

## Queensland here we come!!

After much planning the month of September saw us on our way to a National Veteran Car Rally to be held in and around Bargara near Bundaberg, Queensland. On board we had our two cylinder, air cooled 1913-14 Humberette just waiting to participate in its longest and biggest rally since we took ownership of the car about five years ago.

After four days of travel through the drought stricken landscape of outback NSW and Queensland we arrived at the pretty coastal town of Bargara. The trip north was uneventful but we were shocked at the number of dead wildlife that lined the quiet roads for kilometres. We assumed they had been attracted in their hungry state to the meagre greenery at the road edges but had been too weak to dodge the vehicles that went past.

The rally routes took us all around Bundaberg and the surrounding countryside for 10 days with most days travel being about 100km return. Our little Humberette went very well but two of the hills were a challenge. Twice I elected to bail out of the car and walk up the hill to lighten the load. It seemed to make all the difference too as the Humberette just flew up the steepest

hill, thank goodness.

Highlights of the rally were numerous, one special event was a Gaslight Drive through the centre of Bundaberg one evening. Crowds of onlookers lined the streets as well over a hundred veteran cars with their lights on, slowly paraded through. The people cheered and clapped to see the wonderful old cars with their period costumed drivers and passengers. Sadly our Humberette has only side lights operating at the moment so we didn't drive it in the parade but took part anyway as passengers in a 1913 Sunbeam.

Another fun event was a special High Tea for the ladies. We all were suitably dressed as Edwardian ladies, although I think I looked more like a school marm than a fashionable lady! Entertainment for the afternoon was a fashion parade of Ladies and Gentlemen's Edwardian underwear. Quite hilarious especially when there were some wardrobe malfunctions.

One good thing about getting yourself along to a rally are the interesting people you meet. We were fortunate to have a chance to visit the home of two very talented people, a model engineer and his wife, a beautiful lace maker. George Punter and his engineer-



ing workshop was something very special. Every working scale model he had built, and there were many, were made from scratch down to the smallest detail. He had even built some machines from scrap materials that were needed to make some of the parts and also the patterns required to cast the three dimensional model components. His beautiful working model of a 1913 Saunderson & Mills Tractor won the Duke of Edinburgh Challenge Trophy this year. The model took 4000 hours over 4 years to complete and it was accurate down to the last intricate detail. George's wife Catherine hasn't been idle either taking up lace making, an intricate and patience testing art. We admired the many beautiful but time consuming pieces she had created.

All in all it was a wonderful rally that we were so fortunate to be able to take part in with our veteran Humberette.

Judy Lewis and John Washbourne

