bowser at the local boat ramp and after they eventually returned we continued along some great roads through miles and miles of pine forests on to our accommodation at The Victoria Apartments ([www.thevictoria.com.au](http://www.thevictoria.com.au)) in Port Fairy. The accommodation was a mix of modern, well-appointed apartments providing undercover parking and a 'Drill Cottage' comprising four king size bedrooms with a common kitchen and large dining and sitting room. The fact that there was only one bathroom/toilet caused some consternation amongst the ladies and is a point well noted in the planning of any future overnight adventures. Overnight rain was a problem and we managed to get all cars undercover or covered over for the night. A great evening of many, many pizzas and a little bit of wine/bourbon in the cottage was a noisy and fitting end to a great days driving. Follow the days drive [here](https://www.relive.cc/view/rt10002206237).

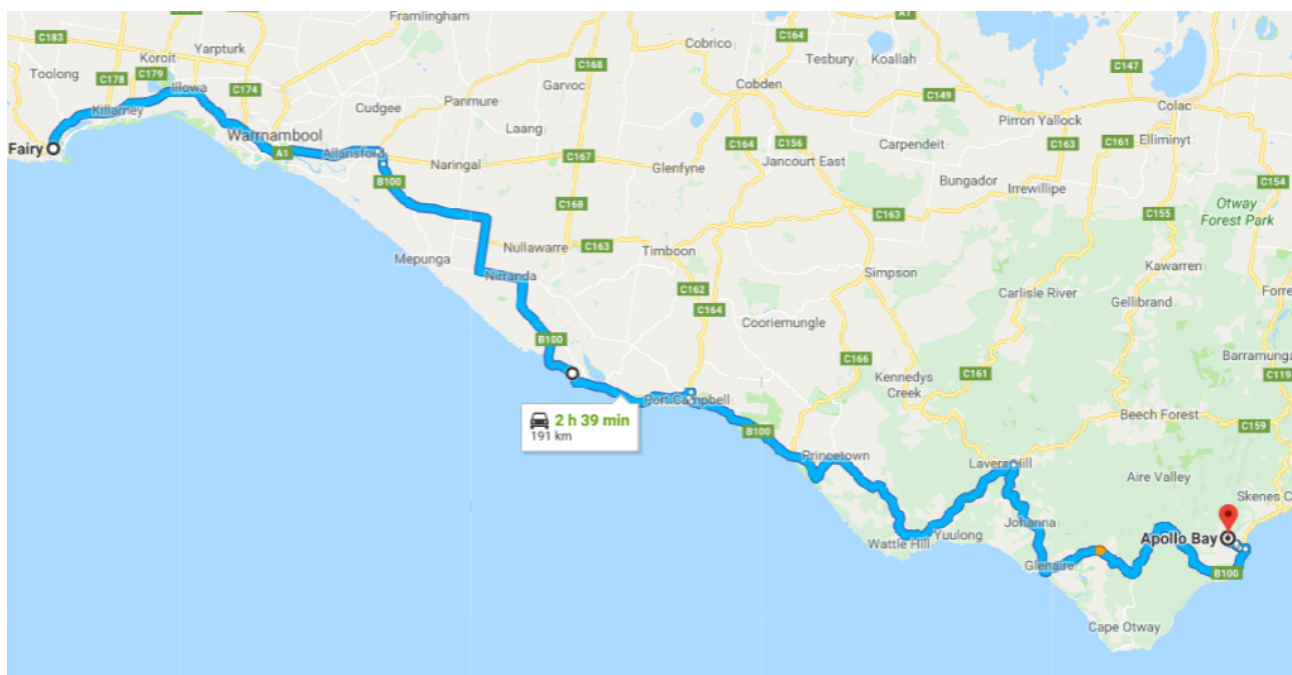
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Day 4 – Saturday – 191 Km – Port Fairy to Apollo Bay. We started the day with a wander into town for breakfast in a local café then we left Port Fairy at about 9:00 am and after a quick re-fuel headed for the more serious cobra roads leading to the south-east and towards the Great Ocean Road. Our total traveling time for the day was to be about 2½ hours so we made sure we took every opportunity to take in the sights along the way to Port Campbell for lunch. After lunch, and



knowing that we were coming back this way the next day, we went straight to Apollo Bay along the some of the best cobra roads we have ever experienced. It was a great shame there were so many foreign tourists in camper-vans that wouldn't pull over and let us past.

