

Brits on the Beach

(The beach at Coromandel)

2016

by the Cottles

There was one P76 in attendance at Brits but as Clive and Carol, Hugh and Bronwyn and Ian and Deborah are active members in their various cars and one day we may see Hugh's CB E V8 back on the road we decided to include this event in our records. Members do it so here it is.

"Are you going to Brits on the Beach?" That was the start of our thoughts of what was it about and who are going. We had had a friend live there and who liked the place. We found out cousin Bill was going in his Austin Healey Sprite but wanted to have company as his sports car had just got back on the road and was untried. At P76 club night, we found out that Hugh and Bronwyn might make it as well. That sealed it – we were going. Carol booked overnight accommodation at the Sun Court Motel in Taupo (the motel used by the P76 Club) for Wednesday night and Palm Pacific Motel in Whangamata for three nights. These motels have car crazy staff and we were looked after with great rooms and wonderful service for Bill, Carol and me.

Brits at the Beach is in its seventh year and registration was by internet or when we arrived, Thursday as it happened. We checked in at our motel then went to the venue for registration to pick up our packs of goodies including a Stetson type hat from Classic Cover, before meeting other car nuts. We had our British Daimler in blue, Bill had his Austin Healey in red and the next day, Hugh and Bronwyn were there in their Wolseley in green. Others had all sorts of British cars and motorbikes of numerous makes including a Bentley or two and even a McLaren.

That night was quiz night at the Whangamata Boating Club rooms where registration was held. Whisky tasting was at this venue also.

Friday was assembly for a drive to Grahamstown, Thames. Then on to the Karangahake caper. Back for official registration and official welcome then on to park up at Main Street, Whangamata from 5 pm onwards. Bill found us a park then we used his card. 8 pm saw us at British Blues and Beers with Brilleaux in the Memorial Hall.

Saturday saw all cars marshalled into makes and models for the Grand Parade at the Island View reserve. How the marshals got all the cars into this order, I can't even comprehend but they did. Then we drove around Whangamata before parking by the reserve by the Beach Road reserve to go to the Fete (English of course). There were bagpipes, Morris dancers, a dog trial/show, food tents by the mile and all sorts of nick nack tents and stalls and people by the mile. Two of our friends from the Daimler Club were dressed up as were lots of others in fancy dress. Wonderful setting and day. We then went on the "Day Tripper to Tairua" at Pepe Reserve, a lovely drive amongst English cars of all types. We were getting warm so we left the cars parked and went to a local for drinks. They had two guitarists playing soul music and pop, lovely. The trip back to our motel was rather faster than we expected as our convoy was keen to stretch their cars' legs. But the motorbikes insisted on overtaking us anyway. We are all well behaved even at those paces and let them through. At 8 pm, we took our seats for the Fleetwood Mac Tribute band at the Whangamata RSA. But that is where it all went wrong for us. We had gone to the Argo restaurant for a lovely meal and arrived a few minutes before the concert started. We were put around the corner and out of sight of the band and performers – we could only just hear the music and decided that this was not good enough so we left.

Did I mention it rained a lot which made us pick our attendance at some of the entertainment a careful planning exercise with Bill having a soft top to deal with and our car misting up mainly in the gorge where we not only couldn't see but had rivers flowing across the road. Also it was dark there. We followed a heavy vehicle which meant we had road tracks to follow so we made it safely. Bill had a little light car so I can only guess how he must have felt. Also, I now had new rear tyres fitted to the back of our car and they must be drift tyres as every left or right bend of any significance had me oversteering to catch the rear end.

Sunday was a Pauanui Promenade drive after a church service and it was raining so we decided to head for home via Tauranga as our son lives near there. Bill was meeting mates in Tauranga. It rained all the way so we cancelled our family visit and made for home. We stopped at Ngongotaha and it fined up at Taupo. We were glad to get home but we thoroughly enjoyed the trip. It is well worth going to this weekend at Whangamata and we believe there was one P76 in attendance also. Great organisation and great car people.

Words, Clive and Carol Cottle.

That's their S1 Daimler below. Photos Hugh Mackenzie.



We see other Leyland Club members other cars which includes the rear end of Ian Sutherland's Sunbeam Rapier to the right of Annette King's CB S V8 P76. A photo of Hugh and Bronwyn's Wolseley 6/110 is taken from another event as the one used in Penzed is lost! We also have a 1948 Wolseley and a lovely little Riley 1300 a Mk2 Jaguar and a 1929 Wolseley, a van den Plas Princess and we finish with a 1957 Morris Minor convertible. Check out the backgrounds!



Mk2 Jaguar



1957 Morris Minor convertible



van den Plas Princess



van den Plas Princess



1929 Wolseley



1948 Wolseley



Hugh and Bronwyn's Wolseley 6/110



The rear end of Ian Sutherland's Sunbeam Rapier to the right of Annette King's CB S V8 P76