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BEACon January 2024

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Bundanoon Hotel 13/12/2023

Now that's a classic car lineup!

What a wonderfully successful Christmas lunch day this turned out to be! Everyone who came was imbued with the spirit of Christmas from the start, and Anne and Geoff Wood had organised a day's program which promoted fun and enjoyment throughout.

In the past we have sometimes driven straight to a Christmas lunch venue, but this year we had a very well thought out run to cover, including two roads that, in the almost nine years that Jenny and I have lived in Bowral, we had never taken any notice of, let alone driven over. The rest of the route covered many of the best scenic roads in the Highlands, through Kangaloon, Robertson, Wildes Meadow, Fitzroy Falls, Werai, Exeter and Bundanoon.

Not many clubs can boast of a variety of classic cars like this.

So we set off on the run. I was one of the last three cars, and at Robertson a non-club vehicle got between us and the rest of the pack. Eventually we lost sight of our group and subsequently missed the turnoff to the two 'special' roads (which we had been warned was tricky). So now Jenny and I will have to make our own trip to go over them and satisfy our curiosity. No matter, we finished the run, in the process filling in another gap in my local roads knowledge. I had not realised that if you follow Elsmore Road all the way out of Exeter it would take you right to Bundanoon. Previously I had always turned off Elsmore Road into Sallys Corner Road or the like.

Not many clubs can boast of a variety of classic cars like this.

The Bundanoon Hotel had opened the bistro especially for our lunch, and there was time to order drinks and settle in before the food started coming out. And when it did come out, what a delight it proved to be! The pork, lamb and ham won universal praise for their tenderness and flavour. The roast potatoes were done just right – crispy on the outside, soft inside. The other dishes were also top notch, and I know that many opportunities for 'seconds' were taken up. (The food elements were delivered to each table on their own plates or platters, so everyone could serve themselves what they wished to eat. I think this is the best way of serving for large group parties, and it makes having 'seconds' or more much easier.)

Ready and raring to go.

Happy people.

After the main had been despatched, Anne sprung her entertainment on us – a Christmas themed trivia quiz. And what a cracker it was! Very well thought out, wide ranging questions put everyone to the test, as evidenced by the fact that the Stenverts' winning score was five out of ten.

Next was the drawing of the lucky door prize. A delighted Carol Carpenter won a beautifully presented box of Christmas mini-cakes and treats made by Wendy Paul. (I must apologise here that I forgot to take a photo of the winner with her prize.)

Finally out came the dessert – a mini Christmas pudding with custard and cream - delicious. It topped off what many thought had been an exceptionally good lunch. We made sure that the kitchen staff were thanked for their efforts. They deserved it.

Anne and Geoff Wood deserve a very big thank you for organizing this wonderful Christmas lunch.

Phil O'

The BEAC Committee wishes you a safe, joyous Christmas with those who love you, and a happy, healthy new year. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2024.

CLUB CALENDAR – February 2024

- **Runs start at 10 am from the Botanical Gardens Car Park on the corner of Old South Road and Kangaloon Road, unless otherwise noted.**
- **Please Note: all PDF files and links are available on the club's Events Web Page**

February

BEAC will recommence runs on 7th February in 2024. Events Co-ordinator Ross Pollock will put a list of suggested runs for 2024 up on our website and ask members to take over the organisation of one (or more) of those runs. Of course, members are free at any time (indeed encouraged) to organise a run not on the list.

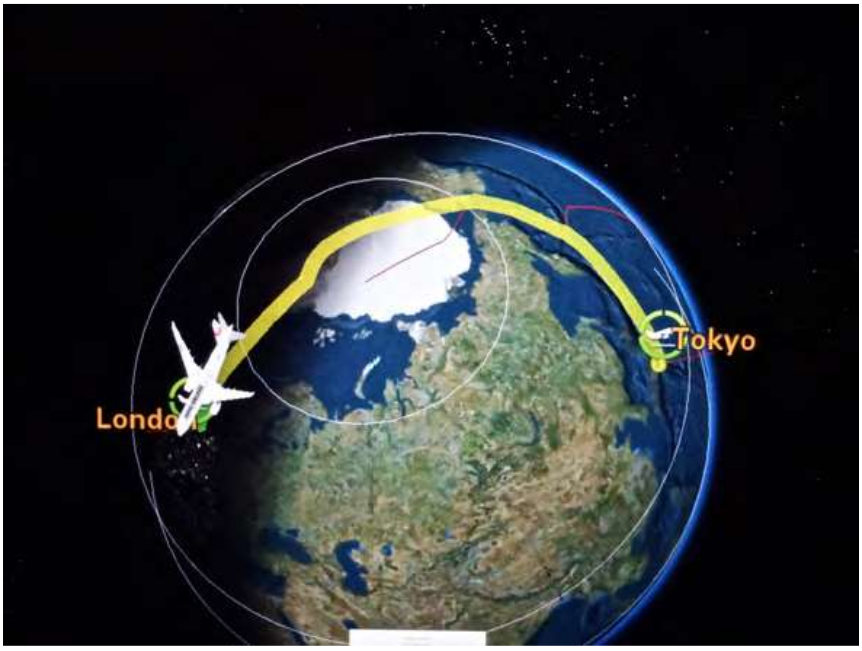
Owen Sinden wrote the following article on his and Indra's recent trip to the UK. It appeared in Minor Torque magazine, the journal of the Morris Minor Car Club of NSW.

