

52nd Annual Spring Rally in Wangaratta - Bernie & Jo Meehan

Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Club of Wangaratta Inc

As the Humber ran so well on the trip to the Humber rally, we decided another road trip was indicated so with friends of ours, in their Mark X Jaguar, we decided to go to the 52nd Annual Spring Rally in Wangaratta .



The Humber purred perfectly all the way to the Adelaide rally so I was a bit surprised when the night before we left I discovered I had no dash lights on the trip to fill the tank. Fortunately, a bump in the road was sufficient to reinstate these, so all good. At the petrol station

I asked the attendant to help me check my lights to ensure they were all working. This revealed one of the indicators was not working. "A



five-minute job with my carefully hoarded stash of bulbs" I thought smugly on the trip back home. Alas this was not to be the case, removal of the globe found it to be perfectly fine, there was no power to the socket. So in darkness and approaching midnight I began the process of tracing the line from the turn indicator through the various junctions to a join in the cable inside the front wheel arch that had separated! I'm sure the neighbours were amused by my cries of triumph.

On Friday 15th September, Jo and I set off to join the other participants in the 52nd Wangaratta Annual Spring Rally run by the Veteran Vintage & Classic Vehicle Club of Wangaratta.

The rally was to start on the Friday night and

run until the Sunday afternoon. After setting off along Eastlink we decided to stop for a coffee at the service centre, and found the car would not start and run properly. Lifting the bonnet I discovered I had a loose connection on the coil. My friend's pointy nosed pliers sorted this out nicely! I am pleased to say that after that the Humber purred along for the rest of the weekend without mishap.

The weather for the weekend was glorious and the trip up through Yarra Glen, stopping at Yea for lunch, before continuing to "Wang" was brilliant.

We reported into the Vine Hotel in North Wangaratta for our Rally packs and meeting the organisers who made us very welcome.



The Rally proper began the following morning when 70 participants turned up in cars ranging from 1928 Vauxhall 20/60 Sedan to 1987 modern Classics such as Mercedes 300SE sedan. Cars were organised by decade with great showing of 1950's, 1960's and 1970's vehicles.



The event for the day was a leisurely trip out to the King Valley travelling through towns of Moyhu, Whitfield and Cheshunt to arrive at

Lake William Hovel for a delicious BBQ lunch provided by the Lions Club of Wangaratta. The distance was around 80 km and took a bit over an hour with everybody travelling at a sedate pace. Upon arrival the organisers had set up various games for us to participate in which were not physically demanding and a lot of fun.

The trip back after lunch was free time and enabled us to participate in sampling some wines at two of the many wineries along the way. The ones we visited were Francesco Wines - where we awoke Nonna from her afternoon nap, due to her son going out and leaving the store unattended, and enjoyed her somewhat grumpy sales manner, which had us in stitches as she heaped threats upon her missing offspring's head when she saw him next!

Red Feet Wines tested out the Humber's low gears as it was up a sharp incline with a spectacular view over the King Valley. In both wineries the wine was excellent.

The evening meal was back at the Rally HQ Vine Hotel, where we were treated to beautiful food and very large servings. The fun of the evening continued with a door prize raffle for a number of lucky entrants. The food and museum attached to the Hotel with all the bric-a-brac decorating the lounge area would encourage us to return here if we passed this way again.

Sunday started with a show and shine and enabled us to slowly move around the various cars. Jo found two Vauxhall Viva's which reminded her of her first car but the standard and variety of car was amazing.

Around 10:30am we set on a Mystery trivia drive for two hours before returning to the Hotel for lunch which again was excellent.

Our trip home was three hours in beautiful weather and left us with wonderful memories and impressions of Wangaratta and the people and places we visited.

I strongly recommend this rally to anybody considering it next year. It was well organised and a lot of fun.

Bernie and Jo