

Capricornia Capers

December 2021

This is a temporary publication while we are between editors of our Queensland magazine.

The purpose is to connect and let all JDCQ members know what Capricornia has been doing.

Take a look at what we have planned for early 2022 – you are most welcome to join us.



Read on for:

Capricornia's Christmas celebration at Biloela and surrounds

Early 2022 Events

Chairman's Message

Editor:
Lorraine Givney



You know that you're in coal mining country when

Thanks for the Sunday lunch-time photo concept Gerry

Celebrating Christmas on Cockatoo Country

Almost a hundred years ago, Biloela was established on Gangalu Country, about 120 kms west of Gladstone, as the administration centre for businesses of the Banana Shire. It's generally accepted that the word 'Biloela' was derived from an Indigenous word for white cockatoo and images of these flighty characters are often used to represent the area. Geographically, Biloela is on the junction of the Burnett and Dawson Highways so it attracts many travellers. **On the weekend of 26-28 November, Biloela attracted plenty of Capricornia Register members keen to explore the local area and celebrate another wonderful year of JDCQ friendship and fun with copious Christmas cheer.**



Arriving for Saturday lunch at Callide dam

Fast becoming a tradition, is the Friday afternoon arrival of members who are keen for a long weekend of celebration. Happy hour commenced; members settled in and started to catch up on the vagaries of life and of Jaguar driving. Following a good night's sleep, or a morning drive for some, on the sultry Saturday morning we enjoyed the familiar setting of a spacious Melton park picnic shelter for a BYO morning tea. Thanks to an earlier reconnaissance visit by Marie and Frank along with John and Lyn, we had a range of interesting events on our diverse and well-planned weekend itinerary.

Satiated by coffee, conversation and cake, our first scenic drive was to the Callide Dam. This dam is necessary for the power station and has social benefits as a recreational facility. While we were happy to lunch with the power station in the background, socialising was definitely our way of appreciating the parkland which was looking particularly picturesque after rain and with Poinciana trees in flower.



Barb, Ros and Judy at Callide Dam

Barbeque lunch in the lush green parkland

Returning members, Kris and Peter Rodda joined us for the weekend. This couple has a long association with the Jaguar Marque. In fact, their family has been driving Jaguars for four generations and they have fascinating stories to tell. Following many years of working far afield Peter and Kris have now settled in the Gladstone region so JDCQ membership, with their 2012, Luna Grey XJ 251, is now viable.

Members also enjoyed the friendly and enthusiastic company of Roger Stubbs of WBB who travelled up to share the weekend with us.

Our afternoon visit was to Queensland Heritage Park in Biloela. This complex is something of a landmark due to the towering canvas roof which came from a World expo 88 pavilion. Once we were in the centre, a helpful guide treated us to a fascinating tour that highlighted the pioneering spirit of settler Australians. There was an impressive range of historical motor vehicles as well as motors used for many other purposes. It might be expected that people with a driving passion for the Jaguar marque would not be interested in other motors. However, as we strolled around, the wealth of knowledge members shared about motors in general was extensive – maybe the guide even picked up a few more things to include in his skilfully conducted tours.

Exhibits also included geological displays, including 265 million-year-old fossils found south of Banana. There is a celebration of the multi-cultural nature of the area and acknowledgement of the rigors of early pioneering life. Most members are old enough to know something of the hardships of life lived before computers, airconditioned Jaguars, clothes dryers and wash-and-wear register regalia. Therefore, these exhibits serve as reminders about how fortunate we all are to live in the 21st Century Australia.

Saturday evening started with a car-park happy-hour which unfolded to become many hours of fun and games. With Secret Santa gifts in hand, we wandered over to the restaurant for a delicious meal, Barry's Christmas-trivia game, Marie's guess-the-contents-of-the-Christmas-tin game and the drawing of a multi-prize raffle. Our donation tin for the CQ Rescue Helicopter Service became heavier as the night went on. There were awards: John presented Barry with his well-deserved JDCQ Merit Award. Additionally, a new Capricornia Register award is now with its inaugural winner – John Large – for implementing secret strategies which seem to defy the science of Qld Police breathalyser tests. Here's some photos from the evening...