Why Join a Car Club?

There are some really good advantages to belonging to car clubs. The obvious one is spending time with like-minded enthusiasts, sharing stories with them and picking their brains about how to fix or improve your own car.

Then there's the advantages of cheap registration via historic or classic plates. Indra and I belong to 5 car clubs (BEAC, plus 2 for the Morris and 2 for the Triumph).

Something I hadn't thought of was meeting up with like-minded car people when travelling overseas - but this really hit home when Indra and I visited the UK recently.



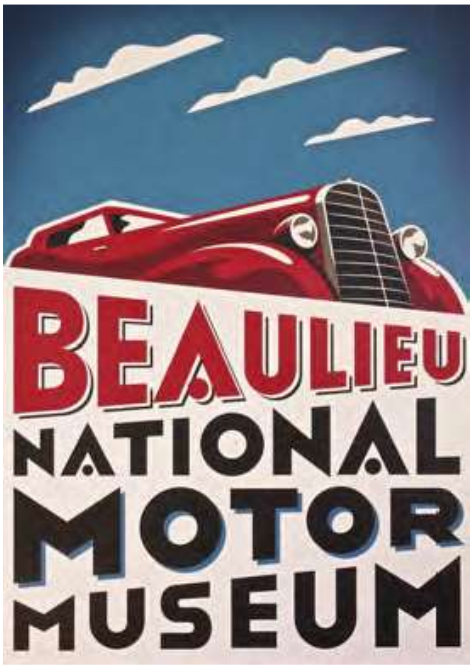
Scenic route to London.

Knowing we would be spending time with family down in Cornwall and up in Lancashire, I contacted the two Morris Minor clubs well beforehand and suggested a possible catch-up.

Well, I didn't expect the response I received. The Cornwall club invited us to attend their annual show-and-shine, while the Lancashire invited us to attend one of their meetings. I did have some history with the Lancashire club though: last year I was able to given of their members a little help in getting his Morris Minor registered after he emigrated with it to Australia.

Unfortunately, our itinerary had been partially set in stone, with accommodation already booked, so we were unable to attend the two functions suggested. Well, that didn't stop my new UK friends, they just organised other places where we could meet.

We stayed with Indra's brother in London for a week, then when he and his wife drove to Fowey (pronounced 'Foy', as in 'Joy') in Cornwall for a holiday, Indra and I headed south for two nights in Lyndhurst (go there, and stay at the Crown Hotel if you can), for the main reason of visiting the nearby National Motor Museum at nearby Beaulieu (this just has to be a must-see for any car enthusiast).



Lyndhurst? A beautiful town, really cute like most other little towns in the UK, but it has a very unique car dealership. There's only one car dealer in town - and it's a Ferrari dealer! If you owned a Ferrari dealership, how many cars would you have on the premises or in stock? 3? 5? I decided to count them, but I couldn't see into some places - my count finished at forty! That's 4 and 0, forty Ferraris in the one small country town dealership! OMG, and not all of them were under cover. Being an ex-Fiat owner, my first thought was rust, but the Italians have probably fixed that by now.

Lyndhurst – 40 Ferraris and a Reliant Robin.

Let me introduce John Hough, who I had been in contact with. John is Chairman of the Morris Minor Club of Cornwall, but he is also a member of the Beaulieu Museum Trust. Given that John lives in Cornwall, he regularly drives the 9 hour return trip to Beaulieu to more than 'help out' at the National Motor Museum. John arranged for Indra and me to see a lot of the back room goings-on at Beaulieu through Patrick Collins, whose title is 'Curator: Vehicles and Research, National Motor Museum'.

With Patrick Collins, Curator: Vehicles and Research, National Motor Museum.

Wow! Patrick gave us the royal back-room tour, almost nothing was out of bounds with ~~thousands~~ millions of items all filed away. There was even a stunning 'hands on' exhibition that was due to be shown just before COVID hit, so it is stored ready for that time in the future when we can touch things again.

