

Model A's In WA 1929 Tourer (Phaeton)

Owned and restored by Alan and Gail Duns of Manjimup

Purchased dismantled 1988

First licenced By Alan 1992

Engine number CA 149684



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MODEL A's FOREVER

By Alan Duns written May 2020

About 1960 SA, Mum saw an ad in the local paper ,Model T Ford for sale. Alan's dad Ivan, always talked about model T's, and his first vehicle was a Model T truck! On inspection the for sale was a Model A ute, with side mount spare wheel. Dad said they were much better than the Model T and the deal was done for 25 pounds. It was in Pt Lincoln, South Australia. At the time we lived at Koppio, 25 miles north of Port Lincoln, in SA on the Eyre Peninsula.

Alan's dad and his brother Ron had a transport business, they had tip trucks and supplied gravel and did general transport.

Between 1960-67 the SA family collected 14 Model A Fords found by their travels in the Transport business along with heaps of parts, motors, wheels etc!

The list of Model A's collected SA

- 1 x 28 Tudor
- 2 x 29 Roadsters
- 2 x Factory Utes
- 3 x Utes cut down from Tourers
- 1 x 28 Truck
- 1 x Rolling Chassis
- 1 x 30 Tourer
- 3 x 28 Tourers



South Australia story continues.

Dad restored the 1929 Roadster, seen above, older brother Robert restored the Tudor and Alan finished up with this blue Ute.



Brother Robert and I used our Model A's as every day transport. Dad restored a 1928 Tourer after his Roadster and my younger brother Richard used it for work and everyday use. Robert still has his Tudor, Richard still has his Dad's old Tourer and they still use them today at Club events.

Between 1964-68 I drove the Model A Ute to work, 30 miles per day and on weekends as many miles again. After the Ute I restored a 1928 Blue Tourer and built a Hot Rod out of a 1928. In those days you could still get tyres retreaded. We worked out that if you get 5.25.21 retreaded, they upped the gearing quite a bit. At 45 MPH on the speedo you were doing 50 MPH on the road!



As you do when you are young we hammered the Model A's. I worked in Cummins 39 miles from Port Lincoln. After work on Tuesdays I would travel to Port Lincoln to trade school and drive the Model A flat out, travelling the 39 miles in 45 minutes. Sometime later I drove the blue 1928 Tourer to Adelaide and did 400 miles in 9 and a half hours. If you drove flat out the speedo registered just over 60MPH. In those days of course they were only 35 years old !



Those days were not without incidents. One day the two-blade fan broke and cut 18 tubes in the radiator.

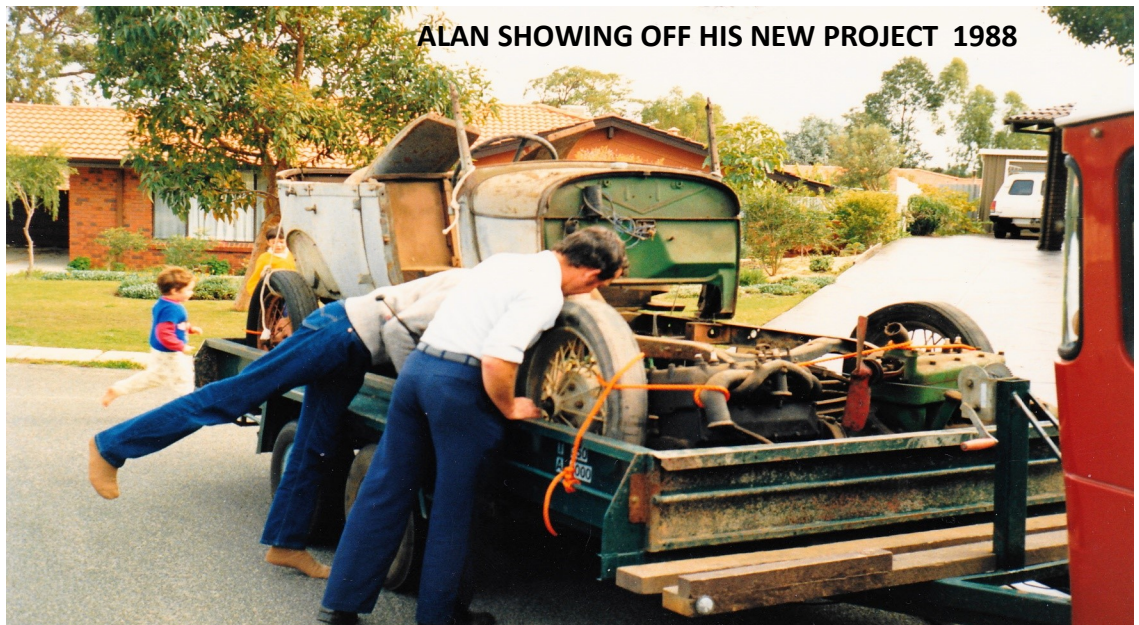
We broke several back axles and of course lost wheels. One day coming out from Port Lincoln the left rear wheel came off the old ute, it was a bitumen road. When it dropped down it tore the backing plate away and rolled on the brake drum until we could park. It took longer to find the wheel in the long grass than it did to put the spare on. We pinched a wheel nut from every wheel, so we had enough, and crawled home. *(today's Model A owners might not be aware that if a rear axle breaks the axle piece and wheel can part company with the vehicle!!)*

