

28th Australian National Model A Ford Meet



“A” Rally through the Cane Fields

Maryborough Queensland

Sunday 1st – Sunday 8th September, 2024

Hosted by the Model A Ford Club of QLD

News Letter Number 1

Thank you for registering your Early Bird Form – The countdown is on

The committee have had a few meetings and while it took a little time to get our mind around the rather large number of jobs to do, we are now well and truly into the fine tuning and moving forward. As you would all know organizing an event like this in a regional center throws up a lot of challenges, but we are very fortunate to have a couple of members living in Maryborough. Bloo & Nicki plus Greg & Jeanne who, under the watchful eye of Chris & Cathy, have been working very hard to get the planning under way, and on behalf of all I would like to take this opportunity to say a simple THANK YOU it is very much appreciated. It would be difficult without them

The program will be rather full (more on that later) but we will leave enough time for you to do your own exploring of the Fraser Coast region.

You will find two other documents along with this which are the list of accommodations options, and a history of Maryborough, which we thought some would like to read as there is plenty to see & do in this area.

CISTERN CHAPEL

Firstly however, I want to take you back to my test email in which I attached a taste of what you will see in the Cistern Chapel. To do that I have included, at the top of this document, another photo from inside the chapel. Don't panic about when you will get to see this amazing toilet, as we are having our public display in the main street which will be closed for our parking. The usual market day will be on in a park directly in front of our parking area. This is a wonderful choice for the display day, as, in addition to the markets, there is a great coffee shop on hand and of course none other than the Cistern Chapel. We had a lot of positive feedback to the photos we previously sent, so I hope you won't be disappointed in what you see. We feel it is an amazing transformation to what is a common public toilet block in the Council Chambers Building.

ACCOMMDATION

Our member Ian has compiled this document which I am sure will be of great assistance in helping you make a choice. The document is in three sections, caravan parks/cabins, Maryborough hotel/motels and a brief list of what is available at Hervey Bay should you want to stay on and do some more exploring.

Where possible Ian has included reference to when they will take bookings, but unfortunately not all would commit to a date and just said get the people to ring us. From previous experience it is not unusual to find that a booking is not possible until 12 months before.

We thought we would share this list now as it has been completed, so you have plenty of time to work out your preferences.

HISTORY OF MARYBOROUGH

This document is provided as it makes for interesting reading

Some additional information to the attached document.

Maryborough was first settled in 1847 by Europeans and is one of Queensland's oldest cities. It was first settled as a wool port and served as the Fraser Coast immigration port in the early days of Australian settlement. **It was second only to Sydney as an eastern seaboard port for free settlers**

In addition, I thought I would provide some information on probably the oldest company in Maryborough "WALKERS LIMITED" which was an Australian engineering company, based in Maryborough, Queensland. It built ships and railway locomotives. The Walkers factory still produces, 156 years later, railway locomotives and rolling stock as part of Downer Rail.

In 1863 John Walker and three friends set up the Union Foundry of John Walker & Co in Ballarat. In 1867 a branch was opened in Maryborough.

The Ballarat assets were disposed of in 1879 and in 1884., the business became a limited company under the title of John Walker & Co Limited, being renamed Walkers Limited in 1888. The company produced most of the parts for machinery at sugar mills.

In 1980 Walkers Limited was sold to Evans Deakin Industries. It was included in the purchase of Evans Deakin by Downer Group in March 2001 and today the Maryborough factory continues to operate as part of Downer Rail.

In 2003 Bundaberg Foundry Engineers completed the acquisition of the Walker Sugar Business and moved to change the operating name to Bundaberg Walkers Engineering in January 2008

SHIPS

In 1884, the firm began work on five hopper barges for the Queensland Department of Harbors & Rivers. During construction the decision was taken to convert them to also serve as auxiliary gunboats, which made them the largest warships built in Australia before federation. During World War 11, Walkers constructed two River-class frigates, a Bay-class frigate and seven Bathurst-class patrol corvettes, in addition to other smaller vessels. Post war naval contracts included seven Attack-class patrol boats in the late 1960s and eight Ballkapari-class heavy landing craft in the early 1970s. After the completion of the latter, Walkers Maryborough shipyard closed in 1974

We will be back later in the year with further updates, in the meantime happy reading and accommodation hunting.

RALLY COMMITTEE

QLD Model A Ford Club website: <https://modelafordqld.wixsite.com/website>

28th Annual Meet Website <https://modelafordqld.wixsite.com/website/about-3>

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