

International MG Y Type Register 70th Anniversary Weekend – Nambour, Queensland, Australia Friday 9th to Monday 12th June 2017



To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the MG Y Type, Tony and Debbie Slattery organised a fun-filled weekend for MG Y-Type owners – the event theme was “70 – Flat out Fun”.

This Anniversary weekend was the fourth such event in Australia, following similar events at Mt Victoria, New South Wales, (the 50th in 1997 and 65th in 2012) and Maitland, New South Wales, (60th Anniversary in 2007).

Some Y-Types were driven, some travelled on trailers and one arrived via

an A-Frame from the states of Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Victoria. There were also owners from New Zealand (Tony Bushell), USA (Paul and Sara Barrow) and South Africa (Dave and Maureen Lawrence). Dave is the author of *Let there be Ys* as well as the Historian and South Africa Representative for the International MG Y Type Register. Paul is the webmaster and Registrar of the International MG Y-Type Register website. Tony is the New Zealand delegate for the IMGYTR.

Special thanks go to Mike Millard, who loaned “Milly” (YA4597) to appear in the photo shoot and to enable the organisers and guests to drive an MG Y over the weekend.



Barby Kroll & her YA4188

There was plenty to do when the International guests arrived on the Wednesday before the event. One of the cars to be driven on the weekend (Dunkin) was still in the process of assembly, as Tony was distracted by the re-organisation of the 70th road runs due to last minute road closures and other “incidents”. So it was a case of “Welcome Down Under – here is your car, now put it together”.

However, all the bits were there and the engine fired up at 9am on the Friday. Then a weeping wheel cylinder was found and changed (lucky to have a spare on the shelf – kitted and ready to go). Another YT arrived needing some fettling (starter motor failed), so it was a busy workshop for the last two days leading up to the 70th.



Dave & Maureen Lawrence in YT3861

The weekend’s activities started on Friday afternoon with Registration, a social meet and greet, then a welcome dinner and presentation on Special Bodied Y’s from Dave Lawrence in the Function Room of the Nambour Returned and Services League Club. Sara helped get everyone registered with Raewyn and Debbie helped set up the silent auction items. The dinner was a huge success and Frank Carroll was a marvellous MC for the evening.

Saturday morning saw 32 MG Y types gathered with drivers, navigators and passengers at a central carpark in Nambour for the first exploration of hinterland roads. Despite a number of owners not bringing their Y-Types, seats and drives were found for everyone, and the hire cars remained left behind in Nambour.

The roads were winding, hilly and very scenic (just what Y’s like), visiting numerous ‘Lookouts’ or Scenic Viewpoints where participants had Event Passports stamped by the Event VIP’s.

They also had to try to guess an MG Y part sewn inside a sealed cloth bag. All items were small parts and unique to Y types – both the Saloons and Tourers!. Many a puzzled look was observed, and even the “experts” had a go in identifying the “mYsterY part”.



**Furthest Driven -
Robert & Louise in YT3706**

Lunch was hosted at Rick’s Garage Diner in Palmwoods after a morning drive of around 35 miles, having stopped at four Lookouts and exploring four “mYsterY bags”. Participants were warned to arrive hungry and no one was disappointed.

Straight after lunch at Palmwoods, the convoy headed to a secret location where the now 33 Y-Types formed a large “Y” for the official event photo of the weekend. Our 34th Y-Type, a Tourer, failed to make it to Nambour and was returned to the Gold Coast for a rest and new expansion plug! It was quite an experience, lining up all the cars, matching colours where possible and getting all the crews in place – but boy oh boy, it was worth it.



Gavin & Rayleen in YA3530

After the photo shoot, the cars moved through Nambour to the Sunshine Coast Antique Car Club (SSACC) room for a presentation/workshop session on clothing of the 1950’s by Johanna Designs in readiness for the individual/car period photos on Sunday. Those who opted out on the fashion presentation spent their time looking over the cars outside.

Saturday evening was a planned free night, where participants made their own dining arrangements – some had Indian food, other Chinese Food, and some Aussie Food at the RSL (The Returned and Services League, Australia (RSL) is a support organisation for men and women who have served or are serving in the Defence Force).

Sunday morning’s first 21 mile drive took the Y’s to their first stop at the Blackall Range Horseless Carriage Club in Maleny, where the Club’s members had a display of their vehicles and put on a very large spread of sandwiches, cakes and other treats for our morning tea.



Gavin's A-Frame in action

After morning tea, a 48 mile drive ended up at Kenilworth for a “free forage” country lunch. During the pre-lunch run “Dunkin” (Y 1006, so named as she was resurrected from having been drowned during the 2011 Brisbane Floods) split an oil pipe and had to return home, in disgrace, on a tow truck. The recovery service is free for the first 60km – Dunkin stopped 59.5km from home – amazing! Also amazing was the 10 mile oil trail left on the road from the split oil pipe – how far can you go before you finally run out of oil? – now we know!. Milly was transferred from Tony and Debbie to Paul and Sara after Dunkin “failed to proceed”.

