



April 14

WOW!! WOW!!
and WOW!! What a day the trip to Joadja ghost town and distillery was! The weather was picture perfect. A few showers were forecast but the rain decided to stay up in the clouds. Berrima Park was the designated meeting location for the drive to Joadja.

Terry Cullen and I arrived at approximately 8:45am for a 9:30 departure. By the time 9:30 arrived we had seventeen Morris Minors and five moderns - 45 people, an extremely good roll up for any outing!

Members came from Sydney, Wollongong and the Southern Tablelands, 45 in all. There should be more outings like this! It was great to see other members enjoying the camaraderie from the different regions of our club. Before we were due to depart one of the members mentioned that he had no brakes and asked if anyone had any brake fluid. Lo and behold, Les Whale went to his car and produced brake fluid - you just never know what people carry in their cars. The day was saved again for the member.

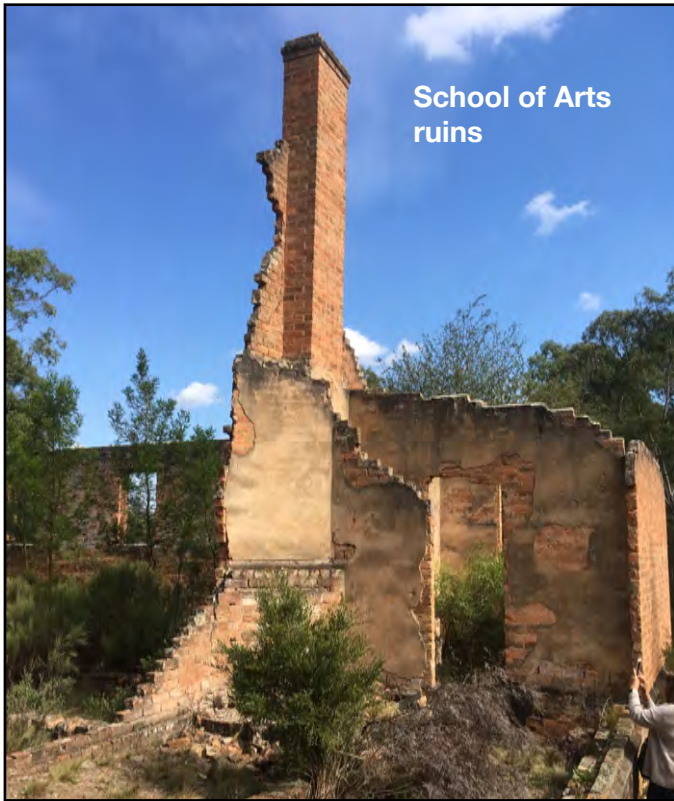


**Sue Gould and Les Whale
at the old Joadja township**

The drive to Joadja went quite well whilst we were on the bitumen road... then we struck the dirt road maintained by the local council. Lots of pot holes... You miss one pot hole and you were extremely lucky if you missed the next one. This part of the road really slowed everyone down. Then we came to the dirt road maintained by owner of Joadja Distillery - rarely was there a pot hole.



All aboard!



Val, the owner, during his commentary on the tour, said that he spent \$50,000 compacting shale onto the two kilometres of private road that he owns to make a more pleasant ride for his customers.

We arrived at our destination soon after 10.00am. After settling down, we were invited to have morning tea, which consisted of tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. After morning tea we made our way to our mode of transport for the tour of the surrounding property.

Our transport was 'air conditioned' and towed by two utes: that is trailers with a roof over and no windows which provided an absolute gorgeous view of the hills and surrounding countryside.

Val gave an excellent commentary during the tour and he mentioned that the township once had a population of approx 1200 people. The town had a hospital, school, general store and a hall (which was also used as a church). The tour lasted for one and a half hours.

There was a list of deaths and burials in the cafeteria and reading through it brought a lump to the throat at how many children tragically died at such young ages.

After the tour, an Aussie barbeque lunch had been prepared and was waiting for us. It consisted of sausages, salad, bread rolls, tea, coffee, apple juice and orange juice - an excellent meal. After lunch we went to the distillery for a talk on how wine and spirits are produced - and some tasting.

Yeeess!!! Wine tasting!!!! All I can say is "delicious". There was gin for tasting and also Val's Pedro Ximenez, a fortified wine. At approx 3:30, after an extremely enjoyable day, everyone said their goodbyes and made their way home.



As I said earlier, there should be more combined outings like this because we all have one thing in common....Morris Minors!

Many thanks to Ray Selby for organising another fantastic outing. I know that he put a lot of effort into this day and it shows with the amount of members that turned up. You're a real trooper, Ray!

Till next time,
Mark Sullivan

(Photos: Les Whale, Owen Sinden)

Joadja township - then and now



Grumpy the wombat lives here



Ray thanks Val



John Borg's new transport?

