

21st National Humber Rally 2016 and Rootes Roundup Stanthorpe Qld - March 18-21, 2016

Monday 14th March:

All ready to go. Humber up to scratch – bags packed, snacks & flasks at the ready. 8 a.m. and off we go. Cool start and the first couple of hours or so very pleasant – car going well, driver and passenger very comfortable and looking forward to the trip. Fuelled up at Wodonga just before lunch and the day was really warming up - my trusty Misty fan came in handy as the temperature rose and we became more uncomfortable!! Then – THUMP!! Colin was concerned as we proceeded with caution; not being so in tune with things mechanical I wasn't so concerned and passed it off. After further bumps and thumps Colin pulled over and inspected underneath but could detect nothing needing immediate attention. We carried on and pulled up at Junee for the night.



Tuesday 15th March:

After a good rest we awoke early and at 7 a.m. ready for the road again we set off for Gulgong stopping at Cowra where we had morning tea and a walk around town, Molong and Wellington. The bumps and thumps were getting louder and it was obvious something wasn't right; we pulled up at Canowindra and on jacking up the rear end and inspecting underneath Colin's diagnosis was confirmed; the back shockers had failed to the extent that the bolts affixing them to the brackets had broken and there was nothing for it but to dismantle the whole back shocker system and continue without them.

Fortunately this didn't make a difference to the ride and it was good not having the thumps, bumps and knocking!! We arrived at Gulgong around 4 p.m. and checked in at the Ten Dollar Town Motel, which some of you will remember from a previous visit, ready for a meal and a good rest. {Note – the motel still had our details on file from our visit in 2012!!}

Wednesday 16th March:



Checked out at 8 a.m. and had a leisurely drive to Tamworth via Dunedoo, Coolah, Premer, Spring Ridge, Weris Creek and Currabubula. This was a very scenic drive taking us across the Liverpool Plains. We stopped at Spring Ridge for morning tea and found a great spot where the conveniences were easily accessed, lots of room to have a break and space for caravans to pull up and stay up to 48 hours. We noticed an 'honour box' too – donations invited for use of the facilities; it was right next to the showground so probably a good spot for the locals when they have their special events. We stopped at Currabubula Hotel for lunch – a great spot to stop for a break; the hotel has quite a history and has been restored and renovated in recent years.

The weather had cooled since we left home and travelling was much more comfortable. We booked into a cabin at the Paradise Tourist Park at Tamworth.

Thursday 17th March:

Up and away on the last day's travel to Stanthorpe. We drove up Fossickers Way – a favourite route with us – through some lovely country going through Manilla, Barrabah, Bingara to name just some of the towns.

We had lunch at Wirialda at the lovely Okie Cokie cafe; Wirialda is a pretty little town and has a lovely atmosphere. We pressed on to Texas then turned on to the Shearers Way across to Stanthorpe - a very picturesque route and although the road was winding and hilly, we made good time in spite of taking it easy so we could enjoy it.

We arrived at our motel just before 3 pm Queensland time and found a few Rally folk had also arrived. We treated ourselves to a sumptuous dinner at the motel's restaurant then settled in for an early night.



Friday 18th March:

We had a very leisurely day – a look around Stanthorpe in the morning and the afternoon spent catching up with everyone as more arrived, including Les & Bev Lindorff who had been delayed a day leaving home and literally had to 'get a wriggle on' to make it in time for the Meet & Greet at 4 pm.

Rally participants were accommodated in various locations in Stanthorpe but all were gathered for the Meet & Greet at the local bowls club for an evening of catching up. I dutifully went around taking photos; I'm no photographer but it is a great way to get around and say "Hi" to everyone!

Saturday, 19th March:

The Showground was where we gathered for the morning's display of all the cars.

The Stanthorpe Historic Car Club joined us along with other car clubs from around the area – one from northern NSW - and there was a good variety on display, including Roy Welling's Super Snipe with the Perkins diesel engine and Brian Chesterfield's 1933 Humber 12.



Lunch for us was arranged at the Showground café after which we had the afternoon free to explore the area or to rest up!!

