

EASTLINK OPENING CEREMONY

The official opening of EastLink featured 19 big Healey's, overwhelming the Brock Specials, Mini's and dare we say, those two enormous great Cadillac's, beautiful and all as they were.



For those who take a note of historical moments, Bill and Carole Vaughan were the first out of the Mullum Mullum (Outbound/Frankston) Tunnel in their BN 2 with the windscreen down and featured in one of our evening free-to-air news services along with a good many of the cars that followed.

However, the organisers held back one of each Marque for official photo opportunities. For that duty we drew names out of a hat and Paul McPherson's came up. How appropriate that our representative for the political smoozing and media circus should be our very own media mogul. Have a look at www.Countrynews.com.au



and you will see why this is the one occasion where a city story is expected to get wide coverage in the Shepparton News along with many more of our key opinion forming country newspapers.



Paul and his car featured widely in the free-to-air news but sadly we will have to mark down ABC1 for their lack of Healey vision. His metropolitan print media coverage extended to a tasteful shot in the Sunday Age with John Brumby enjoying a ride in a really classy car. Of course one must know their market and Paul had

a snappy little “grab” ready for the news hounds.



The news must spread pretty fast out in the East because 20 or so of us went from the Mullum Mullum Tunnel to lunch at the Jumping Creek Café. There we had a little drink and sat patiently waiting for our food. Brumby’s mate arrived late after his media duties, ordered a small libation along with his food, sat at the head of one of our tables and would you believe, just like a media star, his meal arrived FIRST!

If you would like to see more photos from the day please visit our website; www.healeyvic.com.au and click on the “Photo’s” drop down menu to select “EastLink 2008” where Gordon is displaying a wide selection.



This day was the result of a suggestion by Warren Gartner some 6 weeks prior to the event. We quickly got connected with what we thought were the right people and then heard nothing until 5 days before the event, thus we were left with the only practical approach of recruiting participation of members via email only.....we have something like 180 members in our email contact list. Additionally, Warren got the lunch arrangements figured out for us and that warm Café was very welcoming after spending about 45min sitting in Mullum Mullum Tunnel with a very cold breeze forced along by the some bloody great jet engine attached to the roof. Now, if only we hadn’t had that Tea and Coffee before moving into the tunnel things would have been just fine!

Unlike a “normal” Warren Gartner event, we drove very slowly and only travelled about 15km. I think you might agree..... he must be losing the plot!



Our thanks to Gordon for another great collection of photos and to the 19 members who, despite knowing this would be a "hurry-up and wait" sort of day, came along and turned on a great display for the big crowd gathered at the opening ceremony and for the media who duly lapped it up!