

POST ROVE, 4-8 OCTOBER, 2022 (*report by Eve McCormack*)

There were 11 of us interested in continuing on with an 'extended rove': Ray and Dorothy Garrett, David and Cathy Stellini, Robert Walker and Augusta Monroe, Ed McKenna and Rita Taylor, Kevin Ward, Ross and Eve McCormack

After breakfast on Monday, we had a leisurely day seeing more of the sights of Toowomba, especially some of the more out of the way gardens. Monday evening we all met up at Sofra (Turkish) Restaurant for a delicious meal.

Tuesday morning we headed to the Queensland Transport Museum at Gatton. There we had morning tea and then headed East to the Sunshine Coast hinterland. After arriving in Montville and booking into our accommodation, we had an easy afternoon exploring the many shops in Montville and met up for evening meal at the Montville Bar and Grill.

On Wednesday we drove to Mary Cairncross Park, on the way to Maleny with fabulous views back over the Glasshouse Mountains. We had morning tea at their very busy café and a bit of a stroll through their exhibit of rainforest creatures and flora. We then drove to Palmwoods for lunch at Rick's Café. This was an extremely busy café in a very busy little town, but enjoyable nonetheless.

Our evening meal was booked at the Mapleton Tavern, 8km down the road from Montville. Unfortunately the weather closed in and we drove through rain and very thick fog there and back.

On Thursday we checked out of our accommodation and headed East again with a stop at the Ginger Factory at Yandina which was very interesting – the ginger scones with ginger marmalade were a treat! Across the road was the Macadamia factory – free samples of chocolate macadamias and of course, the obligatory shop. We then drove on to Mooloolaba.

Dinner on Thursday evening was at the Surf Club Mooloolaba, where we were joined by Rover Club of Qld members, Rick and Rita Thurgood and Geoff Victor and Jan Carter. This place was also extremely busy, with a 20 minute wait just to place food order. However, despite being crowded and noisy, we had an enjoyable evening.

Friday morning, the weather was generally starting to clear and we headed to Sea Life Aquarium and joined the many mums, dads, children of all ages to wander through an amazing display of sea life – this was well worth the visit. After a leisurely afternoon, we met up for evening meal at The Deck on Parkyn – again a very busy place but enjoyable with good food and good company.

At last we were coming to the end of our adventure – on Saturday morning we drove to Coolum where Rick Thurgood had persuaded Frank Carroll to very generously open his Rolls Royce Museum for our group. The display of cars in this museum is outstanding – everything from Rolls Royce, Bentley, Austin, MGB etc to vintage Army vehicles, and Frank's commentary is wonderful.

And so we came to the end of a great week, time to say farewell and wish each other safe travels. Ross and I thoroughly enjoyed time with our fellow travellers and enjoyed showing off some beautiful parts of South East Queensland.