We joined the Cobra Car Club of Victoria (CCCV) at Apollo Bay, spending a couple of nights at the Seaview Hotel ([www.seaviewmotel.com.au](http://www.seaviewmotel.com.au)), great hotel with off street parking and walking distance to restaurants and pubs. The CCCV frequently visit Apollo Bay and know the region extremely well. We enjoyed two days of great driving



*Cape Otway Lighthouse*

encompassing winding roads, higher than normal engine revs and enthusiastic driving through the hills to the north of Apollo Bay.

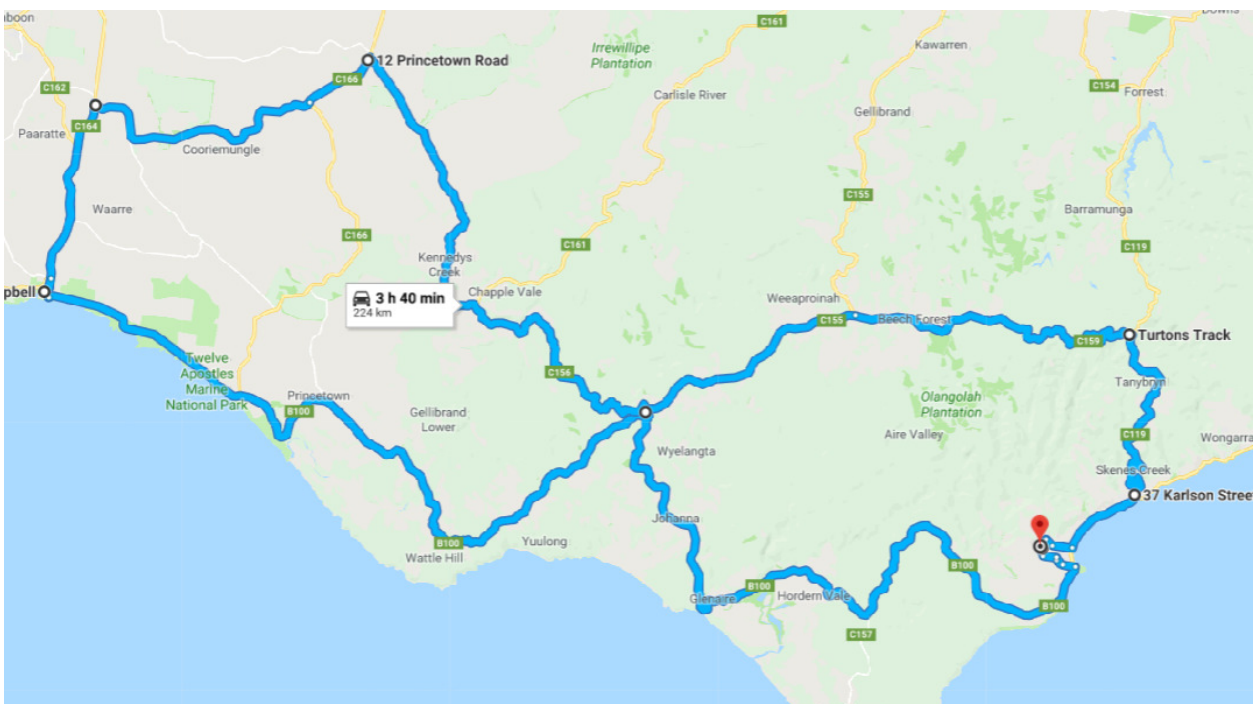
Follow the day's drive here. <https://www.relive.cc/view/rt10002230131>

Day 5 – Sunday – 224 Km – Apollo Bay to Apollo Bay This was an opportunity to really enjoy the attributes of our Cobra sport cars; low centre of mass, high power to weight ratio and a loud echoing exhaust note while appreciating the engine.

