



# Queensland Rover News

The monthly newsletter of the Rover Car Club of Queensland

April 2018



*From left: Bob and Marilyn Stewart - SD1, Kylie and Mark Tagg - P6 2000, Linda and Ross Baldwin (kneeling) - Rover 75, Neale and Sandy Webb - P6B, Ross and Eve McCormack - P6B, Gary Bickford - Rover 75, Craig Barraud - SD1, Rick and Rita Thurgood, with Daisy - Land Rover County.*

## **Rove To Kenilworth via Mary Cairncross Park.**

While it was un-seasonally hot and the day was not without its mishaps\*, this happy group of members enjoyed a day of varied landscapes, great companionship and (surprise, surprise!!) lots of car talk.

It was good to see some of our newer members joining the Rove.

Morning tea at Mary Cairncross Park, Maleny and a rainforest walk, followed by a scenic drive through the picturesque Mary River Valley to Kenilworth, then lunch at the old Kenilworth Hotel. Thanks to Ross McCormack and Gary Bickford for organising this great day out. \*somebody was let down close to home by water in the carby in his P3 - handy to have a tow rope and a shed full of other vehicles to call on!

# W.W. SHOCK ABSORBERS

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Including most types of early lever types.**

**We rebuild steering components, power steering pumps and boxes.**

**We rebuild and supply gas stays for hatches, bonnets and boot lids.**

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*We'll find a way to help you!*

For more information, visit our website:  
[www.wwshockabsorbers.com.au](http://www.wwshockabsorbers.com.au)



RCCQ members receive 10%  
discount.  
(evidence of membership  
required)

***Rover Specialists* - repairs & service -all models**

## RCCQ Contact Information

President - Gary Bickford: 0419 742 208 - [obhouse@bigpond.net.au](mailto:obhouse@bigpond.net.au)

Secretary - Neale Webb: 0412 290 259 - [nswebb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nswebb@optusnet.com.au)

Treasurer - Max Thorne: 0414 602 950 - [maxthorne@hotmail.com.au](mailto:maxthorne@hotmail.com.au)

Committee -

Damien Ash                      0490 007 395

Craig Barraud                    3265 2133 (Bus. hrs only)

Mark Denino                    0416 016 332

Robert Johnson                0422 878 170

Jon Lowe                        0467 038 133

Ross McCormack                0403 040 334

Something Rover to sell? Speak to Frank Thorndike on 5545 2247 or Neale Webb if you have photos.

# What's on?

**14th April** - Ipswich Festival Vehicle Parade and Exhibition. Call Sylvia Norton on 3812 2974

**27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> April** - **National Rove**, Shepparton, Victoria

**5th/6th May** - Tweed Valley Rally - call Ken Johnson on 02 6672 4389 for entry form and details.

**20th May** - National Motoring Heritage Day - Ipswich

**27<sup>th</sup> May** - Macleans Bridge at Belmont .

**3rd June** - Angelhurst Village Charity Car Day - Tambourine -see this issue.

**9th, 10th, 11th June** - North West Rally - Gunnedah - see this issue

- **24th June - RCCQ Breakfast On The Mountain - Jolly's Lookout**
- **24th July - RCCQ Movie and Pizza Night - Grange Library - see this issue for details.**
- **2nd December - RCCQ Christmas Party - Walkabout Creek - more details to come**

***Next General Meeting:***

**24th April at Grange Library**

***starts 8.00 pm***

Be sure to visit our website from time to time to keep up with the news and for important information: [www.roverqueensland.asn.au](http://www.roverqueensland.asn.au)

or simply Google rccq

General meetings are held at Brisbane City Council Library,  
Evelyn Street, The Grange

No General Meeting is held in December

## General Meeting Dates 2018

**(4th Tuesdays)**

27th February

27th March

24th April

22nd May

26th June

24th July

28th August

25th September

23rd October

27th November - *this is also the AGM*

*This is always a great weekend -*

*Country car enthusiasts really know how to do hospitality!*



**Gunnedah Vintage Vehicle Club Inc**  
**North West Rally**  
**9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

The members of Gunnedah Vintage Vehicle Club extend an invitation to attend the 2018 North West Rally to be held in Gunnedah.

A relaxed weekend is planned, offering enjoyable, leisurely driving and congenial company of other car enthusiasts.

Morning, afternoon teas and Monday's Breakfast are included in the \$50 Rally entry fee.

