

[Keeping in Touch - 24 May 2020](#)

Hullo to everyone on this very wet afternoon, or not so wet as it has turned out. Anyway, isn't it nice to sit in front of a great roaring fire, with a good book and also maybe pairing that with a nice glass of wine, Tis heaven , Tis heaven.

As mentioned last week, the town certainly got busy with traffic from midweek, a lot of holiday makers according to the folk at BP. Also, in case you are interested, a rumour I heard, is that, what was Southern End Restaurant is reopening from June 1. Not sure what name they will be using. It apparently will be run by the chef who was running Estate 807(now closed).

If the rumour is true, Southern End, with those great views, was always a nice place to go to for a meal, and hopefully will be again. The two Denmark Probus Clubs went there for a combined Christmas luncheon a few years ago, very nice it was too. Seeing as it is a lot bigger than 807 was, maybe River Probus can visit sometime and sample what's on offer.

Just a thought.

The answers to the Cross Word from last week, are attached, hope it was not too difficult. If any of you wish some more cross words, just say.

Now something of historical significance ----- **Vintage Car and Motor cycle racing in outback W.A.**

Recently I saw on T.V. a story of a gent from England, who brought a 1923 Landau with him from England, just so as to race at the Lake Perkolilli Red Dust Revival held at Lake Perkolilli on September 12-16 2019. Cars and Motorcycles race on the hard claypan surface, on which they can reach speeds of 200 kilometres an hour or more. Between 1914 and 1939, thousands of people attended annual race meets. But world war II put an end to the legendary races as fuel and men became scarce.

Lake Perkolilli is 23 km's from Kalgoorlie and covers an area of approximately 190 hectares.

If you wish to know more , go to www.motoringpast.com.au

Lake Perkolilli was the home of motorsport in Western Australia from 1914 to 1939. "Perko" is the oldest race track in the world which is the same as it was when it opened more than a century ago. The Red Dust Revival brings vintage pre-1940 cars and motorcycles back to the claypan to re-live the glory days of Goldfields motor racing. It captures the romance of the Goldfields in a truly unique event. A feature of the Red Dust Revival is that competitors camp at the lake just like the old days. The last event in 2014 attracted competitors and spectators from all over Australia. The event is not motor racing, rather there are carefully arranged demonstration runs operated under national CAMS and Motorcycling WA rules. The event is run by enthusiasts for enthusiasts and is a not-for-profit activity.

The dust has settled ...

The 2019 Red Dust Revival was an amazing success. Thousands of people from around Australia and across the world gathered in outback Western Australia to experience the thrill of pre-war cars and bikes roaring around the claypan circuit at Lake Perkolilli. It was an absolute blast for drivers, riders and spectators.

If you missed it, you will have about a three year wait until the next one.

Here is a small taste of the fun that was had.

So You Want To Build a Perkolilli Car?

The Lake Perkolilli Red Dust Revival celebrates the golden years of racing at Lake Perkolilli from 1914 to 1939 and cars built in this era are acceptable for the next event. This provides an enormous range of possibilities without having to revert to modern, post-1939 engines and chassis and bodywork. The cars suitable for Perkolilli have to look like the cars which people put together in those days. It was a very creative period so it opens up an enormous range of possibilities without having to make cars look like modern rat rods. It is very pleasing to see members of the hot rod movement going back to the pre-war roots of hot rodding and building cars which were true to the period using discarded parts from hot rod projects.

Where to Start?

It starts with the chassis and there are still enough chassis laying around Australia to ensure that Perkolilli cars can be built for many years in the future. During the 1930s, racing cars were often built from chassis scrounged from old Chev Fours, Rugbys, Whippets or other American cars because they were so plentiful. Of course, the ever reliable Ford Model A chassis was the basis for many home-built racing cars. Other cars such as Ford Model Ts and Austin Seven make great fun racers. It is worth saying up front that we all frown upon people who buy restored cars and rip them apart to make racers. There is no need to do this when there is still a ready supply of parts to build cars from the remains of cars which will probably never be restored. Often the bodies of these cars have fallen apart a long time ago. It is bad karma to rip apart a restored car to make a racer, and of course, you can take it to Perko just as it is! Several cars are being built from the donor cars of fully restored cars — once again, a great use for that car that would otherwise never see the light of day.

The Ford range of T, Model A and V8 models from 1909 to 1939 were all entered at Perko events during the period and several cars have been made from rolling chassis which remained after the steel bodies were removed to make hot rods. Make a Perko racer from these old chassis is a great way to get a fun use from these parts. Watch out for a 1928 Buick special at the next event which will probably be made from the rolling chassis of a car which was gutted for the sedan body which was used on a modern hearse.

The engine is the heart of the Perko car and as long as it is an engine built in the pre-war period or the same as a pre-war engine then it's good to go. It's better if your car looks like its engine could have been used in a car of the period. Things like alternators and SU carbs are OK but modern carbies just don't look right. Remember, it's not about beating someone else's time but re-creating the era and having fun.

Wheels and tyres should be 16 inch and above and not modern rims. Radials are OK on cars from the late 1930s because they use 16 inch rims (such as Ford wire wheels) but don't look right on early cars.

