



Austins Over Australia
Easter 2015
Devonport – Tasmania



Austins Over Australia (AOA) is hosted by Austin Enthusiasts every two years in a different State each time. This has been the first time for Tasmania and they did a mighty good job of it. There were about 150 vehicles entered covering most Austin models manufactured. Maureen and I have attended all AOA since the very first one.

We travelled from the mainland on the Spirit of Tasmania, a passenger and vehicle ship that travels between Port Melbourne and Devonport daily. We arrived in Tassie (Tasmania) at the end of March and spent 7 weeks there so we could do some sightseeing.



In addition to ourselves, the rally was attended by ASPC members Ken & Dawn Gardiner, Alan and Christine Stevens and Doug Campbell.

Ken & Dawn also arrived in Tassie well before AOA, so we managed to spend some quality time with them in a few places on our tour. Ken brought along his modern 21' 6" caravan towed behind his Mazda BT50 (he called it his MAZ-TIN since he didn't bring an Austin ☺)

Maureen and I had spent some 3 years rebuilding our 1972 caravan, from the chassis up, so we could take it to AOA and to other car / caravan events. We towed it behind our 1970 Austin 1800 Utility (pick-up). The caravan weighs 820 kg. The Ute has now only done 38,000 miles since new and has not been restored!!



We visited a little town named Scottsdale on the North East coast. On seeing our Austin in town, organisers of a car show, to be held the following day, invited us to display our car. We were thrilled to be part of show and attended. We were absolutely thrilled when our Austin was awarded “Best Commercial

Vehicle”. We were given a framed certificate and gift vouchers totalling \$80. Excellent!!!

We took in some magnificent scenery and many historic towns in the weeks preceding AOA. We are happy we took the extra time to do the sightseeing.

Once back in Devonport we saw many of the rally entrants had arrived. The excitement of the pending event was surging among us all.



Some Austin enthusiasts enjoying Happy Hour together –

a few well known faces here!!!



The Ladies enjoying Happy Hour and each other's company



Birthday boy Peter enjoying his cake in the camp kitchen

Devonport



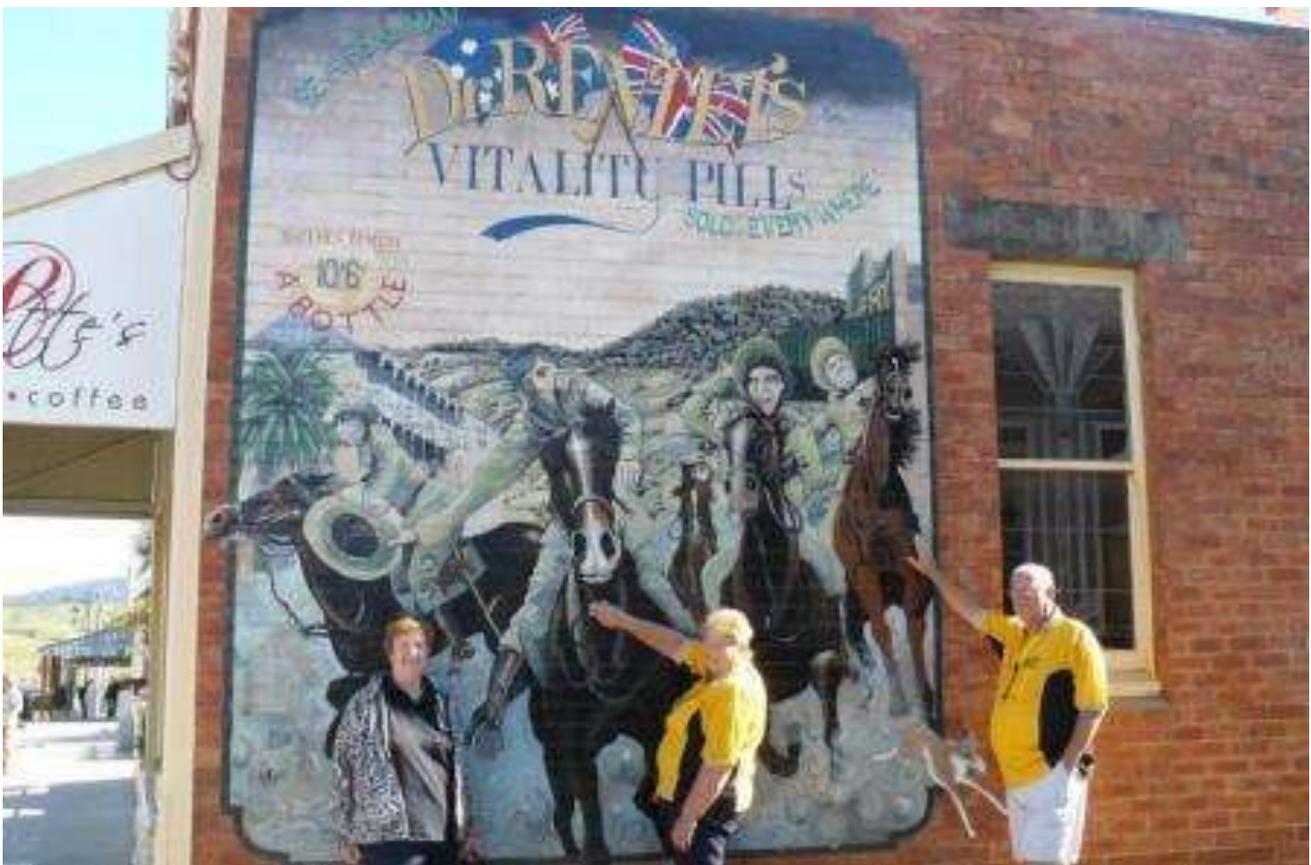
The historic town of Oatlands has a café dedicated to famous actor Errol Flynn who was born in Hobart Tasmania. The dining area showed off posters of all his movies. Maureen appears to be captured by his spell!!

