

Mudgee Trip

13-16 October

Friday

We are finally off to Mudgee after a postponement from September because of dates clashing with All British Day.

The normal meeting place was McDonald's at Blaxland. En route Sue and I met up with David Nunn along Heathcote Road fairly early in an attempt to evade the congestion on the M7 Motorway. Just as we approached Penrith I spotted Mark and Karen Schnebli in the revision mirror and not long after Fred Missingham suddenly appeared.

It wasn't long after we arrived at McDonald's that Morris Minors flooded the car park with Ann Thompson, Stuart Treuer, David Bursill, Bob Gilliland, and Terry & Fay Cullen all arriving virtually at the same time. Jim Bowen and Peter Fogarty had gone on ahead and were planning to meet us in Mudgee. It was great to catch up with past member Ian Hatton who arrived in his beautifully presented Ford Mustang. Ian followed us up the Blue Mountains to Katoomba where he said his goodbyes and headed back to Blaxland.

Our next port of call was Lithgow where we normally stop to refuel, stretch our legs and have some refreshment if desired. The trip from Lithgow to Mudgee was a leisurely drive via some small townships and Lake Windamere. Some road works had been carried out since our last trip up this way twelve months previously, which meant that the road surface wasn't too bad.

Arriving at the caravan park in Mudgee, we booked into our cabins which were scattered around the park. Jim Bowen and Peter Fogarty had already settled in and were having refreshments on their veranda. Sometime later Sue and John Ballard arrived in their Austin ute followed by Debbie and Brian Condon.

The reason why we were scattered throughout the park was because the Australian Honda ST Owners Club were holding their annual national rally. Members of the club had come from all over Australia to attend, so between us and them we had taken over the whole park for the weekend.

We were getting a bit worried when we saw the Honda club setting up for their meet-and-greet in the camp kitchen, but we were soon relieved to see that they had allowed half of the area for us, for our happy hour and barbeque dinner. We all got on well with the motor cyclists sharing stories of both Morris Minors and Honda motor bikes.

To end the night a few of us had a couple of ports, which has become traditional, before retiring for a good night's sleep ready for Saturday's events.

Graeme Gould



Saturday, Sunday & Monday

"Go to the markets, or don't go to the markets" - that was the burning question on everyone's mind when they went to bed Friday night.

As Sculptures in the Garden did not open until 10am, there was plenty of time to visit the local Mudgee markets which started

at 8am. No matter what you decided, the meeting place was set for 10am outside the Lawson Hotel (our dinner venue) to head off to the vineyard where Sculptures was being held.

It was nice to see everyone visit the markets and purchase some local products or visit the 'Pink Up Mudgee' stand and buy something to support the McGrath Foundation.

We then headed off to Rosby Wines which is where the Sculptures in the Garden exhibition is held. This was the 13th Annual Exhibition with over 300 artworks in all shapes and sizes on display. Once you enter the display, you were free to make your way around the fields, to view the sculptures in any way you like. From small sculptures such as a Blue Wren made from an old drill chuck to a life size steel horse, there was something for everyone to admire.

Lunch for some was at the winery, but for others we headed off again to Gulgong to the local café for lunch. Milkshakes seemed to be the drink of the day. From Gulgong back to Mudgee (via Honey Haven for some), and a freshen up before we headed to the Lawson Hotel for dinner. Although the venue was a little loud, the food was excellent and very prompt.

Sunday morning saw us up and out by 8.30 to go to the Railway Station for the local Cars and Coffee with the Cudgegong Valley Vintage Car Club. This year, along with the vehicle display, there was an auction to support the McGrath Foundation. Members looked very dashing in their pink



John Ballard and David Nunn on Sunday at the car show

shirts, socks, hats and other paraphernalia.

The local radio station did their broadcast from the car show and David Bursill got a day long lesson on producing a radio show. John Ballard was interviewed, and we were thanked by the organisers for again attending Mudgee and in such large numbers.

Sunday afternoon was free to do some sightseeing or have an afternoon siesta. Dinner was again a BBQ at the caravan park with most opting for an early night.

Monday saw us depart at various times to head home. Some headed off early, whilst the rest of us waited with Graeme and Sue to see 'Red' head home once again on a tow truck. Leaving Graeme & Sue to wait to collect their hire car, we set off for Sydney. Lunch at a café in Lithgow before we said our final goodbyes and went our separate ways.

It was another wonderful weekend with great people and showcasing our club.

Ann Thompson

(Photos: A Thompson, J&S Ballard)



2023, not a year to remember for 'Red'



Two of the brilliant sculptures