

National Rally (Pt I) 21-23 September

Story and photos - Les Whale

I headed onto the Hume Motorway some considerable time after the Club convoy left from the Crossroads on Friday 21 September. After a very fast run, I arrived at Rally Registration at the Hill Climb Centre on Sutton Road, a few km north of Queanbeyan. After greetings and discussions with a number of the Canberra Rally Committee, I headed off to my motel in Queanbeyan, where other Club members John & Mary Borg and David & Kerrie Edwards were staying.

Dinner at the Queanbeyan Roos Club on Friday night was a time to catch up some of our other Club members; Brian & Deb Condon, Bruce & Chris Pateman, Glen & Elaine Brown, Colin Trusler, George Pethard, Tristan Marsden, Glen Gannon, Bryan Brenner, James Beaver, and Ros McGibbon and her sister.



Friday night dinner

The display in Queanbeyan Town Park on the Saturday was arranged so that we parked up in Club groupings. It took a small amount of re-arranging to get the NSW group set up, but we had a good display in the end.

With Scott Barraclough and Ray Davies coming for the day, we had 15 Club Morris cars that attended the Saturday display – 5 Sydney cars, 4 from Mid North Coast, 4 from Wollongong-Illawarra, the Edwards' Traveller wearing both NSW and Tasmanian 'hats', plus Tristan Marsden's which was displayed with the Hunter Region Morris Owners' Club.

In total, there were some 91 cars and



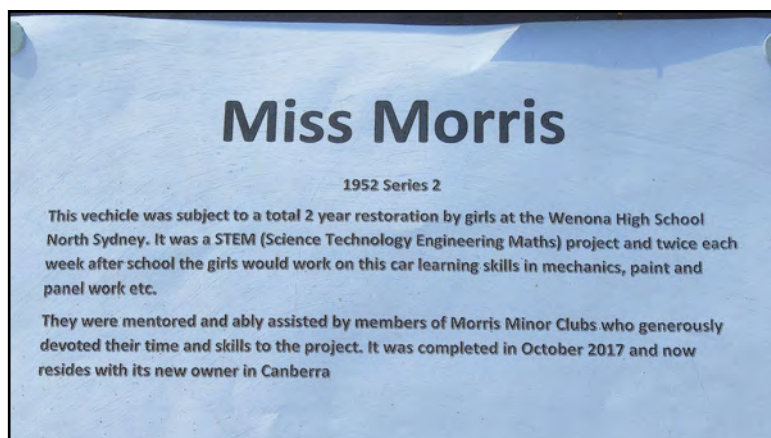
MMCCNSW display

160 people in attendance. The weather was fine but a bit cool, but made for a pleasant day. Many of the cars there were ones seen at previous National Rallies.

The Wenona-restored Morrie was displayed at the rally with a sign paying tribute to the girls for their restoration. It is now owned by a new member of the Canberra Club, who engaged me in lengthy conversation on both the Friday afternoon and again on Saturday about the car and its restoration process.



The Wenona Morris - 'Miss Morris'





The delegates agreed that the Queensland Club will host the next rally in Queensland in 2021, with actual dates, venue and length TBD – possibly not Easter. It will not be in Brisbane, but in a regional area, to support country areas doing it tough right now - and where it will be cheaper. David Edwards said the Tasmanian Club will possibly host the 2023 rally but stated it would be in the 'new', simple format, and TBC.

I headed off homewards that afternoon about 4:30pm (in order to attend the All British Day on Sunday), so I did not attend the dinner and trivia quiz that night. The runs on the Sunday were a choice of 4, all starting and ending at the Hill Climb Centre on Sutton Road.

There were only a few trophies awarded, with no judging whatsoever. These were: Entrant's Choice (a vote by each entrant for their pick), won by Steve Klobucar from Canberra with his rat-rod 1957 ute; Mayor's choice; Mayoress' choice; the Reg Tilley Memorial trophy for convertibles; the Paul Kelly trophy for best customised (chosen by Brian), won by Bruce Perry from Canberra; and the Morris Down Under Forum trophy (chosen by Frosty), won by the same vehicle, a lowered-roof 1960 ute, apparently formerly known as 'Clockwork Orange'. Presentations were made in the park that afternoon.

Brian & I (representing Chris Gall) attended the Delegates' Meeting for our Club. There was a lot of discussion on the merits and demerits of the various formats of national rallies, with the general view emerging that 4-day rallies were a thing of the past and that because most attendees were old and retired, rallies did not have to be held on long weekends!



More MMCCNSW entrants - a magnificent venue for the National Rally

National Rally (Pt II)

“A Day at the Nats”

By:- Ray Davies

This ‘out of sequence’ weekend was chosen for the Nationals because it was the closest weekend to the 70th anniversary for the production of the very first Morris Minor in England (I believe that Thursday 20th was the actual day). Hence the Canberra Club arranged the Nationals for this weekend, which was centred mainly in Queanbeyan.