After another spirited 40 mile drive through some great sealed back roads, we were hosted for afternoon tea (more scones with jam and cream) at the historic Koongalba Homestead in Yandina where participants were able to get photos of themselves in period clothing next to their MG Y.



Graham & Val with YA4189

After Koongalba, it was a short 6.4 mile run to the SCACC for another technical session, which due to WiFi difficulties didn’t happen, but there was a musical show by Werner Kroll with his Fairground Organ, Pianola and Accordion – all housed in a DC3 Dakota fuselage fitted to a truck chassis. What a unique fun show – just for us!

The 70th Anniversary Dinner back at the RSL Function Room featured jazz singer Robyn Brown and her Trio, and the winners of the various awards were named and prizes presented.

Mystery Y Part Champion Draw -
Gavin Donahue QLD

Lucky Passport Draw -
Ewan Ward ACT

Longest Drive in a Y (The Colin Lloyd Award) – Robert Ades and Louise Crowther (YT 3706)

Hard Luck Award -
Steve and Judy Woods (Y 5556)

Restoration Award –
Gavin Donahue (Y 3530)

Participant's Choice Y Tourer –
Bob and Trish Simpson (YT 4320)

Participant's Choice Y Saloon –
Terry and Rosalind McKenzie (Y 4086)

**Spirit of the 70th Y-Type Anniversary
Weekend –** Barby Kroll (Y 4188)

The event was fortunate to have a volunteer “official photograph crew” – Clive and Raewyn Hammond. The short slide show before the awards was greeted with lots of Ohh’s and Ahhs, so a CD will be available post event so everyone can relive the weekend.

On Monday we were down a couple of cars as some people unfortunately had to head home early. We all inspected and were impressed with Gavin Donahoe’s homemade A-Frame set up to tow his Y-Type back home to Gladstone. A separate wiring harness connects to the all rear lights whilst an over-ride braking system

activates the Y Saloons brakes. It is all road-legal.

The first morning drive of 24 miles was to Peter and Delia Rayment’s residence for morning tea and a look at his collection of MGs and parts. They have a few running MGs (including 2 T Types and a Y Saloon) and 4 other Y Saloons waiting for restoration. Peter and Delia have driven their Saloon Y2437 across Australia to Perth and Adelaide to attend MG National meetings in the last two years.

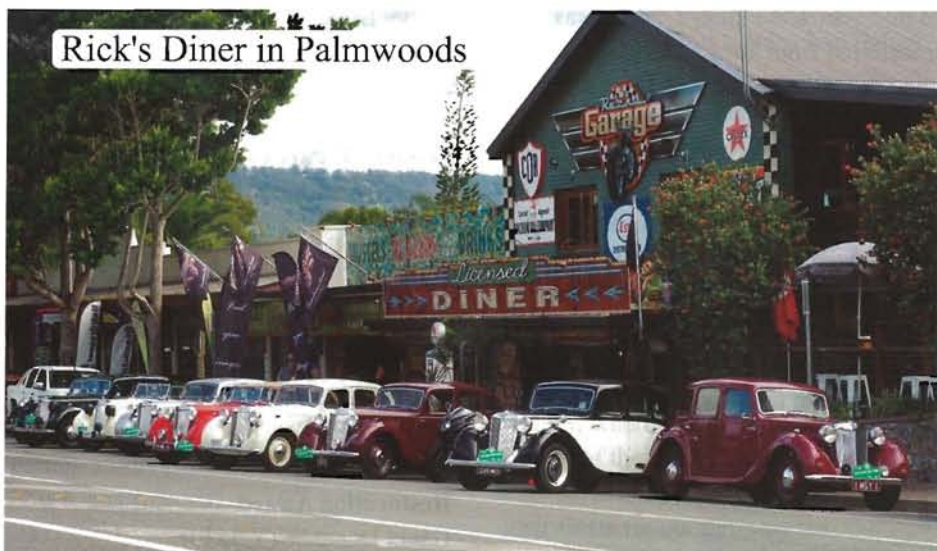
Some of the Ys then ventured up the mountain to the Lookout on the top of Mt Tinbeerwah. From the Rayment’s residence it was a short 10 mile drive to Tony and Debbie Slattery’s residence for lunch, catered by the Cooroy Rotary Club. Whilst waiting for lunch we checked out his enormous collection of MGY spare parts, everything from special

clips to doors. Also on display was a magnificent Pre-War SA Saloon – one family owned for three generations, an M-Type and a couple of “MGs - restoration in progress!”. After lunch numerous MGY parts and memorabilia, were auctioned off including all the items from the Silent Auction – lots of bargains and happy owners.

Then, suddenly, it was over! The MG Y-Type 70th Anniversary of the birth of the Y had been celebrated in magnificent style. We all said thanks to Tony and Debbie and their crew for a very enjoyable weekend and headed home thinking of the next Anniversary ahead in 2022! Do we have to wait another five years?

**Report by Paul Barrow and Tony
Slattery.**

Photos by Clive Hammond



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