

Rally Report

Rally of the Valley, 31st October-4th November 2008

This year it was the GVMVDC's turn to run an open rally over the Melbourne Cup weekend, and a great turn-out of visitors entered. The weather was near perfect, slightly warm if anything, and everything went off without a hitch.

The rally started on the Friday night, with most of the visiting entrants dropping into the clubrooms to pick up their rally packs and have a cuppa.



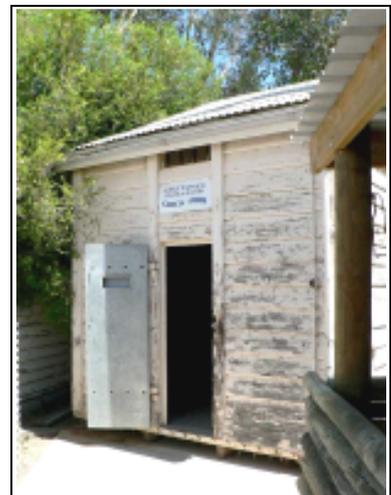
Saturday's first stop was "Clearview" homestead, just north of Undera. The club has been there once before but it has so much to see that a second visit would still be worthwhile. The owners have relocated several buildings and lots of artifacts into the site to create a very interesting display of local history. The buildings include the shelter shed from the Barmah School, a miner's hut from Katamatite and the Coomboona Post Office (which is actually a small tin shed with some post boxes and a sorting desk!) Another item of interest was the old cobbler's cart from the Sealake district, full of original tools. For the old car enthusiast, the owners had their collection of vintage Dort cars on display. Locals would have been interested to see a cast Furphy toilet seat in one of the buildings!



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After morning tea, we headed off via Kyabram to the Great Aussie Beer Shed, just south of Echuca. This shed was absolutely chock-full of over 16,000 beer cans and hundreds of other interesting items, mostly related to beer! Outside was an 1880s Tatura police cell, in use until the 1990s!





The rest of the afternoon was free to spend in Echuca, most heading to the port area, the Holden Museum or Raverty's Museum. The evening entertainment at the clubrooms included some bush poetry and singing by Les James, as well as a sing-along with Dorothy and Peter Heard. A really good night!



Sunday was the longest run for the rally, with a return trip to Seymour of about 230km. After a circuitous drive through Toolamba and Murchison to avoid the highways, the morning tea stop was at Buckley Park on the banks of Lake Nagambie.



Next stop was the Tank Museum at Puckapunyal, where we had lunch before having a thorough look at more than 70 tanks and other military vehicles. The most interesting for me was the Sentinel, as it was Australian-built and powered by three Cadillac V8s all driving through a transfer gearbox.



A short trip into Seymour took us to the Railway Heritage Centre, where we had guided tours around the locomotives and carriages on display. The highlight was "State Car No 4", which has been part of eight Royal Trains and has been used by quite a few royals. Prince Charles and Lady Diana used it last in 1983 to go to Ballarat. We headed back to Shepp via the suggested scenic route, through Avenel and Longwood.



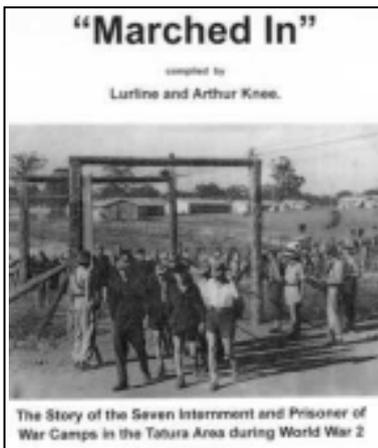
A slightly smaller contingent of cars headed off on Monday morning, due to some locals unfortunately having to go to work! We headed to Stanhope, via Merrigum and Gargarre, and parked in the main street for morning tea. While we were there, Ken O and I set up the A30 and the Oxford in front of BTF Motors to take a few "historic" photos. With a bit of work, they should look "authentic"!

Rally Report cont.

Then it was around the corner to have a look at ex-club member Steve Rosenberg's collection of bicycles. What a collection! He's got a shed full of all sorts of bikes and cycling-related memorabilia that you could spend hours looking at.

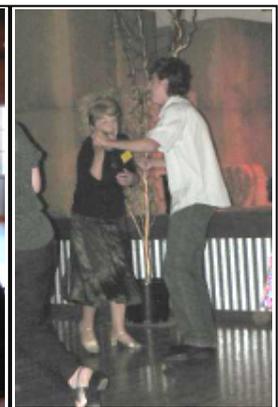


Lunch was served at the Rushworth Football Ground (Ironbark Stadium) before we spent some time looking round the main street of Rushy or taking the short trip up to the top of Growler's Hill to check the view from the lookout.



Next stop was the Museum at Tatura, where we were given a talk about the history of the prisoner-of-war camps in the area. I'm sure very few people from outside this area would know about the huge number of POWs that spent time in the camps around Tatura and Murchison, or that sailors from the Kormoran were amongst them. A very interesting place.

After a cuppa and a bite to eat, it was back to Shepp to prepare for the dinner dance at the Emerald Bank Woolshed. Everybody seemed to have a good time, especially when the eating was finished and the dancing started!



Breakfast at the clubrooms on Tuesday morning was the final meal of the rally. Visitors left at their leisure, looking forward to next year's rally (in Bairnsdale, I believe).

Brendan Walsh

1961 JAGUAR Mk 2
1957 JAGUAR Mk 1





1936 DE SOTO
Airstream SI
1936 PLYMOUTH
Special Deluxe
1937 CHEVROLET
Sloper
1937 CHEVROLET
ute with Furphy tank



1938 GRAHAM
96 sedan
1942 CHEVROLET
cabriolet

1946 PLYMOUTH
Special Deluxe

1958 FORD
Prefect



1960 TRIUMPH
Herald coupe
1968 ROVER
P5B