Stanthorpe pictures:



Dinner was held at the RSL Club in town. A lovely venue and an excellent meal. We had the function room to ourselves and we all enjoyed the quiz which was conducted in a very unique way – teams consisting of two or three folk, five teams at a time at a panel with buzzers. There was much hilarity from both the teams and the audience as questions were asked and answered until a final group of teams played and the winning team was from SA. The questions were extremely varied, not all about vehicles, and we all had lots of fun. I learned afterwards that the buzzer system was devised and built by the President of the Rootes Group Car Club Qld.



Sunday, 20th March:

The day for a drive to take in the beauty of the Granite Belt – a run of approximately 105kms. The morning tea stop was at Suttons Cidery where we learned of the various products made. It was run by a couple who have developed the original apple orchard to the varied business it is today – ciders, pure apple juices, mixed fruit juices, concentrates, apple cider vinegar, jams, pickles, apple pies – to name a few! I'm told the apple pies and spiced ice cream were absolutely delicious – unfortunately for me I have to take their word for it! We drove from there to the Castle Glen Winery where the cars were all parked in front of the winery and in due course all participants gathered in front for THE GROUP PHOTO!!

From there we drove to the Ballandean Estate Winery for an excellent lunch at the Barrel Room Restaurant. We then drove back to Stanthorpe in time for a short rest before getting ready for the Presentation Dinner at the Varias Restaurant operated by the Queensland College of Wine Tourism.



The Presentation Dinner was a truly enjoyable event – to start with the food was absolutely tops. For your interest the judging results were as follows:

Mark Super Snipes, Hawk and Pre-war:.....	Mk II Super Snipe - Adrian Grant
Series Super Snipes and Hawks:.....	Series II Super Snipe - Dick Parmenter
Vogue and Sceptre:.....	Sceptre Mk I - Lawrie Bennett
Hillmans:.....	Hillman Hunter GT - Paul Walsh
Imps:.....	Imp GT - Lachlan Pierce
Arrow Series:.....	Humber Sceptre Mk II - Anthony Williams
Singer:.....	NIL
Sunbeam {all}:.....	Sunbeam Rapier - Neville Kennard
Commercial Vehicles {Hillman, Commer, Karrier}:.....	Commer Ute - Des Cobham
Humber Shield – Best Humber on Show	
{Humber Car Club Member only}:.....	Humber 12 - Brian Chesterfield
Best on Show:.....	Humber Sceptre Mk III - Anthony Williams

I had never heard of the 'Arrow Series' and Anthony advised me that this was a body shape shared by Hillman Hunter, Humber Sceptre Mk III and Sunbeam Rapier ***[there is probably more to know about this which could be the subject for an article by one of our interested readers . . ??]***.

Anthony also told me that he bought his car in 2001 and has been steadily restoring it since then, along the way enjoying the research he did to ensure his restoration was as close as possible to original.

The 'hard luck story' of the weekend was indeed a hard luck story. Eric and Barbara Austin, members of the SA Humber Club, had the misfortune for their Humber Series V engine to seize when they had driven as far as Griffith. With the assistance of the RAA/NRMA, they returned home and after a short rest hooked up their caravan to their Triton Ute and set off again for Stanthorpe. As though they hadn't had enough bad luck a tyre on their Triton blew – again near Griffith - which Eric replaced and they carried on only to have the brake system on the caravan seize and the tyres catch fire which they were able to extinguish. Eric was able to get parts at a nearby town, replace the bearings in the hubs on the caravan and then proceed to Stanthorpe BUT between Armidale and Tenterfield a kangaroo jumped out in front of them which fortunately he was able to swerve and avoid. After all that they had the winning ticket of the main Raffle and the prize was for an oil painting of their Humber in a setting of their choice – a very popular win cheered by everyone.

The presentations finished with handing the Humber National Rally Banner to Victoria in readiness for the next Rally in 2018.

There were lots of comments on a successful and most enjoyable combined Rally with hopes expressed by many that it would not be the last of such rallies.

Anne & Colin Anderson



Monday, 21st March:

Farewell Bush Breakfast held at the Stanthorpe Heritage Museum:





A very friendly gathering with everyone tucking in to a plentiful breakfast before leaving to go their separate ways, hoping to meet again.



Anne & Colin Anderson's Mighty MkVI Hawk



Les & Bev Lindorff's Mighty MkIVB

Photos on this page sourced from Rootes Group Car Clubs Australia FB page - check it out!



New HCCV members: Rob & Ferne Callow's Ser III Super Snipe



GREY NOMADS

ADVENTURE before 
DEMENTIA

