



Air-Cooled Run to Bridgetown



Blue is the colour that comes to mind when thinking of Bridgetown, but on a PCWA Air-Cooled run it was Blue skies and Red 356's that was music to our ears.

One of the great things about our Porsche Club is having club members in the regional southwest, especially when they suggest a Club run down to their hometown. This was the case for an overnight Air-Cooled run to Bridgetown and the surrounding district at the invitation of the Cadell family - Shane, Peta and their three sons, Damian (16) Sean (14) and Cameron (12). Included in the weekend, Shane arranged for us to take part in a local event with the Warren and Blackwood Veteran Car Club.

As the run was not limited to air-cooled models, we had a great mix of modern and classic cars with the pace set to suit the older cars. With lots of coffee stops and opportunity's to engage with the local community along the way, it was amazing to see every time the car stopped the number of people that enquired about the cars and their surprise at our intended journey for the weekend, all of which helped to change our everyday mindset of work, work, work... go, go, go to a very causal relaxed persona.



Initial preparation and route planning for the weekend was completed by Shane, Mark Albers and Seamus. Mark checked all the Lowland roads to Harvey and Shane checked all the roads around Bridgetown as some roads were affected by road work's and other areas had just had a large bush fire come through four weeks prior. With final selection of suitable roads completed it was time to complete all other arrangements for the weekend, for Shane this meant replacing a rear main seal (engine out job) and a few other tidy up's to bring his 60 year old car over the pits to change to a WA rego (A story for another time). As with all project deadlines there is never enough time to complete the work required and Shane's project was no different, he was very fortunate to have three very enthusiastic and capable helpers to work on his beloved 356, Damian, Sean and Cameron – It passed the pits inspection with flying colours and was ready in time for the Air-Cooled Run.



Our meeting point was the Miami Bakehouse at the Caltex service station on the south bound Forrest Hwy 1000 Saturday. The morning was clear, bright and sunny, along with the fact that participants were able to grab one of Miami's famous pie's and a coffee, catch up with friends prior to departure the weather helped to set the mood for the rest of the weekend. Joining us for coffee and to wave us off was Steven Daly from the Porsche Club and Jason Molloy a friend from the MB Club with his late 60s classic Mercedes. Jason came along to check out the older classic Porsche cars that were from the same time period as his Mercedes. It was very interesting to compare the cars, the Mercedes with its Sofa style front seat and enormous steering wheel was all about comfort and elegance, where the Porsche was compact and personal and all about the driving pleasure. One you could wear a Top Hat in, the other was for a Flat Cap which was the period attire for sporting and racing drivers



Run briefing completed, Mark and Jenny led the convey of cars down Forrest Hwy to take the exit that lead the cars on to beautiful quiet backroads of the Lowlands until before we knew it we had arrived in Harvey stopping at the Tourist Centre where we arranged to meet up with the Cadell Family. Now we would have two red 356's, Shanes Bridgetown car and Peter and Monique's from Perth, everybody talking about how good the roads were and surprised that we had never used them before. Well done Mark! we will keep your special roads a secret, they were a joy to drive!



Following Laurie and Leonie embracing the air with the top down on their Boxster following Peter and Monique in their 356

With greetings completed and detailed examination of the newly WA registered 356 with the same number that the car originally had when registered in QLD (NIJ831) we rearranged navigators to allow two of the boys to experience some different cars so they could compare other Air Cooled cars to the 356. Sean happy to jump in with Aaron in his 1977 911 and Cameron in with Seamus in his 1997 993, something that would continue over the weekend.





Leaving Harvey, Shane and Damian led the way in the 356. We headed up hill for a long time towards our next stop at Wellington Dam before lunch in the Ferguson Valley. With lots of talk on the two-way radios from the different cars and after a quick pitstop at the carpark we headed down to cross the river just below the Dam Wall



A few more special roads and we were soon down in the Ferguson Valley – our lunch stop at Ferguson Falls Cafe was an excellent choice by Mark. Meeting us here was Margaret River locals Ron and Karen. Sitting out in the shade of umbrellas, overlooking the Ferguson Valley, we enjoyed their wonderful menu including award winning gourmet pizzas...and they were GOOD!!!



Check out those blue skies and Porsches parked outside Ferguson Falls Cafe!

Ferguson Falls have this wonderful custom, at the entrance they have a board keeping a tally of the number of customers who have told them they are the best Pizzas they have ever had, the tally certainly increased when we left!



