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## 75 Enjoy the Drive – and we sure did!

'75 *Enjoy the Drive*' was the logo for the Australian Y-Type Register's anniversary rally, an exciting and very successful celebration in Gympie from 6th to 10th June. So what and where on earth is Gympie?

It is a country town, a farming centre with mining history about 2 hours NW of Brisbane, Queensland. It is a tough survivor of recent devastating floods. Cars travelled from Victoria, New South Wales, Canberra and more distant regional Queensland to join local members for the celebration. We were very pleased that International Y-Type Webmaster Paul Barrow and his wife Sara were also able to join us from the USA. 22 Y-Types participated in all. The

beautifully restored Gympie railway station was our location for meeting, photo shoot, steam train encounter, breakfast on the platform, and formal dinner (inside this time, with temps of less than 10 degrees C).

Organisers Extraordinaires Tony and Debbie Slattery sent us on stunning and varied drives in the hinterland and towards the coast, through fields, villages, woodland and scrub, often opening to expansive views. Weather was clear, sunny but cool, one day presenting a most spectacular sunset to finish the drive. Another was punctuated by a stop for a silent movie in a wonderfully restored 100 year old picture theatre. Our last day's drive culminated in the Y-Type





ballet on the local oval that produced a large Y formation and then a 75 – to make our point clear! From a personal point of view, it was so good to renew the friendships and camaraderie of previous gatherings. There is always the thrill of seeing massed Y-Types together and driving with them, and there is ever so much to learn from others' expertise and experience. Technical advice flowed constantly and freely.

My husband Steve worked with Tony to form the Australian Y Register and maintain and grow it. Sadly he lost his battle with cancer over a year ago, so it was with many mixed feelings that I decided to join the celebrations with my son

Hugh. I am so pleased that we did - for Steve, for Hugh, for myself, for the friendships forged over the last 25 years, and for the FUN of enjoying the car and encouraging a new generation to take it on.

**Lynne Brompton**



# Enjoy the Drive! 6th – 10th June 2022 Historic Gympie Highlights from the MGY – Type 75th Anniversary Rally



As we came into Gympie to register for the 75th MG Y-Type Anniversary Rally, it was with a sense of excitement, reverence and some trepidation. Excitement at the prospect of participating in a fun action-packed car rally event for a few days around Gympie and the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Reverence related to the memory of my Dad who had recently passed away at the age of 94 years and who had loved MG Y-Type cars all his life having restored three saloons from rusty chassis to glossy eye catching classic cars. And then some trepidation at the thought of us enjoying this part of the world that had been devastated by torrential rains and flooding rivers just months before. The historic Gympie Railway Station was a magnificent host venue to welcome the classic cars and their families.

## Cars and more Cars



On a beautiful sunny day, we arrived at the Cooloom showroom of the Sir Henry Royce Foundation and Carroll's Transport Depot. The showroom was a demonstration of a passion for cars merged with engineering excellence from a bygone era that still influenced modern day transport. From there, we drove to the shores of Lake Cootharaba, through the lush green scenery of the Mary Valley, with the flooded gums, turpentine trees and native lasiandras still glistening from the recent rain. The cars were positioned in front of the renowned Appolonian Hotel against a clear blue sky with wispy cloud formations. They portrayed a shiny spectacle from the past attracting the curiosity of passers-by. We left in a cavalcade journeying through more beautiful vistas of green pastures and dairy cows against volcanic mountain remnants en route to another historic cultural experience to view a silent film at the Majestic Theatre in Pomona.



## Trains and Automobiles

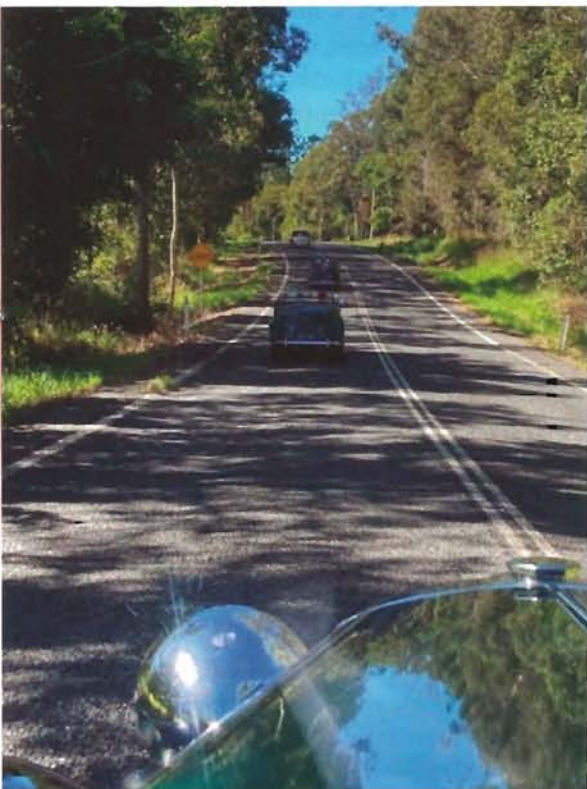
The crispness of a breezy winter's morning was evident as we breakfasted on the platform of the Gympie Railway Station. Seeing heritage timber buildings lovingly restored in this way allowed us to step back in time over 100 years. The magnificent sight and sound of the Mary River

Rattler steam locomotive pulling alongside the platform was reminiscent of childhood memories for many of us. The cars departed to follow the steam train on its rail journey to the quaint village of Amamoor with its general store, market stalls and a musician in the rotunda.

### **Trees and Tourers**

As we drove through grazing properties and rainforests of native tamarind trees, salvias and waratahs, we were grateful for the warmth of another sunny day with clear blue skies. Several creek crossings showed the remains of the recent mega flood event for the Mary River and its tributaries. Hoop pine forests were visible on the hillsides around the villages of Kandanga and Imbil and when we stopped for lunch at Kandanga the local residents discussed the former boom times of industries like gold mining, timber and logging and pineapple farming.

### **Fabulous Furs and Saloons**



The spectacle of the fun photo shoot with the ladies posing in their fur stoles and gentlemen in their tweed flat caps was timeless and classic just like the cars. There were stories of these items being inherited from family members and proudly worn in memory of fashions from days gone by. As we left the Rusty Rails Café for another meander through the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast, more brilliant sunshine enveloped us as we passed by glossy cattle, full dams, lush rainforest gullies and some giant eucalypts. Then it was time for the cars to have their very own photo shoot to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the MG Y-Type (1947 – 2022) by arranging them into the shape of the Y and 75. Amazing result!

### **Seventy Five - Enjoy the Drive**



The culmination of this impeccably organized event was highlighted by the enjoyment of the 75th anniversary dinner and the sense of camaraderie shared by the people that the cars connected. There was acknowledgement of the legacy of those who have passed down the love of the cars to the next generation so that they can continue to Enjoy the Drive!

**Jenny Lock (17 June 2022)**