

Wheatbelt Weekender

20th to 22nd October 2017

Story by Yvonne, Photos by Anna

Well, we must have all paid enough homage to the weather gods for this excursion because this weekend was absolutely fantastic in every way, especially in avoiding the rain while driving. There were amazing roads to 'drive' on, lovely sceneries to behold, interesting museums to visit, welcoming and obliging local people, awesome meals and drinks to indulge in and lots of laughs and great conversations all spent with a lovely bunch of cobra diehards.

This weekend began on Friday, 20th October. Sixteen people registered for this event, that is, there were 7 Cobras and one tin top. We all met at the 'Foodary Caltex' on Toodyay Road at 2.30pm. Some of us arrived earlier for a fuel up, convenience break and a chat. 30 degree days have been predicted for this weekend with a risk of some thunderstorms and some rain! The weather at this



stage was sunny and warm. We left promptly for a 160km run to our first stop, Wongan Hills, staying at the Wongan Hills Guest House. An enjoyable drive to this place was had by all. We arrived at 4.30pm and were welcomed by our host, Sue, who also prepared our outstanding evening meals.

Saturday began slowly, giving everyone enough time for a good sleep in or time to walk around town. Sue had organised for the Town Museum to be opened for us

which we all did partake in visiting. Lots of interesting history and amazing relics from the past which 'some' of us remember using! We left Wongan Hills at



around 10am for another 160km run to our next destination, Mukinbudin for a 12.30/1.00pm lunch. It was decided by Ron and Al that they swap cars for that trip. On the way there we stopped in at Cadoux to look at what is left from the 1979 Earthquake. Ron and Al then swapped back into their own cars.



After Cadoux we went onto Koorda, another small and interesting town. We pulled up at a 'cafe' whose owner had a reasonable Holden Collection and also had a small museum full of great random 'stuff'. In ordering our coffees though it became a combined effort with the owner to prepare them as he apparently was not a full bottle on operating his coffee machine, ahhh country folk! Despite this he was an interesting and

hospitable man who was very excited to have the Cobra Car Club drop in. We left Koorda soon after and travelled to Bencubbin. It was only a drive through what is a typical sleepy wheat belt town.

Quietly (ha!) onto our next destination, Mukinbudin. We arrived at the local pub at around 12.30pm for our lunch. We were greeted by a number of locals, some being three generations of family, cousins, of Al Dewar, lovely and friendly people. We were encouraged to visit their 'men shed' and so we did. Not only do the men use this facility but so do a lot of women who have become very proficient at the art of welding to produce with the men some outstanding metal artwork. Just outside of



Mukinbudin we stopped again to visit another Military Museum. Again another very interesting collection of wartime equipment and machinery. Weather at this stage was starting to turn a not so nice colour so even though we would have loved to have spent more time at this museum we were aware that time was running out for us before the weather became foul, rain was on the horizon and approaching fast.

We still needed to make our way to Merredin for a fuel top up and see the silo artworks and travel through Bruce Rock before our last stop for the day being Corrigin. All along this trip thus far the condition of the roads have



been awesome to drive on, with a combination of gradual winding roads to long stretches of straight roads being alongside scenic wheat farms and some patches of very pretty wild flowers.

Corrigin Windmill Hotel, our overnight stay, here we come. We arrived at about 5pm, just in the nick of time, booked in, unloaded, car covers on and inside before the heavens opened up. How lucky were we! Dinner that night was at the local pub. We walked to the pub in between the showers of rain and all really enjoyed ourselves that evening. With another break in the rain we left for the walk back to our accommodation walking in the middle of the streets, so very quiet with little to no traffic.

We all settled in for the night and during that night the rain came in heavy at times with thunder and lightning making itself heard towards the early morning. This noisy activity during the night had some looking in on the cars to make sure all was OK.

On our walk to the pub on Saturday night we got chatting with a local lady who was painting the front wall of her café. She said that she wasn't planning on opening for breakfast on Sunday morning but seeing as though there would be 16 of us she thought it would be worth the effort. We booked for 8am for us to have a cooked breakfast and continued on our way to the pub for dinner. Well on Sunday morning what should happen when a thunderstorm strikes and about 1 hour before breakfast lightning strikes again and power goes off! In typical country hospitable style the owners organise a generator to step in and take over. After a bit of fiddling about with extension cords and power boards they were still able to cook on a gas hotplate under the light of a single globe and serve us all our cooked breakfasts. A little more creativity and ingenuity from Ron Mac and the coffee machine was brought back to life and everybody's morale immediately improved. Absolutely fantastic.

There was no rush to leave, our checkout time being 10am and according to the 'BOM' weather forecast our foul weather was to also start subsiding from about 10am. Well they got it right, the weather did start to improve, we paid our bills to the lovely cafe owners, went back to our rooms, packed, uncovered our cars which fared well with the weather and left at about 10.30am for Perth. On heading back to Perth the weather continued to get better, sunshine began returning and it still was lovely and warmish. We made a brief stop in Brookton to fuel up and have a pp stop and then later called into Roley's on the Ridge for lunch, to finish up our

Wheatbelt trip. It was at this point, when another yummy lunch was finished we said goodbye to each other and went our separate ways back home.

All who did partake in this trip will agree with me that it was a fun and very well organised event at every step of the way by our very own Ron McNally who is passionate about Cobras and ensuring we get the most out of our cars and the places we visit. You are right Ron the weather did not stop us and we applaud your efforts in giving us a memorable and very much enjoyable Wheatbelt/Wildflower weekend away.



Ron & Nola, Keith & Janet, Ron & Yvonne, Alex & Hilde, Gordon & Kerry, Gerry & Steve (brother), John & Marie and Al & Anna

