

HCCV SPRING RALLY TO BEECHWORTH

A great weekend was had by all who attended our Spring Rally to Beechworth earlier this month. Numbers varied from day to day, from 10 to 21, with members coming from near and far. A few minor problems with Humbers occurred, the oldest (1913) ending up a "trailer queen" for the weekend, but we didn't let that stop us from having fun, having lots of laughs, lots of relaxation time and good socialising.

The Hibernian Hotel proved to be excellent – good accommodation, good food at reasonable prices, so convenient to town and staff who couldn't do enough for us throughout the weekend. The use of a separate room in which we could meet and eat proved so beneficial as we could relax and chat in quiet comfort.

Friday: HCCV members arrived at varying times throughout the afternoon and we all relaxed and chatted and enjoyed each other's company. Lorraine started the shopping 'frenzy' by purchasing a handbag at a local apparel store Friday afternoon, and that led to Jan Beatie also handing over some cash in the same store. After dinner we all tried hard completing a quick quiz focussing on the local area of Beechworth (Judy Lewis won the most number of Minties!!)

Saturday: A volunteer guide met us at the historic Court House for a trial re-enactment based on actual court transcripts of the Kelly trial. We were all quite concerned to be in the same room as the convicted felon (aka John Washbourne) but we were in good hands when the magistrate (Kelvin Hughes) presided. We learned a lot about the court system in those early days as well as details about the infamous Ned Kelly.

We also visited the Kelly vault (which houses a large collection of information and memorabilia related to Ned Kelly), the telegraph station (the home of Morse code), the fabulous O'Hara Burke Memorial Museum (one of Australia's oldest museums) featuring an extensive natural history collection and Chinese collection) followed by the Powder Magazine where explosives used in mining for gold were stored for many years.

Most of us met for lunch at the Beechworth Bakery before getting in our cars for a tour of local attractions including the scenic gorge, Beechworth Asylum (Mayday Hills), Beechworth Cemetery to see the Chinese Burning Towers, then to Woolshed Falls to see the spectacular waterfall before driving home via Lake Sambell.

The HCCV Committee then held a meeting with lots of discussion and decisions being made, especially relating to the organising of the upcoming HCCV Car Rally in 2018.

The rest of the afternoon was taken up with more shopping (Judy Lewis delved deep into her bag and purchased a handbag too), walking around town, the odd nana nap and generally relaxing in each other's company.

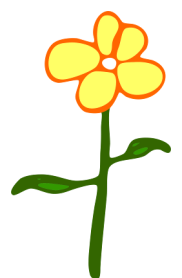
Two quizzes kept minds active throughout the evening: one related to Beechworth and cars (winners John Washbourne & Judy Lewis) and the other a pictorial quiz relating to the many sayings we utter eg to cry over spilt milk, reading between the lines (winner Heather Hughes).

Sunday: The sky was clear and the sunshine, although weak, shone through as we hopped into our cars for a wonderful scenic tour around Beechworth and beyond. First stop was Yackandandah where we were joined by our NSW member Geoff Bock, who had driven down from Narrandera in his lovely Mark IV Super Snipe for the day, just to be with us! At historic Yackandandah the first purchase was an antique lamp. Neil & Kathleen HiHo were delighted with it. Others didn't spend quite as much, being at the bakery where coffees were bought to warm us all up. Next we drove along the lush Kiewa Valley to the beautiful little town of Mt Beauty where we rugged up to stretch our legs for a short while before back in the cars we went, destination being Bright where we had a nice lunch at the Brewery. There Patrick and Yati Beresford joined us and later very generously presented the club with his Humber Grille that attractively display the Humber Grille badges he has collected over the years. After lunch we had planned to go to explore Wandiligong but the recent rains and flooding put an end to that. Most decided to go straight back to Beechworth whilst a few went via Stanley for a tour and a coffee.

We all enjoyed a very quiet, relaxing evening recapping the events of the weekend, the fun we had all had, and the wonderful scenery we'd seen. We said our final goodbyes that night leaving Beechworth the next morning when each of us was ready.

A most enjoyable HCCV Spring Rally!

David Aplin





Thanks to Patrick and Yati Beresford

John Washbourne





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SPRING HUMBERS in BEECHWORTH

A group of some 16 members braved the floods and rain and wind to enjoy themselves following each other around the district - up hill and down dales - and even into various eating and drinking establishments supporting the name of HCCV.

Names have deliberately been omitted so as to protect the innocent - actually they all were found to be "Guilty Your Honour" in the District Court. None was hanged!

An unusual question was asked in a quiz as to why Ned Kelly's Mother was put in Jail - the response of one member was "Because she was guilty"! Why else? Another funny question was "Name what starts a car with "B" - again, an alternative answer of Battery elicited laughter.

A comment from a local resident wondered why those old cars didn't stop at A Stop Sign nor did many have working indicators because they all seemed to go round corners without indicating where they were going. One admitted to not stopping at one Stop Sign but was quizzed about the other three! Should have gone to SpecSavers!

