

LOTUS CLUB
5 SEPTEMBER 2010 LIONS ROAD / MT LINDESAY HIGHWAY TRIP

FUEL

The start point will be at McLeans Bridge car park (left hand side southbound from the Mt Lindesay Highway) – the place where they have the annual McLeans Bridge Car Show.

There is a BP station about 1km north of McLeans Bridge on the left hand side southbound. You are strongly advised to top up here.

The next available fuel stop is not until Grevillia well over the New South Wales side of the border on the route down to lunch. It has premium grade ULP but if you want very high octane fuel (e.g. Ultimate or the equivalent) the next fuel will not be available until Beaudesert on the run home in the afternoon.

MORNING TRIP TO LUNCH

CAUTIONS

There will likely be speed cameras on the road southbound from the start, down to Beaudesert and through to Rathdowney. Some areas are signposted for less than 100 kph. Be very careful about exceeding the speed limit.

The Mt Lindesay Highway south of Rathdowney going up the mountain is narrow and twisty in some sections with some sharpish corners. Beware of oncoming traffic.

When we get on to the Lions Road (see instructions below) there are a few narrow one way wooden bridges between the turn off from the Summerland Way and the café where we will have lunch. Approach each bridge with caution. The road is twisty in parts so beware of oncoming traffic – particularly motorcycles. There are likely to be quite a few of them on the road out for a Sunday fang.

ROAD CONDITIONS

Mostly highway with fast, open sections south of Beaudesert through to Rathdowney and the start of the mountain. The highway up the mountain to the top of the range to the border is a very fast long hill climb of a good 10 to 15 km. The road is quite twisty in sections. Overall the surface is fairly good and there is quite a bit of hot mix towards the top of the range to the border and a bit beyond the border.

The turnoff past the border down onto the Summerland Way is good with a very fast downhill section down the range and then fast, open sweeping corners and straights all the way down to the turnoff to the Lions Road. The Lions Road surface is OK. There are some bumps to be aware of. Also note narrow bridges as per the caution above.

This trip is perfect Lotus territory for those who want to exercise their cars and driving skills. However, the scenery is also brilliant, ranging from open grazing country to mountain forest and rainforest.

9:30 to 10:00am

Gather at car park at McLeans Bridge park on left hand side southbound of the Mt Lindesay Highway / Beaudesert Road (the place where there's the annual car show).

10:00am sharp

Leave and travel southbound to Beaudesert along the Mt Lindesay Highway / Beaudesert Road. Dick Reynolds will look after the departure.

Approximately 10:15am

Regroup / meet me at the car park outside the Beaudesert State High School on the north side of Beaudesert. I should be driving my black Europa S.

After regroup at Beaudesert High School follow me down the Mt Lindesay Highway. Follow **Map 1 attached**.

Towards the south end of Beaudesert in the main street you will come to a 4-way intersection with a set of traffic lights. Veer right to follow the Mt Lindesay Highway (signposted to Kyogle and Rathdowney).

Follow the Mt Lindesay Highway through Rathdowney continuing southbound. Cross through the border inspection gates.

After the border gates follow **Map 2 (attached)**.

Approximately 10-15 kms south of border turn left, signposted Summerland Way to Kyogle. I will wait at the turn off for a regroup.

On Summerland Way follow **Map 3 (attached)**.

Fuel available for top up at Grevillia on left hand side of the road.

Continue roughly east / south / southeast on Summerland Way. Pass through Old Grevillia, Rukenvale and Roseberry (all signposted as areas, not villages).

Approximately 5-10 km southbound past Roseberry you will come to a longish flat straight along the bottom of the valley. Signposted on the left-hand side is the Lions Road. There is also a sign posting there for "Ripples on the Creek" Café and Cabins. **TURN LEFT HERE**. I will stop to regroup here as well.

The Lions Road here is along the straight lined on either side with big bottlebrush trees.

Continue up the Lions Road (also known as Gradys Creek Road here). You will travel over a wooden bridge across the Richmond River. The Risk State School is on a little hill on the side of the bank on your right hand side over this bridge.

Continue northbound and do not deviate off the bitumen.