Fast forward a few years.....

Gail and I met in Darwin, Gail came from Manjimup, WA. We were both working in Darwin and got married in Manjimup, October 1977. Our twins, Debi and Julie were born in December 1979 and we moved to Manjimup in 1980. At the time I was restoring a 1921 Model T and then a 1929 Model A truck. Alan Jeffree's father lived just up the end of the street. I had met him as he had seen me dragging bits of vintage tin home. He told me how he had a Model A years bought new in 1928.

One Sunday arvo soon after, we had a visit from Alan Jeffree and his son Darren. Mr Jeffree (senior) had told them about the bloke up the road restoring old vehicles. This was around 1984. We joined the Model A Club here in WA soon after.

After the Model T and A trucks, we decided to sell both and try to get a Model A car of some sort. Long time Model A Club member, Mike Cook told me of a Model A Tourer for sale in his street. It was not advertised as the chap didn't want a lot of tyre kickers! On inspection it was completely dismantled, however on a close inspection it was complete, including new wood kit for the base body (which had been made by Ross Letch), new radiator, original horn, side curtains with brackets and two motors. It was the 29 Tourer we have today.



We restored the 1929 Tourer just in time for the 1992 National Meet in Perth. It had done 38 miles at the time. The chap that had the Tourer did not know much about the history of the car. It had a Lynas Motors badge on the dash and when repairing the windscreen frame, it was stuffed with newspaper and bogged over. The paper was from 1965. There was little rust in the body but white ants had eaten a lot of the timber. Mechanically everything was absolutely worn out. I think it must have been a city car!



Fast Forward again... Since 1992, the Model A has done 14,000 miles. The first motor was a B model, 12 years ago it cracked and I had Ray Abbott to do a complete job on the Model A motor that I got with the car. It is very smooth and quiet and performs well.

In 2006, Gail and I trailered the Model A to the National Rally in Adelaide. Brother Robert had his Tudor there, and younger brother Richard had his Tourer there also. It was 3 brothers and 3 Model A's. After that we did the Bay to Birdwood, since then we have done five National rallies since 1992.



Alan, with brother Robert and wife having lunch at the Dardanup Historic village at the 2014 National Model A Meet here in WA, next to their respective vehicles.

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Both of our daughters have learnt to drive the Model A and now #2 grandsons. Grandson, Jordan loves driving it and reckons it is going to be his, but he has to get passed his mum, Debi first!

In 2018 I went to the Old Time Motor Show in Brookton in my 1954 International truck (a replica of my dad's business truck back in SA with DUN BROS CARRIERS written on the door, as dad had it back in the 1960s), a chap came up to me after he saw the sign writing and asked if I was the chap he sold a Model A Ford to back in the 1980s. I said yes!