We headed back in the direction we had come from the day before and between our driving ventures we did manage to visit both the Twelve Apostles and the Cape Otway Lighthouse and again returned to Port Campbell for lunch at a great restaurant overlooking the inlet that the CCCV had booked.



Wherever we travelled the group of cobras stole the show with the tourists. They would gather around the cars like a flock of seagulls and they couldn't get enough photos.



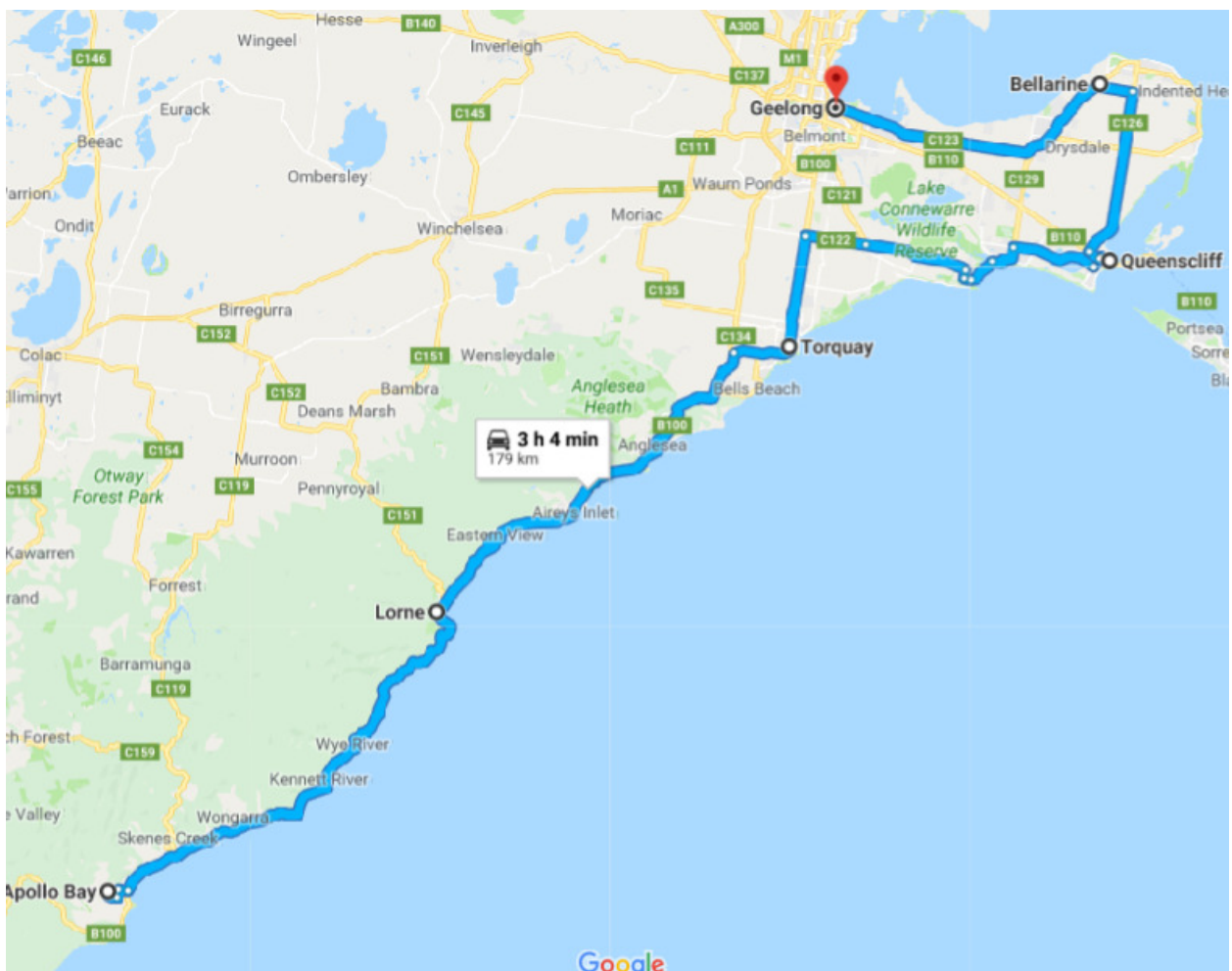


After lunch the CCCV lead us to the north, away from the coast and then to the east through the mountain forests to eventually come out on the Great Ocean Road on the eastern side of Apollo Bay. Follow day 5 here. <https://www.relive.cc/view/rt10002230131>



*Cobras parked up in Geelong*