The body is where your creative imagination can run riot. Cars which raced at Perkolilli had everything from just a cowl and two seats to beautifully made aluminium boat-tail bodies which wouldn't look out of place at the Indy 500. There were bodies made with wooden frames like a boat with fabric stretched over them. Many cars were roadsters or tourers stripped down for the job. The best way to choose a body is to look at lots of old motor racing photographs to get inspiration. The first patent for a pop rivet was issued in 1939 so they aren't really in keeping with the period. If you want to keep the period look, then buy soft sold aluminium rivets and a rivet gun kit from the Eastwood company. Yes, also Phillips head screws and tek screws weren't the go in the 1920s and 1930s so if you keep to slot headed screws you can't go wrong and you won't get some nitpicker pointing them out to you!

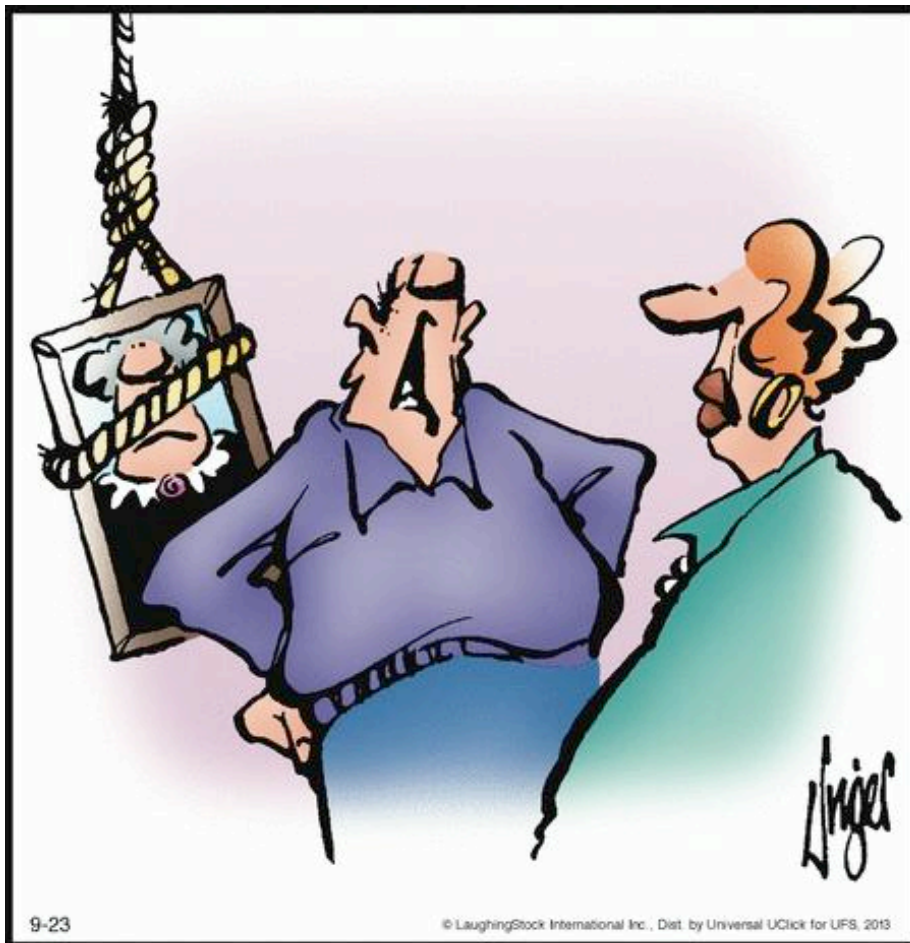
Once you get close to the Red Dust Revival it is worth talking to other competitors about their experiences at the clay pan. Perko is the great red dyno! It finds out all the niggling lit problems your car may have had which doesn't show up when you run around the block. While oil and water catch tanks aren't required, a water overflow tank is a good idea at Perko because it can get very hot. Carburettors need two return springs for safety and the electrics need a cutout switch. The tail shaft needs to have a hoop around it so you don't have a nasty accident if it comes off. There are a lot

of different ideas for air filters. They are a necessity at Perko where the dust can be thick and gets everywhere, including into your engine. Either paper filters or oiled foam filters seem to be preferred. Roll bars aren't required. If you need to know about something specific, ask first. The rules are made to provide cars which are as safe as practical for a pre-war car, to provide a field of cars which looks right and to have cars which don't have modern car speed and performance. The scrutineers will knock back cars they think aren't safe.

If you were at the last event you will have seen some modern hot rods and some fully-restored original cars running around the clay pan at the end of each day. This is fine as they are not part of the actual Revival events. These guys understand that their cars don't comply but they want to have a run anyway. We love that attitude!

Remember, for the Red Dust Revival itself it is all about re-creating the era and having fun. See you at Perkolilli one day!

Funnies this week courtesy – Kevin Stone----



“You told me to hang your mother’s picture in the hallway.”

Nine months past Corona:



With a long weekend coming up celebrating W.A. Day, if you are having visitors or if you are venturing to other climes, drive safe, take care and stay safe.

Cheers to one and all
Stuart.