Chris and Peter's 2012 XJ 251



Peter (blue shirt) showing John and Roger his XJ



Just wondering - does Callide Valley Motors stock any Jaguars ... ?



Peter collecting his raffle prize

Thank you, Marie, for organising the raffle & Secret Santa



Gerry drawing the next lucky winner



Barry in his regal attire to accept his JDCQ Merit Badge from John

*The king was in the counting house counting out our money - well, he is, after all, our much-appreciated treasurer.
Congratulations Barry*



John looks very happy to be the first member to receive the 'Capricornia Register Annual Horse's Arse Award'

I wonder what antics performed by whom will win in 2022?

On Sunday morning we found our festive Christmas table transformed for a tasty breakfast before we enjoyed a 65 kms drive in convoy - this time, west to Moura. The area had received plenty of recent rain which, despite the overcast sky, made the scenery particularly fresh and the colours vibrant. Lime green grasses topped with caramel-coloured seed-heads swayed on the verges backed by lush sparsely-treed paddocks. Cattle grazed contentedly – thankfully, even the large, unfenced cattle we had to drive between as we approached a poignant memorial park dedicated to miners that had lost their lives in a 1994 underground coal mine disaster. The heart-felt messages on the headstones were a sobering reminder to members of how significant and loved family and friends are and how suddenly lives can be irreversibly changed.

In stark contrast to the lush scenery enjoyed earlier in the drive as well as to the lovingly tended memorial - approaching the enormous grey, open-cut coal mine evoked an entirely different emotional response. This environment is harsh and the work looks tediously repetitive. Some Indigenous land-healing work is ongoing and, in addition to the mine, was viewed from the platform by members.

Mining was established at Moura in 1961 and in the township, there is another memorial to lives lost in various accidents. We visited this, and a coffee shop, before finishing our end of year and Christmas celebratory weekend with a sausage sizzle in a Moura Park where we also took a novel photo of everyone standing in a huge red coal bucket!

Fabulous weekends such as this become treasured memories for members, all of whom contribute to the synergistic nature of Capricornia Register. Our heart-felt thanks go to all who organised and contributed to make this a unique and diverse weekend enjoyed by all.



Elegance and industry



Sizzling onion before sizzling sausages



Indigenous land-healing near the mine



Lookout that is moved as the mine expands



In Moura township

From Capricornia Register, Merry Christmas to all JDCQ members

2022 Capricornia Events

January, Sunday 16th – Miram Vale for BYO morning tea followed by lunch at the Bororen Hotel

February, Sunday 20th — BYO Morning Tea, REGISTER MEETING, then BYO lunch (bbqs available) at breezy Mount Archer Lookout

For more detail nearer to these dates please check your email from Social Secretaries Marie and Frank Smallcombe, (Capricornia members), our fb page "Jaguar Drivers Club Queensland Capricornia Register" or phone our Chairman, John Large on 0408 221 366

Chairman's Message

Looking ahead to 2022, I have a goal to make our meetings shorter. To this end, I'm asking that, prior to each meeting, members read the minutes of the previous meeting. If you notice a discussion topic in the minutes, please come prepared to bring up and/or participate in conversation on this topic. By doing this I'm hoping that we can reduce meeting time whilst covering everything we need to.

Your ongoing support and participation are very much appreciated.

Keep on purring ... *John Large*

Having looked into the meaning of the word 'Biloela' I then became curious about the origin of the word 'Jaguar'. It seems that it was derived by the Portuguese in the early 17th C from a Tupi-Guarani (east-central south America) Indigenous word 'Yaguar' which means s/he who kills with one leap.

Here's some bonus photos from the weekend:



Capricornia Register decided to have some fun awards



Silo Art water-tower adjacent to the memorial in Moura township



Steve with the CQ Rescue Helicopter tin

See you all in 2022 ☺