

National Rally – Tamworth 2012

What a wonderful time we had on this rally and the weather was perfect. Victoria was represented by 14 club members most of whom travelled the same route north meeting up each night for dinner and chat. Roy and Jan Strange suggested the route and watering holes as well as sights to visit enroute. A very big thank you to them as it made the trip very enjoyable and bonded the Victorian members together as a great team. The Victorian spirit was very lively throughout the rally and every one had fun.

A great display of Humbers was made with at least 34 Humbers attending. Our car, the 1927 14/40 was the oldest present but it enjoyed the company of another pre war Humber, a 1933 Humber 12 owned by a NSW Club Member. This rare and beautifully restored Humber was a splendid sight and we enjoyed seeing it on the road.

On Easter Saturday we all assembled at 8.30 am for an observation run around the Tamworth environs. Our first stop was Moonbi Lookout. What a climb up the hill! Everyone cheered our old Humber when we finally made it without any major difficulties although we did boil merrily as we chugged up the hill. Luckily Roy's waterbag came in handy to top up the radiator when we reached the lookout.

Morning tea at the Hillier's Ceramics Gallery was interesting with amusing stories told by Fred Hillier about his latest passion the Great Australian Outhouse. We were also delighted to discover that they had specially made a number of ceramic models of quaint Humber Garages. These were given as trophies at the Sunday Presentation night and could also be ordered on the day. Each model is different.

Back on the road the splendid array of Humbers wound their way through the lovely countryside back to Tamworth to display the cars for all to admire while drivers and passengers had a well earned rest after the rather testing observations had been recorded along the way. We missed so many it seemed but at least we didn't get lost.

Saturday night was a Country and Western Night and we were encouraged to dress up our table and ourselves. What fun and what friendly rivalry between the States. The judges had a hard job ahead to choose the winning table and best costume. We had a very colourful collection of farm animals, a large chicken with chicks and eggs, a koala in a tree, horseshoe candles, farm equipment and a rabbit trap decorating our table. Alas our table didn't win any prizes but Anne Anderson caught the Judges eyes with a rather fetching hat and won a prize. The Victorians also did rather well at winning a lot of the raffle prizes but that probably had something to do with the number of tickets we had bought!

After the Monday farewells we headed home with our Humber carefully secured on its trailer having a well-earned rest after travelling more than 350 miles around Tamworth without any trouble at all. We thoroughly enjoyed this very successful Rally. Now we look forward to the next National Rally in South Australia in 2014.

John Washbourne & Judy Lewis