



RIVIERA OWNERS ASSOCIATION

ROA Australian Region Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

January 2012

Happy New Year

2012 is already here and we would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope you all had a good start to 2012. We look forward to seeing lots of Rivieras in the coming year.

Riviera Convertible

The Sixth generation Riviera (1979 - 1985) saw the introduction of the first ever Riviera convertible in 1982. Following on from the debut of the first front wheel drive Riviera in 1979, very few convertibles were built owing to the very high prices - \$US23,944. Riviera convertible was available in only two colour choices - white or red firemist with the only interior colour of red leather. A turbo charged Riviera convertible was chosen to be the pace car at the 1983 Indianapolis 500, although most Rivieras had the V8 engine, which saw an increase in rated SAE net horse power to 150 for both convertibles and coupes fitted with it from 1982 through the 1985 model year. Overall sales made the 1980's Rivieras a great success, reaching 65,305 for the 1985 model year.



Our 'new' '78 Riv

Whilst we were at the ROA Meet in Branson, Missouri last year, Brian was impressed with the styling of a 1978 Riviera. This special edition LXXV model was produced to commemorate Buick's 75th anniversary on the market. There was a slight possibility that this car may become available in the near future.

After being back home a few weeks, we learned that the owner of the '78 had purchased another Buick and was wanting to sell the '78. After several phone calls between Australia and the US, arrangements were made for the car to start on its journey to Australia. The car was in Illinois so had to be transported to Long Beach for shipping. Fortunately, we knew a good car carrier that we had used to transport a vehicle previously and they were able to pick the car up from its country home in Illinois.

The car arrived safely (thank goodness) at the shippers in Long Beach and in due course was loaded on to a ship for Australia - estimated arrival date was the end of November.

Isn't it funny how it always seems to take longer when you are anxiously waiting for something to arrive? Brian was looking forward to getting the car but it did take a little longer than expected. It finally arrived in Brisbane early December. However, Customs decided to do a random check on that particular container. So another week's delay while they completed all their checks.

Brian finally took delivery of the Riv a week before Christmas - just the perfect Christmas present! The car was in great shape but of course had to be PROPERLY cleaned and polished - even on Christmas morning! Mechanically the car is very good with the only thing needed was new shocks.

The black and silver '78 (they only made the one colour) is now ready for touring. It's a lovely comfortable car to travel in - very quiet and roomy. We are looking forward to driving to Tasmania in the '78 Riv in May.

Linda Hall



ROA Australian Region 2012 Meet

Overview - 2012 ROA Australian Region Meet

The inaugural ROA Australian Region Meet held in 2010 in Coffs Harbour was extremely well supported with around 50% of Australian members attending the Meet. With such enthusiasm from members, how could we not plan a great event for 2012!!

The 2012 ROA Australian Region Meet will be held in the Riverina city of Griffith in New South Wales. Griffith was selected for our *“Rivieras on the Riverina”* event so as to be accessible to a greater number of our members Australia wide. The Riverina area is widely known for its agricultural industries particularly wine growing, citrus farms and rice fields. Griffith lies within the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) - a system of canals which, thanks to the forward thinking of the early pioneers around 1904, has for many years provided water for the variety of farms in the area.

As many members will have travelled a long distance to the event and in response to expressions of interest from some members, it is planned to hold a 3 day event this time. However, if you can't make it to Griffith for the Thursday night, you will be most welcome to arrive on the Friday.

Our Meet will commence on **Thursday, 6th September 2012** with a casual evening of Meet and Greet Welcome Drinks and Pizza night at our host hotel. (Details of host hotel listed below.) Registration will be available from 3.00 p.m.

On **Friday, 7th September**, we will tour to Leeton where we will tour a citrus farm and packing shed, then take in a slice of history at the art deco Roxy Theatre. Lunch will be at the Historic Hydro Motor Inn - the original accommodation centre built for the Water Commission officers and visitors in 1919.