**Closing date for entries is 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Rally Director**

John Welch  
0427421443

**Rally Secretary**

Ron Murray  
GVVC Inc.  
PO Box 1010  
Gunnedah 2380  
0467527283

# **North West Rally 2018**

## **Program**

Rally Headquarters: Gunnedah Rural Museum

Contact John Welch 0427421443

Ron Murray 0467527283

### **Saturday 9 June**

10.00 Registration and Morning tea at Gunnedah Rural Museum

Cnr. Alford Rd and Oxley Highway (34) Gunnedah 2380

Entry to the Museum (\$8) is included in the Rally Fee.

Lunch at your leisure from the towns many eating venues.

Afternoon - Local points of interest, town tour maps provided.

6.00 Evening Meal 6pm Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club  
(GS&B Club) Conadilly St

### **Sunday 10 June**

9.00 - 4.00 Run to be finalised.

1.00 Lunch.

6.00 Evening Meal - Presentations GS&B Club Conadilly St

### **Monday 11 June**

8.00 - 9.30 Breakfast Gunnedah Rural Museum

Cnr. Alford Rd and Oxley Highway Gunnedah 2380

***Full details and entry form are available on our website.***

The Charities we have supported



Brake



Everyday Hero  
Gabriella's Mission



Camp



## 2018— The 8th Angelhurst Village Charity Car Day

An inter-club charity challenge  
Invited Clubs  
No public, invited guest ONLY

**When:** Sunday, 3 June 2018

**Time:** From 9am...

**Where:** 2 Pendennis Road  
Tambourine

**Admission:** \$30 per car  
Concours entry extra

Fine food and drinks on site  
Or bring your own picnic  
Low key concours judged  
Trophies by Shannons

All proceeds to benefit:  
Camp Quality and Brake

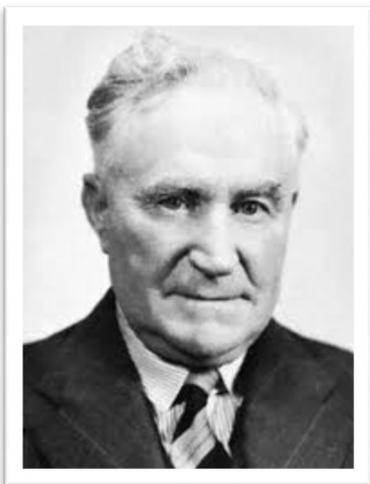
**This event has raised over \$50,000  
thus far.....with total proceeds going to  
the nominated charities....**



RCCQ members have been invited to attend this worthy and interesting day.

## **The Politico-Medico Operates with a Pin - and was the first to buy a Rover in Australia**

*Thanks to Peter Small for this contribution*



*Sir Earle Page*

Medical undergraduates at Sydney University in 1896 believed that the sixteen-year old from Grafton doing his first year in medicine was an instinctive genius, blessed with something in the nature of divine powers. The kid was constantly doing the seemingly impossible with startling ease.

He had matriculated at the age of 14 and entered Sydney University at the age of 15 with the stated aim of topping first-year Arts and so winning the most exclusive exhibition in Australia. The little fellow was in fact after the Struth Exhibition, the only medical free pass available at Sydney University. It was granted only one every 5 years and it went to the man topping first-year arts in the appropriate year.

In 1895 the bush boy from Grafton walked away with that rarest of prizes.

In the following year, aged 16, he switched from arts to medicine and astounded everyone with his capacity to absorb complicated information. It was as though much of his knowledge was inborn, a sure sign of genius.

As the Melbourne Cup of 1896 drew near it occurred to some of the medical undergraduates that the apparently divine forces which inspired the child from Grafton to know all about medical science might also tell him who was going to win the Melbourne Cup. The boy, when approached, said he didn't know anything about horse-racing. But that did not discourage his fellow students.

The clever youth was blindfolded, handed a pin and invited to stab 3 times into a list of 25 starters in the 1896 Melbourne Cup. The pin struck 3 times and his Newhaven, Bloodshot and The Skipper. It is now history that Newhaven won by 6 lengths in 3 mins 28.5 secs, a quarter of a second outside the record, and the other 2 pin pricks filled the minor places.

Of course, everyone realised the selections had been a billion-to-one fluke. Nevertheless, the boy was invited to use the blindfold-and-pin technique on the field of 29 in the 1897 Melbourne Cup. The in went for Gaulus, The Grafton and Aurum. And once more the pin was bang on, with Gaulus winning by a half-head and the other horses filling the minor places.

