

National Humber Rally 2012  
Tamworth NSW  
Report by Lotte Linden

I do love a good Humber Rally, and this one was wonderful! I was fortunate enough to be able to take extra time off work so we made a proper holiday of it. We left early on Monday morning for our first rendezvous in Albury with other Humberites of the HCCV. 30-something degrees and a black Humber, coupled with a heater tap which wouldn't switch off, made for a seriously sweltering journey! We poured ourselves out of the Humber and spent the next half hour drying ourselves off, and got ready for the next leg to our first overnight stop in Wagga Wagga.

At Wagga Wagga we met up with our almost-convoy buddies for a convivial meal – Jan & Roy Strange; Anne & Colin Anderson; John Washbourne & Judy Lewis; Kathleen & Neil Hiho; and Bev & Les Lindorff.

Next night Forbes and the magnificent McFeeters Motor Museum (you must go, it was brilliant!!), then onto charming Gulgong where we finally hooked up with Judi Finch & Jan Beattie, before the last leg into Tamworth on Thursday. We checked into our incredibly expensive but worth every cent, gorgeous one bedroom service apartment with kitchen & spa – bliss! We paid a visit to the Powerhouse Motorcycle Museum right next door. I still have my motorbike licence, and every so often I think wistfully about riding a motorbike again... Then I remember the helmet hair, the pain of falling off, the leathers and protective gear in mid-summer, the lack of room for the shopping and then I'm over it!

Friday BBQ meet & greet and it was lovely to catch up with old friends, many we hadn't seen for at least two years. On Saturday we had a tricky Observation Run devised by Kaye and Arthur Ramsay coupled with a run to Fred Hillier's ceramic gallery, via the Moonbi Park Lookout, then on to Tamworth Bicentennial Park for display & judging. That night we had a great dinner with country & western dress-ups and table decoration. Unfortunately we didn't coordinate as well as we could have, so our table was fantastic – but not the best: Queensland deservedly won that prize. Still, we managed quite a few raffle prizes for the Vic contingent, which buoyed our spirits considerably. To top off a great night, Ray & I shared the honour of winning the Observation Run with Jack & Philippa Chidgzey of NSW (and soon Victoria!).

Sunday we all headed off to Werris Creek Railway Museum, then a tour of the First Fleet Memorial Gardens at Wallabadah, followed by Nundle for the "Go For Gold" Chinese Festival with the best Chinese Dragon show I've ever seen.

The Rally Dinner and Prize Presentation on Sunday was a highlight, with a wonderful display of Snipe bonnet mascots in chronological order amassed and

beautifully researched by NSW club member Roger Foote. The Vic mob managed a few more raffle prizes!

Monday morning and the farewell breakfast at the Golden Guitar Tourist centre was well attended. We toured the Gallery of Stars Wax Museum and bought some more souvenirs, then headed off to the Walk a Country Mile exhibition. We headed home on Tuesday and called into Wellington to tour the gorgeous caves, where Australia's first megafauna fossils were discovered.

We stopped overnight at Cowra and rang the UN Peace Bell, a moving experience. We then visited the beautiful Japanese Gardens where we were delighted to run into Jan and Roy Strange. We also visited the POW Theatre and saw a moving and personal re-creation of the Cowra POW break-out.

We called into Junee and visited the licorice/chocolate factory, then drove through to Albury for the night. Home on Thursday – yayy!! The cat was delighted to see us and we were glad to be home.

What a fantastic trip this was – we visited towns we had never visited before and had experiences we had never experienced before, a memorable and delightful holiday which will stay in my memory for a very long time to come.