Our trip back to Griffith will also include a visit to a popular winery who are offering specials to our group. Souths Leagues Club which is a short walk from our host hotel, is a great location for our evening meal.

Saturday will see us heading off to a gourmet food outlet where you can browse the many varieties of “gourmet produce from the heart of the Riverina.” Morning tea will be a short drive away at a Lavender Farm where the ladies can browse the lavender goodies and the boys can browse their collection of vintage tractors and sports cars.

After here, we will visit a boutique winery with elevated vistas of the vineyards and the nearby National Park, on our way to lunch at a historic country pub.

Other places of interest will be optional to visit on the way home to Griffith. Dinner on Saturday night will be a buffet at the Leagues Club.

For those early starters, the Griffith Rotary Markets start at 7.00 a.m. on **Sunday** morning. The Leagues Club have very kindly offered us space in their grounds for our Show and Shine on Sunday morning from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. If you wish, you can park your car at the Show and Shine early, then walk to the markets (it is only a short distance) before returning to

the Show and Shine. With so many local attractions to see, we have allowed free time for lunch and the afternoon for you to explore your own activities.

Our Presentation Dinner will be held at the Leagues Club on Sunday evening before we all head home on Monday morning.

The Souths Leagues Club has been chosen for the evening meals for the three nights due to their generous support and the Club is within easy walking distance to our host hotel. There is a huge variety of good quality food available so you won't be bored with your meals.

Accommodation

The host hotel is the **Kidman Wayside Inn**. The Kidman offers a variety of good quality accommodation all with reverse cycle air-conditioning, satellite TV, fridges, mini bar, hair dryer, ironing facilities and direct dial phones. The hotel is set on spacious grounds with good parking for our large cars and a pool should you wish to have a swim. Wireless broadband and guest laundry are also available.

The Kidman have generously offered us a group discount for a minimum of 10 rooms and are holding a variety of rooms for our event. Group rate prices are -
Standard Queen Room - \$98 per night
Superior Queen Room - \$108 per night
Deluxe Room - \$118 per night.

These discount rates will apply for either a 3 night or 4 night stay and will be available until July 2012 but they would appreciate earlier bookings. There may still be rooms available after this date but discount rates may not apply.

Contact for the Kidman Wayside Inn for bookings is Phone: 02 6964 5666 Fax: 02 6962 4436 Email: kidman@inet.net.au

Sabrina is the lady looking after our booking.

Please mention you are with the Riviera Owners Association when you make your booking.

Run notes for all drives will be in your Rally Bag along with information about the area.

Please remember that the MIA is a Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone - fruit (including tomatoes) should be dumped in the bins provided as you enter the area.

Please note that the Riviera Owners Association (ROA) is a non-profit organisation specifically for the Buick Riviera 1963 to 1999. In accordance with the rules of the ROA, the 2012 ROA Australia Region Meet is open to ROA members and Buick Club members with a Riviera of this age group. Only Rivieras can enter the Meet.

Also, please note that the Australian Region of the ROA has been made a Division of the Buick Car Club of Australia Inc. (Qld.) so that members cars are covered for Australian states Special Vehicle Registration and Insurance whilst driving to and from and attending this event.

The ROA Australia Region Meet in 2012 will be a lot of fun with great food, great wine, great cars and even better fellowship. Registration form will be emailed very soon - as soon as prices are finalised.

So mark your calendar now and make your plans to come to Griffith in September for a great weekend of *“Rivieras on the Riverina”*.



Tony and Barbara’s “new “ ’65 under restoration.

The Gentlecore’s recently acquired ’65 GS is being extensively restored and Tony has assured us that we will all be able to see the finished car at the ROA meet at Griffith.....Can’t wait !



Tony writes -

“I went and had a look at the baby today and took a few more pics. You can see paint has gone on in the door jams and it looks like a very nice colour.