Of course, the Grafton wonder had to use the pin on the 1898 Melbourne Cup and out of a field of 28 he picked the Grafton, which perhaps not surprisingly, won.

The 1899 pin selection was Meriwee and it duly won the Melbourne Cup, giving the Grafton boy 4 successive Melbourne Cup winners, which was not at all bad for someone who knew nothing about horse-racing.

There would be many who would reckon that there was something phoney about all this alleged wizardry if it had not been performed by a youth who swore to its truth all his life and grew up to become Prime Minister of Australia. That abnormally lucky lad from Grafton developed into Sir Earle Christmas Page, PC, GCMG, CH, MB, CM, FRCS, SCc.

As a tiny boy, Earle Page decided to become a doctor when his mother, in trying to remove a hoop from a barrel, was struck in the eye and injured. The unfortunate woman had to make frequent trips to Sydney. The eye was not saved and the family was left financially strained from expensive fares and distant treatment.

The little lad, observing all this, swore he would become a doctor one day and treat all the poor people of Grafton. But the sons of poor people did not become doctors in those days because they could not afford the university fees. The one lone chance for a poor youth to do medicine lay in the Struth Exhibition, and winning that was equal to winning a couple of lotteries in succession. But young Earle Page had faith that he could win it, the cheeky child.

Sydney University demanded three guineas from very student sitting for the matriculation exam, plus £1.10s for those sitting for the senior exam, both of which he wished to pass. The

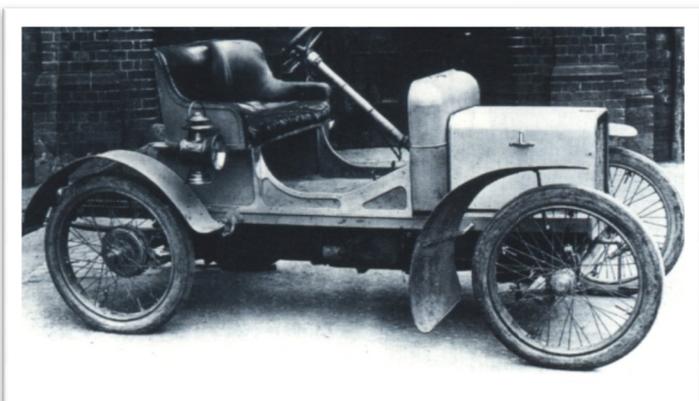
family was able to raise the £1.10s for the senior. The best it could do with offer the University 3 tonnes of potatoes or the equivalent in corn,. The University didn't take the goods and the boy did not sit for the senior. But he passed the matriculation and that got him into first-year arts, which he topped to take the coveted Struth Exhibition.

In 1901, at the age of 21, Earle Page graduated in medicine. And, as might have been expected, he topped the Medical School. After serving an internship at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, the young doctor went home to Grafton to fulfil his childhood dream of taking care of the poor people there.

He proved a brilliant doctor and was much admired far and wide throughout the Grafton district. It was legendary that no matter how black the night or distant the patient, young 'Doc' Page would win his way through to the couch of pain.

Dr Page was very modern in his thinking and one of his main thoughts was that there ought to be a better way of covering long distances over dicey roads than riding a horse or driving a buggy. In 1904 he got the idea of trying one of those horseless carriages he had heard about. He had a mechanically-minded brother named Maund, who did a lot of reading and was of the opinion that the ideal car for a country doctor would be an eight-horsepower, single-cylinder Rover. Brother Maund was sent down to Sydney to make the purchase, the doctor being too busy to go himself, and so became the first man to buy a Rover in Australia.

As Maund Page was the authority on the vehicle, his brother, Dr Earle Page, invited him to take the wheel for the initial run and the two brothers chuffed off out of town and down the country road. Maund knew that in theory if you saw something solid looming up in front of you, you pulled the brake handle. But when a large and unexpected cow suddenly appeared in mid-road, the driver could not recall that bit of vital information quickly enough.



Consequently he hit the cow, which climbed up on the bonnet and kicked holes in the radiator. That ended the first run of the one-cylinder Rover.

The local plumber said he's have a go at the radiator, but when he could not patch the holes in the copper tubing, he volunteered to make a replica in galvanised iron. The new device seemed to work quite well, and, confidently, Dr Page with brother Maund at the wheel set out on a 100km run in response to an urgent call. A few kilometres out of Grafton the Rover was labouring up a steep hill on its solitary cylinder when the new radiator exploded like a bomb. It was found that the kindly plumber had sealed the contraption entirely, so that there was no way the pressure could escape.