Then we checked out the main part/s of the museum. Just one thing: if you ever go to England, as a car enthusiast, you MUST visit the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, otherwise you can't be a car enthusiast, no excuses. It is simply brilliant, and so are the grounds, the gardens, the Abbey ruins, the wartime spy training centre, the Palace House… Even non-car people find it easy to spend a day here.

Indra and I found some cars we would like to buy, but we would have to sell our house first!

Sunbeam 1000hp was the first car to break 200mph, in 1927 - and is being rebuilt at Beaulieu for a return to the US in 2027. Complex timing gears (right).

And the one car dealership in the hamlet of Beaulieu? It sells classic sports cars, like MGB, Austin-Healey, TR, E-Type.

It was then onto Fowey, where I met John Hough one evening, who must love driving as he spent 45 minutes driving there, with his son Paul, just to have a chat (and a pint or two). What a delightful couple of hours! Like-minded Morrie/Moggie owners, talking about all things Morris Minor related and solved the world's problems.

John Hoff and son Paul in Fowey, Cornwall. Paul's Series II nearly made our magazine's cover. Grill badge (below).

Bluebird at Beaulieu.

From Fowey we headed north, via Bath, Bourton-on-the-Water, Abergavenny (remember the song?), Wrexham, then to Indra's sister's house in Whalley, Lancashire.

Now let me introduce Andrew Whittaker, Chairman, and Gareth Slater, Secretary, of the Lancashire Branch of the Morris Minor Owners' Club. I couldn't make it to one of their meetings, but they did invite me to a LCV outing in Leyland. LCV? I though Morris Minor 'light commercial vehicle', what with 2023 being the 70th anniversary of the Morris Minor LCV. No, 'Lancashire Classic Vehicle' was the outing, with dozens of, um, LCV's on display.

King Charles could not have been treated better; I was gobsmacked. I mean, they wouldn't even let me buy myself a coffee! As a thank-you for helping their ex-member who migrated to Oz, I was presented with Lancashire Branch MMOC shirts and caps for both me and Indra. Honestly, I was stunned. And after the car show they paid my entry fee into The British Commercial Vehicle Museum in Leyland. I want to go back there!

The rest of our UK trip?

Road signs in the UK – they mean it!

Animals: less dangerous than in Australia.

We drove east from Whalley to York (4 nights, so much to see), then to Whitby on the east coast via Goathland (aka Aidensfield in 'Heartbeat'), thence south over the Humber Bridge (huge!), picked up some Triumph spares at Lincoln, then to Ely and back to London via Duxford Imperial War Museum (aircraft), a fantastic site for the aircraft nuts. Duxford must have been having an upcoming air show, with Hurricanes, Spitfires, Mustangs and Catalinas etc all taking off and flying past, doing touch-and-goes - Indra and I enjoyed our mini air show.

'Essential research' at The William Morris….

English sense of humour.

Spotted in London….Don't ask, I have no idea either.

Would I go to the UK again? Absolutely! Being in a car club opens so many doors for unforgettable experiences. And isn't that why we join a car club?

Cheers,
Owen Sinden

PS I kept a count of classic cars that we saw on the road during the trip, with 66 in total. I am pleased to announce that the humble Morris Minor topped the list with 10 cars, closely followed by MGBs with 8. Next was MG Midgets on 4, and we even saw two 3-wheeled Reliant Robins.

Classic cars on UK trip

Alfa Romeo Spider Series I

Austin-Healey 3000 x 2

Austin Healey Sprite Mk I

BMW E30 318i

Citroen 2CV x 2

Ford Anglia

Ford Mustang 1967

Ford Zephyr Mk II

Hillman Imp

Hillman Minx 1951

Jaguar E Type

Jaguar Mk 2

Jaguar Mk IX

Jaguar XK 120

Karmann Ghia

Lamborghini Countach

Mercedes Benz 280SL

MGB x 8

MG Magnete

MG Midget x 4

MG TC

Morgan 3 Wheeler

Morris Minor x 10

Mini x 2

Moke

Porsche 911 Carrera

Porsche 944 x 2

Reliant Robin x 2

Rolls Royce Silver Shadow x 2

Rover P4

Sunbeam Alpine

Triumph 2500

Triumph Spitfire

Triumph TR3

Triumph TR6 x 2

Triumph Herald/Vitesse

VW Golf Mk I Cabriolet x 2

VW Microbus x 2

+ Club outings sighted: Triumphs and MGs, plus Lancashire Classic Vehicle Club

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MOTORING MIRTH

The caption said ‘The car looks seriously damaged’. Oh really?

Thank you to all contributors to this edition. **Phil O’**