Day 6 – Monday – 179 Km – Apollo Bay to Geelong After leaving the hotel at Apollo Bay we cruised along the coast to have morning tea in Lorne where it rained quite heavily so we took the opportunity to take shelter in the petrol station whilst refuelling and then we travelled on to Torquay for lunch. This must be one of the world's most picturesque drives and despite being a little preoccupied with rain the scenery and drive was spectacular. When we drive the Great Ocean Road in future we should probably spend more time cruising along the picturesque coastline between Apollo Bay and Torquay.



After lunch we made our way, with a detour via the old fort and lighthouse at Queenscliff, to

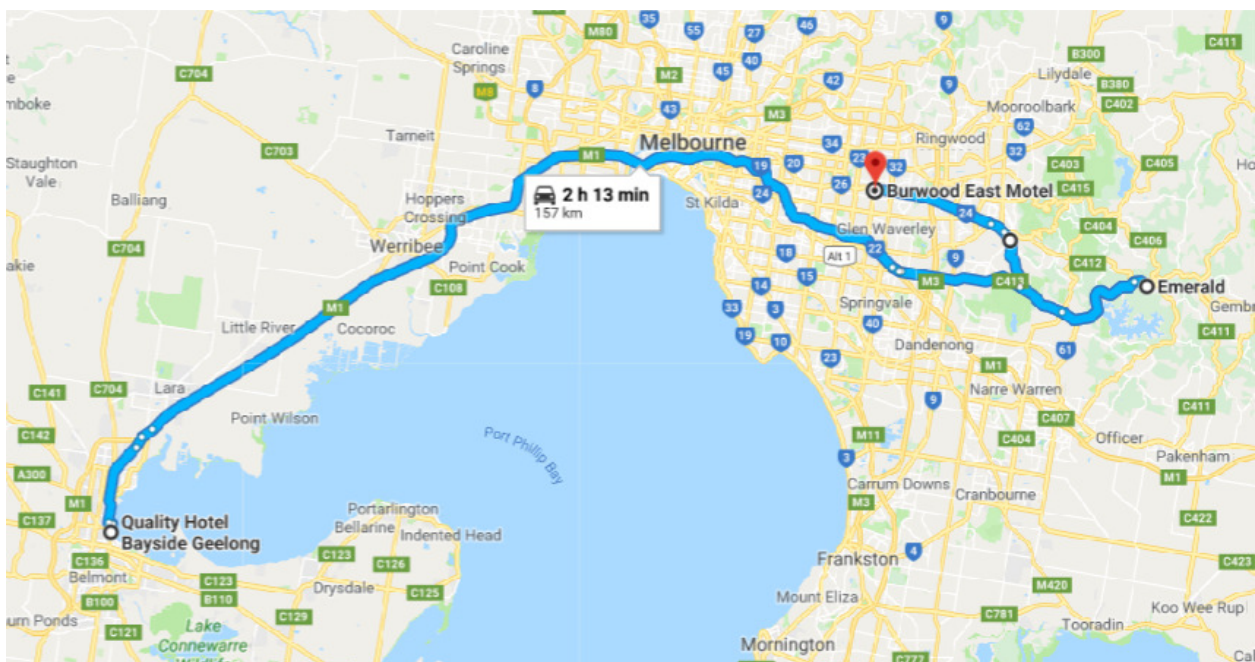
Geelong where we stayed at the Bay Side Geelong Hotel ([www.baysidegeelong.com.au](http://www.baysidegeelong.com.au)). By now most of the members of the CCCV had gone home and just a few stayed for a night at our hotel in Geelong, joining us for dinner in the Black Salt restaurant.

