

Veteran Car Rally in Bright, Victoria

Being members of the Veteran Car Club as well as the Humber Car Club means we can take our little 1913 Humberette on rallies just designed for one and two cylinder cars and can immediately feel right at home.

Recently a one and two cylinder rally was organised to take place at Bright, a beautiful picturesque valley surrounded by mountains and located on the Ovens River. We had a wonderful three days of driving around the district visiting some of the local attractions and putting some miles on our Humberette.

Thanks to John's care and attention to our little car it performed beautifully and didn't let us down. Only once we failed to take a steep climb up to a restaurant for lunch. Not the car's fault however, as we were thwarted in getting a run up by an official stepping in the roadway at a critical point. Just when we needed to accelerate we had to brake and so lost all momentum. We took the easy option, parked and walked up the short but very steep hill. We weren't the only car though not to make it up the hill though, some had to resort to be towed after their cars had given up half way.

Being a rally for such small cars each day was a very modest distance to travel. The furthest we travelled in one day was 140 km divided up into 4 sections about 35 km each. At the end of each section was something of interest to see. One place we visited was the Gibb Family Steam collection where there were more than 50 steam engines, both stationary and traction and some steam road vehicles dating back to 1905. A highlight for me was a ride down the road in a 1922 coal fired steam bus along with about 20 other interested passengers.

There was plenty of interest by the general public when all the veteran cars were travelling around the district. Frequent waving and camera flashes met us at almost every turn. The oldest car at the rally was a 1898 Louis Renault and the youngest was a 1915 Rover motorcycle. In all there were 59 veteran cars that includ-

ed 3 steamers and several high-wheelers as well as 2 motorcycles. There were two Humberettes. It was great to be able to compare the two different cars that were built in 1913 and 1914.

John Washbourne and Judy Lewis



1922 Coal-Fired Steam Wagon



A common sight - photographer John Holt