



The History of BCG

“Field Day – October 23rd 1949”

Three weeks and one day after its formation on October 1st 1949, the members of the newly created BCG went on their first Field Day. These are the actual recorded minutes of that trip.

“On Sunday morning at 9am the Brisbane Camera Group assembled at the shop of D. McInnes (the Valleys leading Chemist opposite The Rex) the prearranged starting point for the first Field Day for the Group. Three cars were available and were ample accommodation for the party, being supplied by Don McInnes, Merve Reid and the Vann Bros. The President gave instructions to head for Wynnum and maintain a fairly constant pace avoiding loss of time as far as possible. Everything went well till the party arrived at Wynnum. The disappearance of the Secretary and Treasurer, R Close and driver Jeff Vann caused some mild concern for the rest of the shooting party. However the parties with Don McInnes and Merve Reid became engrossed in the shipping angles etc and left Wynnum Central to seek some shots along the Esplanade where there were several sailing boats, and along then to Wynnum Pier. But the sailors by this time had put to sea and the Pier move was unsuccessful. Meanwhile Close and Vann were touring Wynnum and Cleveland in the vain hopes of finding the other two parties. En route the missing pair found several interesting subjects which they naturally focussed on. Having left Wynnum the cars of McInnes and Reid set out for the picturesque spot, a dam with enticing background reflections etc. On the way however they were met by Jeff’s V8 heading back to Wynnum. Many shots were taken of the dam with many finding their way to the Salon. Next stopping place was the Capalaba Creek where the most interesting feature was swimming and few shots being taken. From here we proceeded on our hands and knees between Capalaba, Raby Bay and Redland Bay hotels respectively. Successful only at the Redland Bay where for the most part beer drinking is done by aliases and coincidentally they all come from Ipswich. Cleveland was our next visit where was presented a little old church with several possibilities, a gleaming white lighthouse at the point, and then a sun on water effect completed the interest there. (The little old church had been discovered during the morning by the lost Close and Vann.) Skilful driving by McInnes, Reid and Vann saved our necks on several occasions on the way home. In fact at one stage a certain road hog was nearly run down and barbecued with rubber tyres and bumper bars to match. The day was very pleasant and interesting for all and the outing helped greatly to bind a firm friendship among the members.”



A 1949 picture of the Caltex Service Station on Wynnum Esplanade. BCG Field Day trippers are likely to have stopped here.

(Photo courtesy of Brisbane City Council)