The daily runs were well thought out and suited all Austins from the tiny Austin 7s through to the elegant Austin Princess.

Easter Sunday was the big display day. Now it is worth mention there were Austins which travelled under their own power from Perth Western Australia, from mid Queensland and all states in between. Yes! go and have a look at your atlas and see how far that is to Tasmania or even to Melbourne, Victoria where people boarded the ship (from Perth over 3,500km).



Judy, Maureen and Pauline ready for a cuppa after their chairlift ride in Launceston



Beautiful murals in Sheffield. This is one of many pieces of art on side of buildings.

The display day was held in the grounds of the Axeman's Hall of Fame. Vehicles were arranged in rows by decade of manufacture. I only wish I could have taken a photo from above ☹ After lunch there was the tappet cover race and the Easter Bonnet parade. Great fun.



Beverly, Pauline,
Bob, Claire &
Judy



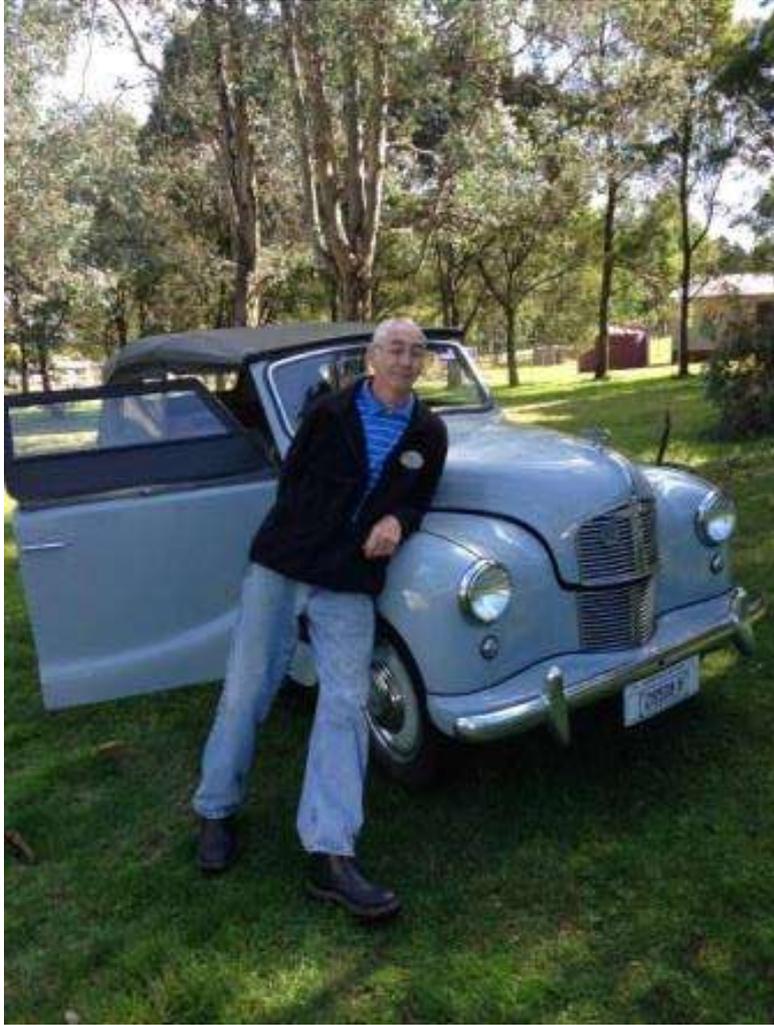
Doug Campbell's DS5 Princess Saloon



Alan Steven's 1950s Austin Motorhome complete with shower and WC

*Home built
van behind
an Austin
Freeway*





*Unique to Australia –
the Austin A40 Tourer at
Riana camp ground*

Take a bow PJ

*They take the law
seriously in Tassie -
don't they Judy !!*







Austin Commercials with Joe & Maureen's rare Austin 1800 MkII Utility on the right



Vanden Plas 1100 Princess

That evening we all enjoyed the gala dinner – the theme (for those wishing to participate was 1920's dress). There were Barbershop Quartets, Ladies in very alluring outfits and more than enough Gangsters. We arrived in style driven by Doug Campbell in his black Princess saloon. You will notice Maureen showing a bit of leg. How about Joe's flash shoes, violin case and mafia moustache!!



