

# MG Y-Type 70th Anniversary Celebration, June 9-12

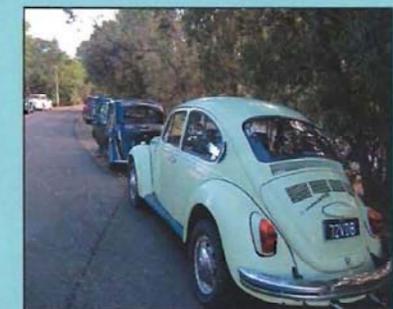
Story/Photos by Sara Barrow



Paul and Sara Barrow went to the MG Y-Type 70th Anniversary celebration that was held over the weekend of June 9th-12th in Nambour, QLD, Australia! We were invited to attend as part of an "international VIP" group because Paul is the webmaster of the International Y-Type Register website ([www.mgytypes.org](http://www.mgytypes.org)); the other VIPs were David and Maureen Lawrence from Johannesburg, South Africa, who were invited because David is the author of the book "Let there be 'Y's" (a few people even remembered to bring their copy of the book along to have David sign it!). The event was planned and organized by Tony and Debbie Slattery, whom we had never met before but who met us at Brisbane airport and welcomed us into their home for a few nights. It's not every day we stay with people who have kangaroos living in their backyard! Tony Bushell attended from New Zealand, bringing 4 of the International Y-Type Register area representatives together in one place for the first time.

There were 33 Y-Types taking part from across Australia, and the event included scenic drives, a quiz, a competition to guess the identity of several car parts by feel (a number of small parts were placed in fabric bags with the end sewn shut), photo shoots, a not-so-silent auction, and visits to a couple of car clubs, MG owners' homes, and an historic homestead (where several people were attired in period dress from the 1940's and 1950's for the photo shoot with their cars). We visited the Blackhall Range Horseless Carriage Club for morning tea (and yummy sandwiches, cakes, and scones), and a number of their members came to visit along with their cars, including MGs, Triumphs, a TVR and an old Ford. At Peter and Delia Rayment's home we were able to see Peter's collection of cars, including 4 Y "projects" and a TC.

Of course we didn't go to Australia just for 4 days – we started with 3 days in Sydney and 4 days in Cairns before the Y-Type event, and ended with a day in Brisbane before flying home. We visited Manly beach, the Blue Mountains National Park, parts of the rainforest, went snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef, climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge, saw some of the Vivid Sydney festival, have eaten kangaroo, emu, and crocodile, and saw some of the cars that took part in the "Shitbox Rally"! It's a real event – look it up, and remember that Australia is about the same size as the continental US! Another visitor at our hotel in Sydney was bemused by the fact that we were at the hotel entrance one night waiting for someone we had never met before to come and take us to dinner; Paul was in the process of selling a part to someone he "met" via a car enthusiast message board, and when Graeme found out we were going to be in Sydney he insisted on coming to meet us and take us out to dinner. And so Graeme Louk and his lovely wife Suzie took us to their favourite Greek restaurant and treated us to a wonderful meal. After dropping Suzie back home Graeme took us around a part of Sydney that we hadn't seen yet, and then to the workshop tucked away in the middle of the city where he keeps his Cooper race car that sports an MG TC engine. MG truly is "the marque of friendship", and this trip certainly lived up to the event slogan of "70 flat out FUN!"



Originally published in The MOWOG - the official journal of the Northwest MG Car Club of the USA. Reproduced here by kind permission

