

An Aussie view of the 2010 National Packard Rally NZ.

Wild West Wander

When we departed Sydney to attend the South Pacific Packard rally Veronique and I knew we were in for a good time having attended a previous South Pacific Packards rally in the North Island. We landed in Wellington and attended the Art Deco weekend in Napier before joining the rally in Nelson and what a rally it was. My tour operator Veronique got the distances mixed up and had us booked in Napier for three nights instead of two. This meant that we had to leave the hotel on Monday morning at 5.30am to get to Wellington with an hour to spare at the ferry. We encountered a traffic jam entering Wellington which took up the extra hour we had up our sleeve which Veronique thought she had for shopping. I personally did not mind the traffic jam.

We had not been to the South Island before but had heard about its spectacular scenery and it certainly was, remote and unspoilt. We took the opportunity to pull over at just about every scenic stop and walk to the sights taking in waterfalls, rivers, forests, magnificent scenery and sand flies. The Jade factory at Hokitika was not the problem it could have been. I was relieved when Veronique did not find the expensive beaded jade necklace she was looking for.

We particularly enjoyed the superb food and hospitality and the various private homes we visited this was a holiday with a purpose, much better than visiting churches and cathedrals. A special part of the rally was inspection the various garages (sheds) and car collections particularly the home of Garth & Andrea with their massive under house garage full of interesting cars doubling as a hanger for 2 planes able to be taxied out onto the adjoining runway.

What a fine collection of cars were entered. As one who favours the earlier models that great photo produced by Lynette shows 10 pre 1934 out of a total of 19 Packards. We would have loved to have brought a Packard over but we had to be content with a rental, it was no fun at all, it never overheated, vaporised or needed any special attention at the end of the day and it used hardly any fuel.

I had the pleasure of riding with Arnold for a day in his newly restored 1929 640 Waterhouse along with his friend Siebo from Holland, we had a good time talking about all things cars while the ladies declined our company for the comfort of the rental – something about our conversation being boring.

I could go on and on but the superlatives would be too much. Suffice to say we enjoyed great company, good food, good wine (obviously Australian), a feast of cars all set in the breath taking beauty of the South Island. I hope we can continue attending these fine NZ rallies and I am sure the numbers of Aussies attending will increase as the word spreads. Not sure about that “Aussie Haka” though!

Lets hope some of our NZ friends will cross the ditch so we can return some of the hospitality and fun we enjoyed.

David and Veronique



Another Aussie view of the 2010 National Packard Rally NZ.

We had never visited New Zealand before and were really looking forward to your Rally - and it certainly lived up to any expectation we had. We had a great time and really appreciated the beauty of your country - as we travelled from the very top of the North Island - Cape Reinga - to the Dunedin in the South and most points in between. The fantastic hospitality of all concerned with the rally and the way you all opened up your homes to us was something very special and will be long remembered. Thank you.

To start at the WOW Museum with a great collection of cars and a fantastic lunch - what a great way to begin, followed by a breathtaking journey through the Buller Gorge to Westport. Wednesday we went through to Franz Josef - a little rain but not too much to deter us - again what amazing scenery at Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers. To pull off the complexities of feeding and beveraging 80 people in the remote locality of Haast was nothing short of amazing. Over the Haast Pass to Wanaka - again such beautiful scenery with those beautiful lakes Hawea and Wanaka was really something.

Wanaka - a wonderful 4 days with site-seeing, shopping, fantastic Cavalcade and rally entertainment that will take a lot to top. The great social evenings with Robert and Lynette Duncan and Phil Dunstan along with George and Jo Wallis' Lunch were quite memorable. You certainly have a wonderful collection of cars in New Zealand which does make all us Aussies very envious.

Again we really do appreciate the wonderful friendships we made and the exceptional hospitality shown us by opening up your homes and 'toy shops'.

Our thanks are extended to Lynette and Robert, Tony and Jane, and the whole rally team - you have really 'raised the bar' and congratulate you on an exceptional job so very well done



Margaret & Peter Whelan (some of our pics of the trip)





NAPIER ART DECO & THE WILD WEST WANDER

An Aussie Perspective by Gina Hawker



Wade & Gina



Rob & Margaret



Barry & Cheryl

A group of Australian Packardians took themselves to New Zealand to take part in the Napier Art Deco weekend then travelled to Nelson in the South Island to join the New Zealand contingent in their National Rally in the South Island—
The Wild West Wander.



Making the trip across the ditch were Rob & Margaret Trembath, Barry & Cheryl Smith, Peter & Margaret Whelan, David McCredie & Veronique Biagi, Bob & Yvonne Davis, John Lucas, and Wade & Gina Hawker.

