

Western Sydney Historical Truck Club



February 2014

Convoy for Kids - Goulburn

Saturday, November 9 started like any other day except for the weather. It didn't know whether to be warm or cold, cloudy or sunny so we had the full selection. I guess we were lucky it didn't pour rain on the parade through town. The WSHTC contingent assembled at the Pheasants Nest Service Centre before heading onto Goulburn and the convoy starting point. We had a pretty good rollup but unfortunately Ross Leonard's Austin and Rod Lovell's Mack had to retire early with overheating problems.



This year was a little different to last year's Convoy for Kids. Andy Nash needed a driver for his Chev tow truck. He gave me a "crashless" course on the idiosyncrasies and vagaries of driving his old Chev and I, for the first time in my life, got to drive a vintage classic in the convoy ...wooo hooo!! I must have been doing something right 'cos the police did not pull me over for speeding in second gear,

steering all over the road or crunching the gears. The whole township, mum, dad, the kids and gran and pop, lined the main street waving and cheering on the trucks as they rumbled their way to the showground.

Once parked in the parking area set aside for the vintage trucks, Bruce Brown quickly unloaded his little green jeep. His plan was to drive kids around the grounds and collect donations for the Local Kids with Cancer/Severe Disabilities in the process. The kids lucky to score a ride, and there were many, thoroughly enjoyed themselves, not to mention the big kid behind the steering wheel. After a 2 hour non-stop stint Andy took over the big kid's role. Bruce's jeep rides collected \$92 for the cause. A magnificent effort!



Just like last year's activities there was the Tug-o-War. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this particular activity there is a concrete agitator truck on one side and a teams of people on the other side. The object of the exercise is to be the team who can pull the truck the quickest over the required distance. This year there were several teams of beefy men who competed against each other. But the fastest two teams were the 'kids' and the 'ladies'. Perhaps it should be kept in mind that I think handicaps were in play. The sound of the truck was different for the kids - it was accelerating in first gear. The driver just



released the hand brake when the ladies had their turn.



What would a vintage truck show event be without the "People's Choice Awards". This year's award for the Best Restored Truck went to our very own Brian Hodges for his smart looking B61 Mack. Congratulations Brian.

There were were 130 registered trucks plus the trucks of volunteers, such as the fire brigade and WSHTC. So upwards of 160 trucks took part. Funds raised \$32500.

Christmas Party at Vineyard Hotel

The Riverstone Hotel holds a truck show every year in memory of a truck driver who died there many years ago. The story is displayed above the bar in the new section that replaced the original bar that was burnt down a few years ago. The money raised each year is donated to charity.

This year's event did not attract as many trucks as last year, the reason put down to the recent storms and flooding rains. However the weather was fine, sunny and hot



A glow worm's never glum.

WSHTC member's trucks that I recognised included Steve's blue Bedford, Bruce's Toyota matt red Rice Burner, Ron's F350 Ford, Dave's Diamond-T, Darrell's blue & white Kenworth, Andy's Chev tow truck, Brian's imMACKulate B61 and Brad's matt black "modern vintage" Victory two-wheel 'special duty' express delivery truck. There were several members at the show who I recognised from recent club events but I don't know whether they had their trucks at the show. So if you didn't get a mention above - I apologise.



It was a shame we didn't have more members attending as the event was listed on the diary of events as the club's Christmas party. We could have had the whole front bar to ourselves. Everyone attending thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Australia Day @ Camden

26 January 2014 was a dull, overcast, cool but fine day for Australia Day at Camden. I arrived at the showground to find David West busily tying flags and the Club banners to his Diamond T. A short while later Bruce Brown in his faded red Toyota "rice burner" rolled up. He had barely stopped the engine when there was a hive of activity. It was all hands on deck fixing flags, bunting and securing the picnic table and chairs to the truck. The outdoor dunny, a small twist from the hills hoist from the previous year, was righted and tightly strapped down to the deck. Even the kids were belted into the chairs so they wouldn't go missing in transit and the elderly gent in his drizabone coat had his boots glued to the deck too!



'Cos how can you be grumpy...

Australia Day @ Camden, cont'd

Funnily enough, Bruce had a very special 'job' for me as I did not have a ride in the parade yet. I was to be the street parade king, seated upon the throne in his 'purpose built' outdoor dunny draped with the Aussie flag and adorned with relics of yesteryear.

We were ready to roll by the scheduled 11.15am start but due to the Citizenship presentation running very late the parade eventually started moving over an hour and a half late. It was just as well I was situated where I was, the dunny came in very handy while waiting for things to happen.

There were many vehicles in the parade. There were specially prepared floats, a selection of vintage and classic cars, a couple of them towing a caravan, hot rods, Batman made an appearance in his batcar come rail-dragster, classic Holdens, Toranas and Monaros followed by our convoy of trucks.



Argyle Street, the main drag, was lined ten deep with onlookers - kids, mums, dads and grandparents. There was cheering, whistling and applause from the crowd as the parade moved on its way. My 'throne room' was located so that it faced to the rear of the truck so no-one realised what was going on until the truck passed them and they saw me waving to them. That was when the laughter and cheers erupted to a deafening roar and the cameras came out to capture the spectacle. The announcer commented on my "loo with a view" but was concerned whether or not I had my trousers on!

