

Wollongong-Illawarra Anniversary Run - Kangaroo Valley Sunday 19 June 2022

Photos: Les Whale

We haven't been able to celebrate the very first outing of the Wollongong Morris Minor Club in the usual way for several years because of COVID-19, and prior to that the weather wasn't all that pleasant. (Read that as "pouring rain!") Hence we were so excited to have an outing to Kangaroo Valley this year.

We met at 9.15 (for a 9.30 start) at the Nungarry Rest Stop. This was the first time in 71/2 months that I could get the Chev out of the back yard so I took that - but there were still many Morris there. Even the traffic cop who stopped to use the 'convenience' was impressed with the line-up.

We headed off in convoy but decided to miss the Donut Van at Berry as the road up from Berry was open but very rough, so we went straight to Bomaderry before turning west. We arrived at Kangaroo Valley in good time to find the Southern Tablelands people there with their tent already erected. We put up our cover next to them while Jim set up the BBQ trailer, then it was out with the thermos to get a reviving cuppa.

With chairs and tables in circles we chatted with both old and new friends. On this point, we had some new members from Dapto on their first run with us. I look forward to getting to know them better. There was one Morris apart from the rest: it was owned by a local woman who had only



Ray, Ray John, Leo and Jim

just bought it and was dropping in from her dairy farm to see the cars.

A downside was that not one person checked in with Jim to say that they were coming so this year everyone had to self-cater instead of us providing the sausages and buns (and Pat's famous Sailors' Soup.) This worked out OK as there was plenty of room on the hot plate for all. As a side note, you could pick the single bloke when he produced steak instead of sausages.

People were checking the weather on their phones constantly but when the predicted 1.00pm rain hadn't arrived by 2 o'clock we gave up worrying. The site was packed up and we left just afterwards and the rain finally arrived around 7.45 pm, after we were all safely at home.

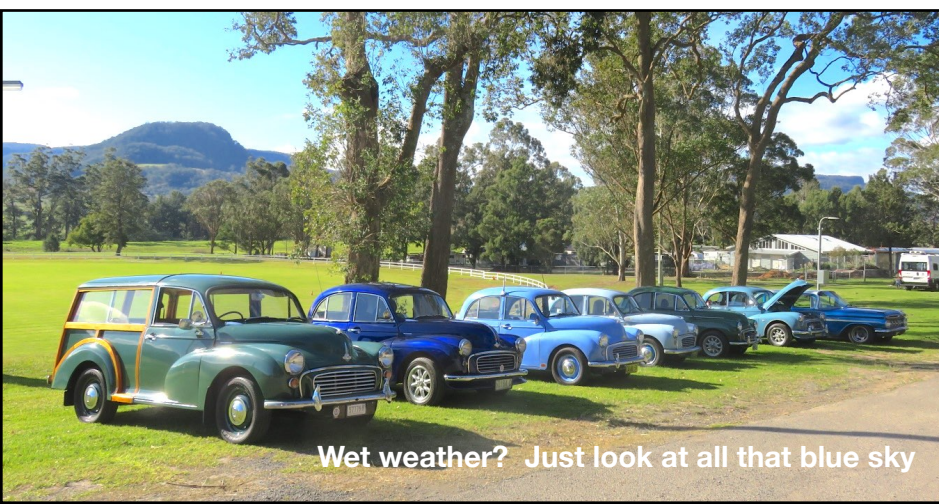
This isn't a very complex outing but it is a good run for the cars and the company is always most enjoyable. Even though the Wollongong Club no longer exists this is an event that nobody wants to see end.

By:- Ray Davies

And another report...

The weather had been quite 'iffy' in the days leading up to this event, and I wasn't sure if it would even be on. As it happened it turned out to be a very nice day in the Valley.

I was heading up from Ulladulla, and initially planned to meet up with the Wollongong contingent, along with any coming



Wet weather? Just look at all that blue sky



Brian Nicholson's Ute

having a tow bar on his Morrie van. One of the Morrisies, a nice blue Minor 1000, was owned by prospective new members Leo and Joannette, from Dapto, who filled in a Membership Application form on the day.

We all enjoyed some morning tea or coffee, swapping stories, before Jim started up the BBQ for lunch, which we all enjoyed. David took the opportunity to hand over

down from Sydney, at the Donut Van in Berry. But I was running a bit late and so decided to head straight up Cambewarra Mountain from Nowra to be there by 10.30.

Just short of the top of the climb, I caught up with the Wollongong convoy where we were all held up at traffic lights controlling a one-way section set up after all the rain and wash-a-ways earlier in the year. It turned out that they had not stopped at the Donut Van in Berry, and had decided to go the long way into the Valley by driving down to Bomaderry and enter the Valley via Cambewarra instead of the usual winding route direct from Berry.

Arriving in the Valley we were greeted by our group from our Southern Tablelands Region, who had arrived earlier and had already set up their gazebo and were enjoying their morning coffee already. They had to come by an even longer detour, with Moss Vale Road still closed at Barrengarry Mountain on the other side of the valley.

We had not been there long when a local came by with her two young boys in her newly acquired Morris Minor. Her neighbour had seen our cars arriving, phoned her, so she came scurrying over to check us out.

We had 7 Morris Minors and Ray Davies' Chevy, and David Bursill in his modern. Jim Beaver had towed the BBQ trailer with his modern, not (yet)



some regalia items and some tickets for Shannons Eastern Creek that had been previously purchased, and some tickets for All British Day. After lunch Mary Borg conducted the raffle before we packed up the two gazebos and people started to head off home. A lovely day out.

Les Whale