I’ve decided to replace the heater core the traditional way through the inside under the dash seeing as how the console needs to come out to be painted. Had a serious look at the other way today and couldn’t see how I could fit any tools to cut the hole bigger with the engine in, allowing the core to come out.

The inner fenders and radiator support are away being powder coated. It’s neat the way the support is all one piece with the inner fenders.

Bumpers, inside garnish moulds, and die-cast tail light bezels are all away for re-chroming.

Next all the doors with skins and fenders will be hung on the car and all gaps aligned. Then the big final rub down before applying the paint which will be late January due to the Xmas break. Dash pad will be repainted black in vinyl paint before the new windscreen is installed.”

Click on the link below to see photos of the work in progress:-

<http://www.mako.com.au/buick/65riviera/index.htm>

ROA Annual Meet

The ROA Annual Meet for 2012 will be held in the picturesque coastal town of Monterey, California. For those able to make the trip to the US, the Meet provides a great opportunity to see some really great Riviervas and meet some really great people. Toronados are also on show as the Toronado Owners Association will join the ROA Meet.

The host hotel is a hacienda-inspired hotel in old town and is within walking distance of shopping, dining and many sites, including Fisherman’s Wharf. Nearby attractions include Pebble Beach, Carmel by the Sea, Big Sur, numerous wineries and countless golf courses.

We know some Aussies are going to the Meet and if you would like to go too, the Registration form and Schedule of Events are on the back cover of the *Riview*, or just go to the ROA website - rivowners.org - and click on International Meets.

Have a Laugh

If My Body was a Car

If my body was a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I’ve got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull...

But that’s not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it’s especially hard to see things up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it...

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or splutter, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!

Suppliers and Repairers members have been happy with

If you have had a job well done from a repairer, then why not let others know about it. Send in details of your good experiences so they can be printed here.

Dan's Classic Auto Parts of Portland OR - www.dansclassic.com

Rob Croxford has had dealings with this firm and advises their prices are reasonable, their communication is terrific and they are very good to deal with.

BJ Panel Restoration and Fabrication,

Thornlands. Qld.

Bill - 0403 120 921

(panel beating, rust repairs, fibreglass repairs, modifications)

Bill works in conjunction with -

Carr Creation Auto Refinishing,

Graham Carr - 0411 588 272

Thornlands. Qld.

(spray painting specialists).

Annvid Auto Upholsterers,

24 Smith Street,

Capalaba. Qld. 4157

Tel: 07 3390 3444

Mt. Cotton Auto Electrics,

57A Island Street,

Cleveland. Qld. 4163

Mob: 0429 193 815

Spectrum Rubber and Panels Pty.Ltd.

P.O. Box 328,

St. Marys. N.S.W. 1790

Tel: 02 9623 5333 Fax: 02 9833 1041

Email: sales@spectrumrubber.com.au

Website: www.spectrumrubber.com.au

Tim Harper advises they list specific gear for the '63 - '65 Riv as well as '72. Thanks, Tim.

Tim also advises that he has been able to purchase a new K & N E-1360 Aircleaner and HP-2003 Oil Filter from his local Repco dealer who had them in the SA Warehouse. The Aircleaner has quite a range of Buick and Riviera applications.

<http://www.knfilters.com/search/applications.aspx?Prod=E-1360> and the HP-2003 oil filter has hundreds of applications including the Nailheads.

<http://www.knfilters.com/search/applications.aspx?Prod=HP-2003>

Note: This is not in any way an endorsement of these businesses. It is just giving members leads to businesses that other members have had a good experience with.