Wade borrowed Brian Taylor's 1938 115 Sedan and Barry and Cheryl used his old 1933 Coupe from Nelson Taylor. We all took part in the many events for the weekend at Napier and drove with the 100's of cars in the Automobilia Vintage Car parade. Sunday we headed for Wellington to catch the ferry to Nelson.



InterIslander ferry from Wellington to Picton



Day 1, Tuesday 23rd, everyone gathered at the World of Wearable Art and Classic Car Museum for registration and lunch, provided by the owner, Peter Talley (who is also a Packard member). We were gobsmacked at the car collection—approximately 150 of every make and model and in tip top condition (see www.wowcars.co.nz).

That afternoon we had an easy ride to Westport (140 miles) with approx' 34 cars and 90 participants. The back-up vehicle was a sight to behold—a 4X4 Ute with a huge covered trailer. We finished the day with a delicious meal at The Buller Club.



Day 2 was a 172 mile drive to Franz Joseph. The day was cloudy but the rain held off. First stop was Punakaiki where we stopped to see the amazing Pancake Rocks. Then on to Greymouth to see the re-created 1890's gold rush town and Hokitika to see the Kiwis at the Kiwi Centre. By the time we arrived at our motel the heavens had opened but the club had booked out the nearby Beeches Restaurant so we warmed up with another delicious meal.



Day 3. The trip from Franz Joseph to Haast (92 miles) was a little wet but cleared by the time we arrived, checked in and then went to Phil Dunstan's beach house for Chip & Put golf and Jet boating. There were two chefs, Richard & John and the wine van, with Grant, travelling with us from now on, so they stoked up Bess the BBQ and began cooking the wild food dinner—raw local fish salad, wild venison backstraps, crayfish and salads.



After dinner there was a wonderful, hilarious time where Garth Hogan gave a talk re the respective uses of sheep in each country. This was admirably replied to by Bob Davis.



Snap-On tools

Day 4. An easy drive to Wanaka (90 miles) where we were knocked out by the absolute beauty of the place. In the evening we went to Robert & Lynette Duncan's house and had another delicious dinner in Robert's Tool Shed. It was very difficult to keep the fellas away from the tray after tray of Snap-On spanners.





Aussie mob + John Lucas who was away talking at the time



Right: Everyone enjoying the wonderful BBQ and camaraderie at Phil's place at Haast

Day 5 A free day where some went to Ranfurly for their Art Deco Festival and others stayed in Wanaka for the Otago Goldfields Parade. Since 1991, the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust has organised the annual Cavalcade, an event for horse-riders, wagoners and walkers to trek across the high country and hills of Central Otago re-tracing the steps and trails of the gold miners who sought their fortune in inland Otago at the end of the 19th Century. This was an amazing sight with over 150 horses taking part and twice as many people.



The Cavalcade



A twin six under restoration



Phil's barn for dinner



Richard & John at work

The Route



Day 6. Heading for Queenstown for the day, we stopped at Cromwell for morning tea then had free time Queenstown. Later in the afternoon we went to Phil Dunstan's "barn" for a BBQ. This barn was another enormous 'Tool Shed' with accompanying sheds full of cars.

Day 7. Another drive through the countryside brought us to Mt. Barker Downs property owned by George & Jo Wallis where we had lunch, wandered around Jo's beautiful garden full of 90 year old fruit trees and saw George's tractor collection. That evening was the final Farewell Dinner at The Venue restaurant. Everyone dolled up and once again the food (and wine of course) was delicious. One of the highlights of the evening, apart from the prize giving and speeches was Bob's very funny reply to Garth's black vs. white sheep story. Expect to hear more of the merits/uses of black versus white sheep at the Kangaroo Island Rally.



George & Jo Wallis' place



The inevitable under-the-bonnet moment



Grant our friendly bartender

Sorry fellas, someone else will have to write about the amazing array of cars in the NZ club or go to www.southpacificpackards.org.nz and click on 2010 Packard Rally. Our thanks to all the members of the NZ Club for making us so welcome and organising such an amazing rally. The bar has been raised.

Gina Hawker February, 2010



Cars in date order from 1926 to 1948





Two delightful photos sent to me of Nigel and Judith Browning and their 1927 426 Packard Roadster



Please find a photo of the mounted photo attached. It is mounted on 10 mm board with a clear film covering. The reflection of the film makes the picture look faded which is not the case with the true article. It is 100 mm high and nearly a metre long with very good resolution. Got the cost down to \$127.00, postage not included. Please phone Arnold van Zon if you wish to order one. Ph: 09473-5750

We have just purchased a photo, and it looks great!!! Ed.

2010 ART DECO IN NAPIER

Some of the Packards who attended the 2010 Art Deco Weekend in Napier, New Zealand

