



THE FOUNDATION OF PARADISE

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Nothing beats a visit to the SHRF in Queensland

When the COVID barriers fell down, Joanne and I decided it was time to explore sunny Queensland again. I grew up in Brisbane and mapped out a route for catching up with sisters, brothers, aunts and good friends. I was also determined to explore the Queensland Rolls-Royce community.

I discreetly added in a visit to Noosa for a few days, and a short morning detour to Coolum and, by chance, a cup of coffee at the Sir Henry Royce Foundation (SHRF) there, without creating too much visibility to our overall plan.

As a long lost local boy, I was puzzled how such a noble institution as the SHRF could exist in such a remote location. Never mind. I called SHRF Trustee and RROCA (QLD) member Frank Carroll to book ahead, finding it was open on the first Saturday of each month, from 7am to 11am or so.

After many twists and turns around Coolum driven by the GPS, we finally made it. We were welcomed by Frank along with, to our

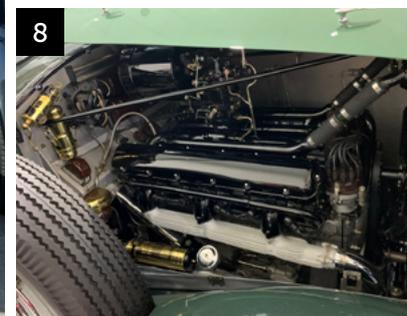
surprise, the MG Car Club, the Austin Healy Car Club and by the owners of many old and new Rolls-Royces and Bentleys. Parking was easy. Coffee and light breakfast was 50 metres away, and there was enough eye-candy in the car park to make it all worth while. After an hour of chatting to the many enthusiastic visitors and comparing notes, it was time for the official tour by Frank.

Frank and his 10 volunteers were very busy helping visitors find their way around and explaining the details to the many visitors.

My wife Joanne and her friend Dianne both enjoyed the simple, non-technical presentation by Frank, while I explored a few vehicles in much more detail. To everyone's delight, the cars are very accessible. Many thanks to Frank and the SHRF team. It was a fabulous experience.

SHRF GEEBUNG

We also scheduled a morning at the Geebung SHRF office. This is about 45 minutes from Brisbane CDB and I suggest a GPS-guided



1. The SHRF Coolum display includes old and new Rolls-Royces, Bentleys and even some non-marque cars; 2. Rolls-Royce V8 with its front subframe and suspension; 3. Barry Sparks and volunteers; 4. Bentley Mk VI, destined for restoration as a static display; 5. SHRF Trustee Frank Carroll managing the 7am traffic jam; 6. Welcome to Coolum! 7. Check-in at the SHRF Geebung; 8. A pristine Phantom III engine bay; 9. Frank and one of the SHRF's well-known Phantom V limousines; 10. Joanne with the always-glamorous Phantom III of Martin Glynn, 3DL146; 11. A visiting local 20/25 asking for advice from Frank

trip by car. It was a little hard to find as we approached but we were saved by asking a local where to go. We were welcomed at the front door by Ann and another colleague, and then we set off on our discovery.

There is an excellent collection of archived books, magazines and parts from all the older Rolls-Royces. It's easy to see how complex growth in the museum business can be, with so many willing donors and components. At home I have many Rolls-Royce books but having a full-sized engine would be much too much for my wife!

Geebung has a complete Silver Shadow V8, with its accompanying subframe and front suspension to show how the beautiful design fits together. Another interesting contribution is the Gillings Silver Ghost body, as previously documented in February's *Praeclarum*, with many, many hours of excellent work to bring it back to life.

Ann showed us Spitfire Avenue, the signage made and donated

by the local council as part of its participation in a recent community event.

A Bentley Mk VI was donated to the museum. It was recovered after 50 years in a container, left in a local paddock. The roof eventually rusted through, exposing everything to the open world. The plan is to restore it to be a static display to illustrate engineering excellence of Rolls-Royce.

Museum curator Barry Sparks, with some of his enthusiastic volunteers, explained how an older Rolls-Royce exhaust system worked.

Before visiting Geebung SHRF, call ahead and make sure it'll be open for you.

We strongly recommend adding the SHRF sites to your next Queensland trip. Make a donation to the efforts of the local team. Enjoy the relaxed Queensland Rolls-Royce community and friendly folks waiting to show you around. Check the dates, set up your GPS and take in the beautiful Sunshine Coast. ■