Market Place

For Sale

1972 Riviera - only 3rd owner - have replaced exhaust with stainless and all belts, hoses and tyres, overhauled the carby and dissy - 90,000 miles believed to be genuine. Ill health forces sale of this car. \$25,000 negotiable. Test drive any time. Car is located in Caboolture, Queensland. Dennis Jennings - 0417 291 290 email: wildsiderv@hotmail.com

For Sale

1972 Riviera - LHD, 455 ci Turbo 400 - Solid rust free, strong motor - \$29,990 ono. NSW Historic Rego 34622H showing 8,780 miles on the clock but I would add 100,000 miles to that. Column auto imported in 2007 from Phoenix Arizona. The previous owner had the interior beautifully custom trimmed. Absolutely rust free with good paint and chrome. Drives beautifully with plenty of power, no smoke or fluid leaks. New tyres, new brakes including rear wheel cylinders, rebuilt distributor and custom exhaust. This is a very reliable car you can drive anywhere or just enjoy around the city.

Contact Tony Canella, Frenchs Forest. NSW 0409 524 248 susancannella@hotmail.com



For Sale

Parts for 1964 Riviera

Good door sill plates alum., horn, door window crank (vents), seat belt sleeves (black), door panel chrome that holds switches for window left and right, two L brackets that fit around headlight, inside door handle, centre cap with tri shield, windshield hoses and metal nozzles that fix under hood for spraying on windshield, cigarette lighter for console, trunk lock with key and inside latch, hood ornament, dimmer switch, choice vacuum pull off, head light switch, distributor cap, front and back stainless wheel well trim, right hand chrome door trim bottom 375-298RT.

John Williams, Charleston, IL. jjwilliams@consolidated.net

Parting Out

1968 Riviera, complete car, was weekend driver before rear end smash.

Car is in USA but can be dismantled and parts posted to Australia or packed in my next container coming over for nominal shipping fee.

Ring Doug Hawkins. 0418 631 233 or 07 5543 6927

For Sale: 1 x 1968-69 n/s fender with small marker light, excellent cond., no rust or damage.

1 x 1966-67 headlight motor, good working order, includes one flexible coupling.

3 x 1968 rear side marker lights (tri shield design).

1 x 400-430-455 waterpump used or will trade on any 1965 parts.

Steve Moore 02 6884 9904 Email: riviera.1965@hotmail.com

For Sale Riviera Parts

66-67 hood lip chrome in one piece

66-70 3.07 open diff

66-67 Rear window exterior louvre (smooth and for vinyl tops.)

66-67 Riviera Tow Bar- very hard to find.

Tony Gentilcore. 0408 964 217 e-mail tonyg@mako.com.au

For Sale: Riviera parts

1966-67 door shells R,L, straight, no rust \$300 each

1966-69 door window glass R,L \$90 each

Electric window motor \$120

1966-67 air grille panel (base of windscreen) \$30

1969 RH front mudguard straight, no rust \$300

1969 rear window guides \$25

1969 sun visors (black) \$80 pr

1975 tail light assemblies \$90 each

NEW - Riviera script, the one with large R, early 60's ? \$80

1963-65 lower chin parking light assemblies VGC \$250 pr

1975 bonnet emblem (new) \$70

Riviera Sales brochures -

1963 - 8" x 10" colour 6 pages \$40

1966 - 10" x 10" colour 6 pages \$40

1968 - 10" x 10" colour 8 pages \$40

1995 - 5" x 10" colour 4 pages foldout \$20

Ron Noonan 02 9631 4763 Email: buickron1@bigpond.com

Articles Wanted

Our thanks to those members who have very kindly sent in stories or information for our Newsletter. Articles about you or your Riviera are always of interest to other members. Please help us put the next Newsletter together by sending us news of your Riv. How did you acquire your Riv? Got a story about your Riv? We'd love to hear from you and other members would love to read your story. We welcome Australian R.O.A. members stories and photographs. Please e-mail to us at :
brianhall.hall@gmail.com or post to : Brian & Linda Hall, P.O. Box 383 Cleveland Qld.4163

Membership

Please encourage any Riviera owners you meet to join the R.O.A.

It's simple, just log on to the R.O.A. web site :- www.rivowners.org

Australia Regional Coordinator

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