Fortunately Maund was just as good with mechanical things as brother Dr Earle Page was with medicine and was able to repair the exploded galvanised radiator well enough for the mercy mission to continue, even though the rate of progress was slower than a horse might have provided.

Dr Earle Page had the wisdom to see that the motor car had come to stay. He got rid of the Rover with its ratbag radiator that the plumber had devised and graduated to a two-cylinder 10hp car called a Star.

This bigger car worked splendidly until, when speeding downhill one day, two balancing weight on the crankshaft came off. One weight went through the sump and the other through the engine. This mechanical tragedy gave Dr Page a chance to switch to a really big job, a 20hp Itala, which had the power to go anywhere. Indeed, it was such a mighty performer that Dr Page decided to turn it into a true vehicle of mercy and got his father to build an ambulance body on to the chassis. The finished job weighed more than 2 tonnes and delighted in sinking through road crusts into the mud beneath, where it would defy anyone to move it.

As the years went on Dr Page became interested in politics and concluded that he could do more for the people of Grafton as a politician than as a local doctor. He entered Federal Parliament in 1919 as Member for Cowper and held that seat until his death in 1961. In 1939 he was Prime Minister of Australia for a short period, having been Acting Prime Minister on 3 occasions before that.

Although he lived a long life of 81 years, he never did get back that magic childhood skill for picking Melbourne Cup winners.



## **For Sale**

2001 Rover 75, Maintained in immaculate condition by fastidious owners. Timing belt has recently been changed. Service records available. Genuine reluctant sale for health reasons.

*For more details, contact Peter Small on 02 6687 7321 (Lennox Head) or email [casselseden@gmail.com](mailto:casselseden@gmail.com).*

At a recent meeting, the RCCQ Management Committee agreed that our events should be more accessible to non-metropolitan members.

A suggestion was put forward that one way to increase the involvement of these members would be to organise occasional Roves in regional areas, allowing both metropolitan and non-metropolitan members and families to share the event - and put faces to names!

Areas reasonably accessible for metropolitan members would probably be confined to a radius of, say 300 Kilometres from Brisbane. In more distant areas, perhaps the local members could organise events for themselves where practical

It was further suggested that the names and contact details (where consent has been given) of members in the same region could be published in our newsletter and that these members could communicate and together suggest events in their respective areas and subsequently organise these events. Such events could be visits to local attractions, beauty spots, interesting venues or even a member's property.

In a coming edition, these lists of regional members will be published and we look forward to future Roves which allow city and country members and their families to meet and get to know each other.

*Neale Webb*

*RCCQ Secretary*



# Rover Car Club of Queensland Inc.

Date 27.3.2018 Held at :Grange BCC Library

## Minutes of General Meeting

Meeting opened at 8.05 pm

Apologies received from :Helen Maywald, Gail and Des Cobham, Damien Ash, Neale Webb, Alan Caine, John Coutts.

New Members present:

Visitors: -

- 
- That the minutes of the previous meeting as read be confirmed -

Moved by Jon Lowe  
Seconded by Wayne Tupicoff  
Carried.

- 
- That the incoming correspondence be received -

Moved by Ross McCormack  
Seconded by Craig Barraud  
Carried. Any outgoing correspondence was noted.

- 
- That the Treasurer's Report be accepted

Moved by Max Thorne  
Seconded by Ross McCormack  
Carried

- 
- That accounts due for payment be paid -

Moved by Stewart Blackley  
Seconded by Craig Barraud  
Carried

- Details of accounts passed for payment

Description	Amount	Payable To
Postage stamps	\$100	Ross McCormack
Badges	\$124.85	Boyles Badges

### General Business :

Ross McCormack advised that The April Rove would be lunch at Kenilworth with morning tea at Mary Cairncross Park, meeting at the BP Service Centre south of Caboolture.

Max Thorne led a discussion on the difficulty in filling the fuel tank on his P5B, owing to the very slow fill rate.

There was discussion about proposed Rove to either Rosewood or Swanbank for steam train ride, Suggetions for future Roves were Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Boggo Road and the Oxenford English Pub.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Brian Kewin led a discussion on starter motors.

Members were reminded of the National Motoring Heritage Day on 20th May.  
The meeting was advised that the President's Night, with pizza and a movie, would be held on the night of the July general Meeting, 24th July.

It was agreed that the Rove to "Fish On Flinders" was a success.