Having worked up that way for a number of years, I was not interested in the sight-seeing part of the celebrations, so elected to attend only for the Show’n’Shine part on the Saturday. When my alarm went off at 6.00am and it was a fine morning, I started to get *really* excited. I cruised up with an uneventful 3 hour trip from Wollongong. I had assumed that the display was going to be in the showground (where I had previously attended other car shows) but a very nice lady in the petrol station pointed to the correct place and said “All the other cars are over there!”

The park itself is one of the prettiest I have seen. There were approx 100+ cars in attendance. My first duty was to find the coffee! Next I set up the chair and sign next to Cassius (the Clay coloured Morris) and had a look around. This *always* takes a lot of time as Morris people are both friendly and chatty. It was lunchtime (a delicious steak’n’egg sandwich from the Men’s Shed barbeque) before I got to use the chair and have a chat with some Wollongong Members.

Presentation was at 2:00 pm with the local Mayor giving a speech talk that had sufficient relevance to our location to be most interesting. I thought the prize winners were all vehicles that were thoroughly deserving of the honour.

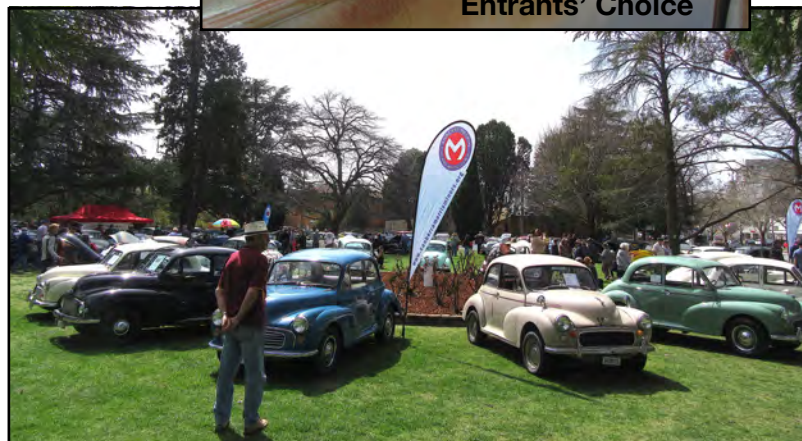
I left about 2:30 and arrived home about 5:30, completely exhausted but very happy. It had been a most excellent day! The Canberra Club can be well satisfied with their efforts. Very well done!



Entrants' Choice - winner



Interesting detail
Entrants' Choice



Above and below - Queanbeyan Park



National Rally (Pt III)

Words by: Bryan "Honeyman" Brenner

Jim and I met on Thursday morning at my place in Towradgi and, due to the fact that Jim's panel van was not quite finished, we had decided to take both my cars.

It was a beautiful sunny day as we set off up Macquarie Pass, stopped at Robertson (no, not for a pie, it's not all about the food) then on to the Hume Highway for a coffee at Goulburn. Then off again to arrive at Queanbeyan just in time to settle into our rooms. We spent the rest of the afternoon checking out the other Morrisies that seemed to be popping up out of thin air.



Friday morning we awoke to another bright sunny morning. First breakfast, then we needed to find a car wash so that at least the cars were clean. Then... Jim put in the address into the GPS, an address we had been given to get us to registration, but alas it was wrong and we ended up on the outskirts of Canberra. We ended up at some high security Australian Federal Police outpost – 12' high razor wire fence, security guards, the lot.

I then jumped on the phone - a new address went into the GPS and we were off again, picking up Morrisies as we went.

As usual at these things, coffee, cakes and goodies bags were aplenty, with new friends being made and old friendships caught up with. Bulldust scattered around the place but the day drifted on and so did the people.

A long dinner queue at the RSL made for interesting conversations with total strangers that you probably wouldn't have met otherwise, then we enjoyed a pleasant meal with Roslyn

McGibbon and her sister. Back to the Tourist Park and drinks with Debbie and Brian Condon until late then off to bed.

There was some confusion when we arrived at the Rally as to where we were supposed to park. Eventually all parking was sorted out and we settled in to peruse the multitude of Morris cars from all over Australia – even a ute from WA (its motor looked as if it could cross the Nullarbor in 20 mins).

There were lots of variants ranging from a ute Rat Rod that looked like a piece of sculpture and a lot of clever adaptations, to some absolutely original vehicles that looked like they were driven from the showroom floor to the display. It was wonderful. The number of cars was reputed to be 97. I saw one little Morris parked on the road outside - probably an amazed local.

At the end of the display, awards were presented. A Delegates' Meeting was held and it was decided that the next Nationals would be run in rural QLD, then in Tasmania (highly recommended).

Back to the Tourist Park for preparations for a Chinese dinner at the Bowling Club.

More drinks at Debbie and Brian's then off to bed for the next day, a trip to Cockington Green, where even the small is quite large. Quite a few of the exhibits had in excess of 3000 hrs labour invested in their construction. Amazing – and so was the number of tourists in attendance.

All in all I had a great weekend. I thought it was well put together and seemed to go off without a hitch. Many thanks to the Canberra Club for all their effort and congratulations on a job well done.

