

The Last Morning: Goulburn 24/9/2008.



Hello Everyone,

Thank you to those of you who have written and emailed us to thank us for our recent 2008 Devon World Conference and Tour.

I am very sad to have to write this. It means that my role in this event has come to an end and for my part I am reluctant to let go. But to go forward we must let go.

To start off with I would like to thank one special person. He was the one who directed and delegated and without him it would not have happened the way it did. This remarkable person is our President Bob Crawford. Bob, you have led by example and given us confidence to do a good job. You know and trust your people and in return we were able to come up with the goods. Personally, it has been a pleasure to work with you, and I thank you very much for the opportunity to achieve so much.

Mind you, sometimes we had to bring you back to reality but you kept us thinking. You have expertise in so many areas, how you can keep an eye on the planning of the Tour as well as keep an eye on the family enterprise (which more often than not during our planning was and still is in drought) is a testimony in itself to your organising ability.

Combine that with the challenges of running the Society and you get a glimpse of what he is capable of. You give generously of your time and it has being very much appreciated.

Thank you to the rest of our committee for all your time and effort to bring this event together. I would like to thank the following people because each of you has also given generously of your time:-

Jo Crawford - your meticulous fine tuning put the spit and polish on almost all aspects of the planning. When there was something that needed discussion Jo was mostly there. Thank you for your support, I will miss the at times daily phone calls. Your southern area didn't let us down, what a lovely end to our Tour it proved to be.

Jenny Copland, thank you for the best Starter Kit and organising all the goodies inside it. If one of your names was spelt incorrectly it was not because of this lady's lack of effort. You did a grand job and please keep sending your cheery, uplifting, funny emails. They were often very relevant.

Ruth Edwards, you know about money and where it should be and where it isn't. The Devon Society's bank account is in very safe hands. All of my requests were handled professionally and efficiently, and nothing was too much of a problem.

Di O'Keeffe, thank you for your support and combined with Richard O'Leary and Bob Crawford organising a very informative Conference.

Richard, you there to give encouragement, especially where sponsorship was concerned. Thank you for our coastal experience, it was just what we needed.

Pauline Wood, through drought and flood the Hunter experience was a wonderful start to our Tour. Thank you also for your expertise in the travel area.

Sophie Butler, I know your time is precious. Thank you for a fine Registration Form and your help in any way that you could, especially in the computer technology area.

Vic Edwards, thank you for showing us your part of the world. It was unfortunate that Jupiter was hidden behind the clouds but we got the idea of how the great telescopes work. A special mention must go to Graeme Barnes for instigating the archiving of Devon memorabilia which culminated in the opening of this exhibition. What a treasure and lasting legacy it will be.

Also Mark Coombes, we had a very pleasant visit to Gloucester, your district. Thank you for bringing the different studs together at your beautiful farm.

To Sally Edwards, you have been so diligent and professional for so long with your Special Edition Bulldust. What an excellent journal we have for prosperity for this 2008 Conference. And then to finish off with your lovely CD. It will always be a lovely

reminder of this time together. Not to mention just weeks after this major event you gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Jessi Ann. Thank you so much for all that you did.

We couldn't have done any of this without our wonderful farm hosts. You so generously welcomed us onto your properties, fed us with wonderful food and more often than not added that special something eg. The vintage vehicle line up at Elah – with Jarod Moody very ably driving the little bulldozer.

The granite boulders at the Watson farm, the only rainy day at the Groths with a warming stew was so right. Who can forget John Dunns' words of thanks at Wallaton, our first host farm - he said you usually save the best for last, but everywhere was best.

To our translators Marcelo and Roberta Stabile, Marly Poyner, Margaretta Fahey and Liz Penington thank you for being part of this. To be able to communicate was very much appreciated and saved any possible misunderstandings.

A special thanks also to Mark Crawford who turned up in his little bus to bring up the rear. Thank you for taking the time off to help us out.

Thank you to the young ones on the Tour. When I first saw your ages I wondered how you would enjoy being around us oldies. I needn't have worried, you were a delight to have around. Thank you Tiffany, Clair, Richard and Antonio for your company and I can say for us all that you would be welcome at any one of our homes in Britain, New Zealand, United States, Brazil and of course Australia.

Paul Wright, I especially thank you for putting up with all the late dinners and nights by yourself in front of the television. However, next time we will leave the joke book at home!

And finally thank you to all of you, whether you joined us for a day or for the whole Tour, it would not be possible without you making the commitment to be part of this. Our group has quite a reputation to uphold now. We were noticed by the people looking in as "a happy group". Because as a group we enjoy one another's company and this is not luck. This is a result of our affinity with our Devon cattle and over the years with events such as this enabling us to come together as friends and to experience our different cultures. If there was a problem it was not for long – a solution was usually a phone call away.

Thank you all once again for being a part of this Tour,
Until we meet again,
Goodbye; tchau;
Loma Wright.