The gang, dressed and ready for the Gala Dinner – well most of them !!





Doug delivering another nice lady to the dinner. Our dear Judy Andrews. You may notice Doug chose not to dress up !!! But he did thoroughly enjoy playing Gentleman Chauffer for the night and we really appreciated him doing so.



The entrants were treated with good entertainment and delicious food during the Gala dinner. Awards in various categories were distributed and a generous amount of money was raised for charity by the silent Auction.

Easter Monday saw us travelling through some breath-taking countryside over gentle rolling hills of Northern Tassie. We visited a Topiary garden on the outskirts of Railton. Afterwards we ventured into town where many bargains were available at the local markets. Then we had lunch and sampled some interesting Beer from the Seven Sheds Brewery we visited.

The consensus is that AOA Devonport Tasmania was among one of the best of AOA's.

The next AOA will be held in 2017 in Ipswich Queensland. Hmmm! Which car will we take to that one? She should be at least a 4 Litre car don't you think. Doug was a bit lonely this year but did enjoy the attention given to his magnificent Princess.

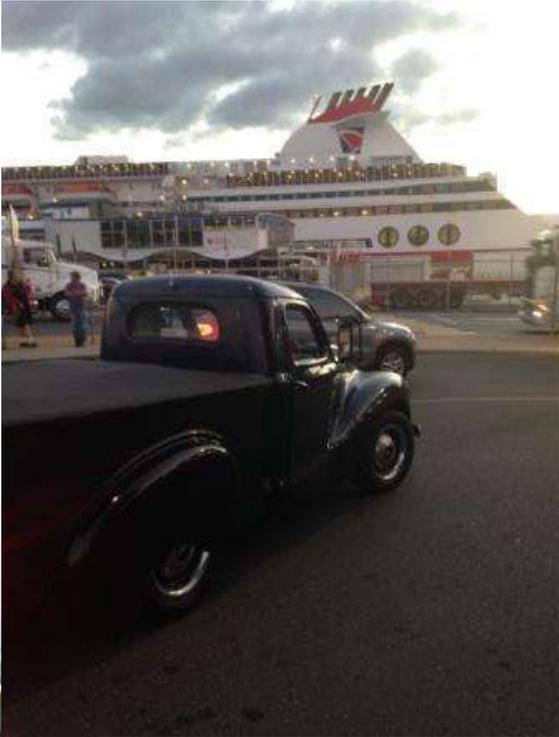
Time to depart for the Mainland. Maureen and waived from the shore as one by one the Austins boarded the Spirit of Tasmania.





Bob & Claire

Craig & Annette



Maureen and I stayed a further 3 weeks and explored the top end of Tassie.



Left – Seahorse World at Beauty Point a must see.



How about this 1950's Diner at Deloraine (not open on Mondays)





At Latrobe we had a delightful lunch here. Deeelicious!!

We thoroughly recommend a visit to this apple isle to anyone who has never been before.

Joe & Maureen

