

The Linden Report

16th National Rally – Cootamundra – Part 1

14-17 April 2006

We've just returned from another excellent national rally, this one hosted by NSW, and it re-affirms the reason we love our cars! It was a wonderful gathering of people willing to travel hundreds of miles in venerable old vehicles guzzling gallons of petrol, just to spend a few days with like-minded maniacs. The P76 Club was also staging its National Rally, and we had many pleasant encounters over the weekend.

HCCV Participants:

Colin and Anne Anderson	Mark VI Hawk
Len and Marian Barry	Series I Hawk
Barbara and Wilson Bunton	Series V
Kathleen and Neil Hiho	Series IV
Lotte and Ray Linden	Mark IVB
Kevin Mull & Lew Hull	Series IV
Martina and Rob O'Sullivan (Part)	Mark IV
Cheryl and Gaston Saint	Series IV
Patricia and Don Smith	Series IV
Ian and Thelma Watson	Series III
Margaret and Keith Willimott	Sceptre
Leighton Passant	

The welcoming BBQ on Friday night was a tad windy, cool, and rainy, necessitating a move inside the Primary School hall, but the food was delicious and the company delightful - we had great fun catching up with old friends.



On Saturday we all gathered at 7.30am (groan!) at the Information Centre at the Cootamundra Railway Station for the run to Junee. First stop was the Railway Roundhouse Museum (pictured above), which we thoroughly enjoyed with the assistance of friendly and dedicated volunteers. We then drove to the magnificent restored mansion Monte Cristo for lunch and a tour. We also met up with the O'Sullivans and their magnificent restored Mark IVA – more next month in Part 2!

In the afternoon we had a fascinating guided tour of the Liquorice and Chocolate Factory with masses of free tastings (yum!).

Judging was carried out while we were all at the Roundhouse Museum, so Saturday Night was the official presentation dinner. We always love the Rally Raffles, and we had the good fortune to win a prize early in the evening. The choice was between a large basket of Easter chocolate goodies and a compact butane gas BBQ - the BBQ now resides in the boot of MM4!

HCCV was well represented, with Colin & Anne Anderson's wonderful Hawk Mk VI scooping two prizes – Best Mark Humber, and Overall Winner.

Mark - Colin and Anne Anderson (Victoria) Mk VI Hawk
Series - Timothy Macpherson (SA) Series III Hawk
Vogue/Sceptre - Colin & June Smith (SA) Series III Vogue
Overall Winner - Colin and Anne Anderson (Vic) Mk VI Hawk
People's Choice - Brian & Lorraine Grogan (NSW) Mark II Snipe
Mayor's Choice - Jack & Valma Stunnell (NSW) Series V Imperial

Sunday saw us all travelling to Temora to the Rural Museum, one of the best we've ever visited, staffed by a bevy of volunteers who were obviously very proud of their museum. Included in the collection were two ambulances, an FJ Holden, and an International (sorry, don't know which model), which were of interest as the bodies were built by W S Grice, the same company that built our (as yet) unrestored hearse. A knowledgeable volunteer mentioned that he had contacted the company at least ten years ago for information on the ambulances, but sadly the company had no records of the vehicles they had built.

Lunch in sleepy, deserted downtown Temora was followed by a visit to the Temora Aviation Museum Airshow, which was a complete contrast to the township! The car parks were packed, and there were hundreds of people everywhere. The Humber's presented quite a magnificent line-up at the rear of the car park, whereas the P76 club had somehow managed to organise their display in what appeared to be the staff car park. The airshow was spectacular, and we were extremely fortunate with the glorious weather – sunny and calm – because the airshow featuring the magnificent old planes would not have gone ahead otherwise.

On Monday we started the long trek home via the wineries we had missed on the way up, overnighing in Corowa, and arriving home on Tuesday evening.

All in all, the fifty year old MM4 performed exceptionally well, the rally was excellent, and we are very much looking forward to the next one.



Vital Statistics	1956 Humber Super Snipe Mark IVB
Miles travelled:	945
Petrol:	47.2 Gallons (214.5 Litres)
MPG (average):	20.01
Oil:	1.5 Quarts
Repairs needed:	One broken bonnet cable Interior mirror needs tightening Windscreen still leaks in wet weather Newly repaired clock runs fast!

Next month we'll bring you Part 2: the story of MM4 returning to its first Aussie home; the O'Sullivan's newly restored Mark IV; & the magnificent P76 Car Club vehicles!

All the best
Ray and Lotte