As far as Australia Day celebrations go and despite the 'shitty' job I had, it was a lot of fun!

When the sun shines out your bum...!!

OBERON STEAM FEST - 2014



Saturday, the day of the street parade was cloudless, fine, hot and sunny. As I walked along the main street to find a good location to view and photograph the parade there didn't seem to be as many people as previous years. But five minutes before 10 am both sides of the street filled quickly with onlookers.

Right on 10am the pipe band struck up a note from the corner at the southern end of town. As in previous years, two vintage Rolls Royce followed behind the band. Next was three traction steam engines. Sooty's presence was evident by the plumes of thick black smoke which blanketed everyone and everything. It also had the most ear piercing whistle.

The B-Double Kenworth timber jinker of Mangan Haulage followed, loaded late on Friday with a load of logs destined for the mill come Monday.



Next came the motorcars. The vintage, classic and modern, representing various enthusiast clubs. I saw Slim Rusty riding his push bike and singing a ballad or two.

Be Warned: You must contact the club registrar if you move your vehicle. You will lose your registration if you don't!

Membership renewal fees are due and payable on or before June



From the north end of town a convoy of tractors, some restored to former glory and some in their working clothes with rusty battered scarred panels rattled down the road. From my vantage point the continuous line of tractors that melded into a long line of military vehicles which included a massive track-type bull dozer and a handful of tanks.

The Centurian tank took up all of its lane on the roadway and the driver had to constantly correct its path so as to not run over spectators or oncoming traffic.



Eventually the vintage and classic trucks made their presence known, rumbling along at walking pace and blasting their horns.





Back at the show ground there were stalls lined up along the entry road vying for everyone business. Opposite these stalls was a display of military fire power which made unsuspecting shoppers jump in fright when the operator let off a round ammunition.

At the end of the street parade all the vehicles were parked in neat rows at the showground. This is where a closer inspection revealed some interesting things about particular vehicles. For example: the Centurian tank had armour plate body panels about $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick which would have made panel beating a difficult exercise. Well... that is if you are precious about dents and scratches on your paintwork. The red Scammell was a huge truck. It dwarfed the Mack B61 beside it.



Joe Refalo's restored Republic looked magnificent in its yellow and black paintwork.



While I wandered around looking at the cars on display the Scots School Pipe Band performed. I'm not into cars as much as I am the trucks but the standard and presentation of the cars was magnificent and a tribute to their owners. In fact the whole show was set out very well and most importantly there were no black clouds hanging around threatening a wash out. Next year, God willing, there will be a new entrant to the show, just to add some extra class!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 16 February 2014 - Sydney Super Swap Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon.
Information ph 0410 447 927 from 17/1/2014, website www.vvcaa.com.au Sunday outdoor swap

Sunday 23 February –Breaky meeting 8.30 am at the Warragamba Centre followed by ‘Blow the cobwebs out of it’ Lunch run. Bring \$6 for the breakfast, cup and chair, and a packed lunch for the drive afterwards. Please let Brad know for catering 0449 186 587

Saturday 8 March – National Historic Truck & Commercial Vehicle Show at Lockhart Showground, Lockhart. Further details & application forms available from www.thetruckshow.net. Visitors page <http://www.lockhart.gov.au>

Sunday 16 March – Test & Tune run for ‘Crawling the Hume’ in April. We will be going to Gunning. You will need to bring your log book (as this is over 100 kms limit), food and drink that you need. It is unknown if the truck stop will be open. Meet 8.00 am at the truck parking bay in Northern Road, just through the roundabout near Glenmore Park. Slower trucks will leave early, faster trucks will leave some time later. Call Brad 0449 186 587 if you need to know any more about this run. Discussions on cruise time for CTH will be worked out on the run.

Sunday 6 April – “Working Truck Show” – see Penrith Fire Museum website for details.

Saturday 12 April – “Crawling The Hume” – we will be leaving at the time as discussed on 16 March

Saturday 17 May - Putty Road Truck Drivers Memorial Service and reunion. Memorial Service at 1.00pm at the Garry Miller Memorial Park, Putty Road, Milbrodale. Reunion dinner at Singleton Golf Club, Boundary Street. The dinner is a ticketed event and tickets are available from Shane 0419 287 159. More info available from Paul 0408 472 250 or Rick 0402 168 539

Sunday 15 June – SCAATS – Obtain your entry from the Penrith Fire Museum website and please write on the top of the form WSHTC or you will not be with the Club Stand

Saturday12 - Sunday 13 July - Yesteryear Truck & Machinery Show, Wauchope Showground , Wauchope. Exhibitors set up Friday. Enquiries: - General Alf Denning 0427 572 037; Trucks - Kirby Maxwell 0407 594 149; Swap sites - Phil Constable 0411 690 422 Free entry and camping for exhibitors, powered sites \$20 per night.

Saturday 9 August - Sixth Dubbo Truck & Tractor Show. Dubbo Showground, Dubbo. Enquiries: Brian 0418 226 751 or Jon 0428 143 644. www.goldenoldiestruckclub.com.au

All contributions for publishing in the next Newsletter can be mailed to

PO Box 369, Plumpton 2761, or emailed to wshtc@rocketmail.com before 21 May 2014

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