

Rally Report

Rally of the Valley, Shepparton – 31st October-4th November 2014

The 2014 Rally of the Valley, held on Melbourne Cup Weekend, was well supported with members of eight clubs involved. The weekend started with a little inclement weather on Saturday morning but had cleared in time for the trip down the Murray River on the steam-powered paddlesteamer “Canberra”.



The afternoon was then left free for participants to explore Echuca and the Heritage Port Precinct before returning home in time to enjoy a night at the G.V.M.V.D.C. clubrooms with entertainment by Les James and a beautiful supper prepared by the catering committee.



Sunday’s meeting place was the Shepparton Park Bowls Club where morning tea was served whilst a short history of how the bowling complex (home to the Australian Open twice and the Victorian Open) was conceived from the merging of the Shepparton Bowls Club and the Kialla Park Bowls Club. On leaving the bowls club, cars took a tour of Arcadia Downs en route to Nagambie where a B.B.Q. lunch was served in Buckley Park.

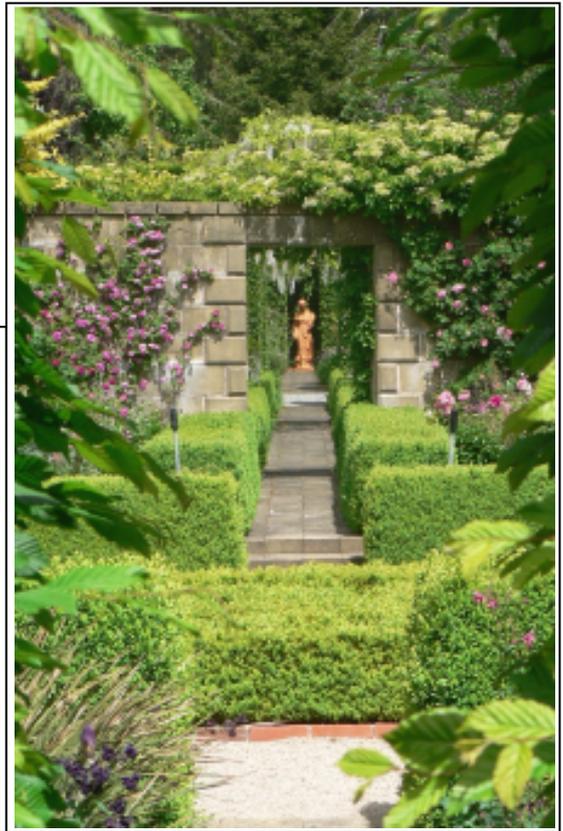


After lunch the rally took a picturesque route through the Strathbogie Ranges to the magnificent Sunnymead gardens.





“Sunnymeade”



The Shepparton Motor Museum/Furphy Museum was the meeting place for Monday morning. Time here allowed participants to check out the Emerald Bank Nursery, the Second hand shop, the Chocolate Shop and also enjoy a morning cuppa. This was followed by a pleasant drive through the orchards and cropping country to Dookie for lunch at the C.W.A. gardens before another short drive to the property of Ron and Rosemary Harker to wander through their garden of 500 Roses and 500 Iris. What a contrast to Sunnymeade as this garden is surrounded by wheat and canola and has nowhere near the rainfall of the Strathbogie Ranges.



Our Dinner Dance on Monday evening was held at the Trotting Club, a great venue, good food and great music supplied by club member Richie Priestley and his mate. A good chance to reflect on the weekend and catch up with old friends.

All too soon it was time for Tuesday’s breakfast and goodbyes. We hope that all participants enjoyed the Rally of the Valley for 2014.

Thank you to the Rally Committee, the Catering Committee, The Dookie C.W.A. ladies and club members who helped with marshalling, helping to keep ralliers on the right track.

Hughie MacFadyen

Rally Report cont.

Rally of the Valley – Visitors' vehicles

