

## Wellington Fair - March 1-3

By:- Bob Gilliland

Photos: Bob Gilliland and Les Whale

What a totally enjoyable and relaxing weekend! The hardest part for most of us was the long drive to get there but everybody arrived with cars and spirits in good order and condition. Graeme & Sue Gould and Bob Gilliland in their Morris, met up with Stuart Truer and Ann Thompson in their modern at Eastern Creek Macca's. We received a phone call from Les Whale that he and Wendy were running late and would catch us up later. The same applied to John and David Attard, who advised they were having battery problems. The run to Lithgow was uneventful and whilst there, we were joined by the two 'late' entries.



Upon arrival at the Caves Caravan Park, we were greeted by early arrivals Col and Rhonda from Kempsey, Trish and Colin Stewart from Cootamundra, plus, slightly later, John Hepburn from Orange, Brian & Debbie Condon from Sydney and Sue & John Ballard from Dubbo. We were also joined by Trevor & Sue Goodhew, ex-members from Muswellbrook. All of the aforementioned had a great night over the usual BBQ and a 'chewing the fat' session.

We were welcomed first by Club President Graeme and then John Ballard, the week-end organiser, who followed up

with a run-down on the weekend activities.

On Saturday morning we were joined by David Nunn from Sydney. We assembled in the city centre for the street parade along with all the rest of the vehicles, including steam tractors that would be at the display on the Sunday. We had the pleasure of being joined here by Michael Johnstone from Molong and Len Jones from Kandos.



With the street parade completed we congregated at a great little coffee bar-cum-antique shop just out of town called Jespresso, featuring *The Mallee Hen's Nest*. What a great atmosphere!



Les with his tree...

From here it was on our way to the rendezvous for the self-catered picnic lunch on the edge of the Macquarie River at Ponto Falls, 18km north of Wellington. Apart from the occasional screeching from the dozens of cockatiels, this was a marvellous place to simply sit and unwind. As a matter of fact, it even turned Les Whale into a "tree-hugger".

Mid afternoon saw us all head our various ways to prepare our answers for the evening's obligatory quiz with dinner at Hermitage Hill, the old Wellington hospital, which is now a restaurant and function centre. This turned out to be another great session, with everybody having a good meal, enlightening conversation and plenty of laughs.

Sunday; the final day for the weekend was now upon us. The planned meet at the showground to set up the cars for display, erect the gazebos and set the scene for an enjoyable day was carried out accordingly. Once this was done everybody was free to do their own thing and view the thousands of bargains at the many stalls and admire the various vehicles on display. We were all hoping to take out best club display for the seventh year in a row, but no such award was given out this year, possibly because of the reduced number of clubs on display, or alternatively, they did not want to award it to the same club for the seventh time who undoubtedly, had the best display.

It had been another long hot day so by 2.30pm, people were starting to pack up and the crowd was thinning dramatically. Consequently, we followed suit, as many of our group needed to head off for the long journey to their various homes. Seven of us were not leaving until Monday morning so we only had to head back to the caravan park for a couple of hours of rest before meeting once again at the camp kitchen for a communal BBQ dinner and social evening.

After saying our farewells on Monday morning, we departed for our various destinations with the thought in our minds that we had to wait another twelve months

to be able to enjoy it all once again. Well not quite – there are two more long weekends this year.

Summing up this weekend – excellent company, great atmosphere, totally relaxing and wouldn't have missed it for quids.

Footnote:- I have received advice that Graeme Gould had a difference of opinion with the steering in his van; apparently he wanted to go one way and the van refused to co-operate. Graeme said on inspection at home (after a long trip from Lithgow on a tilt tray truck) that the teeth in the steering column had disengaged themselves from the inside of the column and the steering was no better than a round peg in a square hole, which raises a word of warning – keep an eye on that bolt for tension at the bottom of the column!

Bob Gilliland



*Jespresso coffee shop/antique store*





Wellington Times - they knew we were coming



Relaxing lunch by the Macquarie River



Men at Work...  
"I met a strange lady, she made me nervous..."