Follow day 6 here. <https://www.relive.cc/view/rt10002266755>

Day 7 – Tuesday – 58 Km – Geelong to Geelong We were invited to our second shed-run of the trip to Peter's house in Geelong, a member of the CCCV where he had all manner of gear. There was an old dis-assembled cobra with the old Toyota Crown chassis removed and a brand new Kenmer Cobra Chassis getting the final touches prior to the old body being lowered into place from the roof of the shed. Peter is an inventor of the "old school" type and would have a go at anything. The amount of projects underway in his shed was staggering. Instead of going on the shed-run the ladies chose to take the opportunity to go shopping in Geelong and we met up with them for lunch on our return.

The last few members of the CCCV departed before some forecast serious rain came over and we enjoyed lunch in the local pub while watching the Melbourne Cup, though not many locals were interested in the event. We were dismayed at the complete lack of interest in "The Race That Stops a Nation". We struggled to find a venue to watch the race and when we did the volume was turned off. After lunch when the weather had cleared up we took a drive following the coast of Port Philip Bay towards Queenscliff and back again.

Day 8 – Wednesday – 167 Km – Geelong to Burwood via Emerald We spent a second night in Geelong and then on Wednesday we checkout out of the hotel and followed the M5 freeway up to Melbourne and after taking a wrong exit off the freeway and ending up stuck in traffic in the CBD we managed to escape the city with a pleasant drive along the side of the Yarra River past the MCG and back onto the freeway. Eventually we were back on the right track through to the east of Melbourne along some great roads through the hills to the small town of Emerald where we had lunch at the worlds' best bakery.





After a short look around town and a bit of shopping for the ladies John, being brought up in this area, lead us back along some more great cobra roads back to the Burwood East Motel ([www.burwoodeastmotel.com.au](http://www.burwoodeastmotel.com.au)).

That night we attended the monthly meeting of the CCCV held at The Manningham Club. The club members were very welcoming and the conversation great and we took the opportunity to present another picture of the CCCWA on the South Perth foreshore to their Vice President Jeremy. This epic road trip would not have been possible without his assistance and advice. The cruise back to the motel proved problematic with considerable rain and hail that swept through the area of our hotel just before we arrived. We got back to the hotel without getting too wet and managed to get the cars covered for the night before heading for Alex & Hilde's room for supper and a conference to plan the details of getting the cars to the depot the next morning and then into Melbourne for some shopping for ladies before going to the airport. [Follow day 8 here.](#)

<https://www.relive.cc/view/rt10002288161>

#### Day 9 - Thursday - 27 Km - Burwood East to Dandenong South

We dropped the Cobras off at NGH Express Freight in Dandenong South. Unfortunately, shipment back to Perth was delayed a few days to fit in with truck movements back to the west. Fortunately Marty and Jeremy of the CCCV stepped in to assist loading the Cobras while we returned to Perth as planned. Gavin & Loraine drove the Commodore back to Perth, something they had intended to do in their cobra and something they still intend to do sometime in the future.

The great road trip is complete; all participants and cars survived unscathed and after approximately 1,600 km from Adelaide to Melbourne, with a few sightseeing detours along the way, all Cobras are back in their garages, cleaned and polished and ready for the next event.



*Cobra parked in front of one of the oldest cottages in Queenscliff, opposite Fort Queenscliff*

Alex & Hilde, Chris & Kethrine,  
Gavin & Loraine, John & Marea,  
Keith & Janet and Al & Anna

<https://youtu.be/QoUKScuHgXw>

