

11th HIGHWHEELER RALLY - BUNDABERG 10th -14th June 2013

It seemed hard to believe that we were heading off on Thursday 6th June to attend our 11th such event and even harder to realise that 2 years had elapsed since the last one.

A good run, but a long day, saw us reach West Wyalong Thursday night where we met up, as planned, with the Holbrooks, Smiths and Mc Dougalls.

Leaving early Friday morning and travelling together we made our scheduled stop that night at Goondiwindi. Saturday was a more leisurely run to Bundaberg where on arrival at our motel there was much activity with vehicles being unloaded, trailers parked and acquaintances renewed.

Sunday Night - The official start began with a welcome and what can only be described as a banquet "fit for a king" This was held in the rotunda at Alexandra Park, an ideal venue and from where we would start each day's run.

Monday - After a breakfast, akin to last night's feast, and a welcome from the mayor of Bundaberg we started on a tour of the surrounds stopping first at the show-grounds where the local model railway club had an impressive display operating in their club rooms. From here another short run saw us arrive at the botanical gardens. Vehicles were placed on display while we lunched and visited the Bundaberg Museum, the Aviation Museum, Hinkler Memorial and Hinkler's home, a pleasantly designed two story brick building which had been de-constructed in England, shipped here and re-erected. The Aviation Museum had only just been re opened since the disastrous floods and given its site it was hard to imagine the water could have risen so high.

Tuesday- Today's run took us a little further afield in the direction of Bargara and on the way we stopped at the marina where an interesting talk was given on the harvesting and processing of the local spanner crab and of course a tasting. We then proceeded to the Mon Repos Turtle Rookery and here we learned the life cycle of the turtles which come ashore to lay their eggs each year. Our next stop was the Bargara school for lunch, thankfully under cover, as a huge shower of rain descended. The journey home took in an impressive display of wood carvings of fish and other marine creatures and a visit to Amandine lavender farm.

Wednesday- Leaving Alexandra Park we proceeded to the famous Bundaberg rum distillery and here we were given a guided tour and explanation of the history and manufacturing processes. A number of different styles of rum are made and it was surprising that 95% of production is sold in Australia. Lunch today was provided by St. Marys school and on the return trip we stopped at the Gracehaven Nursing home. Residents were ready to inspect the vehicles and there were

many interesting comments and questions. One delightful old gentleman gave a non stop rendition of the parody alluding to a Ford T and sung to the tune "Road to Gundagai".

Wednesday's evening meal took the form of a well organised BBQ held in the rotunda and ably provided by the Bundaberg Vintage Car Club.

Thursday-The run today was in the direction of Moore Park and took us through delightful farming areas on



relatively quiet roads. It was during this stretch that we lost power on number one cylinder . After checking the coils and timer it was revealed that the spark plug, although showing no visible evidence of fouling at the gap, was obviously shorting . Another plug fitted and we were on our way again. (I later calculated that up to the previous day I had been using petrol brought with me from S.A. and only changed to the local brew today!!). Lunch at the Moore Park Tavern and a good run back to our motel where we proceeded to ready the vehicle for the night run. This well publicised event attracted a huge crowd of onlookers in the the CBD (Bourbong Street) and it was great to see the vehicles with their various forms of alternate lighting. From the rotunda in the middle of the street a running commentary was given as each vehicle passed.

Friday- It seems hard to believe that this morning we assemble for the final days run and we leave Alexandra Park for the Bundaberg brewed drinks factory production display and tasting. After this refreshing stop it was on to Sloping Hummock, the areas only large hill. On arrival cars were assembled for a group portrait and the crews took in the great views from this point as well as a delicious morning tea. From here we descended the "mountain" ,some tied to modern vehicles who acted as a anchor, and made our way through cane, vegetable and fruit areas to Marto farm for an informative presentation on this farm's operation . From here it was back to our motel and start packing for the trip home. The Rally dinner, held tonight, at the Rowers on the River Restaurant capped off a wonderful week.

There were 22 vehicles entered of which 21 participated (unfortunately the Chennells had to make a last minute cancellation) and most were able to rally through the week. As one expects there were a number of breakdowns but most were able to be rectified including one which required a big end bearing to be re-mettled . From an idea that was discussed many years ago on the 2nd 1 and 2 cylinder rally in Tasmania, the first event was held in Warrnambool and attracted 8 entries. This bi-annual event has truly been a success story with entries of latter years being 20 to 25.

The effort that Barry and Vicki put in to organising this event and running each day was greatly appreciated by all who attended and we thank them very much.

The next Highwheeler rally will be held at Hahndorf in the Adelaide hills in October 2015 and hosted by the Adelaide Hills Motor Restorers Club and will be co-ordinated by Michael and Shirley Sheehan.

