

Thirlmere Festival of Steam March 3

Words: Ray Davies

Photos Vince Holloway

It was always going to be a long day as the organisers wanted us to be there by 8am and parked by 8:30 – so I set my alarm for 5:30 in anticipation. A stop at Picton to meet up with others (and for coffee and pancakes); John, Bryan and Jim arrived, followed by Neville from the Highlands group. This made five cars altogether so we convoyed off the last 10 minutes or so to Thirlmere.

Nobody seemed to know what to do with us and said “Just find somewhere along the street and park yourselves.” So we did – and made sure that we had a good spot under the trees.

I immediately set off to see what was on offer in the street stalls then headed to the Rail Museum, which is well worth having a look at as there is quite a collection of restored rolling stock and engines which are all well documented and, at set times, people are there to explain them to you.

The rest of the day was spent talking to car people about their cars and non-car people about how they learned to drive on a Morris Minor. Ray Selby, George & June and Pat arrived too.

There were ample food vendors and the church behind where we were parked was also handing out free tea/coffee/cakes and, given that it was such a warm day, it was greatly enjoyed.

The street parade started soon after 1.00pm, after which the Wollongong Morris started heading home. I stayed for a steam



Old steam and (relatively) modern Morris

train ride to Buxton and return - just long enough to remind me why I like electric trains with closed windows and air conditioned carriages.

I ended up getting home about 5:45 and slept like a log. It had been an excellent day made even better by the great weather.