After about 10km you will cross one of a few wooden bridges and travel on a short straight. You will see on a hillock on the right hand side immediately above a sharpish bend to the right the Café where we will be having lunch. There are llamas and alpacas grazing in some paddocks around it. It's name is "Alistans on the Creek" but it may also be signposted under the last trade name of "Ripples on the Creek" – there has been a change of ownership in the last month or so.

Parking is in the off road car park at the bottom of the short hill immediately below the Café.

The approximate running time for this section is 1 ¾ to 2 hours. I have allowed 2 hours to be on the generous side and to allow for people who want to travel at a slower pace.

Lunch has been booked for any time from 12pm onwards for a few hours so just enjoy it at your leisure.

AFTER LUNCH – TRIP HOME

My family's farm is about 5km up the road from Alistans Café.

Anybody who wants to come up to the farm and have a cup of tea or coffee or look around and have a chat is welcome to come there rather than to go straight home to Brisbane. I plan to leave the farm to come home by around 4:00pm so everyone is most welcome to come and stay up there for a couple of hours.

There are two alternative routes to go home.

Both of them involve your travelling directly northbound along the Lions Road from Alistans Café to cross the border back into Queensland.

Refer to **Map 4 (attached)** initially.

CAUTIONS:

The Lions Road is narrow and twisty. It has a lot of sharp bends. As we are travelling on a Sunday you may meet up with some oncoming car traffic.

The Lions Road is also a very popular motorcycle track. It is quite probable that you will meet a number of motorcycles going the same direction or travelling southbound.

Exercise caution once you get onto the mountain climb part of the Lions Road to head up the border. This has a number of sharp curves.

The road is in reasonable condition but it is narrow.

It has some great scenery to look at so you do not have to drive fast.

However, if you want to drive fast you will enjoy this bit of the road northbound up the mountain and across the border into Queensland and back up towards the Mt Lindesay Highway.

North of Alistans Café to the start of the climb up the mountain range there are a number of one lane bridges, some of which are timber. These must be crossed at low speeds.

North of the café you will cross over first one wooden bridge, then two concrete bridges (these two are quite good), another wooden bridge right outside my farm and then one more wooden bridge about ¾ km north of that again. Immediately after that last wooden bridge you will cross a one lane concrete bridge. The road goes quite sharply onto the bridge surface so **DO NOT** travel across the bridge at speed as you may bottom out.

When you cross the border back into Queensland there is a cattle grid right on the border. Between there and the Mt Lindesay Highway you will travel across another 5 cattle grids over the next 10-15 odd km. **DO NOT** speed over any of these grids.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE HOME 1

Follow the Lions Road as per **Map 4**. Do not deviate off the bitumen anywhere. This will eventually come to a T-junction and then back onto the Mt Lindesay Highway. You will know you are approaching the T-junction because you will have to travel along a long straight in a small valley on either side of which are several major horse studs that you can't miss.

Turn right at the T-junction and go back up the Mt Lindesay Highway into Beaudesert and then on to Brisbane.

Runtime back to McLeans Bridge is about 1 hour.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE HOME 2

ROAD CONDITIONS:

These are very good – a mixture of fast open road and some very tight sections.

The scenery is great – mostly open country.

As shown on **Map 4** travel up the Lions Road across the border and then towards the Mt Lindesay Highway.

After you come through the valley where you pass through a number of horse studs you will go up a short hill. The road swerves to the left at the crest and then drops down the hill. There are still horse studs on both sides of the road. Just after the road flattens out (in about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ km before the T-junction back to the Mt Lindesay Highway) you will see a road leading to the right signposted Oaky Creek Road. It is also signposted "Lost World Valley" on a small sign with white letters on a blue background.

Follow **Map 5** (copy **attached**).

Follow Oaky Creek Road onto George Lane.

Follow George Lane into Rudd Lane.

Stay on the bitumen. Do not go down any dirt road.

Turn left at the T-junction of Rudd Lane and Christmas Creek Road. Travel roughly northbound. Again, stay on the bitumen.

This road will take you back to Laravale on the Mt Lindesay Highway south of Beaudesert. At the T-junction intersection here turn right and head northbound along the Mt Lindesay Highway towards Beaudesert and then to Brisbane.

This route will add about another 10 to 15 minutes to your run time.

See you on the day.

Regards,
Ken Philp