From our conversation, it turned out he had to sell the phaeton because his neighbours complained about the noise, hammering and grinding etc! He did not know much about the Model A's prior history but the guy he bought it off also sold because of neighbour complaints!!

He thanked me for sending a photo of the Model A once complete, which I don't remember sending to him!!

I have been playing around with Model A Fords on and off for 57 years. I have found it best to keep your Model A standard and as original as possible. I've come across people having trouble along the road and 95% are having trouble with so called modern improvements.

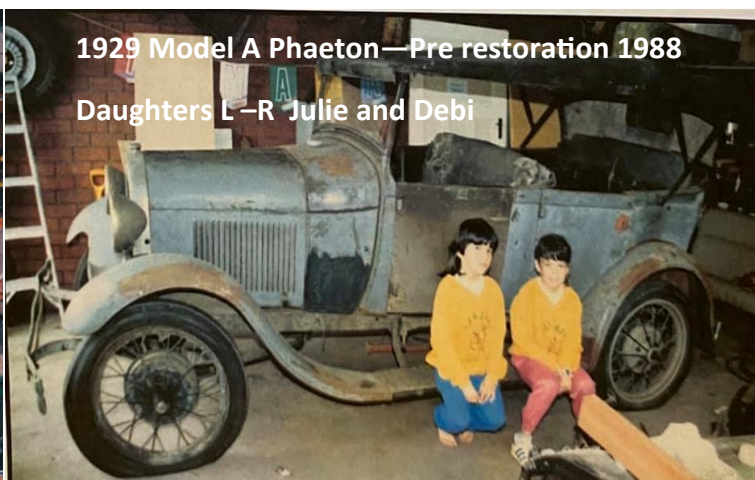
At present I have the sump off the Model A and it is getting a new crankshaft seal.

DON'T FORGET, MODEL A'S FOR EVER!

Maybe even longer



Alan has roughly assembled his new purchase 1988



1929 Model A Phaeton—Pre restoration 1988
Daughters L-R Julie and Debi

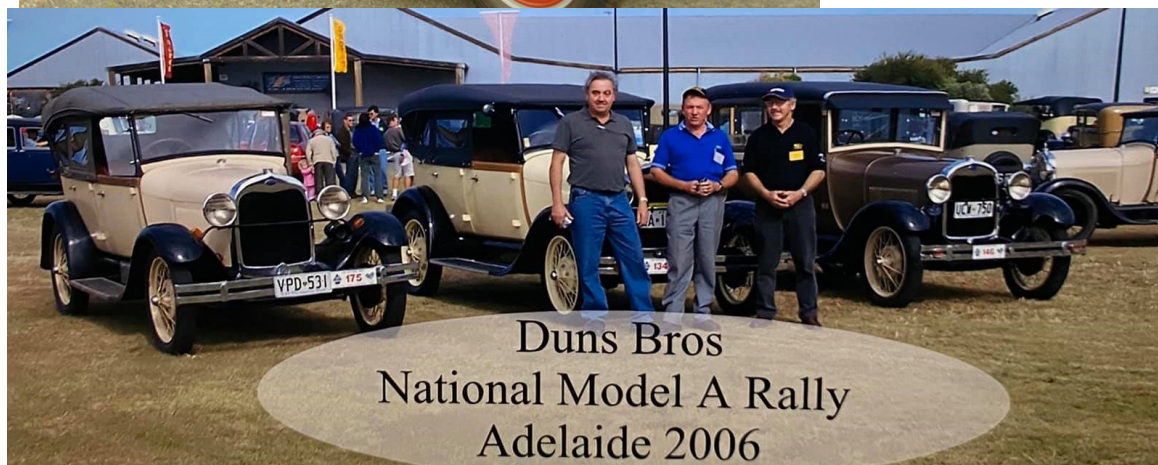


Alan's Model A truck restored in Manjimup in the 1980s but sold, going to Esperance .

Head board reads:

"Duns Bros Carriers"

Just as his father had it many years earlier in SA



Duns Bros
National Model A Rally
Adelaide 2006

Story written by Alan Duns, May 2020

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