



The Linden Report – An occasional series

Mount Macedon Lunch and Garden Tour Sunday 8 April 2007



Ray arranged to have Sunday off work, as the Mount Macedon Lunch and Garden Tour looked like an excellent outing for the Mighty Mark 4 (MM4). It was also the nudge needed to do a bit of a service and the annual oil filter change. When all was done and tidied I started MM4, but the oil pressure gauge struggled to register, so I pumped the accelerator a couple of times still with no appreciable difference. Did the 'uh-oh' thing and discovered that about 10 pints of high quality oil had been emptied forcibly all over the garage floor. The filter cartridge hadn't sealed properly. Of course, I had a tray under the car to catch any drips – well, sadly no, I hadn't thought to put one there..... *(Note to self: check the filter cartridge thoroughly next time, and make sure drip tray is in place.)*



9:30 - Ray washed accumulated dust off MM4 (it's OK, tank water used sparingly!) while Lotte prepared and packed a magnificent picnic lunch.

10:40 - Filled car with \$50 petrol, checked the tyres and away we went.

11:50am - Arrived at Macedon township, and received a phone call from the Aspinalls enquiring on our whereabouts. Discovered we were so close that the phones were almost not needed. The designated picnic spot was quite delightful, and so too thought the thousands of European wasps. As happens quite often while driving MM4,

another picnic attendee approached and mentioned one of the good old days when she drove a big black Humber around Melbourne for a day, recounting how she ended up with sore shoulders later, which her husband attributed to the lack of power steering.

It is always a joy driving the old car as invariably people will come up and talk to us, and it just doesn't happen when driving a modern car.

This delightful photo shows some Humbers lined up in Castlemaine, not really sure when. Nothing to do with the Mount Macedon outing, but a lovely picture nevertheless.



After battling the wasps, we all made a unanimous group decision, en masse, to have lunch at the Top of the Range restaurant (where we celebrated Christmas in July 2006) before doing the open garden thing. It was remarkably cooler on top of the range, with more squillions of European wasps around, so lunch was indoors and very nice it was too.



Here is a picture of the Memorial Cross on top of Mount Macedon. We didn't actually see it this time, but as it's in the area, we thought it was appropriate.



After lunch, we set off in convoy down to Devonshire Lane to the Glenrannoch Estate open garden. Parking was at a premium, and there was a longish steep uphill walk to the entrance. The wee hoose is on the only bit of flat ground on the mountain, along with the

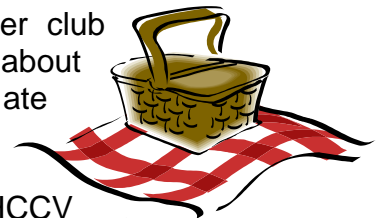
original stables, and a tennis court that we never quite made it to as it was further uphill (in fact, we had to crane our necks to see the perimeter fencing). The gardens are quite extensive, with what seems to be kilometres of paths wending through quite thick bushland, interspersed with imported trees of all sorts, (elms, chestnuts, cedar to name a few). There were masses of camellias and rhododendrons around, so the area should be quite spectacular in spring.

It is always interesting to see how a garden has developed over a hundred years or so, and the foresight that was needed to plan such a large area. I suspect the ongoing maintenance is quite daunting.



This is a charming picture of Glenrannoch House Vegetarian Guest House situated in the Highlands of Scotland. Apart from the name, it has absolutely nothing to do with Glenrannoch in Mount Macedon, but as we couldn't find a suitable picture, we thought you might like to see this one instead.

Eventually we found the exit, parted company with the other club members, and enjoyed a trouble free run home, arriving about 4:00pm. As we'd had a magnificent lunch at the restaurant, we ate our picnic fare for dinner – and it was just right!



Following is a complete list (in alphabetical order) of the HCCV members who attended, and all the different cars driven:



- * *Ian and Rhonda Aspinall – Holden (Honorary Humber) Barina*
- * *Ray and Lotte Linden – 1956 Mk IV Humber Super Snipe*

All the best

Ray and Lotte
Castlemaine



PS: We couldn't resist the impulse to indulge in a little gentle humour with this report! We all had a lovely day, MM4 thoroughly enjoyed the outing and the chance to blow away some cobwebs – it was quite magical. With Ray working every weekend, we don't get the chance to have a day out unless it's planned well in advance. Many thanks to Hugh and Margaret for setting it up for us, or we wouldn't have got out of the house!