Then there was the case of a Humberette being not driven because it wouldn't go! In reality it wouldn't stop so it was a relief that it didn't attempt the very steep descent into the gorge, wasn't it ?

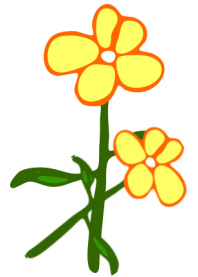
A wise decision has been made for the upcoming 2018 National Rally - we will NOT CONVOY during the event. Far too many drivers thought that if they overtook the car which was second they would then be first in the group. NOT SO.

Members were treated to a special viewing of a local member's Ute, a rare one-off Hawk with a Snipe Tray. And the very observant ones found an Australian Latham's Snipe in the Burke Museum !

Quiz answers appear to be the forte of the Ladies with three vying for the top three positions, but one thoughtful male took out the special prize of "Most Innovative Answers" - that was Me!

Here's a question for those who missed out on a really interesting Club Event - How many hours were in the month of October 2016.

Roy and Jan Strange



Hi Editor, just found out an extra bit of gossip for the article - interesting !

Unfortunately the youngest Humber in the group, which has recently undergone radical surgery, spat a valve and had to finish the weekend trip on a Tow Tray Top.

Bad news travels faster than a broken-down Humber!!!

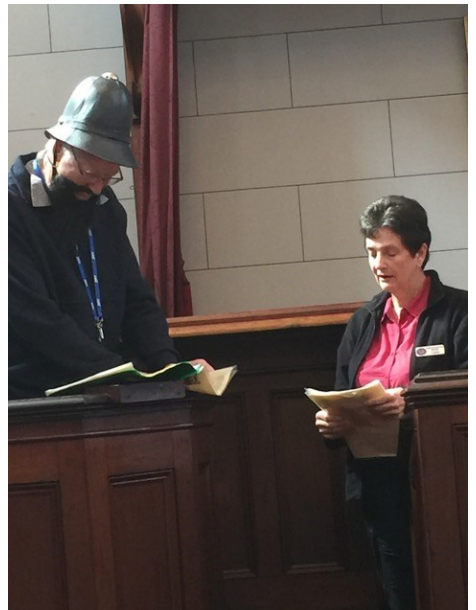
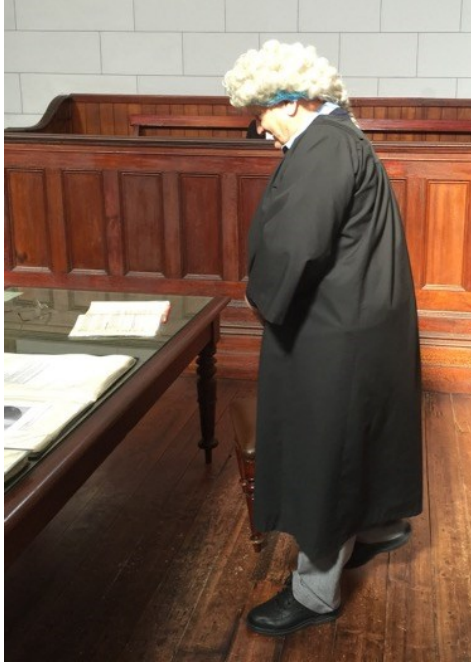
Cheers Roy



Joe Rouse's 1956 Hawk Ute



Jeff Bock in his 1954 Super Snipe



The Beechworth Trip in the Humberette

*There was movement at the Hibernian
For the Word had got around
That the Humberette from young John Washbourne got away
It had raced along the gullies, and sped around the town
And all the folks had gathered for the fray.*

*Helmet on, and goggles clear, switches set to go.
Handle grasped, breath inhaled, the crank a mighty blow.
The motor roared, young Washbourne sat, smiling in his seat.
He dropped the gear, and off he drove, out into the street.*

*Off he went, and all was well, and he was mighty pleased.
He waved to all the punters, and revelled in the breeze.
Up the hill was graceful, as easy as can be
Until he reached the top, shaking started at his knee*

*The downhill grade was massive, the Humberette gave a leap.
Onwards, ever faster, Washbourne frozen in his seat.
His jaw was set, his face, a grimace of dismay,
As over rocks and gutters, the Humberette had its way*

*The brakes he gamely pounded, curses flew like chaff
The Humberette jumped a gutter, scattered people in its path.
At last in desperation, he jumped upon the brake
Snap the bands had broken, it headed for the lake.*

*On two wheels around a corner, sped young John upon the seat
The crowd they scattered wildly, trampling others in retreat
Cars they swerved in panic, as the Humberette held its sway
But John, he just waved gaily, and continued on his way.*

*Battered, tired and sore, at last the motor stopped.
The engine wheezed and coughed, and gave off one more pop.
Young John he staggered free, getting gamely to his feet.
Thank the Lord that's over; I've got this monster beat.*

David Aplín 9/10/16

