

Rally Report

Rally of the Valley 2017 – 3rd-7th November 2017

The GVMVDC organises the Rally of the Valley every third year, rotating with the West Gippsland and East Gippsland clubs. This year our rally committee was bigger than in previous years and was mostly members that had not been involved before, but it worked very well.

The weather forecast looked very promising in the week before the rally. It was going to be near-perfect for touring the countryside in classic cars! Previous rallies have often been hot but we have had some wet ones too.

Most visiting entrants arrived on the Friday evening to check in and wind down from their drive. There were a few new faces but most had been to one of our rallies before – it was good to catch up.



Saturday's run started at the clubrooms with a welcome from Club President Bill and some instructions from Neil, who had organised that day's tour. We headed west via Byrneside and Girgarre to visit the Camilk camel dairy just out of Rochester. This was a very interesting place where we learned about



The camel dairy – four camels in a row.

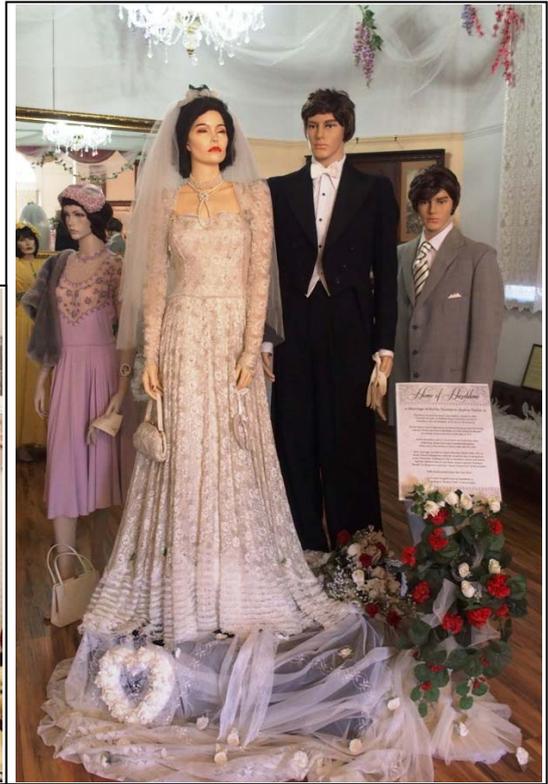
the company and its ever-growing herd! It has about 300 camels at the moment, although only about 45 are milked. They don't produce as much as cows (only about 5 litres per day) and don't produce unless they have their calf with them – the calves stay for about 18 months. New camels usually come from northern Australia, after being broken in up there.

The milk is better than cows' milk in some ways (less fat, more vitamin C and antioxidants) but doesn't taste much different – we all got a bottle to take home and try later.



Note the female on the right – she was preparing to give birth (but not before we left!)

After a lunch at the Kyabram Club, we split into two groups. The first destination was Isobel Harvie's clothing and memorabilia display at the old Town Hall. The theme was "The Fabulous Fifties" and included dioramas of various household scenes from the era – a wedding, an evening out, the kitchen, the laundry, the bedroom and several others. All were filled with familiar items, even to those of us who weren't around at the time!



Our second afternoon destination was the home of club members Frank and Enid Tobias. We have visited them on the rally before (back in 2005) but it's always worth having a look around Frank's shed, which is filled with all sorts of memorabilia. He's also well known for his huge collection of spark plugs, one of the best in the country.



The evening get-together at the clubrooms featured a memorable presentation from three of our club members, Doug Thompson, John Hammond and Hugh MacFadyen, who participated in the 1979 Repco Reliability Trial, a gruelling 14-day 20,000km trial around Australia. Peter Brock and the Holden Dealer Team won but the Datsun Stanza entry from Shepparton did really well and led at various stages. All three members recounted stories about their experiences as driver, navigator/co-driver and mechanic, including stories about punctures and roll-overs. If you're interested to know more, check out the ABC documentary (available on YouTube) or the website <http://repcoroundaustralia.blogspot.com.au>.



Sunday's run headed north-east via Tungamah towards Yarrowonga. We hadn't arranged it but our convoy passed the 22 Ford Model Ts heading in the opposite direction along Youanmite Rd – a great sight! Even though Tungamah only has five streets, a few vehicles almost got lost after following one car that was detouring to visit friends!

Fortunately the right road out of town was found and all arrived at the Lake Mulwala foreshore in time for a look at the nearby market before our cruise. We did a full lap of the lake on the PS Cumberoona, checking out the waterfront houses and other sights while we enjoyed lunch.



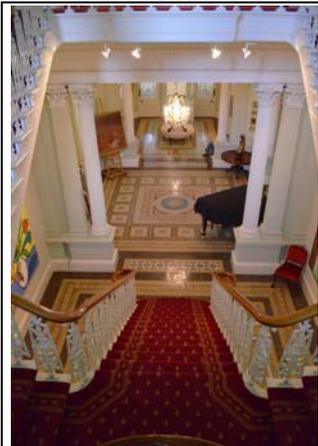
After lunch we headed to Katamatite to visit the Historical Society's Museum and catch up with the Ford Model T Club. Some had already left (we passed them on the way) but it was still great to see so many Ts together.

Don McPherson made several people very happy, giving them a ride (or even a drive) of his T roadster.

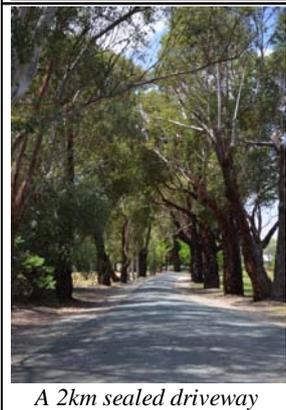


Monday's run was expected to be the highlight of the weekend, and it didn't disappoint. Noorilim is a magnificent historic property that has been reopened to the public in the last year or so, after quite a few years with no public access.

The current owners are in the art business, so there were quite a few interesting works hanging throughout the building, some that suited the surroundings and some that didn't!



The main gate and 1880s Morton Bay Fig tree.



A 2km sealed driveway

The gardens surrounding the mansion are also magnificent, with several "garden rooms" created to feature a different style of garden. Lunch was pretty good too!



After lunch we headed back through Murchison and Toolamba to visit the Shepparton Motor Museum, which was substantially extended about a year ago. It's always worth a look, as the vehicles on display are regularly changed.

The dinner dance was held at the Shepparton Golf Club and was a great venue – the clubhouse is on top of a small hill (not common around Shepparton!) and the views are down several of the fairways. Everyone enjoyed the trivia quiz that Robyn hosted and the music provided by club member Richie Priestley. Prizes were awarded for people's choice and committee choice – well deserved by both. The "baton" was passed on to Glenn Burrage from the East Gippsland club to host the rally next year.



The rally ended on the Tuesday morning with the traditional breakfast at the clubrooms. It had been a great rally – I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

Brendan Walsh



Some Rally of the Valley entrants :

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 1934 VAUXHALL ASX coupe | <i>People's Choice</i> |
| 2 | 1937 CHEVROLET "Sloper" coupe | |
| 3 | 1947 DESOTO coupe | |
| 4 | 1960 WOLSELEY 15/60 sedan | |
| 5 | 1960 PONTIAC Laurentian sedan | |
| 6 | 1962 CHRYSLER Valiant S Series | <i>Committee Choice</i> |
| 7 | 1965 FORD Cortina GT Mk I | |
| 8 | 1966 MG B roadster | |
| 9 | 1977 HOLDEN HZ Premier sedan | |