Guildford Grumpies Display Day Report - Sunday 27 March 2022

The Guildford Grumpies are a Social Club and Incorporated Car Club that conducts regular fundraising events, donating the proceeds to the local community. One of their major events is the annual Peter Turner Memorial Show and Shine, which attracts an incredibly diverse range of wonderful vehicles.

Guildford is only 15km from our home in Castlemaine, so Ray gave MM4 a quick wash and we filled up with petrol on the way. Well, we WERE going to fill up with petrol on the way - but Ray managed to stop the pump at $99.99 and I have the receipt to prove it.

At a rough estimate, there were about 150+ cars and motorbikes on display, ranging from classic to rod and everything in between.

MM4 was definitely the only Humber and we tried but couldn't see ANY Rootes vehicles at all so we felt pretty special.

We took our Humber mugs (thank you Jacquie!) and a thermos, but as there was real coffee available the cups did perfect service as takeaway cup holders. We also had our new HCCV display card in the window - it looked great.

Ray got chatting to the owners of a magnificent 1956 Ford Mercury Sun Valley Montclair- same vintage as MM4 but you would never know it. The owners used to own a large Chrysler dealership in Melbourne, which also sold Rootes vehicles. They made a lot of their money selling Commer walk-through vans as there was nothing else comparable available at that time.

It wasn't until later that Ray thought to ask what the name of the dealership was, and was absolutely floored when he found out that it was Norm Beechey - now a sprightly 92 years old and still proudly displaying his wonderful Mercury, the only one in Australia and which he imported from Canada.

"Who's Norm Beechey?" I'm glad you asked! Norm Beechey is a retired Australian race car driver, who was given the nickname "Stormin Norman" by his fans. To some, he was the closest thing Holden had to a star racing driver before Peter Brock. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norm_Beechey