After lunch we headed off for the final stretch of the day to Bridgetown, Shane had selected some of his special roads that would keep us away from the very busy South West Hwy as much as possible. From a very privileged position behind the two 356's it was a joy watch the two cars being very skilfully piloted through sweeping undulating roads in wooded farmlands and along the edge of still dark lakes typical of the south west at a pace that would surprise most modern car owners due to their very small kW output, lack of driver aids and being 55 plus years old. It's all about the driver being in tune with the driving dynamics of their machine and I'm sure Peter and Shane were being well rewarded for their inputs. As we got closer to Bridgetown on a section with beautiful sweeping curves, we had lots of locals out on their verandas waving as we passed, it turned out that Warren and Blackwood Veteran Car Club have lots of friends in the area.

The benefits of an overnight run is experiencing local hospitality, participants stayed at the Nelson of Bridgetown and the Bridgetown Hotel. We had arranged an evening meal at the Bridgetown Hotel which gave everybody the opportunity to share stories of the days adventure. After a great night sleep (Must have been something about that fresh country air), we leisurely made our way down to the local Flying Duck Café for Sunday breakfast and as we were sitting around having coffee lots of locals stopped in to join us for a coffee and a chat about the cars and thank us for coming down for the weekend.





In the carpark off the main street Bridgetown

A further highlight of this run was 'Cars and Coffee' style event with the Bridgetown Community and Warren and Blackwood Veteran Car Club – it was an amazing turnout of local car aficionados with Austin, Chrysler, Chevy, Ford, Hillman, Holden, MG, Peugeot, Renault, Studebaker, Triumph, and Vauxhall's of all ages. Lot of local people turned up to enjoy the display, even the full might of the local police force and Ronan who was off duty. It turned out that Ronan had fond memories of the Donegal Rally from years ago and was pleased to see the Donegal Motor Club badge on the side of the black 993. It is a very small world from a Sunday morning in Bridgetown WA to Donegal Ireland on the other side of the world! Locals and Police were very interested to check out the different types and age of the Air-Cooled Porsche Cars – They all have the same layout it's just the tech has changed over time and the engine has got bigger.



Checking out the front of the 356... the engine is at the other end



1939 Vauxhall Wyvern J Coupe



One last item to do before departing Bridgetown was to check out the bridge which the town got its name from and have a group photo prior to commencing the journey home.



Participants of the Air-Cooled Run minus Laurie and Leone under THE Bridge of Bridgetown

Leaving Cars and Coffee in Bridgetown we were also joined for the Sunday run by Barry and Marilyn Boyle from the Warren and Blackwood club in their 1939 Vauxhall Wyvern J Coupe one of only 10 built in that year this made a 25 year old Air Cooled Porsche sound like a new car. You didn't think we would take the Main Rd back to Perth? Instead we took the Brookman Hwy to Nannup (the scenic route) where some of the group that were travelling further south home or on holidays said their cheerios'

In Nannup, the remaining cars turned NE and took the beautiful driving road to Balingup. Due to the damage caused by the recent fire the landscape it was very different from its usual soft green to a very stark and eerie burnished red – a lasting reminder of the constant danger of bush fires to the local community.





From conversations with the three boys over the weekend, they all have an appreciation and enthusiasm for the 356 which is great to see or as they lovingly refer to it as "Pop's Car". They enjoy working on it and taking road trips with Dad in it. The next generation of carers for classic Porsche cars is looking good thanks to Shane for passing on his Pops love for the 356 to his sons. As the 356 is only one of ten vintage and modern cars in his shed, that's a story for another day ... or a few days.

Shane and Damian in the 356 arrived at the Packing Shed followed not long after by Peta and Cheryl in the EJ Wagon and a little later Barry and Marilyn arrived in the Vauxhall - roof down, enjoying the beautiful weather that the South West turned on for us... all cars completed the Sunday Run!

With Shane, Peta and the three boy's, Barry and Marilyn ready to head south for home and the Perth Air-cooled cars ready to head north we said our cheerios' and thanked all for a brilliant weekend and that we would see them soon. Words can't always accurately explain feeling's or impact, in our case all you need is to see the smiles on people's faces, and we have seen lots over the weekend. IT WAS BRILLIANT!



As we were getting ready to leave for home, six members of the Lotus Club in their cars arrived into the Packing Shed carpark having also been on a South West weekend. Everybody had one thing in common – Huge smiles on their faces!

Older cars, good roads and great friends are infectious like that.



The Cadell Family with their beloved 356 and their EJ Holden

All Photos from the Run can be seen [HERE](#)

And to follow the Cadell Porsche 356 adventures on Facebook click [HERE](#)